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**Portsmouth Hosts Annual Business Appreciation Event  
and Selects Winner of Best in Business Awards**

**Portsmouth, VA** - The Portsmouth Department of Economic Development hosted its annual Business Appreciation Event on Wednesday, June 6, 2012. The purpose of the event was simply to say “Thank You” to Portsmouth businesses for doing business in the City and for their contribution to the economic growth of the community. The business community was invited to attend this networking event and enjoy the catering of Brutti’s Restaurant and the entertainment provided by Mansion Allure.

This year marks the first year for the Portsmouth Best in Business Awards, and nominations were received in each category. The categories are:

- The Community Steward Award
- The Spirit of the City Award
- The Environmental Award

The 2012 Community Steward Award winner is **TowneBank**. The Community Steward Award celebrates a for-profit business that participates actively in the community by contributing its resources. TowneBank was nominated and selected because of the organized charity events and contributions to the City of Portsmouth.

The 2012 Spirit of the City Award winner is **Integrated Management Group** (operators of the NTelos Pavilion). The Spirit of the City Award celebrates a business that has fostered a positive image of the City of Portsmouth as a business location. Integrated Management Group was nominated and selected because of the positive image the organization has created and how it reflects the diversity and liveliness of the City of Portsmouth.

The 2012 Environmental Award winner was selected after reviewing several quality nominations. The selection committee was very impressed with the work of the Virginia Port Authority, Cherry Carpet and Flooring, and Sew EZ. A respectable recognition is owed to these organizations because of their commitment to environmental quality and quantifiable efforts. Ultimately, the organization selected Wheelabrator as the 2012 Environmental Award winner. The Environmental Award celebrates a business that conducts or participates in activities that benefit the environment through its business practices and policies on an ongoing basis. Wheelabrator was nominated and selected based on the sustainability of their methods, measurable results, and community involvement and education.

**Marketing and Communications**

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