Verizon request under fire
Study says deregulation would boost costs

BY MICHAEL SCHWARTZ
michael.schwartz@philibizonline.com

A study released by competitors of Verizon claims that Virginia Beach residents would pay an increase of $104 million annually if the Federal Communications Commission exempted the telecom giant from an 11-year old pricing rule intended to encourage competition.

Verizon has asked the FCC to grant it forbearance in six metropolitan areas including Virginia Beach, from a rule that forces it to sell space on its copper and fiber optic pipelines to competitors at government-set wholesale prices. If that request is granted, a group of the company’s competitors believe Verizon will raise its rates, ultimately causing customers to pay an annual increase of $2.4 billion across the six markets.

As an incumbent telephone provider for many regions in America, Verizon is fortunate enough to have been able to lay down the lines through which voice and data travel to homes and businesses. Because of the costs and logistics of installing that infrastructure, much of the competition is not able to have its own pipes in the ground. Incumbents like Verizon therefore sell space on their lines, what is known as the “last mile,” allowing competitors to sell their services to customers’ homes.

See STUDY, Page 15

Hampton bids for command
City is one of seven vying for new cyber headquarters

BY ERICK SORCELLI
enrick.sorcelli@philibizonline.com

Hampton is one of seven U.S. cities bidding to house the Air Force’s new headquarters for cyber space defense.

The Air Force Cyber Command, or AFCYBER, was established earlier this year at Barksdale Air Force Base near Shreveport, La. Cyber Command is expected to become the Air Force’s primary point for strategic defense of the country’s Internet and wireless networks.

But the Barksdale headquarters is temporary. The Air Force is expected to decide which city gets the command as early as December. A new Cyber Command headquarters would be fully online by October 2008.

Hampton, with its Langley Air Force Base and numerous supporting operations, is competing with Barksdale, See CYBER, Page 11

Cornering a market

BY PHILIP NEWSWANGER
philip.newswanger@philibizonline.com

Kathy Owens (left) and her partners in Beach Development Group developed an office condo building near Town Center in which one of her partners, Christina Meier (right), purchased a condo.

Kathy Owens spends most of her time in the air. She’s a pilot with United Airlines and flies Boeing 747s to cities in Europe. Her base is Dulles International Airport in the Washington, D.C., suburbs.

But Owens, who lives in Virginia Beach, has another vocation. She develops property as the managing partner of Beach Development Group.

Her first project, with the help of her partners, was Tazie Corner at the Town Center, a two-story, 12,000-square-foot complex of five office condominiums on Euclid Road, visible from Interstate 664 and within

See BDS, Page 4

IB List: Hampton Roads’ Major Network Designers and Installers, Page 33