

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Contact:

Tom O'Grady
Suffolk Economic Development
(757) 923-3620
togrady@city.suffolk.va.us
www.YesSuffolk.com

Priscilla Taylor
Duke Automotive Corp.
(757) 539-8777
ptaylor@dukeauto.com
www.dukeauto.com

Duke Automotive to Host Grand Reopening

SUFFOLK, VA., April 28, 2006 — On Monday, May 1, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. Duke Automotive Corp., located at 2016 North Main Street, will host a Grand Reopening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate their extensive renovation project. Duke Automotive invested approximately \$1.6 million in the project.

Duke Automotive's renovations include improving and expanding showroom/sales offices, enlarging the service facility to include a tire center, improved the service area to include a children's area, complimentary coffee and tea, and dedicated workspaces for customers with internet access. Duke also added a new conference/training room for meetings and GM distance learning. This new capital project renovated 100% of the total 15,579 square-feet on North Main Street.

"As the only General Motors dealer in Suffolk, we are pleased to be a part of the exciting growth in our city. Our recent renovation will allow us to

continue our 40 year tradition of excellence by offering even more customer friendly features and by making the sales and service experiences even more enjoyable and convenient” said Lydia Duke, President of Duke Automotive. “As a part of the growth explosion that is occurring all around us, we look forward to having many opportunities to serve the automotive needs of our many valued customers as well as the needs of those who are new to our community.”

“Expansion of an existing business is a key ingredient to our economic development success,” said Suffolk Mayor Bobby Ralph “and we are extremely pleased that Duke Automotive has made a significant new investment in their facilities that will serve them well for many years to come. I congratulate them on their continuing success”.

Duke Automotive got it’s start in 1969 as Duke Olds Cadillac with owner Ray Duke and his son Eley Duke, Jr. In the years to follow Duke became one of only a few dealerships nationwide with all GM franchises in one location. In 2003, Lydia Duke became President, Dealer, and General Manager. She is the only woman automotive dealer in Hampton Roads, and in all of Virginia. In 2003 she was awarded one of the highest honors among General Motors Women Dealers, the "Spirit Of Leadership". This award is given by the General Motors Women's Retail Initiative for "Leadership, Courage, Confidence, and Resilience" as a female dealer. In 2004, Lydia was honored as one of the recipients of the Hampton Roads Youth Center's "Ray of Hope Award". This award honored five local women for their time, talent, and energy in making lives better for young people in the region. Today, Duke Automotive continues to pride themselves on the automotive needs of Suffolk and surrounding community. You can see and feel the difference – the “Duke Difference.”

To learn more about the company, visit their website at www.dukeauto.com

