

AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GRAND ILLUMINATION  
PARADE

NORFOLK, VA – (November 23, 2009) For 25 years, Holidays in the City has been warming up the heart of Hampton Roads and building family traditions. Saturday night was a spectacular evening, when thousands of spectators lined the streets of downtown Norfolk for the Annual Grand Illumination Parade. Filled with festive lighted floats, giant helium balloons and marching bands, parade units strutted their stuff at the cherished annual event and were judged by an independent panel.

The Downtown Norfolk Council and Farm Fresh congratulate the following 2009 Grand Illumination Parade Award Winners:

**Chairman's Award**

*Presented to the unit with best adherence to theme, originality and audience appeal.*

Black & White Cabs

Unit Name: Silver Christmas

**Best in Show**

Metro Machine

Float Name: A Silver Night in the City

**Best Interpretation of This Year's Theme "It's Silver"**

City of Norfolk

Float Name: 25 Years of Celebration

**Best Illumination**

City of Portsmouth

Float Name: Winter Wonderland "in Silver"

**Best Commercial Float**

Farm Fresh

Float Name: Holiday Farmer's Market

**Best Non-Commercial Float**

Virginia Caribbean American Cultural Association

Float Name: Silver Flutterfly

**1<sup>st</sup> Place High School Marching Band**

Kecoughtan High School Warrior Band, Hampton, VA

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place High School Marching Band**

Nansemond River High School Mighty Marching Warriors, Suffolk, VA

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place High School Marching Band**

Nansemond-Suffolk Academy, Suffolk, VA

**1<sup>st</sup> Place "Balloonatics" Winner**

Wells Fargo Advisors carrying the 35 foot Mistletoes the Snowman. The award recognizes the most enthusiastic Giant Helium Balloon Handlers. This is Wells Fargo Advisors second appearance in the Parade and first time that they are recipients of this award.

**Best Walking Unit**

Wilkins School of Dance, led by their Director, Jennifer Wilkins is the recipient of this year's award. The award recognizes the walking unit with the best symmetry, choreography, costuming and entertainment value.

**Best Dressed Unit**

Hurrah Players, led by Founder and Artistic Director, Hugh Copeland. This award recognizes the organization with the best overall appearance and choreography of both movement and costumes with added credit being given for adherence to the parade's theme. Hurrah Players has had a unit in the parade every year for 25 years.

Holidays in the City is presented by Farm Fresh in association with the Cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth and media partners *The Virginian-Pilot* and WVEC TV-13 and is produced & managed by the Downtown Norfolk Council.

The Downtown Norfolk Council is a private, not-for-profit membership organization comprised of businesses and individuals working toward a dynamic, attractive and prosperous downtown.