

Franklin-Southampton Area Chamber of Commerce

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 13, 2019**

**CONTACT: Teresa Beale, Executive Director
757-562-4900**

The Franklin-Southampton Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting their 26th annual Community Expo on Thursday, November 21, 2019 from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm at the Camp Community College Regional Workforce Development Center in Franklin. The focus of this event is to promote area businesses & showcase the many goods and services available locally. The theme of this year's event is "Home Grown". We enjoy an abundance of Home Grown businesses, products and people and the Chamber is proud to showcase all that they have to offer. Supporting these businesses is so important as these local businesses constantly give back to the community.

There is no admission fee for the event and the entire community is invited and encouraged to attend. This year's grand prize has been generously donated by Norfolk International Airport. Everyone who attends has a chance to win a \$500 gift card on any airline serving Norfolk International Airport.

"The Expo offers an exceptional opportunity for citizens to learn what products and services are available right here at home, said Chamber President, Meghan Councill, Investment Executive, Davenport & Company. I invite everyone to join us to chat one on one with local business owners. Of every \$100 spent at a local business, roughly \$68 stays in our local economy. It is vital to our entire community that residents' shop locally. We appreciate our many sponsors for partnering with us to host this huge event. Southampton Memorial Hospital and Enviva are generously supporting the Expo as Gold sponsors this year."

At Enviva's booth find out how they use local raw product to produce wood pellets and learn the many ways this company is vital to our community.

Southampton Memorial Hospital will offer "Meet the Doctor", Flu Shots & information about upcoming "In the Know" sessions and the Medical Detox Program.

Just a few of the things you can do at the Expo: Shop, have a cup of coffee, learn something new, get a flu shot, sample a new food product, win a door prize. Most importantly, engage in your community and support those who support us.

Of the over 50 vendors, there will be familiar faces such as Farmers Bank who happens to be celebrating their 100th anniversary this year, however, you will also discover new businesses.

When entering the lobby, you will be greeted by a beautiful holiday display by Spoken Interior Homes. Inside the exhibit hall you can plan your next vacation with The Travel Girl Company and check out the products from a brand-new downtown Franklin business, VPC Gourmet Market.

Check out new products & services from Silver sponsors, Bronco Federal Credit Union; Coldwell Banker Professional Realtors; Franklin Chevrolet, Buick, GMC, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep; Franklin Southampton Economic Development, Inc.; McDonalds & Norfolk International Airport

There will also be food tastings offered by Belmont Peanuts of Southampton; Bojangles, Hampton Farms, Hubbard Peanut Co., Inc., Feridies, McDonalds, The Village Back Porch & Grille & VPC Gourmet Market

Writer Phyllis Speidell & photographer John Sheally will be stationed at the Chamber's booth to autograph their book "The Mill, The Franklin Mill from Camp to International Paper. This beautiful book published 10 years ago, is available for \$10 each or Expo special - purchase 2 books & get the third for only \$5.00. These special autographed editions make great holiday gifts.

Chamber Executive Director, Teresa Beale noted, "We love hosting this annual event to promote the area business community. We look forward to highlighting the variety of wonderful products and services that are offered right here at home. There will be an abundance of interactive booths, shopping, food tastings & door prizes. Historically we have over 500 guests, so we invite you to join us, visit with your friends and enjoy this community event. It's going to be a fun day! For more details visit www.fsachamber.com or call 562-4900. Your local businesses appreciate your support."