

HAMPTON VA

NEWS RELEASE

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Fred Gaskins | fgaskins@hampton.gov | 757-727-6191
22 Lincoln Street | Hampton, VA 23669

Old Point, Wendy's, North King Street improvements win 2015 Placemaking awards

April 27, 2015 - Old Point National Bank was the top winner Wednesday night when Hampton's City Council presented the 2015 Placemaking awards, recognizing the building or rebuilding of places that make public spaces living spaces for residents and visitors.

This year there were 10 nominees in five categories. Top scorers were chosen by city staff, a representative of the Coliseum Central Business Improvement District, and two nominees from last year. The categories, 2015 nominees and top scorers:

Commercial Renovation Award – Neighborhood Scale: This project serves as the best example of the renovation of an existing structure in terms of attention to design, materials and sustainability. Nominees were:

- **Advex Corporation:** Project consisted of a 750-square foot addition and façade improvement on a building located at the entrance of Langley Research Industrial Park.
- **Bassette Building:** Project transformed the building and enhanced the downtown area by giving the building a new roof and new windows, and painting and patching the exterior.
- ***Wendy's restaurant:** This project received top scores. It consisted of razing an existing restaurant and building a new, 3,300 square foot restaurant across from the Netcenter on Mercury Boulevard. The new restaurant provides additional green space and an updated building design at a city gateway.

Design Excellence Award: This project demonstrates the use of high quality design to improve a place or create excellent prospects for improvement - whether by improving the local environment, attracting investment, or raising the overall standard for design in the community. Nominees were:

- **Mattress Firm:** The new store, along with a new CVS pharmacy, redeveloped a previously existing commercial site. The developer went above and beyond minimum zoning standards by locating the building against North Armistead Avenue and by addressing the appearance

of all sides of the building. The site is well connected with internal sidewalks that connect the store with the pharmacy and new sidewalks.

- **Panda Express:** The new building at the corner of Von Schilling and Coliseum Drive reflects a more contemporary design with a good blend of contemporary materials, masonry, metal panels and trim and glass. The structure fronts Coliseum Drive with pedestrian connections to the sidewalk.
- **WaWa:** The new store redeveloped an existing commercial site. The developer volunteered to building to higher zoning standards and the building was specifically designed for this site using a mix of upgraded material. The design standards also resulted in higher quality lighting, landscaping and signage. And the developer recycled most of the materials.
- ***Old Point National Bank:** This project received top scores in this category. The bank, which began in Phoebus in 1923, opened its new corporate headquarters in downtown Hampton in 2014. The more than 54,000 square-foot building is reminiscent of early 20th century architecture. The “skin” of the building is precast with a brick inlay and the 6th floor has a rooftop meeting room and outdoor space with views of downtown and the waterfront. Materials from the original downtown branch were recycled, and the new building meets many elements of LEED certification for energy and environmental design. The building is considered a fine example of high quality “new” investment in the downtown.

Infill Project Award: This project serves as the best example of appropriate new development in a mature, developed area. Nominees were:

- **Steak n’ Shake:** The attractive reuse of this site for a 3,700 square-foot restaurant with a retro design benefits the city and the community. The previous business on this site was a vacant muffler shop with a large sign. The layout was very important when the restaurant first opened and served large crowds for weeks without backing up.
- ***Old Point National Bank (see description above):** The bank received top scores in this category.

Public Placemaking: This is a new category that recognizes city-initiated projects demonstrating the positive impact of planning, regeneration, and urban design or economic development on the physical or environmental quality of a place or places. It also considers the economic and social well being of a community. Nominees were:

- **Bluebird Gap Farm (entrance/parking lot):** The relocation of the entrance on Pine Chapel road was done to create a safe and efficient access to the farm. Improvements include a new two-lane asphalt road with curbs and gutters and improved drainage. The redesigned parking lot has 55 new parking space spaces and the existing parking lot has been overlaid with asphalt. New landscaping and decorative fencing create an attractive entrance.
- ***North King Street improvements (Old Fox Hill/Little Back River roads):** This project received top scores in this category. The North King Street corridor was designed and constructed with guidance from the North King Street Master Plan. Improvements from Old Fox Hill Road to Little Back River Road include converting the corridor to a four-lane, divided road with a raised median, curbs and gutters, and a continuous, multi-use trail. Other improvements include landscaping and upgraded lighting to provide a safe and attractive gateway to Langley Air Force Base and downtown Hampton.

Placemaking (top honor): Old Point National Bank's new downtown headquarters won this honor for clearly demonstrating the positive impact of planning, regeneration, urban design or economic development on the physical or environmental quality of a place or places, and the economic and social well being of a community.

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