

STATE OF THE CITY 2017  
HILTON GARDEN INN SUFFOLK RIVERFRONT –  
SUFFOLK CONFERENCE CENTER  
MAY 23, 2017      NOON – 2:00 P.M.  
YES, SUFFOLK!

INTRODUCTION PROVIDED BY DAWN GLYNN, PRESIDENT  
AND REGIONAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
CHESAPEAKE/PORTSMOUTH/SUFFOLK TOWNEBANK

THANK YOU, DAWN, FOR THOSE KIND WORDS. TO ALL OF YOU, ONCE AGAIN, GOOD AFTERNOON AND THANKS FOR BEING HERE TO REFLECT ON WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED AS A COMMUNITY, AND ON THE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES THAT LIE AHEAD AS TOGETHER WE SAY, **YES, SUFFOLK!**

THE SUFFOLK STATE OF THE CITY IS PRESENTED BY THE **HAMPTON ROADS CHAMBER**, AND ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE HERE, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER, **THANK YOU!**

WITH THEIR OVERARCHING MISSION TO BE AN ADVOCATE FOR BUSINESS AND TO HELP ORGANIZATIONS TO SUCCEED, THEY HAVE MADE GOOD ON THEIR PROMISE OF BRINGING TOGETHER AND EMPOWERING EVEN MORE BUSINESS LEADERS TO OPTIMUM SUCCESS IN ORDER TO GROW AND PROSPER. TO PUT IT SIMPLY, **THE CHAMBER MEANS BUSINESS!**

IN CASE YOU MISSED THE SOMEWHAT SUBTLE CONTEXT OF OUR VIDEO, AND SPECIAL THANKS AGAIN TO MY GOOD FRIEND AND GOOD SPORT JOE FLANAGAN, TODAY WE'LL BE TALKING A GREAT DEAL ABOUT **JOBS**, OR

AS WE LIKE TO SAY, HERE J.O.B.S. IS AN ACRONYM FOR **JOIN ONLY THE BEST ... SUFFOLK!**

IN SUFFOLK, WE DON'T RUN FROM OUR CHALLENGES, WE EMBRACE THEM...WE DON'T SHY AWAY FROM OPPORTUNITIES, WE REACH FOR THEM. WE SAY, **YES, SUFFOLK!**

**YES** – THERE IS NO MORE POSITIVE OR ENCOURAGING WORD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. **YES**, WHAT YOU THINK, YOU CREATE. **YES**, WHAT YOU FEEL, YOU ATTRACT. **YES**, WHAT YOU IMAGINE, YOU BECOME.

MY CITY COUNCIL COLLEAGUES SHARE THAT PHILOSOPHY, AND I WOULD ASK THAT THEY STAND AGAIN AND BE RECOGNIZED.

THANKS TO EACH OF YOU FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP REPRESENTING THE CITIZENS IN YOUR INDIVIDUAL BOROUGHES, AS WELL AS YOUR SINCERE DESIRE TO DO WHAT IS BEST FOR THE CITY AS A WHOLE. IT IS OUR DUTY AND PRIVILEGE TO KEEP SUFFOLK MOVING FORWARD.

THERE IS ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL THAT DESERVES SPECIAL RECOGNITION, AND THAT IS OUR CITY MANAGER, PATRICK ROBERTS, AND I'D ASK THAT HE PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.

A MAN OF GREAT INTEGRITY, PATRICK'S CONTAGIOUS POSITIVE ATTITUDE ENGENDERS OPTIMISM AND MOTIVATES OTHERS TOWARD SUCCESS. HE HAS THE RARE COMBINATION OF THE COURAGE TO MAKE TOUGH DECISIONS, AND THE COMPASSION TO LISTEN TO THE NEEDS OF OTHERS. HE PERSONIFIES THE OUTLOOK AND BELIEF AND ENCOURAGES OTHERS IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT, **YES, YOU CAN**. WHILE EVER THE VISIONARY, HE IS ALSO CLEAR-SIGHTED ABOUT THE CHALLENGES THAT PERSIST IN OUR CITY, AND THE ROLE THAT OUR GOVERNMENT MUST PLAY IN MEETING THEM.

HE KNOWS THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT KEY TO SUCCESSFUL LEADERSHIP IS THE ABILITY TO DIRECT AND CHALLENGE THE *VERY BEST* THAT IS IN THOSE YOU LEAD, A TASK IN WHICH HE'S CERTAINLY SUCCEEDED. WITH THAT BEING SAID, I WOULD ASK THAT OUR DEPARTMENT HEADS AND THEIR FELLOW CITY EMPLOYEES WITH US STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.

I KNOW FIRSTHAND JUST HOW TALENTED AND DEDICATED THEY ARE, AND OUR COMMUNITY IS FORTUNATE TO BE SERVED BY THIS INCREDIBLE WORKFORCE.

SPEAKING OF DEDICATION, I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT MAY IS NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH. WHETHER ACTIVE DUTY OR RETIRED, PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.

THIS VERY IMPORTANT MONTH HONORS, REMEMBERS, RECOGNIZES AND APPRECIATES ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL; THOSE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE SERVED THROUGHOUT HISTORY AND ALL WHO NOW SERVE IN UNIFORM AND THEIR FAMILIES, AS WELL AS THOSE AMERICANS WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES IN DEFENSE OF OUR FREEDOMS WE ALL ENJOY TODAY.

I'D ALSO LIKE TO PERSONALLY THANK COMMANDER DANIEL J. KENDA OF NAVY INFORMATION FORCES FOR JOINING US TODAY AND LEADING OUR PLEDGE TO THIS GREAT NATION.

THE THREATS WE NOW FACE ARE UNLIKE ANY OTHERS IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY, AND BECAUSE THE BATTLEFIELD IS NO LONGER ALWAYS A TANGIBLE PLACE, WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE AS PART OF SUFFOLK'S WORKFORCE OVER 3,200 MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL AT NAVAL INFORMATION FORCES AND THE JOINT STAFF. THE INCLUSION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES

HAS INCREASED THE NEED FOR CYBERDEFENSES ACROSS OUR MODERN MILITARY, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF THE VITAL ROLES CYBERSECURITY PLAYS. NOW CALLING SUFFOLK HOME ARE SOME OF OUR BRIGHTEST CYBER WARRIORS AND JOINT WARFARE SPECIALISTS, AND THE DYNAMIC WORK THAT THEY PERFORM NOT ONLY ADVANCES AND PROTECTS OUR COUNTRY AND THOSE WHO SERVE, BUT ALSO OUR WAY OF LIFE.

WHEN REFLECTING OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS AND THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESSES I'VE GIVEN DURING THAT TIME, THERE WERE A FEW SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED IN THE MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS WE'VE ACHIEVED THAT I WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU TODAY.

CONSIDER THE FACT THAT DURING THAT TIME WE ANNOUNCED MORE THAN **9,800 NEW JOBS**, AND ALMOST **\$1.2 BILLION DOLLARS IN CAPITAL INVESTMENT**, NOT INCLUDING FIGURES FOR 2016 WHICH I'LL SHARE LATER! THESE ARE ESPECIALLY IMPRESSIVE NUMBERS WHEN YOU TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT WE ALSO EXPERIENCED ONE OF THE WORST RECESSIONS IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY DURING THAT DECADE.

OTHERS ACROSS THE NATION TOOK NOTICE OF SUFFOLK, TOO, AS WE WERE SELECTED AS ONE OF THE **TOP 100 SMALL CITIES TO LIVE IN** BY CNN MONEY MAGAZINE, WHO CONSIDERED FACTORS SUCH AS GOOD JOBS, LOW CRIME, CHARM, RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND MANY MORE ATTRIBUTES THAT MAKE A CITY A GREAT PLACE TO RAISE A FAMILY. NERDWALLET ALSO INCLUDED SUFFOLK AMONG THEIR BEST OF THE BEST ACCOLADES, NAMING US IN THEIR CATEGORIES OF "*BEST PLACES FOR YOUNG FAMILIES*" AND "*BEST CITIES FOR VETERANS IN AMERICA*". JUST LAST YEAR WE WERE ALSO RANKED SECOND IN THE STATE BY SMARTASSET, A

WEBSITE SPECIALIZING IN INVESTMENT AND FINANCE, FOR INCOMING INVESTMENT TO OUR CITY.

IN THESE PAST TEN YEARS NOT ONLY WAS THE ECONOMIC CLIMATE STORMY, BUT TOGETHER WE ALSO WEATHERED AN F3 TORNADO THAT WREAKED HAVOC AND LITERALLY MILES OF DESTRUCTION, WITH AMAZINGLY NO LOSS OF LIFE. WE LEARNED THAT LIFE DOESN'T GET EASIER, WE JUST GET STRONGER.

WE'VE ALSO BROUGHT ABOUT THE ONGOING REVITALIZATION OF OUR DOWNTOWN CORRIDOR INCLUDING A LONG OVERDUE CONSOLIDATED ONE-STOP-SHOP CITY HALL AND STATE-OF-THE-ART EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER OF WHICH ALL OF OUR CITIZENS CAN BE PROUD.

WE RECEIVED THE CITY'S FIRST DISTINGUISHED BUDGET AWARD, AND ACHIEVED NOT ONLY ONE BUT TWO ACCLAIMED TRIPLE AAA FINANCIAL BOND RATINGS WHICH SEEMED OUT OF OUR REACH AND THAT I HAD ONLY DREAMED ABOUT IN MY EARLY YEARS ON COUNCIL.

KNOWN AS ONE OF VIRGINIA'S FASTEST GROWING CITIES OUTPACING NOT ONLY THE REST OF THE REGION, BUT ALSO THE STATE AND MUCH OF THE NATION, I COULD GO ON AND ON ABOUT OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, BUT AFTER ALL, WE DON'T HAVE ALL DAY, DO WE? I WANT TO SAVE SOME TIME TO SHARE WITH YOU MORE GREAT NEWS AND WHY SO MANY BUSINESSES AND PEOPLE ALIKE ARE SAYING, "**YES, SUFFOLK!**"

IN OUR ONWARD MARCH TO CONTINUE TO MOVE OUR CITY FORWARD, WE HAVE MADE SURE OUR FINANCIAL HOUSE IS IN ORDER. FOR WITHOUT PROPER PLANNING AND SAFEGUARDS, THE IMPRESSIVE GROWTH OF OUR CITY WOULD BE FOR NAUGHT. IN ANNOUNCING OUR MOST RECENT TRIPLE AAA FINANCIAL RATING, THE

RATINGS AGENCY COMMENTED POSITIVELY ON THE CITY'S FINANCIAL RESULTS, MANAGEMENT TEAM, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM AND FINANCIAL STAFF. THESE POSITIVE RATINGS INSTANTLY ALLOWED US TO REALIZE SAVINGS ON THE SALE OF BONDS IN THE PUBLIC MARKETPLACE.

ISSUED TO FINANCE VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, ALL OF WHICH ARE OF TREMENDOUS BENEFIT TO OUR COMMUNITY, THESE BONDS ALSO REFUND CERTAIN GENERAL OBLIGATION DEBT THAT WAS PREVIOUSLY ISSUED BY THE CITY.

COMPLEMENTING THIS SALE IS THE ONGOING AGGRESSIVE PURSUIT OF NON-CAPITAL PROJECT GRANTS BY ALL CITY DEPARTMENTS, FOR AN IMPRESSIVE TOTAL OF OVER \$4 MILLION DOLLARS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 AND 2017 TO DATE.

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND STRONG EMPLOYMENT ARE MAJOR FACTORS IN THE ECONOMIC STABILITY THAT CHARACTERIZES SUFFOLK. MAKE NO MISTAKE, GROWTH IS NEVER BY MERE CHANCE; IT IS THE RESULT OF FORCES WORKING TOGETHER. OUR COMMUNITY CAN REST ASSURED THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRACTICE THE SAME FISCAL DISCIPLINE AND LOOK FOR NEW EFFICIENCIES EVEN AS OUR REVENUES HAVE INCREASED.

EACH YEAR, AS THE COUNCIL ENTERS THE BUDGET PROCESS WE ASK, *"WHAT KIND OF COMMUNITY DO WE ENVISION FOR OUR CITIZENS TO NOT JUST LIVE IN, BUT TO ALSO THRIVE IN?"* *"WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, AND WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS TO SUPPORT A COLLECTIVE, LONG-TERM VISION?"* WE KNOW THAT THOSE CHOICES ARE OFTENTIMES DIFFICULT, AND THAT IN ORDER TO SAY **YES** TO YOUR PRIORITIES, YOU HAVE TO BE WILLING TO SAY NO TO SOMETHING ELSE.

OUR RECENTLY ADOPTED BUDGET MAINTAINED COMPLIANCE WITH ALL FINANCIAL POLICIES AND INCLUDED NO REAL ESTATE TAX RATE INCREASE, FULFILLED SERVICE OBLIGATIONS TO OUR CITIZENS IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER, AND FULLY FUNDED THE SCHOOL'S BUDGET.

CONSIDER THE RECORD BREAKING TOTAL 3-YEAR FUNDING FOR THE SCHOOL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN OF **\$67.3 MILLION DOLLARS** AS WE ANXIOUSLY AWAIT THE OPENING NEXT YEAR OF A NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL AND NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. INCLUDED IN THAT FIGURE ARE OTHER SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS IN ADDITION TO A PROPOSED NEW SCHOOL OPERATIONS CENTER.

IT'S BEEN SAID THAT GOVERNMENT'S FIRST DUTY AND HIGHEST OBLIGATION IS PUBLIC SAFETY. AT THIS TIME I'D ASK THAT ALL OF SUFFOLK'S PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.

EACH DAY YOU PUT YOUR LIVES IN DANGER SO THAT WE CAN GO ABOUT OURS FEELING SAFE. YOUR DEDICATION, PERSONAL SACRIFICES, AND COMMITMENT ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED. WE OWE YOU THE HIGHEST RESPECT AND GRATITUDE.

AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY IS KEEPING OUR CITIZENS INFORMED. IN FULFILLING THIS MISSION IN TODAY'S TECH-SAVY ENVIRONMENT, I'M PROUD TO OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCE THAT WE'LL SOON BE UNVEILING A **NEWLY REDESIGNED CITY WEBSITE** WITH AN ENTIRELY FRESH LOOK, FEEL AND FUNCTIONALITY FOR MOBILE DEVICES. IN ADDITION TO EASIER NAVIGATION, THE SITE WILL FEATURE AN EVENT AND MEETING CALENDAR, AN INTUITIVE SEARCH FUNCTION, AS WELL THE ABILITY FOR VISITORS TO CREATE ACCOUNTS SO THAT THEY CAN RECEIVE NOTIFICATIONS WHEN NEW

INFORMATION IS POSTED. THE SITE WILL CONTINUE TO GROW WITH ADDITIONAL FEATURES COMING IN THE FUTURE SO AS NOT TO MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE AND CONNECT.

**YES**, THERE IS NOTHING BUT OPPORTUNITY IN SUFFOLK; AND **SUCCESS OCCURS WHEN OPPORTUNITY MEETS PREPARATION!** I'M ESPECIALLY EXCITED ABOUT TWO REDEVELOPMENTS – ONE IN DOWNTOWN SUFFOLK AND THE OTHER IN NORTHERN SUFFOLK.

WE ARE CURRENTLY IN THE MIDST OF A DOWNTOWN INITIATIVES STUDY THAT WILL TAKE SUCCESSES, CHALLENGES, AND COMMUNITY FEEDBACK AND ALIGN THEM WITH DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT TRENDS TO PROVIDE A ROADMAP TO HOW BEST PARTNER WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM AND BRING NEW EXCITEMENT INTO OUR CHARMING, HISTORIC DOWNTOWN.

MUCH SUCCESS HAS ALREADY TAKEN PLACE SINCE ORIGINALLY ADOPTED IN 1998, INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS LOVELY FACILITY AND CONSTANT'S WHARF PARK AND MARINA, THE MILLS E. GODWIN COURTS BUILDING, THE HISTORIC REHABILITATION AND REUSE OF THE FORMER NANSEMOND COUNTY COURTHOUSE INTO THE SUFFOLK VISITOR CENTER, NOT TO MENTION THE ONGOING DOWNTOWN RENAISSANCE INCLUDING OUR NEW CITY HALL, AND MORE!

ADDITIONALLY, I REMAIN EXCITED ABOUT THE FORMER TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUS SITE IN NORTHERN SUFFOLK. RIPE WITH UNTOLD OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND WITHOUT A DOUBT ONE OF THE MOST SCENIC ENTRY POINTS THERE IS IN HAMPTON ROADS, I WOULD CHALLENGE YOU TO FIND



ANYWHERE ANOTHER FOUR HUNDRED ACRE SITE THAT CAN COMPARE. WITH OVER A MILE OF SHORE LINE THAT OFFERS INTERSTATE ACCESS AND JUST FEET AWAY FROM THE WELL-PLANNED, BUSTLING RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF HARBOUR VIEW, THE LOCATION IS UNMATCHED IN OUR REGION.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, I AM ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THESE OPPORTUNITIES AS WELL AS THE ENTIRE FUTURE OF SUFFOLK. AS YOU CAN SEE, WE'VE CREATED AN ENVIRONMENT THAT'S CONDUSIVE TO PEOPLE SAYING, "**YES, THIS IS A PLACE I WANT TO MAKE *HOME***".

WITHOUT A DOUBT, THE BEST JOURNEY TAKES YOU **HOME**, AND WHEN YOU *REALLY* STOP TO THINK ABOUT IT, **HOME** IS PROBABLY THE NICEST WORD THERE IS!

WITH ALL THE POSITIVE GROWTH WE'VE EXPERIENCED NOT ONLY ECONOMICALLY BUT ALSO FROM A POPULATION STANDPOINT, THERE ALSO COMES THE NEED FOR EXPANDED HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES. FROM HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE AND ELEGANT PERIOD HOMES TO THE LATEST IN SOPHISTICATED LOFT LIVING, HERE YOU'LL FIND IT ALL!

WHETHER IT'S MILITARY FAMILIES OR MILLENIALS, EMPTY-NESTERS OR NEWLYWEDS, YOUNG FAMILIES OR RETIREES, IN SUFFOLK, WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED WITH HOMES TO SATISFY EVERYONE'S TASTE, BUDGET AND LIFESTYLE!

MEETING THAT GROWING NEED, IN 2016 BUILDING PERMITS WERE ISSUED FOR 860 MULTI-FAMILY AND SINGLE FAMILY DWELLINGS, AND THOSE FIGURES REMAIN IMPRESSIVE THUS FAR IN 2017.

WE'VE SEEN FIRSTHAND THAT FOR A MULTITUDE OF INDIVIDUAL REASONS, MANY ARE CHOOSING TO RENT RATHER THAN OWN, AND LUXURY APARTMENTS ARE AN

ESPECIALLY HOT COMMODITY, INCLUDING THE MIXED – USE MERIDIAN OBICI COMPLEX WITH 224 UNITS BUILT BY WAVERTON ASSOCIATES THAT OPENED LAST SUMMER.

IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE, WE’LL BE ANNOUNCING SEVERAL NEW TO MARKET USERS AT THE COMMERCIAL COMPONENT OF THE PROJECT, *OBICI PLACE*, THAT WILL GIVE THE AREA A SPECIAL VIBE WITH URBAN-SCALE PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLINESS AND BUZZING NEW RETAIL AND RESTAURANTS.

AS A REALTOR, I CAN ALSO TELL YOU THAT THE MARKET FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOMES IN SUFFOLK IS THRIVING, TO SAY THE LEAST!

BUILDING CUSTOM HOMES IN HAMPTON ROADS SINCE 1986 IS SASSER CONSTRUCTION, AND I’D ASK THAT ERIC SASSER PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.

A SOUTHERN LIVING CUSTOM HOME PROGRAM BUILDER DUE TO HIS ATTENTION TO DETAIL AND STRONG PRESENCE IN OUR MARKETPLACE, ERIC IS KNOWN FOR HIS QUALITY AND CRAFTSMANSHIP IN HOMES IN GOVERNOR’S POINTE, THE RIVERFRONT AT HARBOUR VIEW, WATERFRONT AT PARKSIDE, AND NOW HIS LATEST PROJECT, THE LANDINGS AT BENNETT’S CREEK. FEATURING 22 CONDO-STYLE RESIDENCES FOR DISCERNING ADULTS 55 AND UP, COMPLETE WITH UNMATCHED VIEWS OF BENNETT’S CREEK AND EASY LIVING WITH FULL LAWN SERVICE AND MORE, MANY ARE EAGERLY AWAITING THEIR OPENING THIS FALL. WE’LL SHARE SOME ADDITIONAL DETAILS ABOUT THIS DEVELOPMENT WITH YOU A LITTLE LATER!

ANOTHER EXCITING HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IS UNDERWAY IN THE BUSTLING GODWIN BOULEVARD CORRIDOR, AND I’D LIKE TO RECOGNIZE SCOTT OVERTON,

OWNER OF PLANTERS STATION LLC, AND ASK THAT HE PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.

THIS CONVENIENTLY LOCATED SITE NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF KINGS FORK ROAD WILL INCLUDE 222 HOMES BUILT IN PHASES BY ETHERIDGE CONSTRUCTION AND WILL FEATURE COMMON AREAS INCLUDING PLAYGROUNDS AND MORE. ADDING TO THE CONVENIENCE OF RESIDENTS WILL BE A TEN ACRE COMMERCIAL SPACE FRONTING GODWIN BOULEVARD AS PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT.

MAKING THE DREAM OF HOME OWNERSHIP REAL FOR A NUMBER OF SUFFOLK FAMILIES OVER THE YEARS IS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY. THEY MOST RECENTLY BUILT NINE HOMES ON LAKE KENNEDY DRIVE ON LAND DONATED BY THE CITY TO HELP **MAKE THOSE DREAMS COME TRUE** FOR DESERVING INDIVIDUALS.

DREAMING, AFTER ALL, IS A FORM OF PLANNING, AND ALONG WITH PLANNING FOR OUR ONGOING POPULATION GROWTH COMES THE NEED TO PLAN FOR MORE SCHOOLS. AT THIS TIME I'D LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE MEMBERS OF THE SUFFOLK SCHOOL BOARD AND MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION, AND ASK THAT THEY PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.

WE'VE DISPLAYED OUR COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION WITH TWO NEW SCHOOLS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION TO INCREASE CAPACITY AND RELIEVE OVERCROWDING. SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN THE FALL OF 2018, THE NEW FLORENCE BOWSER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON NANSEMOND PARKWAY REPLACES ITS NAMESAKE AND DRIVER ELEMENTARY AND RELIEVES CONGESTION IN THE RAPIDLY GROWING AREA SERVED BY CREEKSIDE ELEMENTARY. THE NEW COLONEL FRED CHERRY MIDDLE SCHOOL ON BURBAGE DRIVE HONORS

THE MEMORY OF A SUFFOLK NATIVE HELD PRISONER OF WAR IN VIET NAM FOR MORE THAN SEVEN YEARS, AND WILL RELIEVE OVERCROWDING AT JOHN YEATES MIDDLE SCHOOL.

BUILDING A SCHOOL SYSTEM THAT WORKS FOR ALL OF OUR CHILDREN IS NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SCHOOL BOARD ALONE; IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF *ALL OF US* TO UNITE AROUND A SHARED VISION. IN EVERY CLASSROOM, AT EVERY GRADE LEVEL, OUR SCHOOLS OFFER STUDENTS OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND ENGAGE THEIR WORLD LIKE NEVER BEFORE.

HELPING TO PROVIDE THE POLISH FOR THESE SHINING STARS IS SUFFOLK PUBLIC SCHOOL'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR, ANDRAE RIDDICK, A SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT KING'S FORK HIGH SCHOOL, AND I'D ASK THAT HE PLEASE STAND.

KNOWN FOR HIS CREATIVITY, TEACHING STYLE AND LEADERSHIP, IT IS HIS CONNECTION WITH THE STUDENTS AND HIS BELIEF THAT, AND I QUOTE, HE "LIVES BY THE SAYING THAT EVERY CHILD IS JUST ONE CARING ADULT AWAY FROM BEING A SUCCESS STORY." ANDRAE, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO.

OPENING TO SERVE STUDENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR WAS NANSEMOND-SUFFOLK ACADEMY'S HARBOUR VIEW CAMPUS, SERVING STUDENTS IN PRE-K THROUGH THE THIRD GRADE WITH THE LATEST TECHNOLOGIES AND RESOURCES WHILE OFFERING THE SAME COLLEGE PREPARATORY PROGRAM AS THEIR MAIN CAMPUS.

STAR POINTE ACADEMY, A HIGH-TECH, CHRISTIAN-BASED SCHOOL, ALSO OPENED THIS YEAR IN HARBOUR VIEW WITH A **STEAM** – OR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS AND MATHEMATICS – FOCUSED

CURRICULUM FOR 4<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADES, WITH GRADES 10 THROUGH 12 TO BE INCREMENTALLY INCLUDED IN THEIR PROGRAM.

MORE THAN JUST NEW BUILDINGS, THESE SCHOOLS REPRESENT UNIQUE AND ENRICHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE STUDENTS AND WILL PROVIDE A LASTING IMPACT IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AND COMMUNITY.

THE PAUL D. CAMP COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONTINUES IN THEIR QUEST TO CHANGE LIVES WITH THEIR MISSION OF DIVERSE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES. RECENT INNOVATIVE NEW OFFERINGS HAVE INCLUDED EVENTS TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT ENTREPRENEURS IN THE PURSUIT OF THEIR DREAMS TO BUILD VIABLE BUSINESSES.

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THEY ARE AN INVALUABLE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE FOR OUR COMMUNITY, WHETHER FOR THOSE SEEKING AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE, WORKFORCE TRAINING, OR TAKING SPECIAL INTEREST CLASSES.

ALSO PROVIDING EXEMPLARY SERVICE IS THE SUFFOLK WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CENTER, WHO LAST FALL CELEBRATED THEIR TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF GROWTH ALONG WITH THEIR TWENTY FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL WORKFORCE SYSTEM AGENCIES.

THEIR MISSION IS TO MEET THE OCCUPATIONAL NEEDS OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, COMMUNITY, AND INDIVIDUALS BY DEVELOPING A LABOR FORCE THAT IS EQUIPPED WITH RELEVANT TRAINING, EDUCATION, AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES THAT ENABLE SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

IN REMARKS PROVIDED BY GOVERNOR TERRY MCAULIFFE'S OFFICE, HE COMMENDED THE CENTER FOR BEING A CRITICAL RESOURCE FOR VETERANS, JOB

SEEKERS AND STUDENTS, AND FOR FACILITATING OVER 500 JOB PLACEMENTS WITHIN THAT PAST YEAR.

WE KNOW THAT SUCCESS IN LIFE BEGINS WITH SUCCESS IN THE CLASSROOM. WHEN YOU ENGAGE OUR CHILDREN AND INTRODUCE THEM TO POSSIBILITIES THAT ENCOURAGE THEM TO APPLY THEIR GIFTS AND POTENTIAL, YOU HELP THEM SEE A CLEARER PATH TO **REALIZING THEIR DREAMS**. YOU OPEN THEIR EYES TO WHERE THEIR EDUCATION CAN LEAD AND OFFER OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND ENGAGE THEIR WORLD LIKE NEVER BEFORE.

QUALITY OF LIFE IS ONE OF THE KEY MEASURES WHEN IT COMES TO RATING TOP PLACES TO LIVE. WHILE IT CAN SEEM LIKE A THROW-AWAY PHRASE TO SOME, IN SUFFOLK **QUALITY OF LIFE** IS TRULY **THE WAY OF LIFE**. HERE, ALL OF LIFE'S AMENITIES AND NECESSITIES ARE NEARBY, INCLUDING A VAST NUMBER OF HEALTHCARE CHOICES, EXPANDING SHOPPING OPPORTUNITIES, AND A VAST ARRAY OF FINE AND CASUAL DINING RESTAURANTS OFFERING THE BEST IN SOUTHERN CUISINE FROM WHICH TO CHOOSE. WE WORK TO CULTIVATE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT THAT NOT ONLY EXPANDS OUR TAX BASE, BUT HELPS RESIDENTS GARNER A SENSE OF "HOME".

WHILE ROOF TOPS ARE GOOD, MAKING SURE OUR RESIDENTS UNDER THOSE ROOF TOPS ARE FINDING OUTLETS IN OUR CITY'S BORDERS IS KEY. WE WANT PEOPLE TO COME HERE, GROW HERE, AND DEVELOP HERE. WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO RETAIN OUR UNIQUE CHARACTER, GIVING CITIZENS THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE PRIDE IN OUR GROWING CITY, PRESERVE OUR HISTORY, AND CONTINUE GOODWILL AMONG OLD FRIENDS AND NEW NEIGHBORS.

THE EXPLOSION OF THE MEDICAL FIELD IS BEING FELT FROM BORDER TO BORDER. BON SECOURS, TODAY'S SERIES PLATINUM SPONSOR, HAS BEEN GROWING WITH US SINCE THE 80'S, AND THEIR HARBOUR VIEW CAMPUS INCLUDES EMERGENCY CARE, A WOMEN'S CENTER, RADIOLOGY, PHYSICAL THERAPY, WEIGHT LOSS SERVICES, IN ADDITION TO THEIR \$20 MILLION DOLLAR, STATE-OF-THE-ART CANCER INSTITUTE OFFERING COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES ADDED JUST LAST FALL.

A FEW SHORT WEEKS AGO I HAD THE GREAT PLEASURE OF ATTENDING SENTARA BELLEHARBOUR'S GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE EXPANSION AT THEIR CAMPUS ON BRIDGE ROAD FOR A SECOND MEDICAL SERVICES BUILDING. THE \$34 MILLION DOLLAR FACILITY WILL MORE THAN DOUBLE THE SIZE OF THE CURRENT HOSPITAL AND WILL FEATURE AN AMBULATORY SERVICE CENTER WITH TWO OPERATING ROOMS, AN EXPANDED EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT, HELIPAD, AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL OBSERVATION BEDS AND MORE OFFICE SPACE. THEY EXPECT TO BE COMPLETED IN LATE 2018.

SENTARA OBICI HOSPITAL IS ALSO EXPANDING, WITH A NEW, 20,000 SQUARE-FOOT MEDICAL OFFICE BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION EXPECTED TO OPEN BY EARLY FALL. THE FACILITY WILL HOUSE SENTARA FAMILY MEDICINE SUFFOLK, AN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PRACTICE AND A WALK-IN CLINIC – *A BRAND NEW CONCEPT ADOPTED BY THE HOSPITAL.*

ANOTHER NAME SYNONYMOUS WITH CARE IS THE WESTERN TIDEWATER FREE CLINIC, WHO JUST CELEBRATED THEIR TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF GROWING HEALTHIER LIVES. THEY OFFER HIGH-QUALITY, NON-EMERGENCY HEALTHCARE TO THOSE WHO CANNOT OTHERWISE AFFORD IT. THE VALUE OF THE FREE MEDICAL CARE THEY PROVIDE IS IMMEASURABLE TO

THOSE IN NEED. I WOULD ASK THAT THOSE AFFILIATED WITH THE CLINIC PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TALK ABOUT HEALTHCARE IN SUFFOLK WITHOUT REMEMBERING THE LEGACY OF AMEDEO AND LOUISE OBICI AND THE TREMENDOUS IMPACT THE OBICI HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION CONTINUES TO MAKE IN OUR CITY. IN THEIR TEN YEARS OF HEALTH IMPROVEMENT THEY'VE AWARDED GRANTS WORTH NEARLY \$35 MILLION DOLLARS TO 82 AGENCIES SERVING MORE THAN 360,000 PARTICIPANTS. WE'D ASK THAT THOSE AFFILIATED WITH THE FOUNDATION AND HEALTHY SUFFOLK PLEASE STAND AND BE ACKNOWLEDGED.

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY IN SUFFOLK. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SAFETY AND SECURITY DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN, BUT IS THE RESULT OF COLLECTIVE CONSENSUS AND PUBLIC INVESTMENT. ENSURING OUR COMMUNITY'S SAFETY HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY NUMBER ONE PRIORITY. WE ARE INCREDIBLY FORTUNATE IN SUFFOLK TO HAVE DEDICATED FIRST RESPONDERS SERVING AND PROTECTING OUR CITIZENS. THESE MEN AND WOMEN KNOW THAT WHEN THE CALLS COME, IT IS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO STEP UP AND PROVIDE A PROFESSIONAL, TIMELY AND CARING REACTION TO THE SITUATION AT HAND.

OUR CITIZENS DESIRE AND DESERVE TO LIVE IN A HEALTHY, VIBRANT, SAFE COMMUNITY WHERE THEY CAN THRIVE WHETHER AS RETIREES OR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS STARTING OUT ON THEIR FIRST ADVENTURE.

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THE LIGHTS ARE BLUE OR RED, OUR PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL ARE SOME OF THE BEST



EQUIPPED, MOST DEDICATED, AND BEST TRAINED SERVANTS OF THE PEOPLE YOU'LL FIND ANYWHERE.

CONSIDER THE FACT THAT OUR VERY OWN SUFFOLK FIRE & RESCUE CHIEF CEDRIC SCOTT IS ONE OF ONLY SLIGHTLY OVER 1,000 INDIVIDUALS **WORLDWIDE** TO RECEIVE THE PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION OF **CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**. CONGRATULATIONS ON THIS HARD-EARNED AND PRESTIGIOUS ACCOMPLISHMENT, SIR!

IN SPEAKING OF ACHIEVEMENTS, OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT WAS RECENTLY REACCREDITED BY CALEA, THE COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AN EXTREMELY RIGOROUS PROCESS; AND THEIR FORENSICS TEAM WAS ALSO ACCREDITED, ONLY THE SECOND SUCH AWARD IN THE STATE AND THE ***NINTH IN THE NATION***.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS INSTITUTED A NARCAN PROGRAM TO ADDRESS OPIOID-RELATED OVERDOSES IN OUR CITY, *WHICH IS SADLY AN EPIDEMIC ACROSS THE COUNTRY*, AND OFFICERS HAVE ALREADY SAVED SEVERAL LIVES SINCE THEY ARE OFTENTIMES THE FIRST ON THE SCENE IN THESE TRAGIC INSTANCES.

WE CAN ALSO THANKFULLY SAY THAT WE'VE SEEN SIGNIFICANT DECREASES IN OUR CRIME RATE OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, ESPECIALLY IN PROPERTY CRIMES.

WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S NEW *PREDICTIVE POLICING PROGRAM* – WHICH MANY BELIEVE IS THE FUTURE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THIS INFORMATION AGE – IT WILL ENABLE POLICE TO ANTICIPATE AND PREVENT CRIME INSTEAD OF BASICALLY RESPONDING TO IT, AND WILL ALLOW THEM TO BUILD ON THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF ALL POLICING STRATEGIES FOR THE GREATER GOOD.

IN SPEAKING OF THE GREATER GOOD, EARLIER THIS YEAR SUFFOLK FIRE & RESCUE WELCOMED ONE OF THE MOST PROGRESSIVE FIREFIGHTING VEHICLES AVAILABLE TO THEIR FLEET. THE \$1.1 MILLION DOLLAR 2016 PIERCE VELOCITY 105' AERIAL LADDER TRUCK ALLOWS FIREFIGHTERS TO EXTEND NOT ONLY THEIR REACH, BUT ALSO THEIR EFFECTIVENESS.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT IF WE ASK OUR PUBLIC SAFETY HEROES TO PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE FOR US AND OUR COMMUNITY, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE ENSURE THEY HAVE THE MOST TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED TOOLS AVAILABLE IN ORDER TO DO THEIR JOBS.

MAKE NO MISTAKE, SAFE, WELL-CARED FOR AND STABLE NEIGHBORHOODS ARE THE SOUL AND ESSENCE OF SUFFOLK. PERHAPS THE BEST EXAMPLE OF COMMITMENT AND CARING IN PROMOTING NEIGHBORHOOD INVOLVEMENT AND COMMUNICATION AMONG RESIDENTS IS WITH OUR NATIONAL AWARD WINNING NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EFFORTS. FOR THE FOURTH TIME IN THE LAST NINE YEARS, SUFFOLK HAS BEEN NAMED AS THE **BEST IN THE NATION** IN OUR POPULATION CATEGORY. IN THE INDIVIDUAL NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY CATEGORY, **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT – OBICI WAS ONE OF ONLY SEVEN SUCH GROUPS IN THE NATION** TO RECEIVE AN AWARD AND RECOGNITION FOR THEIR EVENT. THAT EVENING SAW COMMUNITIES, BUSINESS SPONSORS, AND LITERALLY THOUSANDS OF OUR CLOSEST FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS OUT IN FORCE TO HIGHLIGHT THEIR COMMITMENT TO KEEPING ALIVE SUFFOLK'S AGE-OLD TRADITION OF NEIGHBORS LOOKING OUT FOR NEIGHBORS.

THE NATIONAL RECOGNITION WE RECEIVED WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE HARD WORK, DEDICATION, AND NEIGHBORHOOD PRESENCE OF OUR

POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE, AND SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENTS. WHILE NATIONAL NIGHT OUT IS A ONE NIGHT A YEAR EVENT, IT'S THE DAY-TO-DAY WORK THAT MEMBERS OF PUBLIC SAFETY PUT IN BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS AND INTEGRATING THEMSELVES INTO THE SUFFOLK COMMUNITY THAT DRIVES THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS CAMPAIGN.

IT'S BEEN SAID THAT CREATIVITY IN LIFE IS ABOUT SAYING 'YES' TO NEW IDEAS, AND WHEN WE TALK ABOUT OUR RESTAURANT SCENE, IT'S ABOUT SAYING 'YES' TO NEW OPTIONS AND FLAVORS!

A COUPLE KNOWN FOR PROVIDING AWARD-WINNING, EXQUISITE FINE DINING EXPERIENCES AT THEIR RIVER STONE CHOPHOUSE AND VINTAGE TAVERN RESTAURANTS, BRIAN AND TERESA MULLINS ARE THE DEVELOPERS AND THE RESTAURATEURS EXTRAORDINAIRE OF THE \$8 MILLION DOLLAR, EIGHT ACRE PROJECT AT THE FORMER SITE OF BENNETT'S CREEK MARINA AND RESTAURANT THAT WILL BECOME THE FOCAL POINT OF THE LANDINGS AT BENNETT'S CREEK CONDO VENTURE WE SPOKE ABOUT EARLIER.

UNFORTUNATELY, BRIAN AND TERESA COULDN'T JOIN US TODAY AS THEY'RE AT THE NATIONAL RESTAURANT SHOW IN CHICAGO, BUT JOINING US IS THOMAS KENRICK, GENERAL MANAGER OF VINTAGE TAVERN, HEATHER MOODY STOUDE, MANAGER OF RIVER STONE CHOPHOUSE, AND DAVID CHRISTIANSEN, BENNETT'S CREEK MARINA OPERATIONS PARTNER, AND I'D ASK THAT THEY STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.

DESTINED TO BECOME ONE OF THE AREA'S NEWEST DESTINATIONS FOR LOCALS AND TOURISTS ALIKE, WHETHER ARRIVING BY LAND OR WATER, THE BENNETT'S CREEK PROPERTY PROVIDES A NOD TO ITS NAUTICAL

HISTORY AND WILL ALSO INCLUDE DECOYS RESTAURANT, THE BLIND DOG TIKI BAR, ALONG WITH THE NEW FIFTY-FIVE SLIP BENNETT'S CREEK MARINA, AND IS SCHEDULED TO OPEN LATER THIS FALL.

OUR QUALITY OF LIFE IS DEPENDANT UPON OUR ABILITY TO GET FROM PLACE TO PLACE, AND AS CHAIR OF THE HAMPTON ROADS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION, WE KNOW THAT OUR ECONOMY CAN'T GROW IF WE CANNOT RELIABLY MOVE GOODS AND PEOPLE.

WITH FUNDING STREAMS IDENTIFIED TO INVEST IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE, WE'LL BE SEEING MORE AND MORE CONES AND BARRELS ACROSS OUR REGION, A SURE SIGN OF PROGRESS, WITH MANY IDENTIFIED PROJECTS HERE IN OUR OWN BACKYARD, INCLUDING THE VITAL WIDENING OF ROUTE 58.

OUR ROADWAYS AREN'T THE ONLY THINGS EXPANDING; WE'RE ALSO BROADENING THE HORIZONS OF OUR CITIZENS WHEN IT COMES TO OUR LIBRARIES AND THEIR OFFERINGS. PROVING TIME AND AGAIN THAT THEY'RE MORE THAN JUST BOOKS, THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS WHEN IT COMES TO THE ACQUISITION OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXCITING JOURNEYS OF THE MIND, BODY AND SOUL THEY OFFER. FROM EARLY READING PROGRAMS TO UNIQUE EVENTS SUCH AS ICON-I-CON AND THE GREAT IDEA FAIR, THE SUFFOLK PUBLIC LIBRARY IS "BRANCHING" OUT TO ENRICH THE LIVES OF OUR CITIZENS.

RECENTLY WINNING TWO STATEWIDE AWARDS IN RECOGNITION AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE VIRGINIA PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION, INCLUDING THE OUTSTANDING COOPERATIVE PROGRAM FOR THEIR CODING PROGRAM WITH SUFFOLK PUBLIC SCHOOLS, IN

ADDITION TO THE OUTSTANDING ADULT PROGRAM FOR THEIR AMAZING PEANUT CHASE SCAVENGER HUNT, THEY'RE CONSTANTLY HELPING US SAY '**YES**' TO NEW ADVENTURES!

AS WE CONTINUE TO PLAN, PARTNER AND MAKE WISE CHOICES, WE BELIEVE OUR CITY'S OPERATIONS AND ITS SERVICES WILL CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN AND SUSTAIN A STRONG QUALITY OF LIVING IN SUFFOLK.

IN RESEARCH, I'VE COME ACROSS SAYINGS NOTING "THE BEST INTELLIGENCE TEST IS WHAT WE DO WITH OUR **LEISURE**", AND THAT "**CULTURE** IS THE WIDENING OF THE MIND AND SPIRIT". NO MATTER WHICH WAY YOU LOOK AT IT, THE BUSINESS OF ARTS, RECREATION, CULTURE AND CREATIVITY HELP DEFINE OUR CITY, CONTRIBUTES TO OUR ECONOMY, PROMOTES LIFELONG LEARNING, BRINGS CITIZENS TOGETHER, AND HAS A TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON OUR OVERALL HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.

THE DEFINITION OF 'RECREATION' IS "*THE ACTIVITY DONE FOR ENJOYMENT WHEN ONE IS NOT WORKING*", AND DO WE HAVE SOME AMAZING OPTIONS FOR YOU!

IN FACT, **CHEERS** ARE IN ORDER! SUFFOLK'S FIRST BREWERY HAS SAID, **YES SUFFOLK!** TO BE LOCATED AT 212 E. WASHINGTON STREET IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN SUFFOLK, OWNER AND FOUNDER DAVE STACKNICK IS A VETERAN AND HAS STRONG SUFFOLK TIES, AND IS EVEN AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER!

THE PRODUCTION BREWING FACILITY WILL HAVE A TASTING ROOM WHERE GUESTS CAN ORDER OR SAMPLE A VARIETY OF BEER BREWED ON-SITE. THEY WILL ALSO BREW SOME EXPERIMENTAL BATCHES WITH ROTATING FLAVORS TO TEST OUT ON THEIR CUSTOMERS. SOME OF THE EXPERIMENTAL BATCHES WILL BE BREWED FROM HOPS FROM LOCAL SUFFOLK GROWERS.

ONE FLAVOR IS CALLED *PEANUT CITY PORTER*, A TIP OF THE HAT TO THE LOCAL HISTORY OF PEANUT MANUFACTURING HERE IN SUFFOLK. THEY PLAN TO KEEP PEANUT CITY PORTER ON TAP YEAR ROUND.

GUESTS CAN SAMPLE INDOORS OR IN A NEW OUTDOOR “BIERGARTEN” STYLE TERRACE AREA. CUSTOMERS WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO PURCHASE FLIGHTS AND GROWLERS.

IT’S OBVIOUS THAT FROM OUR AWARD WINNING ENTERTAINMENT OPPORTUNITIES, TO OUR FIRST-CLASS RESTAURANTS AND A TOP FLIGHT PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, THERE IS MORE TO OFFER IN SUFFOLK THAN EVER BEFORE!

CONSIDER IF YOU WILL THE COUNTLESS ENJOYABLE, INTERESTING AND IMAGINATIVE FREE SPECIAL EVENTS FOR OUR CITIZENS TO ATTEND, THE EVER INCREASING NUMBER OF MILES OF TRAILS ON WHICH YOU CAN WALK OR BIKE, AND THE PLACES WHERE YOU CAN DROP YOUR KAYAK OR CANOE AND HEAD INTO THE WATER FOR A BIT OF EXPLORATION AND RELAXATION AS YOU COMMUNE WITH NATURE.

AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF OUR COMMITMENT TO THE WELLBEING OF OUR CITIZENS IS THE HONORABLE MENTION WE RECENTLY RECEIVED IN THE GOVERNOR’S ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS FOR THE SLEEPY HOLE PARK CANOE AND KAYAK LAUNCH AND PIER. RECOGNIZED IN THE CATEGORY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIRGINIA OUTDOORS PLAN FOR OUR DEDICATION TO PROTECTING VIRGINIA’S ENVIRONMENT, THIS SITE HAS FAST BECOME A FAMILY FAVORITE AND IS ALWAYS BUSTLING WITH ACTIVITY.

ANOTHER LONG-AWAITED WATER ACCESS POINT DOWNTOWN WAS OPENED JUST LAST FALL AT THE

RIBBON CUTTING FOR THE CONSTANT'S WHARF CANOE AND KAYAK LAUNCH LOCATED JUST BEHIND THIS CONFERENCE CENTER ON THE GLISTENING NANSEMOND RIVER. ALSO PART OF THE CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH CHESAPEAKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL, THIS ENDEAVOR SHOWS WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED WITH COLLABORATION, INCLUDING THE CITY AND THE NANSEMOND RIVER PRESERVATION ALLIANCE, SUFFOLK RIVER HERITAGE, AND THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.

THE AWARDS KEEP COMING FOR SUFFOLK PARKS & RECREATION, WHO WAS THE PROUD RECIPIENT IN LATE 2016 OF THE BEST NEW BRICKS AND MORTAR FACILITY AWARD FROM THE VIRGINIA RECREATION AND PARK SOCIETY FOR THE WHALEYVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER. FORMERLY ROBERTSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, THE BELOVED COMMUNITY FIXTURE GAINED NEW LIFE AND IS NOW A STATE OF THE ART FITNESS FACILITY COMPLETE WITH A NEWLY BUILT CONTEMPORARY GYMNASIUM, COMPUTER LAB, GAME ROOM AND COMMUNITY ROOM TO KEEP CITIZENS OF ALL AGES ACTIVE AND ENGAGED.

ALWAYS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO ENRICH THE EXPERIENCES OF OUR CITIZENS, AN AQUATICS FACILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY, ALONG WITH THE LONE STAR LAKES MASTER PLAN.

THE PLAN IS GEARED TO ENHANCE OUR ENJOYMENT OF THE PARK'S ELEVEN LAKES FOR FRESH WATER FISHING, NATURE TRAILS AND PICNIC AREAS, FOUR-MILE HORSE TRAIL, ARCHERY RANGE, MODEL AIRPLANE FLYING FIELD, FISHING AND CRABBING PIER, SHORELINE FISHING AREAS, AND THE BEST IN FLORA AND FAUNA IN OUR AREA! THIS SITE IS TRULY A NATURE AND ACTION LOVER'S PARADISE, TUCKED RIGHT IN OUR OWN BACKYARD!

THE SUFFOLK CENTER FOR CULTURAL ARTS IS ALSO A DESTINATION NOT TO BE MISSED. THEY OFFER CITIZENS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE WORLD CLASS PERFORMANCES AS ACTORS, ENTERTAINERS, MUSICIANS AND DANCERS GRACE THEIR STAGE AND WORKS BY VISUAL ARTISTS ENHANCE THEIR GALLERY SPACE. THEY ALSO PROVIDE COUNTLESS WORKSHOPS AND CAMPS, AND LIVE UP TO THE **COMMUNITY** OF A COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER.

AN EXCITING NEW WAY FOR FOLKS TO GET OUT AND EXPLORE THEIR COMMUNITY IS SUFFOLK TOURISM'S NEW SMART PHONE APP, KNOWN AS "TRAIPE", WHICH DEBUTED EARLIER THIS MONTH IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OPENING OF THE SUFFOLK FARMER'S MARKET. THIS FREE APP COMBINES A SCAVENGER HUNT, A TOUR AND DISCOUNTS FOR A FUN, FAMILY-FRIENDLY ADVENTURE SHOWCASING HISTORIC LANDMARKS, PARKS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES THROUGHOUT SUFFOLK

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT OUR SMALL TOWN CHARM IS FILLED WITH BIG CITY FUN AND A VIBRANT SOCIAL DYNAMIC. WE TRULY OFFER SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE, AND THERE IS NO BETTER TIME TO EXPLORE, MAKE MEMORIES AND SHARE YOUR ADVENTURES WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

WHILE WE'RE SERIOUS ABOUT FUN, WE ARE EQUALLY SERIOUS ABOUT *ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT*. NOT ONLY ARE WE CONFIDENT IN OUR OWN SUCCESSES AND FUTURE DIRECTION, WE BELIEVE IN THE HAMPTON ROADS REGION AND KNOW OF THE STILL UNTAPPED POTENTIAL THAT EXISTS HERE. WE HAVE AN UNPARALLELED HISTORY AND AN ESPECIALLY PROUD BUSINESS STORY – ONE THAT SPEAKS OF A SPECIAL CONNECTION WITH OUR COUNTRY'S DEFENSE, BUT THAT ALSO UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION.



WHILE WE REMAIN HOME TO AN IMPRESSIVE AND INSPIRING GROUP OF PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES AND ENTREPRENEURS, WE ALL JUST WANT MORE. AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT AS VIRGINIA'S LARGEST CITY – *WITH 430-SQUARE MILES OF LAND* – ONE THING WE HAVE IN SUFFOLK IS ***ROOM FOR MORE!***

THE INNOVATION WE HAVE PURSUED FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH IN SUFFOLK HAS BEEN GEOGRAPHICALLY TARGETED AND INDUSTRY SPECIFIC. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO EXPAND OUR PEANUT PRIDE INTO A THRIVING AND DIVERSIFIED FOOD AND BEVERAGE HOTBED OF EMPLOYMENT. WE ARE PROUD TO BE HOME TO BIRDSONG PEANUTS, PLANTERS, LIPTON TEA, MASSIMO ZANETTI BEVERAGE USA, SMUCKERS, WANCHESE FISH, SYSCO FOODS, REINHARDT FOODS, PACORINI, CONTINENTAL TERMINALS AND OTHERS.

WE CURRENTLY ESTIMATE THAT OVER 2,200 PEOPLE ARE EMPLOYED IN OUR CITY BY THE FOOD AND BEVERAGE INDUSTRY ALONE. THESE OPERATIONS CREATE AND DELIVER PRODUCTS THAT ARE CONSUMED ALL ACROSS OUR CONTINENT.

WE HAVE NOT BEEN SHY ABOUT SHARING OUR SELF-PROCLAIMED TITLE AND STORY AS ***“THE CAFFEINE CAPITAL”*** TO EVERYONE WE CAN.

WHETHER YOU PREFER A “CUP OF TEA” OR A “MUG OF JOE”, THESE INDUSTRIES ***MAKE OUR CITY'S ECONOMY PERK*** AND ARE ***GROUNDS FOR CELEBRATION***, EMPLOYING OVER 820 PEOPLE AND GENERATING \$844 MILLION DOLLARS IN ECONOMIC OUTPUT.

THIS STORY, HOWEVER, LIKE MOST, IS REALLY ABOUT **PEOPLE**. PEOPLE THAT LEAD EFFECTIVE OPERATIONS, AND PEOPLE THAT MAKE THESE OPERATIONS RUN.

I WOULD LIKE TO ESPECIALLY ACKNOWLEDGE JOHN BOYLE AND MASSIMO ZANETTI, KATIE INGERSOLL AND HER TEAM FROM LIPTON, AND LARRY EWAN FROM CONTINENTAL TERMINALS, ALL OF WHOM ARE WITH US TODAY, AND WHO HELP MAKE SUFFOLK **THE CAFFEINE CAPITAL**. WOULD YOU ALL PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED?

OF COURSE, THERE IS ALWAYS ROOM FOR MORE IN THE CAPITAL. IN DECEMBER, GOVERNOR MCAULIFFE JOINED US TO ANNOUNCE THAT SUFFOLK, OUT OF A FIVE STATE SEARCH, WOULD BE THE NEW LOCATION OF PEET'S COFFEE EAST COAST ROASTING OPERATION.

THE FACILITY WILL BREAK GROUND THIS SUMMER, AND IN A YEARS' TIME WILL HAVE INVESTED \$56 MILLION DOLLARS IN A NEW 175,000 SQUARE FOOT FACILITY, AND CREATE 135 NEW JOBS.

JOINING US TODAY IS JIM BEVILACQUA, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS WITH PEET'S COFFEE. JIM, WOULD YOU PLEASE STAND?

JIM LED THE SITE SEARCH FOR THE NEW SUFFOLK FACILITY, AND I MIGHT MENTION *HE DID A WONDERFUL JOB!* JIM, THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY. AND THANK YOU FOR ENTRUSTING OUR COMMUNITY WITH YOUR INVESTMENT. THIS IS SOMETHING WE TAKE SERIOUSLY, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH PEET'S FOR YEARS AND GENERATIONS TO COME.

SPEAKING OF GENERATIONS, LAST FALL WE **SHELL-EBRATED** MR. PEANUT'S **100<sup>TH</sup>** BIRTHDAY WITH A MULTITUDE OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES COMMEMORATING THIS CENTENNIAL ACROSS OUR CITY.

WE ALL KNOW THAT VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE, AND WHEN IT COMES TO TASTY TREATS, DO THEY HAVE PLENTY! WHETHER YOU'RE IN THE MOOD FOR A SIMPLE

SNACK, SOME DELICIOUS FLAVOR, OR SOME NUTRITIOUS HEART-HEALTHY FUEL, PLANTERS HAS YOU COVERED!

WHILE MR. PEANUT IS OFTEN ON THE ROAD WITH THE *PEANUTTERS*, EVEN THEIR WEBSITE NOTES THAT HE CALLS SUFFOLK HIS HOME!

IT IS OUR ASPIRATION TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR FOOD AND BEVERAGE INDUSTRY THROUGH EXPANDED WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS. IN FACT, A NEW INSTRUMENTATION TRAINING PROGRAM WILL BEGIN THIS FALL WITH ASSISTANCE FROM PAUL D. CAMP COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

AS A CITY, REGION AND STATE, WE KNOW THAT WE ALSO MUST CONTINUALLY INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENTS AND MAINTAIN A LOW-COST BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT.

ALSO WITH AN EYE TOWARDS THE **ACTUAL** ENVIRONMENT IS MASSIMO ZANETTI BEVERAGE USA, WHO WAS RECOGNIZED WITH A 2017 GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE SILVER AWARD FOR THE COMPANY'S SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS IN SUSTAINABLE MANUFACTURING PRACTICES AND LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE CONSUMER PACKAGED GOODS SECTOR.

THEY WERE SPECIFICALLY RECOGNIZED FOR THE LAUNCH OF THE PURPOD100™ SINGLE-SERVE COFFEE POD, WHICH IS CERTIFIED 100 PERCENT COMPOSTABLE BY THE BIODEGRADABLE PRODUCTS INSTITUTE, BREAKING DOWN IN COMMERCIAL COMPOSTING FACILITIES IN LESS THAN ONE-HUNDRED DAYS.

WE OF COURSE CONGRATULATE THEM ON THIS ACHIEVEMENT, AND WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN FACILITATING TODAY'S VIDEO. ALI ITANI, *THAT ASSEMBLY LINE WAS SOMETHING TO BEHOLD, BELIEVE ME!*

I'D ALSO LIKE TO THANK SEVERAL OTHER BUSINESSES – *NEW, EXPANDING AND OLD ALIKE* – WHO PLAYED A PART IN TODAY'S VIDEO, INCLUDING ED BEARDSLEY, OWNER OF DOWNTOWN'S PLAID TURNIP RESTAURANT; MELICIA LIMBO AND AJA RIDDICK OF OUR NEW PLANET FITNESS; SCOTT FLANDERS WITH ACE HARDWARE – WHO *BY THE WAY IS EXPANDING THEIR REDISTRIBUTION CENTER* – MIKE VINSAND OF OUR NEW FIRST TEAM KIA; AND LYNN ZULTANKY OF BON SECOURS. WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE ALL OF THEM JOINING US TODAY. TALK ABOUT TEAM PLAYERS! LET'S GIVE THEM ALL A ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

KNOWING THAT SMALL BUSINESSES ARE THE BACKBONE OF OUR ECONOMY, MOVING FORWARD WE WILL LOOK TO GROW AND SUPPORT AN ENTREPRENEUR AND STARTUP CLIMATE WITH A CONCENTRATION IN THE FOOD AND BEVERAGE INDUSTRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR UNIQUE ASSETS AND RESOURCES.

OVER THE PAST SIX YEARS SUFFOLK HAS ALSO BEEN THE PROUD RECIPIENT OF A TREND RELATED TO THE LOGISTICS INDUSTRY, WHERE WEST COAST BASED OPERATIONS ARE LOOKING TO DIVERSIFY THEIR LOGISTICS STRATEGY BY ESTABLISHING AN EAST COAST PRESENCE.

AS THE PORT OF VIRGINIA GROWS AND CONTINUES TO BE MORE EFFICIENT, RECENTLY WELCOMING ITS BIGGEST SHIP YET, WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO EDGE OUT OUR COMPETITION IN BALTIMORE, CHARLESTON, AND SAVANNAH AS WE ARE THE FIRST U.S. EAST COAST STOP ON THE SOUTH ATLANTIC EXPRESS SERVICE.

THIS TREND OF EASTWARD MIGRATION HAS BUILT OVER 1.2 TWO MILLION SQUARE FEET, INVESTED OVER

\$110 TEN MILLION DOLLARS, AND CREATED OVER 450 NEW JOBS IN SUFFOLK ALONE SINCE 2011.

AS STATED, WE ARE WORKING WITH OUR INDUSTRY PARTNERS TO ENSURE THAT THE WORKFORCE THEY NEED IS TRAINED AND READY TO PERFORM; AFTER ALL, SUFFOLK'S WORKFORCE IS ONE OF OUR MOST VALUABLE ASSETS.

WE ARE ALSO CURRENTLY WORKING WITH PAUL D. CAMP COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO ESTABLISH AN ONGOING LOGISTICS PROGRAM FOR ENTRY LEVEL AND MANAGEMENT FOR THIS GROWING FIELD.

I ALSO BELIEVE THE LOGISTICS INDUSTRY IS A REALISTIC CAREER SOLUTION WITH UPWARD MOBILITY THAT CAN POSITIVELY IMPACT THE COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS WHERE UNEMPLOYMENT AND OPPORTUNITY CURRENTLY SEEM OUT OF REACH.

AFTER ALL, *ECONOMIC GROWTH DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING IF IT LEAVES PEOPLE OUT.*

IN THIS YEAR'S ECONOMIC ACTIVITY REPORT – *PROUDLY MAKING ITS OFFICIAL DEBUT TODAY IN YOUR GIFT BAGS* – YOU CAN ADD TO THE IMPRESSIVE NUMBERS WE'VE AMASSED OVER THE LAST DECADE THAT I SHARED WITH YOU EARLIER, THESE ADDITIONAL STATS FOR 2016: **A TOTAL OF 44 NEW BUSINESSES AND 42 EXPANDING BUSINESSES, BRINGING 785 NEW JOBS, WITH OVER 1.1 MILLION NEW OR EXPANDING SQUARE FOOTAGE, AND ALMOST \$95 MILLION DOLLARS IN NEW INVESTMENT.**

EVERY JOB THAT WE CREATE, EVERY STATISTIC THAT WE TALK ABOUT – THESE ARE NOT JUST NUMBERS ON A PAGE, *THEY'RE REAL PEOPLE, WITH REAL DREAMS AND REAL FAMILIES TO SUPPORT.*

ALSO MAKING THEIR DREAMS COME TRUE IS CHRIS RICE AND HIS WIFE ERIN, OWNERS OF “MUSIC MAKES YOU HAPPY ENTERTAINMENT LLC”, THE CHAMBER’S SUFFOLK SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR, AND I’D ASK THAT THEY PLEASE STAND AND BE CONGRATULATED.

YOU KNOW, LOOKING BACK OVER THE VISITS GOVERNOR MCAULIFFE HAS MADE TO SUFFOLK IN THE LAST YEAR MAKING SPECIAL INVESTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTING AWARDS, HE MAY WANT TO CONSIDER SETTING UP SHOP HERE, AS WELL!

EARLIER THIS SPRING HE JOINED US TO ANNOUNCE THAT SPAIN-BASED ATARFIL – *A WORLD LEADER IN DEVELOPING, MANUFACTURING AND MARKETING THERMOPLASTIC GEOMEMBRANES* – WILL INVEST \$5.1 MILLION DOLLARS TO ESTABLISH THEIR FIRST U.S. MANUFACTURING AND DISTRIBUTION FACILITY HERE.

THEY CONSIDERED NUMEROUS LOCATIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY, BUT WERE CONFIDENT THAT WE WOULD BE THEIR BEST SPRINGBOARD TO BRING THEIR TECHNOLOGY AND CAPABILITIES TO THE AMERICAN MARKET.

SHORTLY AFTER THAT ANNOUNCEMENT, THE GOVERNOR ANNOUNCED THAT ALLFIRST, LLC – *AN INDUSTRIAL GENERAL CONTRACTOR AND METAL FABRICATOR* – WOULD BE INVESTING TO EXPAND ITS HEADQUARTERS HERE. THEY ALSO PURCHASED NEW MACHINERY AND TOOLS AND ARE RETRAINING UP TO 62 EXISTING EMPLOYEES TO OPERATE THE EQUIPMENT AND PERFORM OTHER FUNCTIONS, WHILE ALSO CREATING 27 NEW JOBS OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS. A GREAT EXAMPLE OF A SMALL BUSINESS ADAPTING TO TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY TECHNOLOGY, WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE THEM EXPAND AND SUCCEED HERE, AND WOULD ASK

THAT JAMES TEMPLETON, VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS, STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.

SPEAKING OF EXPANSION AND SUCCESS, TODAY WE'RE THRILLED TO OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCE THAT THE SERIES PRESENTING SPONSOR, TOWNEBANK, WILL BE FURTHER EXPANDING THEIR HARBOUR VIEW CAMPUS AND WILL BE BUILDING A NEW TWO-STORY MULTIUSE OFFICE BUILDING THAT MIRRORS THEIR HORTON OPERATIONS CENTER.

THE HARBOUR VIEW CAMPUS EMPLOYS 381 PEOPLE AND HOUSES ALL THE BANK'S CORPORATE EXECUTIVE OFFICES, OPERATIONAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING TECHNOLOGY, LOAN AND DEPOSIT SERVICES, ELECTRONIC DELIVERY, COMPLIANCE, HUMAN RESOURCES AND MARKETING.

WITH MORE THAN \$5 BILLION DOLLARS IN DEPOSITS, TOWNEBANK HOLDS HAMPTON ROADS' LARGEST MARKET SHARE, AND IS ONE OF THE LARGEST IN THE STATE OF VIRGINIA. STEADY GROWTH AND STRONG PERFORMANCE HAS ACCOMPANIED TOWNEBANK'S GROWTH IN THE COMMUNITY BANKING MARKET. THE EXPANSION PLANS ARE THE DIRECT RESULT OF PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE BY MANAGING AND RESPONDING TO THAT GROWTH.

TO QUOTE BOB ASTON, TOWNEBANK CHAIRMAN AND CEO, *"TOGETHER, WE HAVE CREATED A TRUE COMMUNITY ASSET AND A HOMETOWN BANK WHERE RELATIONSHIPS AND FRIENDSHIPS ARE VALUED."* WE COULDN'T AGREE MORE!

RECOGNIZING THAT CONTINUED ECONOMIC GROWTH REQUIRES BOTH RECRUITMENT OF NEW COMPANIES AND EXPANSION OF EXISTING BUSINESSES, AT THIS TIME I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO SUFFOLK'S AMAZING

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE MANY ANNOUNCEMENTS WE'VE SHARED WITH YOU TODAY EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

KEVIN HUGHES – WOULD YOU AND YOUR AMAZING STAFF PLEASE STAND SO THAT WE CAN RECOGNIZE YOU FOR ALL YOU DO TO PROMOTE OUR CITY?

WITHOUT A DOUBT, THE SUCCESSES WE HAVE EXPERIENCED DON'T JUST HAPPEN. YOU CAN ONLY EXPERIENCE OUR LEVEL OF SUCCESS WHEN YOU HAVE A STRONG, SHARED VISION, WITH COOPERATIVE LEADERSHIP, COMMITTED PARTNERS AND ENGAGED CITIZENS.

IN CLOSING .....

JOE, YOU *MIGHT* JUST WANT TO CONTINUE LOOKING A LITTLE FURTHER IN THAT JOB SEARCH! IN ALL SERIOUSNESS, THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY AND FOR YOUR THREE DECADES WITH ABC AFFILIATE WVEC. YOU'VE REALLY BROUGHT YOUR "JOE'S JOBS" SERIES TO A GRAND FINALE TODAY! WE WISH YOU MUCH SUCCESS IN THIS NEXT CHAPTER AS YOU ENJOY YOUR "*RETIRED BUT AVAILABLE*" STATUS, AND KNOW THAT YOU'LL BE SUCCESSFUL IN WHATEVER YOU DO FROM HERE!

COME ON UP AND JOIN ME BEFORE BRYAN OFFICIALLY ADJOURNS THE EVENT AND SO THAT WE CAN INVITE EVERYONE TO ENJOY THESE DELECTABLE DESSERTS PREPARED FOR US ALL TO ENJOY!

*LET'S TRY AGAIN.* IN CLOSING, LET US ALL REMEMBER THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT WORDS WE'VE LEARNED TODAY, AND LET'S SAY THEM TOGETHER...

***YES, SUFFOLK!***

IN KEEPING WITH THE LYRICS FROM TODAY'S VIDEO  
THEME SONG: *NEVER HEARD THE WORD*



*IMPOSSIBLE...THERE'S NO STOPPING US...WE'RE GONNA  
MAKE ALL OUR DREAMS COME TRUE, **FOR ME AND YOU!***

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS!

BRYAN STEPHENS TO PROVIDE ADJOURNMENT