

Inside Business

The Hampton Roads Business Journal | Insidebiz.com

OCTOBER 17-23, 2016

\$1.00

If Beach takes next steps, light rail leaves light footprint

PLANNERS SAY HALF OF CITY'S FUTURE GROWTH

could occur in corridor comprising 2 percent of square miles

BY NATE DELESILINE III
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Planners expect about 50 percent of future growth in Virginia Beach will occur in just two percent of the city's nearly 500-square-mile footprint.

It's no coincidence. For the last 40 years, the city has focused development north of what's called the green line – an

east-west demarcation that essentially follows Interstate 264. Land usage and neighborhoods south of I-264 are mostly rural, while neighborhoods to the north of the highway are more suburban. Along that highway corridor, which could soon also be a passenger rail corridor, is an area positioned for transit-oriented development.

Earlier this month, Hampton Roads

Transit announced the latest cost estimate of a 3.5-mile extension of the current light rail system from Newtown Road to Town Center would be about \$243 million. Next month, Virginia Beach voters will cast a nonbinding vote to indicate if the city's leaders should pursue the controversial project.

Support and opposition for the rail extension are nearly evenly split. According to a recent poll conducted by The Virginian-Pilot and WVEC-TV in partnership

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Irwin's Fountain takes patrons back in time

BY SANDRA J. PENNECKE
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When Stephen Grover walked into Irwin's Fountain more than three years ago, he loved what he saw but felt the soul of the place was gone.

"It is too cool," Grover said. "I've worked corporate shops, but I like neighborhood shops. They are more rewarding."

Grover has since tried to put the soul back into the diner located within Irwin's Pharmacy on Indian River Road.

The Irwin brothers opened their first diner in Portsmouth in 1934. The one in Chesapeake opened in 1957 and has been a landmark there – through numerous openings and closings – ever since.

Irene Hurst, 83, of Chesapeake, has been a regular at Irwin's since 1963 – long before her granddaughter, Judy Feliciano, 29, was born.

Now, with Feliciano living next door to her, they enjoy weekly lunches there.

"It's nice to come somewhere with a homey feel," Feliciano said. "They take care of you the old-fashioned way."

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Stephen Grover, left, manager of Irwin's Fountain, and Joe Campbell, pharmacist in Irwin's Pharmacy.

THIS WEEK



ODU grad takes sun visor to new level

Invention will help drivers as well as driverless cars
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Treatment options

Harbour View cancer center now operational
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HeartStrings back at Kroc

Program pairs students with symphony
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How did that make you feel?

Startup aims to curb rudeness at work
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Local company marks its 70th

Family survives ups and downs of boating
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Inside Business staff

Business name Amediate LLC
Owner Sharon Harrington
Founded March 2014 in Norfolk
What's the big idea? Working with leaders to develop workplaces with communication skills for dealing with uncomfortable situations before they become time-consuming and costly. "Workplaces are feeling a lot of pain without the skills to effectively navigate opposing and different points of view. A lack of these skills can lead to interpretations of rude and disrespectful behavior – and if left unaddressed, can mean disruption and destruction in the workplace."



Harrington

Background Organizational communication consultant with more than 25 years of experience facilitating workplace learning and mediating issues surrounding workplace conflict. Providing services in employment discrimination investigations, employment mediation and learning facilitation. Clients include federal and state government, small/mid-sized businesses (primarily manufacturing) and volunteer organizations.

Do you remember the moment you decided to start your business? What was that like? "I can't say I remember a moment because this has been on my mind for some time."

What motivates you? "When I can see I'm contributing toward a positive difference in the way people feel toward each other in the workplace. I keep a quote from Maya Angelou close to heart: 'People will forget what you said, they will

forget what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel.'"

What has been the biggest challenge so far? "To get leaders to understand that the best time to bring (me in) is before there is a blowup. Often times, leaders think if no one is complaining, everyone must be happy, so why mess up a good thing? However, as soon as there is a blowup, they are looking for my card. Through my years of experience, I've been able to single out behavior indicators that can be a signal to leaders that problems may be brewing."

How do you define success? "The repeat business and the call that starts off noting they were referred."

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Hayes Sears celebrates grand reopening

Inside Business staff

The Sears Hometown store in Hayes celebrated a grand reopening the weekend of Oct. 14 and 15.

In the new store design, appliances occupy more than half of the sales floor and include more brands and an improved presentation. The store features appliances from Whirlpool, KitchenAid, Kenmore and other top brands. The company also said the store refresh will include a new product assortment, redesigned merchandising,

new fixtures and signage, and comprehensive employee training.

In addition, Sears said, throughout the celebration weekend, customers can receive an additional discount of 10 percent off almost everything in the store, subject to certain exclusions.

The new floor plan also allows the store to showcase complete kitchen packages with the goal of making it easier for customers to choose products.

Finally, Virginia customers also have access to a new touch-screen kiosk where they can work with a salesperson or products browse on their own.

Sears said the updates in Hayes and at another store in Staunton, which is also planning to celebrate a grand reopening, are part of a system-wide refresh of all Sears Hometown store locations.