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Downtown Norfolk Will Be Merry and Bright This Holiday Season!

NORFOLK, Va. – (November 2020) – Continue your holiday traditions or start new ones in Downtown Norfolk. It may look a little different than holidays in the past, but plenty of fun, family friendly events are planned to keep it festive.

“We have worked very hard to create a safe environment for everyone in Downtown Norfolk,” said Downtown Norfolk Council President and CEO Mary Miller. “We plan to light up Downtown and work with our partners to share the joy of the season with all of our visitors, businesses and residents. We are truly thankful for our sponsors that will help us make the season bright including [The Breeden Company](#), [Lime](#), [Rutter Mills](#) and [TowneBank](#).”

Grand Illumination Celebration and Holiday Kick-off , Nov. 21, 4 - 7 pm

Kick off the holiday season in Downtown Norfolk with mini-activations and a festive atmosphere throughout the evening culminating with the illumination of the Downtown skyline at 7 pm.

- Unveiling of new holiday art installation in the NEON District
- Train Exhibit in Selden Market
- Socially distant Santa photo op
- Performances by [The Rhythm Project](#) and other outdoor performances and entertainment
- Snowfall on Granby

Holiday Puppy Parade on the Elizabeth River Trail, Nov. 21, 6 pm

The Holiday Puppy Parade will bring trail users, friends of Dogtown and Downtown residents together for a festive dog parade in holiday or lighted doggie attire along the Elizabeth River Trail from the Pagoda to TowneBank Fountain Park just in time to catch the skyline’s illumination.

Train Exhibit at Selden Market Presented by [WPA](#), Nov. 21 – Dec. 20 (days and times may vary)

Downtown's beloved Model Train Exhibit presented by [Atlantic Coast S Gaugers](#) is back in Selden Market.

[6th Annual Great Hot Cocoa Wars](#), Nov. 21 - 28

Downtown's beloved Great Hot Cocoa War is expanding to an entire week to give everyone the chance to try all the chocolatey creations from participating restaurants. Vote on your favorite!

Small Business Saturday, Nov. 28

Find local and unique gifts in Downtown Norfolk on Small Business Saturday and all season long. As part of the celebration, Downtown Norfolk Council is planning a Shop Small Welcome Station for shoppers when they come to Selden Market on Nov. 28. The station includes a list of participating small businesses, treats and entertainment. Additionally, Downtown will be alive with Strolling Santa carolers, Small Business Saturday decorations and gift card giveaways to Downtown shoppers.

Holiday Movie Food and Drink Week, Dec. 4 -11

Downtown chefs put fun and creative spins on iconic food and drinks from holiday movie classics for a delicious helping of festive nostalgia. With 28 participating restaurants in this special dining week, there is ample opportunity to get a taste for Downtown's newest holiday experience.

NEON Holiday Market, Dec. 5, noon - 4 pm

The NEON Holiday Market returns to the Plot for its sixth year of creative holiday shopping with a wide range of artistic and eclectic vendors, festive lights, acoustic jams and delicious snacks.

[Vintage Sunday](#) at Selden Market, Dec.13, 11 am - 5pm

Visit Selden Market on Vintage Sunday for extra special holiday shopping with one-of-a-kind gifts along with entertainment.

NEON Stars presented by [Business Consortium for Arts Support](#)

As the gateway into Downtown Norfolk, the NEON District provides the first glimpse of city lights, historic buildings and bustling streets to residents and visitors. The District will showcase unique, creative holiday décor, painted by Norfolk artists, along Granby Street adding to the magic of the season.

Downtown Norfolk Council's Ambassadors are taking every precaution to ensure that Downtown is clean and safe during the holiday season. Special COVID-19 cleaning protocols are being done daily. DNC has installed additional signage to guide people to make the right decisions to wear masks, maintain social distance and to wash hands regularly. Downtown area businesses are all working together to keep guests healthy and festive during the season.

[Downtown Norfolk Council](#) is a private, not-for-profit membership organization comprised of businesses and individuals working toward a dynamic, attractive and prosperous Downtown. DNC also manages the Downtown Norfolk Improvement District, a 50-block special services district with enhanced services that keep Downtown friendly, safe and spotless. Connect with Downtown Norfolk on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) or visit [DowntownNorfolk.org](#).

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