

Diggs, Victoria

From: Bellamy, Mark
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 10:24 AM
To: Wright, Michelle; Diggs, Victoria
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Introducing The Catalyst from the Virginia Peninsula Chamber

[Friday's folder please](#)

From: Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce <info@vpcc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 10:00 AM
To: Bellamy, Mark <bellamy@yorkcounty.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Introducing The Catalyst from the Virginia Peninsula Chamber

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The Catalyst

A Message from the President

Greetings all,

As usual, we have a lot going on here at the Chamber. Tomorrow, **September 19th**, is our **Annual [Military Recognition Breakfast](#)**. At this event, we



acknowledge our great military partners on the Peninsula and demonstrate gratitude for their service to our nation and to our communities. Defense spending represents a significant chunk of our local economy (about 40%) and the service members and their families are our neighbors, our friends and our co-workers. Please thank them all for their service at every opportunity. We also recognize an outstanding



military service member from each Branch represented on the Peninsula. If you can't make it to this special event tomorrow, put it on your calendar for next year. This year's presenting sponsor is [ITA International](#).

Next Tuesday, **September 24th**, the Chamber will host a **Meet and Greet with our local representatives to the General Assembly**. Two State Senators and six Delegates will be present and will have an opportunity to speak about their priorities and thoughts on the upcoming Session. There are still a few openings to attend if you're interested. Please reach out [to me](#) if you'd like to attend.



If you have not yet Powered by the Virginia Peninsula Chamber
in partnership with Christopher Newport University heard about [LEAD Higher](#), please check it out on our website. It is an **Advanced Leadership program**, developed in partnership between the [Virginia Peninsula Chamber](#) and [Christopher Newport University](#). Applications are open now for the first cohort which will commence in January 2025. This program is unlike any other in Hampton Roads. Don't miss out on this opportunity to provide further leadership development to one of your rising stars!



Last, but not least, I'm sure you are already tired of all the Political ads on the radio and on television, and the flyers you receive in the mail. I am not a "rock the vote" kind of guy who tells everyone to JUST DO IT. Rather, I am the guy who tells people to educate themselves on the issues and candidates prior to making a decision. Elections have consequences at every level, so don't just vote for the candidate with the biggest sign. Determine what issues are important to you as a citizen and then try to determine which candidate best represents your values. It's pretty important!

Bob McKenna
President/CEO,



On this day in history...

Happy Birthday to the US Air Force.

On this day in 1947, the **Department of the Air Force** was officially established under the National Security Act of 1947. Prior to that day, the military air service went through several names including the Air Service of the US Army, the Air Corps and the Army Air Force.

We are most fortunate to have a large USAF presence on our Peninsula. Langley Air Force Base, part of the Joint Base Langley Eustis, is home to the Headquarters of Air Combat Command, the Air Force's 1st Fighter Wing and the 633d Air Base Wing, among many others.

Aim High ... Fly-Fight-Win



LEAD Higher



ADVANCED LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Powered by the Virginia Peninsula Chamber
in partnership with Christopher Newport University

[LEAD Higher](#) is a comprehensive, 12-month, advanced leadership program designed to cultivate and enhance leadership skills among emerging leaders in the community. **Click [HERE](#) to apply to the inaugural cohort! Applications will be accepted through October 1, 2024.**

The program, developed through a strategic partnership between the [Virginia Peninsula Chamber](#) and [Christopher Newport University](#) (CNU), will feature one program day per month dedicated to a specific leadership principle. The curriculum blends theoretical knowledge with practical insights, featuring instruction from esteemed CNU professors and engaging conversations with recognized leaders from the Commonwealth's business community.

Upon successful completion of the program, each graduate will receive a micro-certification, symbolizing their commitment to leadership excellence and continuous professional development.

For more information on the LEAD Higher program, or for questions on the application process, contact Jaime Parrish at jaime@vpcc.org.

LEAD Peninsula Class of 2025



The [LEAD Peninsula Class of 2025](#) had their first monthly session, Transportation Day, on Wednesday, September 11, 2024. They began the day touring the Monitor-Merrimac Memorial Bridge-Tunnel (MMMBT). Next they visited the [Virginia International Gateway](#) (VIG); where they heard from Andrew Sinclair, Director of Federal Government Affairs for the Virginia Port Authority, and Ryan Banas, P.E CMM, [HRBT Expansion Project](#) Director. The class then visited [Hampton Road Transit's](#) (HRT) Northside Facility on Victoria Boulevard for a travel training experience, and presentation by Amy Jordan, Director of Communications and Business Development for Hampton Roads Transit /

Executive Director for [TRAFFIX](#). Class member Greg Grootendorst, Deputy Executive Director for the [Hampton Roads Planning District Commission](#) (HRPDC) wrapped up the session with a transportation presentation at the Chamber office.



LEAD Peninsula Alumni Network

The [LEAD Peninsula Alumni Network](#) (LPAN) has several events scheduled over the next year. Please mark your calendars with the following dates, and be on the lookout for more details in the near future:

October 18 and/or 25, 2024 | Excel Training

December 5, 2024 | Annual Holiday Party

January 8, 2025 | Poverty Simulation

February 15, 2025 | Safe Haven Community Center Event

June 2025 (Tentative) | Lionsbridge Football Club Game

If you haven't already, make sure you join the LEAD Peninsula Alumni Network's private [LinkedIn group](#). Click the bell icon at the top to get notified when new events and information have been shared. LPAN has a lot of great things in store for this upcoming year - you won't want to miss a thing!



Public Policy Update 9/18/2024

By Chris Davidson, Government Relations

The Peninsula Chamber's Public Policy team is in high gear as we lay the groundwork for our involvement in the 2025 General Assembly session. One of the issues that has immense bearing on how business and governance is conducted in the commonwealth is the incorporation and

regulation of Artificial Intelligence. In this update, we examine the current legislative environment around AI policy and preview some of the AI bills set to drop for the 2025 session...

Economic Development News

By Bob McKenna



On September 6th , Governor Glenn
Youngkin announced that **Canon Virginia, Inc., will be expanding its manufacturing facility in Newport News.** The expansion will support the company's new initiative to scale a unique method of isolating natural silk protein to create a solution that has applications across multiple industries. Canon will retrain current employees to staff and execute this new initiative. The Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) worked with Newport News to secure this deal and has agreed to support Canon's retraining efforts utilizing the Virginia Jobs Investment Program. The Governor also approved a performance-based grant of \$350,000, an investment that encourages capital investment by already existing companies.



The new **multi-modal**

transportation center has opened in Newport News as of August 22nd , 2024. The new station is located at 500 Bland Blvd near the Newport News / Williamsburg International airport. At the end of October, Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) will modify route 108 (Warwick Blvd, Bland Blvd, Jefferson Ave) to serve the station providing multimodal connections for travelers. This new station will have significant upgrades including a state-of-the-art Passenger Information Display System (PIDS). The station also features a covered platform and well-lit waiting area. Of the \$53m station cost, approximately half (\$25.7m) was allocated to the project by the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Office (HRPTO) board.

Governor Glenn Youngkin today announced on September 17th that **Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace Inc.**, a global provider of defense and aerospace systems, will invest \$71 million to establish a 150,000-square-foot facility in **James City County**. They will invest an additional \$30 million in other costs, including engineering and software. Virginia successfully competed with two other states for the project, which will create more than 180 new jobs. Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace is the defense and aerospace division of the Kongsberg Group, an international technology company that supplies high-technology systems and solutions in the defense, aerospace and other industries. The new facility in James City County will provide additional production capacity, sustainment and in-country tech refresh capabilities for two cruise missiles being procured by the Department of Defense. This is KONGSBERG's first production facility in the U.S. and it will expand domestic suppliers, building capacity and redundancy for these critical capabilities

worldwide. The Virginia Economic Development Partnership worked with James City County and the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance to secure the project for Virginia. Governor Youngkin approved a \$1.5 million grant from the Commonwealth's Opportunity Fund to assist James City County with the project. The Governor also approved a performance-based grant of \$750,000 from the Virginia Investment Performance Grant.



U.S. Chamber of Commerce

More than 500 Business Groups from Across the Country Call on Washington to Avoid the Largest Tax Increase in American History

By U.S. Chamber of Commerce

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce led 529 chambers and associations—representing every sector of the U.S. economy and all 50 states—in [calling on the next Congress and administration](#) to prevent tax increases on American families and businesses and instead protect American paychecks by pursuing a pro-growth agenda that will foster capital investment, job creation, and higher wages.

Heather Hughes Photography



hhp

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PHOTOGRAPHY

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CONVENING opportunities

Mark your calendar for the following upcoming events:

[Thursday, September 19th](#)

Military Recognition Breakfast

[Thursday, September 26th](#)

Business Connection After Hours

[Friday, September 27th](#)

Spotlight on the Peninsula

[Friday, October 11th](#)

State of the Region

[Tuesday, December 3rd](#)

State of the City - Hampton

[Tuesday, December 10th](#)

Annual Meeting

CHAMPIONS



The [Offices @ Two Five & J](#) offers a shared, community-driven coworking space to local entrepreneurs and small businesses and connects them to additional business assistance resources and opportunities in the Hampton Roads area. Memberships at The Offices are available to Newport News businesses and Newport News residents actively establishing a business. The Offices offers the use of a business address, shared open area, conference room, dedicated desks, as well as shared and private office options.



SOUTHERN TRUST MORTGAGE

At [Southern Trust Mortgage](#), we're in the business of "making home happen". From the beginning, we've been committed to creating a home loan experience that we'd want to receive ourselves. More than 20 years later, we remain focused on guiding and empowering homebuyers from application to closing.

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

- [Mind Over Money, LLC](#)
- [Gordon Wellness LLC](#)
- [Southern Trust Mortgage](#)
- [The Offices at 25 & J](#)

PBMares Cares Grant Application



[PBMares' grant program](#) funds programs within charitable organizations that focus on their three philanthropic pillars:

- **Financial Education/Financial Literacy**
- **Small Business Ecosystem:** Nonprofit organizations that strengthen & support the small and minority-owned business ecosystem.
- **Economic Mobility:** Nonprofit organizations that provide a pathway for individuals to obtain financial stability and economic success.

[PBMares'](#) spring grant cycle is open through **October 15th**.

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.

757-262-2000

11850 Merchants Walk, Suite 110, Newport News, VA 23606

virginiapeninsulachamber.com

VIRGINIA PENINSULA CHAMBER'S 2024 ANNUAL PARTNERS



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