

# Daily Press

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## Chesapeake Vice Mayor de Triquet dies

Longtime council member remembered as dedicated public servant, pediatrician

By Natalie Anderson  
Staff writer

CHESAPEAKE — Vice Mayor John de Triquet, who spent more than 30 years on the Chesapeake City Council, has died, according to city officials.

The city announced his death Friday morning with a statement

from Mayor Rick West.

“His wisdom, thoughtful demeanor, and desire to hear from and see all sides of an issue helped shape Chesapeake into the thriving city it is today,” read the statement. “Dr. de Triquet’s dedication to improving the lives of Chesapeake’s residents, his leadership, and his unwavering belief in the



de Triquet

mission of the City That Cares has left a lasting legacy on our community.” de Triquet was first elected to council in 1994 and served several stints as vice mayor, including for the current City Council. He was last elected in 2022, when most of the council seats were up for grabs, with his term slated to end in December 2026.

While many remember de Triquet for his more than three decades as an elected official, he also spent nearly 40 years as a pediatrician at The Children’s Hospital of The King’s Daughters, where he treated thousands of children over the years and solidified a legacy of compassion, colleagues say.

“As a pediatrician, he always went above and beyond for his families, and we were honored to work alongside such a brilliant, compassionate physician and friend,” Leah Rowland, a pediatri-

cian and partner of de Triquet’s at Pediatric Specialists, said in a statement.

Robert Fink, another pediatrician and partner at Pediatric Specialists, described de Triquet as a “consummate pediatrician, extremely bright, and very well read.”

“He was highly respected by his colleagues and loved by his patients and everyone in our office,” Fink said in a statement.

Turn to de Triquet, Page 4



A sign advertising apartment rentals hangs on the side of Fusion at Neon in Norfolk. KENDALL WARNER/STAFF PHOTOS

### VIRGINIA BEACH SCHOOLS

## Board plans special meeting

Wednesday session to discuss insurance costs that sparked lawsuit

By Jane Harper  
Staff writer

VIRGINIA BEACH — Just two days after more than 100 city schools employees sued the superintendent, accusing him of hiding skyrocketing health insurance costs from them until after they’d signed their annual contracts, the city School Board announced it will hold a special meeting to address the situation.

The gathering is set for 6 p.m. Wednesday at the school administration building, according to an announcement released late Friday by the district. A post on the school’s website said the meeting is being held to discuss “health insurance premiums, employee healthcare costs, and potential future steps.”

The move comes after 112 teachers, bus drivers, cafeteria workers and other contractual employees filed a lawsuit late Wednesday in Virginia Beach Circuit Court.

Superintendent Donald R. Robertson Jr. was the only defendant listed. Robertson became acting superintendent in June 2023, after longtime Superintendent Aaron Spence left to lead Loudoun County schools, and was appointed to the post in January 2024.

The employees’ complaint stated the district’s more than 10,000 employees — who’d signed annual contracts earlier this summer — didn’t learn about the expected increases until they got an Aug. 7 email from the Virginia Beach Consolidated Benefits Office.



Robertson

Turn to Meeting, Page 4

### INSIDE

#### Erin exits

As Outer Banks flooding persists, Ocracoke evacuation order lifted for residents. Page 2

#### A ‘gentleman’

Epstein partner says she never saw Trump act inappropriately. Nation & World, Page 9

#### Kicking off

As the college football season starts, same old powerhouses line up as favorites. Sports

### PLENTY OF SUNSHINE

High: 86 Low: 70



Details on the back of news

Price: \$3.00



## RENT ON THE RISE

Hampton Roads rates are among fastest growing in the US



Crews work to transform a former office building into 54 apartments in the 4100 block of Granby Street in the Riverview Village area in Norfolk.

By Trevor Metcalfe  
Staff writer

Despite an overall slowdown in rent growth nationally, Hampton Roads apartment rents are still among the fastest-growing in the nation during the past 12 months, according to a new report.

Average rent costs in Hampton Roads increased 2.7% from July 2024 to last month, more than double the national average of 1.1%, according to a report from the CoStar Group real estate information firm.

“Rent growth in Hampton Roads is being driven by a combination of strong demand, limited new supply and the region’s relative affordability,” said Melina Duggal, CoStar senior director of market analytics for the Washington and Baltimore areas, in an emailed statement.

CoStar includes South Hampton Roads, the Peninsula, the Historic Triangle and parts of coastal North Carolina in its analysis.

According to Costar, Hampton Roads posted the fourth-highest rent increase during that time period — only the San Francisco (5.3%), Chicago (3.8%) and San Jose, California (3.2%) regions posted larger increases.

The increase comes despite a slowdown in annual rent growth nationally, with a year-over-year increase of 1.1% in July compared with 1.5% in January.

Two Norfolk City Council members, city staff members, Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing employees and other housing stakeholders met Monday to discuss the city’s housing issues at a retreat for the newly-formed Mayor’s Commission on Housing.

Norfolk as a city is almost entirely built-out, with few opportunities for new development, said Christiana Whitcomb, a principal at HR & A Advisors who gave a presentation on a 2024 affordable housing study.

Turn to Rent, Page 4

### JOSEPH RITCHIE SR. 1930-2025

## ‘Great loss to the Virginia Peninsula’

Former Newport News mayor, businessman had big impact on city

By Sandra J. Pennecke  
Staff writer

Joseph Ritchie Sr., former Newport News mayor and a Peninsula business icon known for helping to develop the city into what it is today, died Sunday. He was 95.

“He was mayor at a very strategic time of growth for Newport News,” Newport News Development Director Florence Kingston said. “He understood what businesses needed to succeed

and grow, and he took that knowledge to help lead a council and city administration to create the right environment.”

Ritchie served as the city’s first Republican mayor from July 1, 1976, to June 30, 1986. He played a pivotal role in bringing Jefferson Lab and the Canon Virginia manufacturing plant to the city as well as ensuring the growth of the Oyster Point business park.

He remained a strong supporter of economic development in Newport News through-



Ritchie



Newport News Mayor Joe Ritchie, left, and others attend the groundbreaking for Gosnold Hall at Christopher Newport University. STAFF FILE

out his life and was one of the visionaries and original investors in 2000 in the City Center at Oyster Point.

“He was a man of his word,” said Bobby King, president and chairman of Harvey Lindsay

Commercial Real Estate. “It’s a great loss to the Virginia Peninsula.”

King and his brother Billy, past president and CEO of the Harvey

Turn to Ritchie, Page 4