

Schott, Heather

From: Bellamy, Mark
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 10:24 AM
To: Schott, Heather
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Issue: October 16, 2024

Friday

Mark Bellamy

Begin forwarded message:

From: Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce <info@vpcc.org>
Date: October 16, 2024 at 9:59:55 AM EDT
To: "Bellamy, Mark" <bellamy@yorkcounty.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Issue: October 16, 2024
Reply-To: Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce <info@vpcc.org>

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**VIRGINIA
PENINSULA
CHAMBER**

The
Catalyst

A Message from the President

Greetings from the VPC HQ! October always makes me think of no, not Pumpkin Spiced Lattes, and not Pumpkin Spiced Beer either - gross!..... the World Series, also known as the Fall Classic. This week in history I have two significant, if unpleasant, memories. In 1969 on October 16th, the Amazin' Mets defeated the heavily favored Baltimore Orioles, 5-3, to win the Series in five games. It is perhaps my first real sports memory and I probably cried.

Thankfully, I don't cry anymore when the O's lose (even when they have bases loaded with no outs and come away empty handed like they did a couple weeks ago). The next October memory happened on October 18th, 1977, when Reggie Jackson earned the moniker Mr. October, by hitting three homers in three swings in Game 6 to win the Series for the Bronx Bombers. Both teams are playing in this year's post-season. Stay tuned it could be a Subway series this year. And, oh by the way, I hate (I know it's a strong word) the Yankees.

Today is National Boss's Day, also known as National Boss Day or Bosses Day. In 1958, "National Boss's Day" was registered with the United States Chamber of Commerce. Four years later, in 1962, the Governor of Illinois officially proclaimed Boss's day. In 1979, Hallmark Cards introduced Boss's Day cards to their inventory. Here are some ways you can celebrate your Boss today:

- Give your boss the day off with a game of golf
- Take him/ her to lunch (and let him/her pay)
- Have everyone in the office sign a card of appreciation (from Hallmark, of course)
- Create a timeline of your boss's accomplishments.
- Pretend like his bad ideas are actually worthy of consideration

Thanks, so much, to all of you who joined us for last week's State of the Region. The State of the Region is an annual

fall event at which we provide a forum for [ODU's Dragas Center](#) to present their annual Report on the State of the Hampton Roads Region. This year was their 25th annual report and it focused on the Economy of Hampton Roads (relatively positive on maybe on the upswing), the Pillars of our Economy (Defense, the Port and Tourism), the Supply of Housing in our Region, Public Libraries, Disability rates in Hampton Roads and the Graying of Hampton Roads (I resemble that topic). Not all of these were covered during the presentation, but the official report dives deeply into each topic. Dr. Bob McNab and Dr. Vinod Agarwal did a great job

 presenting the material in a way that was informational and entertaining. Our presenting sponsor this year was [TowneBank](#), represented by Ms. Alexis Swann, President of [TowneBank](#) on the Peninsula and in Williamsburg.

We are now right in the middle of our busy season (which is all year, actually). Check out our schedule of events below. We hope you will join us at a least one or two!

Bob McKenna
President/CEO,

[Virginia Peninsula Chamber](#)



National Support Your Local Chamber Day!

It may sound a bit self-serving, but this special day provides the perfect opportunity to recognize the critical role that the Virginia Peninsula Chamber plays in fostering community growth, supporting small businesses, and enhancing economic development.

The Virginia Peninsula Chamber is your hometown Chamber of Commerce.

Our **MISSION** is to be a catalyst for business growth on the Peninsula, and a collaborative partner for economic development within the region.

Our **VISION** is to be the Virginia Peninsula's leading business advocacy organization that creates an environment to stimulate economic growth.

We accomplish our mission through the [5 C'S](#):

We are a **CONNECTOR** of people and businesses.

We are a **CONVENER** of purposeful meetings and initiatives.

We are a regional **COLLABORATOR**.

We are a **CONDUIT** of critical information for your businesses.

We are a **CHAMPION** of the Peninsula's great assets.

We need your support to be all that we can be. If you are already a member and/or an annual partner, we greatly appreciate your involvement and support.

And if you want to know more about our programs and events, visit the [Virginia Peninsula Chamber website](#).

Please join us as we work to strengthen our local economy and make a positive impact in our community!



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 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.

LEAD Peninsula



A big Thank You to [Virginia Natural Gas](#) (VNG) for sponsoring the Energy and Environment Day!



Last Wednesday, October 9th, the Class of 2025's monthly session focused on energy and the environment. The group started their morning with Virginia

Natural Gas, hearing from Thomas Mulvaney, Robert "Rus" Hayslett, Jerry White, and Kenneth W. Yagelski. The class then visited VNG's Gate 4 for a technology overview. Rotating between five stations, the class learned about (1) Transmission - Gas Supply and the Distribution Process; (2) System Pressure - ZEVAC Cross Compression; (3) Leak Surveying - PICARRO; (4) Asset Protection - GPR and Locating; and (5) Distribution/Operations - Emergency/Leak Response. To begin the afternoon portion of the day, Douglas L. Smith with the Hampton Roads Alliance presented the Regional Energy Roadmap; before moderating an energy panel. Panelists included Todd Flowers and Kenneth Eleonora from [Dominion Energy](#), and Morgan Whayland from Virginia Natural Gas. The LEAD class then visited Hampton Roads Sanitation District's [SWIFT Research Center](#) to learn how they are cleaning wastewater to drinking standards, then replenishing the Potomac Aquifer with it. The session ended with a presentation from Tami Fairholt of the [Newport News Green Foundation](#); highlighting the plan for the Sarfan Food Forest.

LEAD Peninsula Alumni Network

This Friday, October 18th, the LEAD Peninsula Alumni Network (LPAN) will be hosting an **Advanced Excel Training** for paid LPAN members. This virtual learning event will take place from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM via Zoom (link will be sent following registration). Contact Jaime Parrish at jaime@vpcc.org for registration link.

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!

Spotlight on the Peninsula

By Bob McKenna

In fulfilling our role as the **CHAMPION** of the great assets on the Peninsula, we present a monthly networking and informational event known as Spotlight on the Peninsula. This program has been around for seven years now and [Cox](#)



[Virginia](#) has been our sponsor for the entire period.

Each month we visit a different entity/organization/company on the Virginia Peninsula (or nearby) that positively impacts our local economy and community. Sometimes it's a big well known place like the [NASA Langley Research Center](#), sometimes it's a small business like [Kelvin International](#) that does very cool work in a niche technology. No matter the size or the reputation of the place, it's always interesting and it's always FREE. The end goals of the program are multi-faceted: to shine a spotlight on our great assets, to increase the confidence and optimism of the local business community, to create connections that may be mutually beneficial and to build a corps of ambassadors for the great things happening on the Peninsula. In August, we traveled across the MMMBT to visit the [HRSD Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow \(or SWIFT\) facility](#). If you haven't yet visited this facility or heard of this initiative, I would encourage you to check out [this video](#).



SWIFT, in a nutshell, is working to create a sustainable water supply by pumping water into the aquifer and by treating waste water to drinking water standards. It's pretty fascinating stuff and it has a huge potential impact on our economy.

In September, we visited [Ferguson Enterprises](#) in City Center and learned about the vision, values  and purpose of this multi-billion dollar business whose headquarters is located in the heart of Newport News.



[VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE](#) Later this month, we will jump across the York River to visit **VIMS** – [The Virginia Institute of Marine Science](#) – in Gloucester. Please join us on [October 31st](#) at 1:00 pm. Wear a costume if you feel the urge. We'll be in business casual.

You are invited to the
Va Peninsula Workforce CTE Forum...



Thursday, November 7, 2024, 8:30 a.m.– Noon
Bryant & Stratton College, Peninsula Town Center
5030 Kilgore Avenue, Hampton, VA 23666

Hundreds of high school graduates will enter the workforce soon who do not know about the numerous career opportunities available to them in our region.

Who Should Attend?

Micro and small business owners, human resource/workforce professionals from larger businesses, nonprofit executives, city/county economic development and workforce leaders, recruiters, and others from our community college/universities. Come learn about the best practices for HQWBL (High-Quality, Work-Based Learning).

You will enjoy a continental breakfast, networking, presentations on 2024 Workforce Impact, Student Data on Industry Cluster Education, Breakout Sessions and distinguished panel with their success stories...

Register on Eventbrite:
<https://vapeninsulaworkforceteforum.eventbrite.com>
Thank you, Forum Sponsors!



info: Susan Long-Molnar susan@managingcommunications.com
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Click Here to Learn More!

Mark your calendar for the following upcoming events:

[Thursday, October 17th](#)

Newport News Central District Candidate Forum

[Tuesday, October 22nd](#)

WiseChoice Healthcare Alliance

[Thursday, October 24th](#)

WiseChoice Healthcare Alliance

[Thursday, October 24th](#)

Business Connection After Hours

[Thursday, November 7th](#)

State of the Federal Labs

[Tuesday, December 3rd](#)

State of the City - Hampton

[Tuesday, December 10th](#)

Annual Meeting

CHAMPIONS



When [Shake Shack](#) started as a

hot dog cart in New York City's Madison Square Park, our mission was simple: raise funds for a public art project.

As we grew into a global business, our mission to **Stand For Something Good** expanded to include taking care of our team, sourcing premium ingredients from partners with the same dedication to quality, designing our Shacks responsibly, supporting our communities through donations, events, and volunteering—and much more.

Doing good is in our roots, a part of our DNA since day one. 20 years later, we're still continuing to expand and evolve our mission to Stand For Something Good in everything we do.



[Trinity Lutheran School](#) is a socially, economically, racially diverse and accredited co-educational day school in Newport News, Virginia, serving students from preschool through grade 8.

Trinity students use traditional learning resources and develop technology management skills at every grade level. Students learn about God's love and about the value of serving others. They attend chapel service each week, and regularly participate in school and community service projects. They participate in beyond-the-classroom learning experiences such as study abroad opportunities and our Outdoor Education program.

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

- Harper's Station Yorktown
- [The Steele Group Sotheby's International Realty](#)
- [Shake Shack](#)
- [Trinity Lutheran School](#)

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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virginiapeninsulachamber.com

VIRGINIA PENINSULA CHAMBER'S 2024 ANNUAL PARTNERS



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