

For Immediate Release - UPDATE  
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Contact:  
Steven Wright or Von Gilbreath  
Chesapeake Dept. of Economic Development  
757-382-8040 (phone)

## **Chesapeake Celebrates Virginia Business Appreciation Month in May**

**Chesapeake, VA** – In recognition of Virginia Business Appreciation Month, celebrated in May, the City of Chesapeake, Department of Economic Development is pleased to announce a series of month long events. Existing businesses and the contributions they make to the local economy will be showcased through informative workshops and company celebrations.

**Access World Markets from Chesapeake Workshop**  
**Greenbrier Country Club, 1301 Volvo Parkway, Chesapeake, VA 23320**  
**Thursday, May 5, 2016 – 3:30 pm to 5:30 p.m.**

Chesapeake companies are invited to kick-off Virginia's Annual Business Appreciation Month with an afternoon of education, networking and a "Cinco de Mayo" inspired reception with the Commonwealth's Industry Leaders. Attendees will hear firsthand about financial and non-financial resources available right in our own backyard designed to grow a company internationally.

**Virginia Employers Conference**  
**Chesapeake Marriott, 725 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23320**  
**Wednesday, May 11, 2016 – 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) presents its Annual Employers Conference--"Driving Toward Success: Critical Issues in Managing Your Business." Human Resource professionals from across the Commonwealth will gain valuable information to operate and enhance their business. Attendees will learn about the latest resources on labor market data analysis, employment law, etc. Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM) credits apply.

**Critical Mass Business to Business Meeting**  
**Chesapeake Marriott, 725 Woodlake Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23320**  
**Wednesday, May 11, 2016 – 3:30 pm to 5:30 p.m.**

The Hampton Roads Innovation Collaborative (HRIC) and The City of Chesapeake's Department of Economic Development Department will host "Critical Mass" which is a Speakers Series that blends experiential learning and knowledge sharing with networking and collaboration. Guest speaker, Caroline Taylor, President of Taylor Made Diagnostics, Inc., will discuss how innovation is used to grow her business. Taylor has achieved recent accolades such as the Small Business Administration (SBA) 2016 Virginia Small Business Person of the Year and 2015 Chesapeake Business of the Year. Critical Mass will begin at the conclusion of the VEC Employers Conference.

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**16th Annual Chesapeake Business Appreciation Golf Classic and Cookout**

**Cahoon Golf Course, 1501 Cahoon Pkwy, Chesapeake, VA 23323**

**Friday, May 20, 2016 – 8 am to 5:30 p.m.**

The Chesapeake Economic Development Authority's 2016 Business of the Year and Chesapeake Port Authority's 2016 Waterfront Business of the Year will receive their congratulatory awards at the 16th Annual Chesapeake Business Appreciation Golf Classic and Cookout held at Cahoon Golf Course on May 20th. The cookout starts at 2:00 p.m. and encompasses the awards ceremony. More than 150 members of the business community and City officials will be in attendance. The golf tournament's net proceeds will benefit a local charity.

**Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year Awards Luncheon (NEW EVENT)**

**Virginia Beach Convention Center, 1000 19th Street, Virginia Beach, VA 23451**

**Tuesday, May 24, 2016 – Noon to 2:00 p.m.**

Retnauer Baynes Associates will be recognized as Chesapeake's 2016 Small Business of the Year along with the winners from the cities of Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach and the Peninsula. The overall Small Business of the Year Award winner will be announced at the luncheon along with the Young Entrepreneur Award (YEA!).

**U.S. Small Business Administration's Virginia Small Business Person of the Year Award (NEW EVENT)**

**Taylor Made Diagnostics, Inc., 801 Poindexter Street, Suite 218, Chesapeake, VA 23324**

**Wednesday, May 25, 2016 – 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Caroline Taylor, President of Taylor Made Diagnostics will be presented with the 2016 Virginia Small Business Person of the Year Award by the U.S. Small Business Administration (Virginia District). Carl B. Knoblock, District Director for Virginia will be on hand to present the award.

**INIT Groundbreaking Ceremony – New North American Headquarters (NEW EVENT)**

**424 Network Station, Chesapeake, VA 23320**

**Thursday, May 26, 2016 – 9:30 a.m.**

INIT Innovations in Transportation, Inc. will host a Groundbreaking Ceremony for their new North American Headquarters encompassing a 70,000 sq. ft. North American Headquarters on a 7.9 acre site in Oakbrooke Business & Technology Center. INIT is a global provider of intelligent transportation systems for public transit industry.

**Sonny Merryman 50th Anniversary and Grand Opening Celebration**

**1221 Fleetway Drive (Cavalier Industrial Park), Chesapeake, VA 23323**

**Wednesday, May 25, 2016 – 11:30 a.m.**

Sonny Merryman, Inc.—Virginia's Bus company--will celebrate its newest facility which encompasses a 37,500 sq. ft. facility on a 5.14 acre site in Cavalier Industrial Park. The \$6 million project features top-notch, state-of-the-art technology, equipment and tooling for an all make and model bus service center. The company will also celebrate its 50th Anniversary. Sonny Merryman is the state's leading dealer for school, transit and commercial buses.

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**Sumitomo Drive Technologies 50th Anniversary Celebration****4200 Holland Boulevard, Chesapeake, VA 23323****Friday, June 3, 2016 – 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Sumitomo will celebrate 50 years of doing business in the United States at its North American headquarters--4200 Holland Boulevard in Cavalier Industrial Park. Business leaders, City and State leaders will be on hand to celebrate. Attendees will learn firsthand how Sumitomo transformed their U.S. operation from assembly/distribution center to an assembly/manufacturing facility. Sumitomo manufactures industrial gears and speed reducers.

For more information about Chesapeake's Virginia Business Appreciation events, please call 757-382-8040 or email: [research@chesapeakeva.biz](mailto:research@chesapeakeva.biz).

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