Holidays in the City
Illuminating Hampton Roads for 25 Years!

To learn everything you need to know about Holidays in the City, 2009, please see the story inside on page 3.
The All New First Team Toyota • Good People, Great Values!

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Just 15 Minutes From Norfolk General Hospital
Holidays in the City, one of Southeast Tourism Society’s Top 20 Events for November, celebrates 25 years with six weeks of magical festivities, saluting the holidays of Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and New Year’s Eve.

The festivities begin on Saturday, November 21st at 7:00 pm with the Grand Illumination of the downtown skyline. The lighting of the skyline signals the start of Hampton Roads’ most cherished event, the 25th Annual Grand Illumination Parade. The theme for this year’s Grand Illumination Parade is “It’s Silver” in recognition of the event’s 25th Anniversary. Festive floats, marching bands, giant balloons, dancers and Santa himself will delight spectators with a sparkling theme as they parade through downtown Norfolk.

Another signature event of Holidays in the City is the award winning Olde Towne Holiday Music Festival which will be held on Saturday, December 12th. Created and launched in 1998, the Olde Towne Holiday Music Festival is now Portsmouth’s signature holiday event, featuring hundreds of musical performances and carolers throughout the day. Concerts, which range from barbershop harmony and jazz to steel drums and brass ensembles, are staged in a variety of indoor and outdoor locations and in several historic churches.

Enjoy a new event, Sing Along the River which will be held Wednesday, December 9th from 5-7pm at Towne-Bank Fountain Park. This community caroling event will showcase the talent of Norfolk Public School students.

Throughout the holidays, downtown Norfolk serves up seasonal delights. Traditional favorites include: A Christmas Carol, presented by the Virginia Stage Company and Holidays in Virginia, presented by the Hurrah Players. And do not forget those ongoing treats such as Winter Wonderland: The Coleman Collection, and MacArthur on Ice the area’s largest outdoor ice skating rink at MacArthur Center.

Holidays in the City serves up a season full of amazing experiences in the most vital and vibrant holiday destination in the region. A complete calendar of holiday happenings in downtown Norfolk and Olde Towne Portsmouth is available by visiting www.DowntownNorfolk.org and clicking on “Holidays in the City”.

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.

Holidays in the City Signature Events
25th Annual Grand Illumination Parade
It’s the Silver Anniversary and the celebration kicks off with the spectacular illumination of the Downtown Norfolk and Olde Towne Portsmouth skylines.

THE HOLIDAYS IN THE CITY SCHEDULING:

25th Annual Grand Illumination Parade
Saturday, November 21
7pm Downtown Norfolk
757-623-1757

Winter Wonderland: The Coleman Collection
Preview Opening November 20
Open November 27 - December 31
Courthouse Galleries
Olde Towne Portsmouth
757-393-8543

12th Annual Olde Towne Holiday Music Festival
Saturday, December 12
Noon - 6pm
High Street, Olde Towne Portsmouth
757-393-8481

HOLIDAY EVENTS - NORFOLK

27th Annual Holly Festival of Trees
Proceeds benefit CHKD
Norfolk Waterside Marriott
November 20-21
757-668-7098

MacArthur On Ice
Outdoor Skating Rink at MacArthur Center
November 21 - January 18, 2010
757-627-6000

Donizetti’s The Daughter of the Regiment
Presented by the Virginia Opera
Harrison Opera House
November 14, 18, 20 & 22
866-673-7282

4th Annual Fall Festival
Epworth United Methodist Church
124 W. Freemason Street
November 21, 2-10pm
757-622-2970

Holiday Gospel Cruise
Spirit of Norfolk
November 21, 3:30 - 6pm
757-625-1463

Grand Illumination Cruise
Spirit of Norfolk
November 21, 9pm-Midnight
757-625-1463

A Christmas Carol
Presented by the Virginia Stage Company
Wells Theatre
November 29 - December 24
757-627-1234

Celebration of Life!
Presented by Todd Rosenlieb Dance with Workshop Theatre Group
TR Dance Center
December 1, 7:30pm
757-626-3052

Model Train Exhibits
209 Granby Street
December 2 - 19
757-623-1757

Radio City Christmas Spectacular with the Rockettes
Norfolk Scope Arena
December 3, 8pm
December 4, 1pm & 4pm
757-664-6464

Holiday ArtSeen
Downtown Norfolk Art Galleries
December 4, 1pm & 4pm
757-393-8543

d’Artini Night
d’Art Center
December 4, 6-8pm
757-627-6000

(Schedule Continues On Page 19)
One week before the deadline for The Downtowner's November issue, our computer systems crashed.

In addition to possibly losing all the programs necessary to publish The Downtowner, this crash was more like a crash from hell. Each time we tried to restart the system, a loud “fog horn” like sound thundered from the speakers. That’s a sound I never want to hear again - for sure.

What to do at this critical time? My personal technical advisor Pete Vester had saved the system so many times in the past, that I didn't want to bother him this time.

Luckily, a few days before the crash, I happened to have a couple of drinks and conversation with my great Greek friend Evan Almyrantis, who spent some years making the systems at HamptonRoads.com run smoothly.

In a state of panic, I called Evan. His calm and cool manner was reassuring and he came by and tried everything to save the day.

It was determined a new computer system was in order. Evan, with his expertise, managed to save all of our important files from the old hard drive. Thanks to Evan, we were up and running again in only a couple of days.

“You saved The Downtowner!” I told Evan.

A modest Evan replied, “Thanks for the kind words. I truly believe we are placed on this earth to help out our fellow man.”

Evan is our hero. One of the nicest friends anyone can possibly have. Evan is now running his own business.

His slogan in an ad proclaims, “Why call a GEEK when you can call a friendly GREEK?”

That definitely sums Evan up.

He gets the job done.

Should your business need help, I strongly recommend Evan. You can call him at (757) 274-1210.

Tell him The Downtowner sent you.
Attention Business Owners:

Do you have a new business? 
or Is your business ready to celebrate an anniversary?

If so, call The Downtowner and ask about our popular Front Cover Business Profile. Now Booking Front Cover Promotions for 2010 (January not available). Please call to book February, 2010 and beyond. Please reserve your space today for this effective promotion.

Call us at 627-2216.

Save The Date!

THE OLDE TOWNE FOUNDATION INVITES YOU TO JOIN US ON DECEMBER 11th AND DECEMBER 12th FOR THE 2009 OLDE TOWNE CANDLELIGHT HOME TOUR.

This self-guided walking tour is one of the signature events of the holiday season in Hampton Roads. Tours run continuously between the hours of 5:00-9:00 p.m. on Friday and 1:00-5:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Take a break from the craziness of the holiday season and discover the charm and history of Olde Towne Portsmouth. Enjoy tours of each location, live musical performances, seasonal greenery and hot cider. All locations within walking distance of one another.

FREE parking is offered in the Olde Towne Parking lots and on the streets of Olde Towne.

Artist Moving Sale!

Original prints, paintings, matted or framed
$35 to $175. Excellent gift idea!

Call 282-6318.
Awesome Food, Friendly Service!
Open 6am to 3pm
7 days a week!

The Downtowner Mystery Picture
Do you know where this scene is? If so, and you are the first caller to The Downtowner with the correct answer, you win a free local music CD. Call the recorder to make your guess at 627-2216. (Downtowner Photo By Joe George)

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3. Old Vampires Never die. They just --
4. Andrew Carnegie’s favorite type of painting --
5. Favorite Western song of dachshund-loving cowboy --
6. Favorite John Travolta movie of Turkish Sultan --
7. Napoleon’s least favorite bread --
8. Most effective wrestling hold for British sailors at Trafalgar --


Advertise in The December Issue
Of The Downtowner. Call 627-2216 today!
A Veterans Day Salute to America's Greatest Generation

Remembering Chuck, George and Charlie

By Gary Ruegsegger
Downtowner Contributing Editor

Since last Veterans Day, three Norfolk heroes have passed—Chuck Whitehead, George Hughes and Charlie Levitin. Despite the fact that these men were as different as night and day, they shared a steel-like bond forged in the furnace of World War II.

Chuck was Catholic and waged war on the seas. George was Methodist and fought from the skies. Charlie was Jewish and battled on the land. The sailor, the airman and the infantryman were humble men and only spoke of the war when asked. Chuck, George and Charlie never told a story where they were the heroes. They could have, but they chose not to.

Chuck Whitehead was a young sailor circling Pearl Harbor on a destroyer when the Japanese attacked. On that “Day of Infamy,” he pulled other young sailors from the thick oil and fiery water on Battleship Row.

“That morning we pulled body after body out of that furnace of war,” he said in a 2008 interview.

Four months later, he witnessed sixteen B-25s take off from the deck of the USS Hornet as America struck back in Doolittle’s Raid on Japan. Two years later, the movie “Thirty Seconds over Tokyo” was playing in theaters across America.

“We saw the bombers lashed to the aircraft carrier deck, but we never dreamed they’d fly off those decks. We just thought we were transporting them,” he remembered.

On June 4, 1942, Chuck was on the bridge during the Battle of Midway Island, often called the turning point of the War in the Pacific. Two years later to the day, he was in the Atlantic as part of the Guadalcanal task force which captured the German U-boat 505. He still hadn’t seen his 25th birthday, but nothing scared Chuck.

“Once you’ve looked down the barrels of a Japanese battleship and lived, what’s there to be scared of?” he often mused. After the war, Chuck stayed in the Navy and fought again in the Korean War. Before retiring to Florida, he worked as a purchasing agent for Henry Clay Hofheimer II at Southern Materials.

When the Japanese fighters first strafed Honolulu’s Hickam Airfield, George and Charlie were students at Maury High School. Both sold the Virginian-Pilot Special Editions on the streets of Norfolk. Starring in football and track, George was well on his way to becoming one of Tidewater’s greatest athletes. Charlie was a copy boy at the Pilot and the sports editor of the Maury News. They graduated in February of 1944 and immediately entered the service. Before either of the boys was old enough to vote, they were decorated veterans.

George Hughes was always big for his age and stronger than strong. He could crack walnuts in his bare hands.

George served as a gunner on a B-29 Superfortress in the CBI (China-Burma-India Theatre) and on Tinian Island. He was on the island when the Enola Gay departed to drop the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. George, who his fellow airmen dubbed “Hugs,” flew 23 missions and earned the Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters.

After the war, Hugs earned All-American honors at William and Mary and later earned All-Pro honors as a member of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Because of his slow Southern drawl, Hugs also earned the nickname “Gapper.” As the story goes, the linemen were to shout “Gapper” when they saw a blitzing linebacker. George could see a blitz as quick as anyone; however, by the time he got the word “Gapper” out, the linebacker was usually sitting on top of the quarterback.

When his football career winded down, he opened Hughes Hardware, an Ocean View landmark. When he took the reins of the Norfolk Neptunes, Gapper soon became “Coach.” The Hughes Hardware station wagon invited everyone to “Come See the Coach.” In his spare time, Coach served on the Norfolk School Board and later on the City Council. On Nov. 28, 1976, George earned a Grey Cup ring as line coach for the Ottawa Rough Riders. For another 30+ years, Norfolk celebrated the life of the man they began calling “The Ocean View Oak.” Strong and sturdy, George was an oak. He never backed down and he never blinked.

Charlie Levitin was about half the size of his friend George. He may not have looked the part, but he was a warrior. Charlie was also a man who believed in miracles. A member of the 78th Infantry Division, he fought in the Battle of the Bulge. On March 7, 1945, under heavy German fire, Charlie crossed the Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen. Gen. Eisenhower credited the action with saving thousands of American lives.

“Just before we took the bridge, the Germans set off their demolition charges,” he said in a 2008 interview. “The explosion lifted the bridge right off its foundation, but it came down intact. That day I started believing in miracles.”

After the war, he graduated from Johns Hopkins University where he made his acting debut with the JHU Barnstormers. Despite serving as president of the family furniture business, D. Levitin & Son Inc., his love of the theater never waned. He generously supported Shenandoah University’s theater arts program where he funded a large practice room bearing his name. He later established the Charles B. Levitin Endowed Chair in Music Theater.

Chuck, George and Charlie were strong to the very end. They saw death approaching in 2009 and still the sailor, the airman and the soldier never blinked. Saying goodbye to heroes just wasn’t meant to be easy.

***
O'Sullivan's Wharf

All American Meal Deals

Mondays... All you Can Eat Spaghetti

The Captain's famous sauce complete with Italian sausage and ground beef. Served with a house salad and garlic bread. You'd almost think we were Italian! $11.95

Tuesdays... Prime Rib

Tender Angus beef, delicately aged and slow roasted until tender and hand-cut. Served with a house salad and choice of potato.

A Cut Above The Rest!

Judy Cut (8 Ounces) - $14.95
Sweetie Cut (12 Ounces) - $17.95
Teddy Cut (16 Ounces) - $21.95

Wednesdays... All You Can Eat Crab Legs

Not a lot to say about this one... Steamed to perfection and served with hush puppies, a house salad and choice of potato. You can't beat our legs! $13.95

Thursdays... All You Can Eat Shrimp

The Captain's delicious shrimp dusted in old bay and steamed with onions and kale. Served with hush puppies, a house salad and choice of potato. It Just Doesn't Get Any Better Than This! $13.95

Dine-in Only
No Plate Sharing
While Supplies Last

4300 Colley Ave.
961-0899

November, 2009
“CANNING” HUNGER THROUGH AN ASTOUNDINGLY HUGE CANNED-ART COMPETITION

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA . . . Selden Arcade, Norfolk, Virginia will host the 13th Annual Hampton Roads canstruction™ competition to benefit the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia November 11th - 12th. 14 teams drawn from Hampton Roads’ top architectural firms, engineering firms, and universities will come together to place a visual spotlight on hunger while showcasing their design talents and giving back to the communities they build. They will compete to see who can best defy the laws of gravity by creating these unbelievable, unimaginable and downright unfathomable, but incredibly edible 10’ x 10’ x 8’ tall “canned art” structures assembled using only cans, tape, cardboard, and creativity. The giant structures will include a Michael Jackson glove, Jack and the Beanstalk, Wizard of Oz, Cash for Clunkers, Shark & a Surfboard, and a TV news set, just to name a few. The giant sculpture exhibits will remain on display to the public at Selden and Monticello Arcades until November 22nd upon which time the structures will be dismantled and all of the food will be donated to the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia.

With the generous donations from Farm Fresh this year student teams from Hampton University, Old Dominion University, Ghent School and Tidewater Community College will take the “can” challenge. canstruction™ is a perfect tool for introducing students to the design and construction industry. The project incorporates art, design, math/geometry, engineering, construction, and can even be used to introduce students to computer-aided drafting and 3-D software. It offers them the opportunity to exercise their math skills, increase their understanding of spatial relationships, and work in three dimensions in a practical application. The process gives students a better appreciation of the built environment. At the same time they are learning that performing community service can be fun and creative.

In addition to the competition in Norfolk this year, canstruction™ competitions will be held in over 100 individual cities throughout the world with a goal of donating 3 million pounds of food to help feed hundreds of thousands of people.

It starts with ONE CAN. To feed the hungry. To lift the spirit. To change the world.

Schedule of Events:

Selden Arcade, 208 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA

Wednesday
6 p.m. - midnight

November 11th → Build-out
The architects, engineers, and students have six hours to build their giant structures made entirely from cans of food. Press is invited to witness structures come to life throughout the evening.

Thursday
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

November 12th → Awards Ceremony/Gala
Jury announces winners
Exhibit opens - cocktail reception
Press welcome - photo opportunity with winning teams

Friday

November 13th - November 22nd → Exhibition Open to the Public
Monday-Saturday 7 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

* MEDIA ALERT *
October 16, 2009

FOR MORE INFO. CONTACT:
Mark Hinckley
757-961-7862
mhinckley@clarknexsen.com

canstruction™ is a trademarked event to benefit the Foodbank of SE Virginia and sponsored by the Hampton Roads Chapters of the Society for Design Administration and the American Institute of Architects and made possible by contributions from companies that support the design and construction industry. For more information visit www.foodbankonline.org/canstruction and www.canstruction.org.
Olde Towne Art

Studio Rentals | Original Art | Classes
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The Downtowner – Norfolk, Virginia

November, 2009
Congratulations

To Andy Giles and Staff at Bide-A-Wee.
Portsmouth’s Bide-A-Wee Golf Course was recently named Virginia’s Top Municipal Course which will appear in the August edition of “Golf Digest.”

In 2001, after the redesign, Bide-A-Wee was named The Most Improved Course in the nation.

A continuous example of Council’s vision principle: Bold New Directions

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Advertise In The Holiday Issue Of The Downtowner.
Call 627-2216 Today! Don’t be left out!
"I have a new home!"
- Little Lady, 3 years old

Little Lady went home with her new family! If you are looking to adopt a wonderful pet, visit the Norfolk SPCA at 916 Ballentine Blvd. For more information call 757.622.3319 or go to www.norfolksPCA.com.

All photos: Catherine Hugo

"Still looking for our new family"
- Mowgli and Baloo, 7 months

These sweet boys need a permanent home. They were found abandoned in an apartment building in Portsmouth.

Could you give them a second chance in a loving home?

Please call Catherine at (757) 575-5730 or email mowgliandbaloo.kittens@gmail.com

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All photos: Catherine Hugo
In Memoriam:

Ewin Allen Ottinger
1938 – 2009


Ewin was a graduate of Norfolk Academy, Class of 1955. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tennessee, where he was a letterman on the Cross Country and Track teams.

Ewin proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was a Vice President of General Foam Plastics Corporation from 1964 to 1974, assistant treasurer of C.E. Thurston and Sons from 1975 to 1976 and President and owner of George G. Lee Company from 1978 until recently.

Ewin was a former member of the Princess Anne Country Club and the Pyramid Club and a past President of the Virginia Club. He was also a former director of the General Douglas MacArthur Foundation. He was a tennis player and frequently enjoyed playing at the Fergus Reid tennis courts in West Ghent where he lived for many years. Ewin was an enthusiastic supporter of the City of Norfolk. He is survived by his loving family and many friends. Ewin will be greatly missed. -- Jack Armistead
Spotlight Shines on Stained-Glass Windows of Southeastern Virginia in November’s Norfolk History Series Lecture

Experience the sanctified splendor of the stained glass masterworks housed in Hampton Roads’ churches and synagogues in this month’s presentation in the Norfolk History Series.

Join us on Wednesday, November 11, 2009 at 7 p.m. as author Nenette Arroyo presents highlights from her book, Sacred Light: Stained Glass Windows of Southeastern Virginia. The presentation, co-sponsored this month by the Norfolk Historical Society and the Glass Associates of the Chrysler Museum, will be held in the Museum’s Kaufman Theatre.

After the presentation, Arroyo will sign copies of Sacred Light, available for purchase that evening in The Museum Shop of the Chrysler. Light refreshments also will follow the program.

Admission to the presentation is free to members of the Chrysler Museum’s Glass Associates and Friends of Historic Houses, as well as to members of the Norfolk Historical Society.

Admission for all others is $5.

For more information, call (757) 333-1086.

“Before They Were Monarchs” Is Valuable Collector’s Book On ODU Football History

A great new book titled “Before They Were Monarchs - A Personal History of the Norfolk Division Braves,” is now available for purchase in most local bookstores.

Authors Johnny W. Brown Jr. and Gary Ruegsegger (A Downtowner contributing editor) trace the early days of football at ODU when the school was known as the Norfolk Division of the College of William and Mary-V.P.I. The team back then was known as the “Braves” and had its beginnings in 1930 and ended football 69 years ago on Nov. 16, 1940.

Author Johnny Brown is an athlete, soldier, coach, teacher, principal, artist and author of “The Granby Roll.”

Ruegsegger is a local writer who has had the privilege of rubbing elbows with the great and near-great.

The new book is beautifully illustrated with numerous photos of the early days of football in ODU’s vast history. Call ahead to your favorite bookstore to make sure they have it in stock.

1. Best Saying this Month – Have A Happy Thanksgiving!
2. Best Upcoming Event – Holidays in the City (See cover story).
3. Best and Cutest Waitress of the Month – Leila Mojica of Enrico Ristorante. Outstanding!
4. Best Corporate Vice President of the Month – Venetia Huffman, VP of Operations and Compliance for CV International. Great job!
5. Best Computer Troubleshooter – Evan Almyrantis. Call Evan to solve your computer problems. He saved The Downtowner when we faced a major deadline. Call him at (757) 274-1210.
6. Best Road Trip of the Month – To the Blue Ridge Mountains. The leaves are breathtakingly beautiful!
7. Best Cowboy of the Month – Larry Stark. Check out Larry and his cowboy friends on a picture page to be published next month in The Downtowner from down on the farm.
8. Best Advertising Opportunity – Call 627-2216 to place your ad in the Holiday Issue of The Downtowner to be published on Dec. 11. Don’t be left out!
9. Best New Girlfriend of the Month – Sugar Cookie, you rock!
10. Best Chant of the Month – Go ODU! The Monarchs close their first football season after 69 years on a winning note! Remaining games are a home contest Nov. 7 against North Carolina Central, and the last game -- away at VMI Nov. 21. Great job, Bobby Wilder!

Attention Business Owners!

Advertise in The Downtowner’s 21st Annual Holiday Issue.

Please call 627-2216 to place your ad. Don’t be left out of this popular Holiday Issue. Call Today for Publication on Dec. 11.

The Downtowner is the “little paper” that locals like to read and is your reasonable alternative to high ad prices.
Dear Downtowner Answerman,

My wife is keeping me awake all night and it's been going on for the last few years. Because of this I'm irritable at work because of my lack of sleep and my co-workers think I'm a jerk. My wife says she can't sleep because she hears little munching noises when she puts her head down on the pillow. She says she thinks something inside the pillow is eating something. What can I do to cure her of the problem?

– Eaten Up on Colley Avenue

Dear Eaten Up,

She really has sensitive ears, pal. What she probably hears chomping away all through the night inside her pillow are dust mites. After doing some research, I discovered that beds are a prime habitat (where 1/3 of life occurs). A typical used mattress may have anywhere from 100,000 to 10 million mites inside. If your wife's pillow is over two years old, the pillow can be home to invading dust mites. Ten percent of the weight of a two year old pillow can be composed of dead mites and their droppings. Pretty gross, huh? Dust mites prefer warm, moist surroundings such as the inside of a mattress when someone is on it (perhaps you and your lovely wife). They love dandruff, man. Stock up on medicated shampoo so your wife and you won't be providing a nice meal for these little critters. They are harmless to human beings but they sure eat well. Thanks for the note. Tell your wife to try wearing earplugs.

Dear Downtowner Answerman,

What do you do in your spare time?

– Curious Carol, Westover Avenue

Dear Curious Carol,

I dig tunnels. I find that this hobby keeps me in good health and offers great recreation. I've managed to dig down 25 feet and I'm planning to extend the tunnel far enough to reach some of my favorite watering holes in Ghent. You never know where I might pop up. Thanks for writing.

Dear Barney on Baldwin,

I was a box of Kraft macaroni. My girlfriend wanted to bake me in a casserole but I said no and drank a bottle of merlot and went to bed. She said I was about as fun as a wet noodle. Next year I'm going to be a Vienna sausage. She likes that idea and says it's more like me. It hurt my feelings. She's a little goofy like that.

Dear Downtowner Answerman,

Do you think I'm pretty?

– Jill on Claremont

Dear Jill,

No. You're not pretty.
This is the first-born son of Phillip and Shannon Decker of d'Egg Diner. Max is already hanging around with the big celebrities in Hampton Roads - Football Hall of Famer Bruce Smith, left, and ODU Basketball Coach Blaine Taylor.

Lisa and daughter Michela enjoy a great sailing day aboard the American Rover with hostess Caroline McCartney, right.

Michela takes the helm of the Rover on a beautiful blue-sky day.

American Rover mate Claudia Swain with vessel Captain Brook Smith and Caroline McCartney.

Beverage hostess Jeannie Benetti took care of thirsty patrons on the cruise that was donated from the Rover to the Towne Bank Foundation.
2009 ALLI Awards Honor Regional Arts and Culture Leaders

HAMPTON ROADS, VA … Arts and culture industry beacons from throughout Hampton Roads were honored on November 1st, at the 2009 ALLI Awards ceremonies. The awards were presented at a gala gathering held at the DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum in Williamsburg.

Dr. William Hennessey, director of the Chrysler Museum of Art is this year’s recipient of the Vianne B. Webb Lifetime Achievement Award. Hennessey was recognized for his long and successful tenure as the museum director, for his tireless advocacy on behalf of the arts and his commitment to making the arts broadly accessible to all citizens. Hennessey’s artistic leadership at the Chrysler is most recently notable for the decision to make the museum collection available to the public without charge.

Another highlight of the event was the awarding of the Bettie Minette Cooper Arts Educator ALLI Award which was presented to Patty Edwards, Old Dominion University art lecturer, for her innovative curriculum plans and unique attention to teacher training. She has led her students to a multitude of community engagement projects. The award is named for the long-time advocate for arts education, Bettie Minette Cooper, and is presented annually to an educator whose mentorship and teaching practice stands out among peers.

Mal Vincent, long time critic and entertainment writer for the Virginian-Pilot was presented with this year’s Media Award. Vincent has written for the “Pilot” for more than 45 years. He is one of less than 100 critics still working in the United States, and has been honored by the Associated Press, and the city of Norfolk among others.

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Arts professionals recognized include Diana Davenport for her innovative management as art supervisor for the Portsmouth City Schools. Beyond the classroom, she has advocated arts participation among school age children for over 40 years; John S. Dixon, Director of the Academy of Music in Norfolk in recognition of his success in guiding the academy to sustained financial stability, and at the same time offering classes to over 1,000 students; and Martha Frances Fortson, of Portsmouth, for her inspired and successful capital campaign efforts on behalf of the Seawall Art Show, the Childrens Museum of Virginia and the creation of programs to inspire young women.

Volunteers in the region’s arts communities who were ALLI Award recipients include Robert G. “Buddy” Bagley of Chesapeake, for his years of extensive volunteer service volunteer work to his city. The “Buddy Bagley Stage” was named for him because of his successful fundraising efforts in the business community. June 13th is designated as “Buddy Bagley Day” by the Chesapeake Fine Arts Commission. Other volunteers awarded ALLIs include: Louis F. Vosteen of Williamsburg, in recognition of his years of research and organization to preserve English Country Dance; Kenneth Woolard, of Portsmouth, for his strong support of multiple arts endeavors in Portsmouth, including the Portsmouth Community Concerts, and The Williamsburg Garden Club, for its 80 years of working to maintain Virginia’s cultural heritage through restoration, conservation and education. The club has participated in raising funds to restore and maintain more than 50 of Virginia’s historic properties, and sponsors educational gardening programs in schools.

The Cultural Alliance sponsors the ALLI Awards annually to honor local arts and cultural organizations and those individuals who support them through gifts of time and resources. To be considered for an ALLI Award, nominees must have directly benefited the arts

(Continued on page 19)
When Norfolk's Eureka Lodge was established on June 5, 1897, it was the first organization of African American Elks in the world. From its headquarters on Wood Street, the lodge provided a place for members to meet and socialize, and was a source of support and assistance for the local African American community. It paid members' sick and death benefits and insurance premiums; took needy children on summer outings, and distributed toys and food baskets at Christmas. For many years, the Eureka's Excelsior Band, shown here in front of the Henry Clay School on Chapel Street, was a popular component of local parades. Today, a Cannonball Trail marker at the corner of Wood and Fenchurch Street commemorates the Eureka Lodge and Excelsior Band.

The Excelsior Band / ca1927

By Peggy Haile McPhillips
Norfolk City Historian

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