

# ODU TIMES 2

Co-valedictorians at Hampton High this spring, twins begin college together

By Alison Johnson | Correspondent

Identical twins Nishtha and Nirmani Brahmbhatt have shared just about everything — from their birth date to their first day of classes at Old Dominion University. That includes graduating as co-valedictorians from Hampton High School in June with matching 4.65 GPAs. Going to separate colleges was never a consideration, although Nishtha plans to major in mechani-

cal engineering while Nirmani will focus on computer science in hopes of becoming a software engineer. The 18-year-olds applied to the same 20 schools and chose ODU after receiving full scholarships. “We do have a little friendly competition between us, but we’ve always been really close,” said Nirmani, younger by a minute. “When we both ended up No. 1 in high school, we were really happy and proud.”

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Twins Nishtha, left, and Nirmani Brahmbhatt graduated as co-valedictorians from Hampton High School in June. They are now attending ODU together — though they will pursue different majors. **STEPHEN M. KATZ/STAFF**

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# Daily Press

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2025



## ‘Last ones standing’

Chesapeake rural street undergoes changes as developments crop up on adjacent farmland



By Sandra J. Pennecke | Staff writer

CHESAPEAKE — For the past 70 years, six little houses on Carol Drive sat in solitude off Battlefield Boulevard South in the city’s Hickory area. Farmland surrounded them on the northern and southern sides. A ditch and a towering swath of trees still line the backyards, creating a barrier of sorts. Gail Gastón remembered her childhood on Carol Drive: running through sprinklers and watching the cars heading south to the Outer Banks — long before the bypass was built. “Everyone used to say ‘Y’all live in the country,’” she said. But that remoteness is disappearing. Construction vehicles now travel the once rural road daily to make way for two developments cropping up on the 89 acres that used to be part of Warren Farms. Ryan Homes is building Patriot’s Ridge off Henry Jefferson Way to the north of Carol Drive. The community will consist of 99 single-family homes, a pool, clubhouse, walking trails and parks. Homes start in the upper \$500,000s. The other neighborhood, Patriot’s Walke, is slated to occupy the land directly south of Carol Drive

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**Above:** Geraldine Holloway, 88, and her husband, Joseph, 100, are the remaining original residents on Carol Drive in Chesapeake. “It’s been quiet and peaceful for a long time,” Geraldine said. **Left:** Six homes stand in front of a large-scale construction operation on Carol Drive. **STEPHEN M. KATZ/STAFF PHOTOS**

## Fed gov. vows to sue to keep job

President’s effort to fire Cook ‘illegal action,’ lawyer says

By Christopher Rugaber  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Gov. Lisa Cook will sue President Donald Trump’s administration to try to prevent him from firing her, her lawyer said Tuesday. “President Trump has no authority to remove Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook,” said Abbe Lowell, a longtime Washington lawyer who has represented figures from both major political parties. “His attempt to fire her, based solely on a referral letter, lacks any factual or legal basis. We will be filing a lawsuit challenging this illegal action.” The case is likely to end up at the Supreme Court and could more clearly define the limits of the president’s legal authority over the traditionally independent institution.

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## INSIDE Reeking havoc

“Horrible” smells reportedly coming from creek near Mount Trashmore prompt investigation. **Page 2**

## Case dismissed

Judge tosses Trump lawsuit against Maryland-based judges over handling of immigration cases. **Nation & World, Page 6**

## Slice of heaven

Food writer Rekaya Gibson is smitten after visiting a Chesapeake pizza joint that opened this spring. **Flavor**

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## Portsmouth eyes big waterfront changes

By Natalie Anderson  
Staff writer

PORTSMOUTH — City leaders are planning for “transformational” development along the city’s waterfront, with hopes to select a developer for the six-acre Crawford Bay — and former Holiday Inn — site by November 2026.

As they do so, they’re also building up an Innovation District and entertainment district in other parts of Portsmouth — ultimately increasing mixed-use residential and commercial options. The city’s Economic Development Authority met Monday with the City Council to share updates on the ongoing plans. Mayor

Shannon Glover and other council members feel the city is in a good position. “Now is our opportunity not to think small,” he said. “We will not have this opportunity again. It will be transformational.” The discussion came on the heels of a City Council and EDA visit last week to Greenville,

South Carolina, where city leaders toured the downtown area to learn more about a city that was dubbed the “best U.S. city to visit” by Business Insider. Among the highlights and takeaways: the importance of uniform landscaping and streetscaping,

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