

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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Anniversary gala and awards mark Suffolk housing authority's four-plus decades

By Victoria Bourne
The Virginian-Pilot
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The Suffolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority is celebrating 45 years with an anniversary gala and awards presentation Saturday downtown.

According to a news release, the authority opened its doors in 1971, thanks to a community effort led by businessman and attorney George Y. Birdsong.

The Houser Awards are presented every five years to those who've made a significant contribution to the authority and in the area of affordable housing.

The release said the 2016 Houser Award recipients are:

- Clarissa E. McAdoo, the authority's executive director of two decades who is retiring in August, will receive the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Howard W. Martin, Jr., an attorney of Crenshaw, Ware & Martin will be recognized for Distinguished Service.

- Karlton O. Johnson, a former resident of Suffolk's public housing and current principal of Blanche Ely High School in Pompano Beach, Fla., will receive the Award of Excellence.

The 2016 Houser Awards for Outstanding Partner will be presented to:

- Jaime Bordenave, president and CEO of The Communities Group
- Joette C. Claude, president and CEO of C.E.B. Financial Accounting and Tax Services
- Monte S. Crawl, vice president of marketing for Bayport Credit Union
- Mark R. Warden, principal at Wilbanks, Smith & Thomas Asset Management, LLC

Crystal Williams will receive the 2016 Houser Awards for Outstanding Resident Achievement.

The gala event will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn Suffolk Riverfront, 100 E. Constance Road, and begins at 6 p.m. Tickets for the gala are \$50 and must be purchased in advance. For more information, visit www.suffolkrha.org/45thAnniversary.htm or call 539-2100.

Victoria Bourne, 757-222-5563, victoria.bourne@pilotonline.com



Suffolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority's executive director retiring

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Victoria Bourne

Victoria Bourne is a reporter covering the city of Suffolk.

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