

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
December 11, 2011



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## **HOLIDAY PARADE BRINGS JOY TO THOUSANDS**

SUFFOLK, Virginia (December 11, 2011) – Sugar Plum Fairies danced down historic Main Street and Jack Frost was certainly nipping on the noses of the estimated 6,500 attendees at Saturday night’s “Light Up the Night With Holiday Spirit” Parade.

The last evening parade in Suffolk was held in 2005, and if attendance numbers are any indication, citizens certainly prefer to usher in the Holiday Season with a nighttime extravaganza.

The Parade Emcee was Cheryl Tan of WAVY TV-10 and sister station FOX 43, who announced the over 70 motorized, equestrian and marching units, as well as several marching bands and beautifully illuminated floats.

Leading the parade this year was the Grand Marshal Float featuring Mayor Linda Johnson and all members of City Council seated in a sleigh set within a glittering winter wonderland.

The following is a list of honors bestowed on parade entries from the field of Judges:

- Best Float – Suffolk Christian Church – “The Real Reason for the Season”
- Best Animal Unit – Mane Event 4-H Group – “Light Up A Silent Night”
- Best Specialty Unit – Peanut City Cloggers – “Santa’s Country Cloggers”

- Best Marching Unit (Non-Academic) – C.V. Russell Jr. Ambassador Band – “The Spirit and Joy of Suffolk”
- Best Marching Unit (Non-Band) – Suffolk Chapter 5 Disabled American Veterans, with East End Baptist Church Boy and Girl Scouts
- Best Motorized Unit – Titan VA Ready Mix – “Pinky”, promoting Breast Cancer Awareness
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place Marching Band – Smithfield High School – “Jingle Bell Jams”
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Marching Band – Lakeland High School “Quiet Storm”
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Marching Band – Nansemond River High School – “These Are A Few of My Favorite Things”
- Best in Show – Kelli’s Dance Explosion, “Sweet Dreams”, also Best Commercial Float in Norfolk’s Grand Illumination Parade
- Judge’s Award of Excellence – Young Chef’s Academy – “It’s A Sweet Life”
- Crowd Favorite Award – TFC Recycling – “Happy Holidays: It’s A Sweet Life”
- Honorable Mention – Academy of Dance and Music – “Magic and Remembering 9/11”

The culmination of the evening’s festivities was the sound of hoof-beats and jingle bells announcing the arrival of Santa and Mrs.Claus arriving in their own sparkling white horse-drawn carriage to the delight of the wide-eyed children lining the streets. Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus!

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