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To: Bellamy, Mark <bellamy@yorkcounty.gov>
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A Message from the President

Greetings everyone. Happy October! Just a few quick notes on things happening in the next several weeks.

First of all, I would like to make you aware of a great (relatively) new member benefit. **Wisechoice Healthcare** is a healthcare alternative to the Affordable Care Act available to small businesses (between 2 and 50 employees). It offers more affordable costs, access to one of the largest national networks and partnership with local doctors and hospitals - and it is available NOW to Virginia Peninsula Chamber members. Over the course of the next month, we will host several info sessions on **Wisechoice Healthcare**. [Click here](#) to learn more information about these sessions.

Coming up next week is the next installment in the **Start, Grow, Thrive: Succeeding in Business series**. This session will be on [Systems Thinking and your Management System](#). As usual, **Dr. Willy Donaldson** will be presenting and will be entertaining, interesting and full of great wisdom to impart! Don't miss out on this free to members (yet very valuable) class.

On [November 7th](#), the Chamber will present a brand new event entitled **State of the Federal Labs**. This event will focus on Scientific and Technological Research being done at [NASA Langley Research Center](#) and [Jefferson Lab](#) and will feature presentations by **Dawn Schaible, Acting Center Director at NASA**

LRC and **David Dean, Deputy Director for Science, at Jefferson Lab**. These two Federal Labs are a great source of pride on the Peninsula, as well as dynamic economic drivers. Don't miss out!

Last, but not least, we will be hosting another candidate forum on [October 17th](#) from 4 pm to 6 pm. This forum will include the five candidates for the **Newport News Central District City Council election**. Please be an informed voter and join us for this free event.

Bob McKenna
President/CEO,
[Virginia Peninsula Chamber](#)

National Coffee with a Cop Day

Today is National Coffee with a Cop Day. This National Day is obviously inspired by the old cliché about police officers and their affinity for coffee and donuts. If you get the chance today or some time soon, reach out to a member of your local police department and thank them for their service to the community. Public Safety is an important, and sometimes very dangerous, job. It is also critical to ensuring that we have a great place to love, work and play.

LEAD Higher

[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 have been extended to Friday, October 18, 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.

Public Policy Update 10/2/2024

By Chris Davidson, Government Relations

After several weeks of listening sessions, roundtable discussions, and stakeholder engagement, the Peninsula Chamber is pleased to present our 2025 Legislative Priorities.

Local Economy News

By Bob McKenna

Thousands of dock workers from the International

Longshoremen's Association (ILA) went on strike yesterday, demanding higher wages and less automation. This strike will shut down over 30 ports on the east coast and gulf coast, including the Virginia International Gateway, the Newport News Marine Terminal and the Norfolk International Terminal. The impact of the strike is significant, affecting nearly half of all U.S. imports, and potentially costing the economy up to 4.5 billion (with a B) dollars per day. The Port of Virginia is considered to be one of three pillars of our local economy (along with the military and tourism) so this strike has a very significant impact here in Hampton Roads.

Sentara Health to cut 200 positions across its workforce, with most of these coming from Virginia. The cuts are related to the Medicaid Redetermination process and associated membership losses. Affected employees will be given 60 day notification and Sentara will make every effort

to move them to other positions within the Health System.

Let's wrap up with a little bit of good news. **The Newport News Economic Development Authority is under contract to purchase the Warwick Village Shopping Center**, located just north of Hilton Village. Plans are to give the shopping center a facelift to make the area headed into Hilton Village more attractive. Improvement plans should be completed by November and the City will be soliciting input from citizens in late 2024 and early 2025. We need more of this beautification. Stay tuned.

Mark your calendar for the following upcoming events:

[Monday, October 7th](#)

WiseChoice Healthcare Alliance

[Tuesday, October 8th](#)

Coffee Connection

[Wednesday, October 9th](#)

Start, Grow Thrive Business Series

[Thursday, October 10th](#)

WiseChoice Healthcare Alliance

[Thursday, October 10th](#)

Pink Bag Lunch

[Friday, October 11th](#)

State of the Region

[Tuesday, December 3rd](#)

State of the City - Hampton

[Tuesday, December 10th](#)

Annual Meeting



LEGASEA

[Legasea Marine](#) **M A R I N E** (formerly Dare Marina

& Yacht Sales) is Hampton Roads' premier full-service facility in Yorktown, Virginia, offering a wide range of solutions to satisfy the needs of discerning boaters.

Legasea offers a depth of services to enhance your boating experience—from new and used yacht sales, upfitting and routine [maintenance](#), to [dry](#)

[storage](#), [marina slips](#), or just a quick fuel and ice stop before your day on the water. We also stock [OEM parts](#) for a variety of manufacturers, and our [factory-authorized service](#) staff offers expert knowledge and repair for most of today's popular marine engine systems.

Legasea Marine is located on Chisman Creek, offering protected deep water harbor between the James and York Rivers, convenient access to the Chesapeake Bay, and an easy 25 mile run to Cape Henry and some of the best fishing and cruising grounds on the East Coast.

At [WISE Coatings Hampton Roads](#), they turn drab into dreamy. From your first call to the last square inch of installation, your experience and Wise Coatings quality are always top of mind – and it shows! Epoxy floor coating technology has come a long way over the past few years. Peeling, cracking and reapplication are all disappointments of the past. With our trademarked POLYWISE® floor coatings technology, we are able to offer best-in-class warranties leaving you free of worry while enjoying a peel and crack free floor forever.

WISE Coatings wide range of [floor coatings](#) and [custom garage storage solutions](#) are designed to create elegance for both your [home](#) & [office](#). Like the wise elephant, WISE Coatings stands for durability, resilience, strength, wisdom and toughness. WISE Coatings truly is your one-stop-shop for all things flooring, storage and organization. They provide epoxy floor coatings in Norfolk, Newport News, Hampton, Poquoson, Yorktown and the surrounding areas.

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

- [Virginia Works](#)
- [Wise Coatings of Hampton Roads](#)
- [Cross Wings Boutique](#)
- [Care Net Peninsula](#)
- [Legasea Marine](#)

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.

VIRGINIA PENINSULA CHAMBER'S 2024 ANNUAL PARTNERS

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