Virginia Eye Consultants Wins Hampton Roads Small Business of the Year

The 27th annual Hampton Roads Small Business of the Year (SBOY) Awards event was held on April 15, in The Roanoke Hilton and Conference Center. More than 1000 people attended the evening and enjoyed networking during small business week week featuring guest speaker Congressman Scott Rigell. Virginia Eye Consultants, which has experienced nearly a 35% increase in revenue last year, was the overall winner of the 2011 Hampton Roads Small Business of the Year Award.

"So much-appreciated this honor," said Dr. Stephen Scoper, Vice President of Virginia Eye Consultants. "It really validates the time and effort we put in to make sure it works right every time, thank you very much."

Virginia Eye Consultants was Norfolk's 2011 Small Business of the Year as well, and was honored for the national award from an excellent pool of city-winners including:

- Russell's Heating & Cooling (Chesapeake)
- Social Shopping by Shopkick
- Bennett's Creek Pharmacy
- 1965 Fish & Chips (Virginia Beach)

The following were named as the "Top 10 Winners." These businesses use some of the latest technology in small businesses in the areas:

- Customer Service
- Hamptons Roads Security Corporation
- Image Business Interiors
- IT Business Management Systems
- M & M Hospitality Group
- Priority Staffing Services, Inc.

The following were recognized as the "Top 20 Winners." These businesses use some of the latest technology in small businesses in the areas:

- Account Executive in the Membership Department. She has been with the Chamber since 2005 and has served as an Ambassador in October 2009 and was named the Chamber's Ambassador of the Quarter. Cheri began volunteering with Weight Watchers International. Dixie graduated with a degree in Hospitality Management from the University of Mississippi.

- Dominion Psychiatric Associates
- Compa Energy Gas Services, LLC
- Ciniva Web Agency
- Cinebistro
- Brunelle Electrical Contractors, Inc.

The Ambassador Committee is a diverse group of 15 volunteers who are dedicated to making a difference in the Chamber and the community. Ambassador opportunities to grow and enhance your business. For a list of classes, visit www.HamptonRoadsChamber.com

The Chamber has many opportunities for you to "Learn from the Pros at a Fraction of the Cost." The Small Business Development Center of Hampton Roads and the Chamber's Education Division provide free educational opportunities to grow and enhance your business. For a list of classes, visit HamptonRoadsChamber.com

Did you Know?

- Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce - 101 East Main Street, Suite 700, Norfolk, VA 23510
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Congressman Scott Rigell Dialogues with Business Community

The Chamber hosted a luncheon on April 20 to give business leaders the opportunity to have one-on-one dialogue with Congressman Scott Rigell. Nearly 100 business leaders attended the event at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott.

Congressman Rigell shared his perspectives on job creation, the country’s budget, healthcare, and other topics of interest to the business community. “This is Washington at its best. I understand that the burden on small business represents,” Rigell said. “I believe in smart, lighter regulations that protect us.”

The Chamber thanks sponsors, Norfolk Waterside Marriott (Bronze) and K700 (Print Option Edit).

New Chesapeake Schools Superintendent Provides Insight to Business Community

The Chamber held its annual New Hampton Roads Superintendent Breakfast on May 12 at the Greenbrier Country Club. Nearly 200 members of the business community and school system heard Dr. James Roberts, Superintendent of Chesapeake Public Schools, present his message addressing pending changes to the school division’s assessment challenges, and impact on the Hampton Roads community.

Chesapeake is the seventh largest school division in the state. Dr. Roberts said, “the district’s largest employee with almost 5,000 employees, and a budget of $388 million—we contribute greatly to the local economy.” Dr. Roberts laid out five initiatives to advance quality in the school system: financial management and human resources, school safety, cucussing pupil achievement, technology, and community involvement. He was proud to report that student performance on the Standards of Learning assessments (SOL) was exceptional, achieving 100% accreditation for five divisions.

The Chamber thanks sponsors: Elanco (Presenting), Cox Communications (Media), and The George Washington University (Hotel Rail).

LEAD Hampton Roads Roads Graduates 23rd Class

Last night the Hampton Roads LEAD Hampton Roads program graduated its 23rd class on May 23 at the Norfolk Yacht and Country Club. The 50 business and community leaders from throughout the region connected themselves to start a lifelong support as UHP graduate, serving their communities and seeking strategic solutions in true challenges. They join the more than 1,250 LEAD graduates serving and serving in the region. Greg Edwards of the Virginia Port Authority was named the LEAD Hampton Roads Graduates 23rd Class Leader of the Chamber for the Class of 2011. For more information about UHP, contact Angela Brickwell Carter at 757-804-3216.

Sustainable Resources Campaign in Full Gear

The Chamber is stronger than ever and continues to embrace businesses and course of his leadership, and the Chamber officers. Annual campaign volunteers are asked to raise new Chamber members, generate program and event sponsorships, sell advertising in our publications, and raise awareness of the Chamber’s mission throughout the region.

The annual SRC campaign kicked off April 20 at an American Indoor Karting in Virginia Beach and hasn’t made a pit stop since! Last year corporate and board teams raised more than $211,800. The goal in 2011 is to raise $797,000. As of May 24, campaign vitriques have raised $454,240 (52.6% of goal).

The volunteer Campaign Leadership Team is hard at work and we thank them:

- Campaign Chair: Michael Dudley, Optima Health Plans
- Campaign Co-Chairs: John Wilson, W&B Insurance
- Vice Chair: Brian Arick, Old Dominion Steel Container
- Vice Chair: Andy Callahan
- Vice Chair: David Williams, Fulton Bank
- Vice Chair: Steve Rossman, Little Plan
- Vice Chair: Jim Bolesta, Adams Detective Advertising
- Non-Profit Chair: Mike Mainetti, RIGEL, and Campaign Liaison
- President: Terri Turpin, Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce
- Vice Chair: Susan Clevenger, Northside Community Bank
- Partner, Kaufman & Canoles, PC
- Countdown Chair: John Davis, Peterson, Hager, & Davis
- Designated Development Chair: Virginia Beach Chamber of Commerce
- Community Service Chair: Amy Fields, Parkside’s West COMMON
- Board Chair: Paul Baroody, First Citizens Bank
- First Citizen of Hampton Roads Award: Colonel John Schaefer, USA (Ret.)
- Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance (Special Military Honoree) - The Chamber thanks sponsors: Norfolk Waterside Marriott (Host) and Virginia Beach Chamber of Commerce (Bronze Military Program Benefactors).
Congressman Scott Rigell Dialogues with Business Community

T he Chamber hosted a luncheon on April 21st to give business leaders the opportunity to have one-on-one dialogue with Congressman Scott Rigell. Nearly 100 business leaders attended the event at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott.

Congressman Rigell shared his perspectives on the economy, defense sequestration, budget, healthcare, and other topics of interest to the business community. “These in Washington don’t understand the burden on small business owners,” Rigell said. “I believe in smarter, lighter regulations that protect us.”

The Chamber thanks sponsors: Norfolk Waterside Marriott (Hotel) and K100 (Flight Spot Express).

New Chesapeake Schools Superintendent Provides Insight to Business Community

T he Chamber held its annual New Chesapeake Schools Superintendent Breakfast on April 10th at the Greenstone Country Club. Nearly 200 members of the business community and school system heard Dr. James Roberts, Superintendent of Chesapeake Public Schools, present his management approach providing a closer look into the school division’s future, visions, challenges, and impact on the Hampton Roads community.

Chesapeake is the seventh largest school division in the state. Dr. Roberts said, “In the city’s largest employee with almost 5,000 employees, and a budget of $388 million—we contribute greatly to the local economy.” Dr. Roberts laid out five initiatives to advance quality to the school system: financial management and human resources, school safety, increasing pupil achievement, technology, and community involvement. He was proud to report that student performance on the Standards of Learning assessments (SOL) was exceptional, accomplishing 100% accreditation for high schools.

The Chamber thanks sponsors: ESL (Presenting), Cox Communications (Media), and The George Washington University (Hotel Rail).

Sustainable Resources Campaign in Full Gear

T he Chamber’s is stronger than ever with eleven businesses and two non-profits awarded the honors this year. The Chamber offers numerous campaign positions to best fit each member, guaranteeing opportunities and rewarding its supporters with recognition in its publications, and voice awareness of the Chamber’s mission throughout the region.

The annual SFC event kicked off on April 28th at the American Indoor Karting in Virginia Beach (title sponsor) and hasn’t made a pit stop since! Last year’s corporate and association teams raised more than $12,170.00. The goal in 2011 is to raise $30,000. As of May 24th, campaign participants have raised $45,524.00 (32.3% of goal).

The volunteer Sustainable Resources Campaign Leadership Team is hard at work and we thank them:

• Campaign Chair: Michael Dooling, Optima Health Plans
• Campaign Co-Chair, John Wilson, NVR Insurance
• Vice Chair: Susan Arsenault, Old Dominion Steel Container
• Vice Chair: Andy Callahan, Massimo Zanetti Beverage USA
• Vice Chair: Daniel Williams, Fulton Bank
• Vice Chair, Steve Romante, Lulu Run
• Vice Chair: Jim Ballantine, Adams Dodge Advertising
• Norfolk Beach Chair, Mike Reilly, Massimo Zanetti, and Campaign Liaison; Susan Terpay, Norfolk Southern
• Virginia Beach Board Chair; Leonard Branch, Gaye at the Beach; and Campaign Liaison, Kim Shuler, SunTrust
• Chesapeake Beach Chair, Shepley White Rice-White, Shepley, Wriston & Johnson Consulting and Carl SST, and Campaign Liaison, David Repp; Moonfish
• Suffolk Board Chair; Darren Schulte, Caesar
• Portsmouth Board Chair; Jennifer B. Smith, Ben Seaman

Join LEAD Hampton Roads for Bravo! Celebrating Visionary Leadership

A nnounceees: LEAD Hampton Roads, the leadership program of the Chamber, invites you to attend Bravo! Celebrating Visionary Leadership Luncheon, Thursday June 23rd at the Bayview in Norfolk Waterside. A reception will be held from 11:30-12:30, followed by dinner and celebration from 12:30-3:00pm. Hundreds of the region’s business and community leaders will gather to celebrate the region’s visionary leaders. Award recipients include:

First Citizen of Hampton Roads Award
Vincent J. Marchiondo, Jr.
Connecting Capital & Opportunity Award
Larry Quier
Regional Statesman Award
Dr. John Boyle
Julian Hirst Leadership Award
Chuck Harris
PVCEDA Visionary of the Year Award
Mike Fodale, FCBC
Julian Hirst Leadership Award
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PVCEDA Visionary of the Year Award
Mike Fodale, FCBC

Join LEAD Hampton Roads for Bravo! Celebrating Visionary Leadership

A nnouncements: LEAD Hampton Roads, the leadership program of the Chamber, celebrates the graduation of its 23rd class on May 23rd at the Norfolk Yacht and Country Club. The 50 business and community leaders from throughout the region were celebrated and were able to gain invaluable skills to help them in their leadership roles.

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Chamber Hosts Senator Mark Warner

T he Chamber hosts Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) for “Brunch & Budget with Senator Mark Warner” on May 14th at the Virginia Beach Convention Center & Distinctive Events. Nearly 80 young professionals gathered for a unique opportunity to meet the Senator and ask any questions they may have.

Senator Warner spoke on topics of national security, economic investment and job creation, and budget, along with special guest Senator Mark Warner (far left). Nearly 80 young professionals gathered in Norfolk for “Brunch & Budget with Senator Mark Warner.” The Chamber thanks sponsors: ESI (Presenting); Cox Communications (Media); and The George Washington University (Hotel Rail).

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Welcome New Members
Three new members of the Chamber have joined this month. To view a full directory, visit www.HamptonRoadsChamber.com.

February

- Idelma Consulting, LLC
- Utah<br>360 Pure Fitness & Spa<br>Mobile Home Agency<br>DreamsAmore
- Laws<br>- E. O. Crawford & Sons Inc. T/A Ethan Allen
- Virginia Eye Consultants 

March

- The Ambassadors Committee is a diverse group of individuals who volunteer their time to support the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce in various ways. They provide valuable support to the Chamber’s operations and help to ensure that our organization continues to meet the needs of our members and the community. The Ambassadors Committee plays a vital role in promoting the Chamber’s mission and objectives, and they are dedicated to the success of the organization. Without their contributions, the Chamber would not be able to achieve its goals. 

Maurice A. Jones, CHAIR-ELECT

ON THE WEB

www.HamptonRoadsChamber.com

Did You Know?

The Chamber has many opportunities for you and your family to learn about local businesses and organizations and to network with other members. For a list of events, visit HamptonRoadsChamber.com.

State of the City Series Draws Record Crowds

The Chamber held the annual State of the City Series this past April. A crowd of 3,448 people attended the five-part series to hear from the mayor and city council members on a variety of topics, including economic development, education, transportation, and infrastructure. The series was hosted at the Hampton Roads Convention Center and was open to the public. The Chamber is grateful for the support of its sponsors, who made the event possible. The sponsors included: 

- Bank of America
- Dominion
- EVB Bank
- Ferguson Enterprises
- Newport News Shipbuilding
- Virginia Commonwealth University

In addition, the Stumpfield's Print Printing, (inside business (MBA), Impressions in Print Leadership award) and American Indian Kiting Virginia Beach, Jerry Jones, C. S. Photography, Inc., and Lateye H. McKinnie.<br>

The legislative session was held in Richmond, Virginia, from January 20 to April 20, 2010. The session was characterized by a number of key issues, including the state’s budget crisis, the need for new revenue, and the requirement to reduce spending. The legislature also sustained two vetoes on environmental and transportation legislation. The Chamber was active in supporting legislation that would benefit the business community, and it worked closely with legislators to ensure that the Chamber’s priorities were represented. The Chamber was pleased with the outcome of the legislative session, which it believes will have a positive impact on the state’s economy and the business community. The Chamber is committed to working with legislators to ensure that the needs of the business community are met, and it is looking forward to working with the new session of the General Assembly to address the challenges facing the state.

The Chamber's 2011 Small Business of the Year Award was given to Kessinger & Company, a local accounting firm. The firm has been in operation for over 30 years and has a strong reputation for excellence in its field. The Chamber's President & CEO, Jack Hornbeck, presented the award to the firm's principals, who were present at the event.

In addition, the Chamber's Ambassador Program was launched in 2011, with the goal of bringing together local business leaders and community members to promote the Chamber's mission and objectives. The program has been very successful, with a number of individuals joining the Ambassador Committee and contributing their time and expertise to help the Chamber achieve its goals. The Chamber is grateful for the support of its members, who make it possible for the Chamber to continue to serve the needs of the community.

Congratulations to Cheri Brinke, who has been named the Chamber's Ambassador of the Year. Cheri has been an active member of the Chamber for many years and has made a significant contribution to the organization. She has served on a number of committees and has been a valuable asset to the Chamber's staff. The Chamber is proud to recognize Cheri for her contributions and is grateful for her dedication to the organization.

In addition, the Chamber's Impact Award was given to Joseph Donnelly, CEO of Donnelly Real Properties, for his leadership and service to the Chamber and the community. Joseph has been an active member of the Chamber for many years and has been a strong advocate for the business community. The Chamber is grateful for Joseph's contributions and is proud to recognize him for his leadership.

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