



A Message from the President

Greetings from the Virginia Peninsula Chamber, Home of the [5 C's](#)! Just as a reminder, we are the **Connector** of people and organizations, the **Convener** of meetings and initiatives, a Regional **Collaborator**, a **Conduit** of critical information and a **Champion** of the great assets we have on the Peninsula. Speaking of great assets, I would like to take a moment to tell you about one of our monthly programs. [SPOTLIGHT on the Peninsula](#) is a free networking and informational event that offers a behind the scenes look at some of the multitude of interesting, cool, hi-technology, critical economic growth drivers that are located in our backyard (and front and side yards also). This program which is sponsored by [Cox Communications](#) has been running for six years (with a brief pause, of course, during 2020). We have visited well-known, high-vis places like [Jefferson Lab](#), [NASA](#) and [The Apprentice School](#) and more obscure gems (that should be well known) like



ReaKtor, [757 Makerspace](#) and, just last week, **Kelvin International**. [Kelvin](#) is located on Blue Crab Drive in Oyster Point. It is a small-ish

engineering firm that does very significant work in the cryogenics field. They, quite literally, have customers on every continent in the world. VERY COOL! Sorry if you missed out. Make sure you join us in the future to learn more about the great assets we have on the Peninsula - and stay tuned to our website for the monthly Spotlight schedule.

Our next **Rising Tide** event is coming up next [Wednesday, August 7th](#). In this installment we will focus on the critical issue of meeting our rapidly expanding energy needs now and in the



future. We will be assisted in this discussion by a great cast of experts from the [Hampton Roads Alliance](#), [Dominion Energy](#), [Virginia Natural Gas](#), [Virginia Tech](#) and others. Please plan on joining us for this important conversation.

As I've mentioned several times before, [Public Policy Advocacy](#) is one of the most important services we provide to our members. We have offered a series of public policy listening sessions this summer and more are on the way in the Fall. We will also be hosting a Local Election **Candidate Forum** on September 5th from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm. This event will be open and free to all members (and potential members) and will be held at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. All candidates for Newport News and Hampton City Council and Mayor (Hampton) have been invited to participate. Stay tuned for more information.

Last, but not least, a sneak peek into an upcoming **Virginia Peninsula Chamber** - in partnership with [Christopher Newport University](#) - program. We have been working together on a year long **Advanced Leadership Program** that will commence with its inaugural class in January 2025. The program is called **LEAD Higher** and applications will be accepted starting in early August.

Bob McKenna
President/CEO



CONNECTIONS news



LEAD Peninsula
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LEAD PENINSULA ALUMNI NETWORK:

LPAN is accepting membership registration for the 2024-2025 term. All graduates of LEAD Peninsula interested in joining LPAN must register and pay the annual dues online at <https://bit.ly/LPAN24-25>.

Today (July 31, 2024) is the last day to take advantage of our early bird registration discount. Register now and save \$10!

Benefits include: networking events, an annual newsletter, discounts to select Chamber events, access to the LPAN directory, [private LinkedIn group](#), continuous learning events (behind the scenes tours, leadership seminars, etc.), and opportunities to actively serve and

give back to the community which amplifies the impact of LPAN involvement.
Secure your spot today and enjoy the savings!



Public Policy Update 7/31/24

By Chris Davidson, Government Relations

July 1st marked the beginning of fiscal year 2025 (FY25), meaning that new laws have gone into effect and the books are closed on FY24. But, up until last week, there was still unfinished business in the Virginia legislature. In this update we discuss the VMSDEP program, the recent Hampton Roads Caucus meeting, and the Chamber's FY25 legislative listening sessions.....



HRBT Expansion Project Update

Mary The Tunnel Boring Machine emerged from her first tunneling journey at the HRBT in April and since then her cutterhead and shield emerged into the North Island receiving pit where they've been turned around to prepare for a similar bore toward Norfolk later this Fall. To turn Mary around, rare state-of-the-art technology was used.

Approximately 35 Hampton Roads Connector Partners (HRCP) crew members used nitrogen skates to turn Mary's 2,500-ton cutter head and shield. They accomplished it in just eight hours.

This friction reduction method had never been deployed on a TBM in the U.S., making Mary's impressive pivot among the first nitrogen assisted TBM turnarounds in the world. Though second after London where engineers relied on the same approach for a much smaller TBM in 2023, Mary is also the largest TBM to have used this cutting-edge technology.

Talent Attraction and Retention in Hampton Roads

It has long been recognized that in order for a region or locality to thrive economically requires the attraction and retention of a strong workforce which translates to good, young talent. The Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable and the Hampton Roads Workforce Council recently commissioned Fahrenheit Advisors to research factors that may impact the attraction and retention of individuals, entrepreneurs and start-up businesses here in Hampton Roads. The results of that study are available [HERE](#).

For those of you who don't have time to dig in to the study yourselves, [HERE](#) is a summary press release.

CONVENING opportunities

Mark your calendar for the following upcoming events:

[Wednesday, August 7th](#)

Rising Tide

[Thursday, August 8th](#)

Pink Bag Lunch

[Tuesday, August 13th](#)

Coffee Connection

Wednesday, August 14th

Start, Grow, Thrive

Thursday, September 19th

Military Recognition Breakfast

Friday, October 11th

State of the Region

Tuesday, December 3rd

State of the City - Hampton

Tuesday, December 10th

Annual Meeting



CHAMPIONS

AC *AMAZING COMFORT*

When you're in need of Heating/Air Conditioning or any other HVAC work in the Hampton, Virginia area and surrounding areas, you have many options. [Amazing Comfort](#) has the expertise and experience to get the job done right the first time, with more than a decade of

experience in the HVAC industry. Servicing all makes and models of residential and commercial HVAC systems.

Unlike many HVAC contractors, Amazing Comfort is locally owned and operated. Providing service in the Hampton, VA area, we truly understand the unique needs of both homeowners and business owners, in a place where we see constant changes in temperatures, humidity and air quality.



Energy efficiency is a way of life in the insulation industry. A key component of that energy efficiency is mechanical insulation, where [Hampton Roads Insulation](#) is a leader. HRI is a full-service mechanical systems insulation contractor with over 20 years of experience. We work with a full range of insulating materials, making it easy to provide insulation solutions for any application. Each material provides unique advantages, and so we take into consideration feasibility, temperature, and all other factors in developing your insulation solution.

Please join us in welcoming the following new members - our future CHAMPIONS - to the Virginia Peninsula Chamber!

- [Amazing Comfort](#)
- Custom Benefits LLC
- [Lilac Lane DIY](#)
- [ServiceMaster Premier Services](#)
- [Smart Leadership Solutions](#)
- [Suite Escape on Chestnut LLC](#)
- [Yorktown Systems Group, Inc.](#)

There are several **job opportunities** available both on the Peninsula and in the surrounding areas. Click the links below to learn more.

Bay Aging

- [Facilities Maintenance Technician](#)
- [Scheduler/Dispatcher](#)
- [VDC Billing Fiscal Assistant](#)

Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeast Virginia

- [Area Director](#)
- [Club Director](#)

Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia

- [Finance and Housing Counselors](#)

City of Newport News

- [Animal Care Technician \(PT\)](#)
- [City Auditor](#)
- [Trolley Operator \(PT\)](#)

Freekind

- [Case Manager](#)

Hampton Roads Community Foundation

- [Grants Associate](#)

Mercy Medical Angels

- [Development Associate](#)

Virginia Beach SPCA

- [Marketing and Communications Manager](#)

Virginia Children's Chorus

- [Assistant Chorus Manager](#)



On **March 20th-22nd, 2025**, [Christopher Newport University](#) is hosting a Conference on Women and Gender. This conference has traditionally focused on academics presenting research on gender. This coming year, the program is being revamped in an aim to engage practitioners and the local community - including women in business. One conference subtopic of particular relevance is "women's work and career experiences." Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Inspired by a colleague? Motivated by an organization? Want to celebrate the accomplishment of a company? Our community grows stronger when we connect with each other's stories. We'd love to feature those Virginia Peninsula champions you know in an upcoming edition of The Catalyst. Hit the button below to **NOMINATE A CHAMPION**. All you have to do is submit their name and contact information and a little summary of why you think they should be featured and our team will take it from there.

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You are receiving this email because you are either a member of the Virginia Peninsula Chamber or you have asked to receive announcements and notifications regarding opportunities and matters relating to the Virginia Peninsula Business Community.

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