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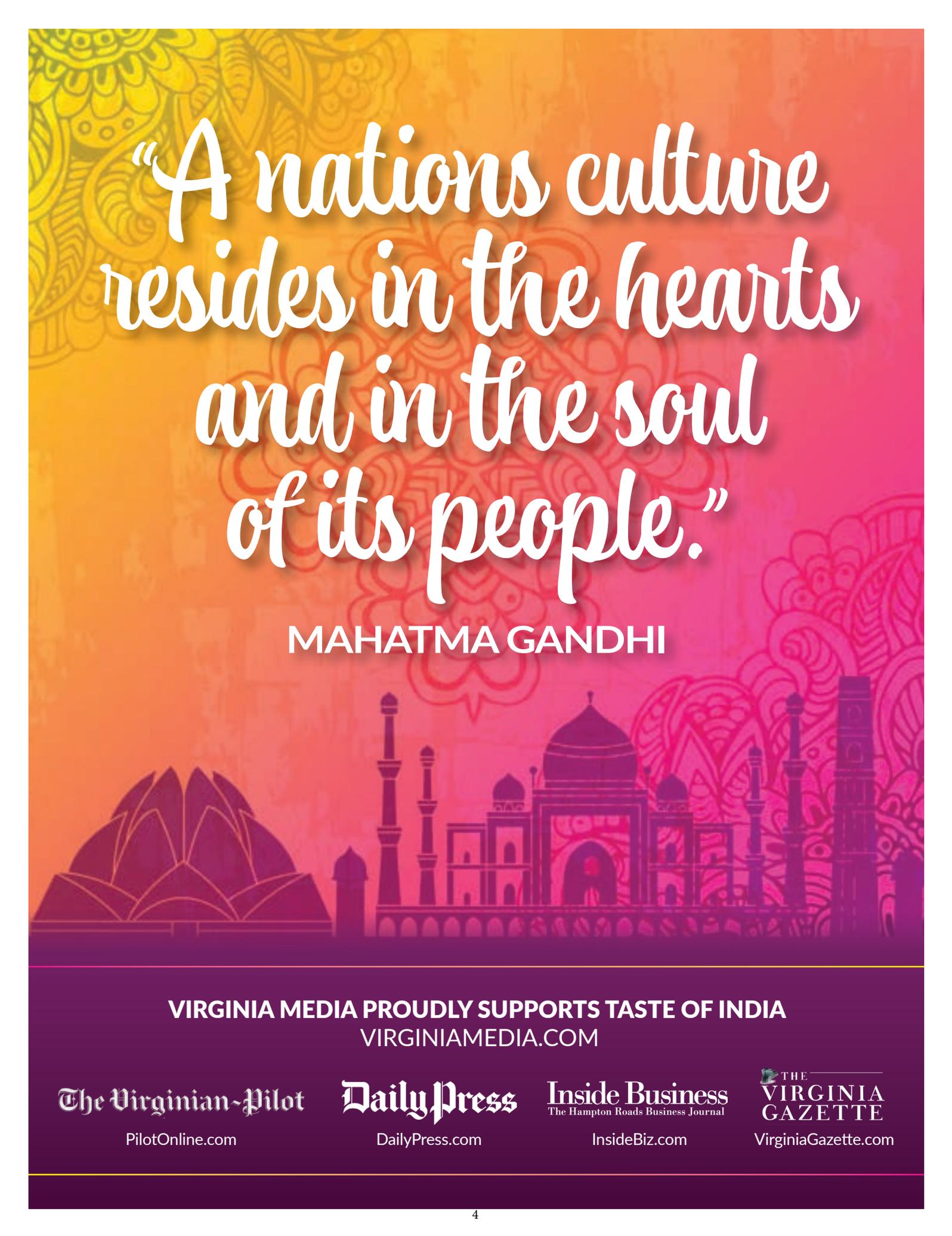


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Message from the chair

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 15th Annual Taste of India. We are thrilled to bring this vibrant festival to the Hampton Roads community once again.

Taste of India is a celebration of Indian culture, offering a glimpse into the richness of our traditions. This year, our theme is "Mystical India". Prepare to be enchanted by live entertainment, Bollywood and classical dance performances, delectable Indian cuisine, exquisite handicrafts, jewelry, and much more!

However, the true essence of Taste of India lies in our community. It is the passion, generosity, and unwavering support of individuals like you that enable us to host this event year after year. Your contributions help us not only to strengthen our community but also to give back to others in need.

Last few years, thanks to your support, we were able to make significant donations to various local organizations, including the Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters, the India Heritage Foundation, the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, NPR-WHRO, Operation Smile, and the Hindu Temple of Hampton Roads. Over the years, we have collectively donated over \$500,000+ to charitable causes.

In addition to these contributions, this year, we have extended our community outreach services further. We distributed holiday cards to hospital systems, provided toys to Toys for Tots, cooked food for shelters,

donated coats and books to Seton Youth Services, and delivered Valentine treats to various facilities. We also volunteered at local food pantries, hosted thank-you lunches for first responders, donated hygiene kits to homeless shelters, contributed to student pantries, supported mentoring programs, volunteered at community events, and much more.

Taste of India is a testament to the love and hard work of the entire Hampton Roads community. Your dedication inspires us to strive for excellence year after year. We owe our success to you, and it is your support that drives us to make Taste of India even better with each edition.

Join us in experiencing the vibrant sights, sounds, and flavors of India right here in Hampton Roads! We look forward to welcoming you for a day filled with joy, laughter, and unforgettable memories. Namaste.

Manan Shah
Chair, Taste of India



Editor's Note



It was indeed a pleasure to work closely with all the other Taste of India committee members as chair of the publications committee. I thank all of them for their great cooperation. In particular, like to recognize Brijesh Patel, Manan Shah, for their continued help.

This is the 11th year the souvenir is published by The Virginian Pilot - now Virginia Media.. I wish to recognize Sanjay Patel (Photographer) who helped in creating the lovely collages from last years Taste of India event. All committee chairs provided relevant information

about the activities. This year Brijesh Patel and his team provided excellent support in creating artwork, cover page design and relevant material for the souvenir. I sincerely appreciate their help. Any error/omissions are unintentional and regretted.

Wishing continuing success to **TASTE OF INDIA** for years to come.

Vishnu K. Lakdawala, Ph. D.
Chair - Publications

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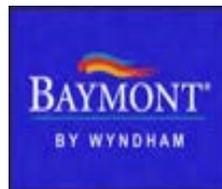


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MARK R. WARNER
VIRGINIA



UNITED STATES SENATOR
WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 20, 2024



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to extend warm greetings to all who are gathered for the 15th Annual Taste of India at Old Dominion University's Chartway Arena.

We are so fortunate to have a thriving Indian-American community in Hampton Roads. This event allows families and friends to join together in celebration of their contributions to the Commonwealth and to experience Indian culture through performances, food, exhibits, and contests. I commend the organizing committee for hosting such a tremendous festival each year.

I take special pride in serving as Co-Chair of the bipartisan Senate India Caucus—one of the largest country caucuses in the United States Senate—which is a platform that allows me to stay engaged while continuing to learn and advocate for the community's diverse interests. It is also an indispensable tool that enables me to work to deepen the United States-India relationship, including by establishing and maintaining robust strategic partnerships across a range of domains from technology, telecommunications, and defense, to global health, research, and clean energy.

Last year, I was proud to lead the introduction of a bipartisan, bicameral resolution in Congress, recognizing the importance of the United States-India relationship and highlighting the significant potential for deepened partnership. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues here in the Senate to further advance what is one of our country's most consequential relationships.

On this important occasion, I send my best wishes for a fulfilling and successful event.

Sincerely,

MARK R. WARNER
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
Virginia



April 20, 2024

Taste of India
217 Sampson Creek Road
Chesapeake, Virginia 23322

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to welcome each of you to the Fifteenth Annual Taste of India celebration in Hampton Roads! I extend my gratitude to the dedicated sponsors, local leaders, and volunteers who work hard to support this wonderful event.

Taste of India Hampton Roads is an exciting celebration of Asian Indian culture that brings the community together to enjoy traditional art, music, and delicious cuisine. Each year more Virginians of different backgrounds join in sharing the many unique traditions and customs on display. Taste of India is an inspiring example of how we all benefit from cultural exchange, diversity, and community.

Best wishes for a successful celebration and thank you for your contributions to the Hampton Roads community!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'TK / L'.

Tim Kaine



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April 20, 2024

WELCOME! 2024 Fifteenth ANNUAL TASTE OF INDIA

Dear Friends:

Congratulations on your upcoming "*Taste of India.*" This spring event has become a tradition over the years in our community, and it is a strong and respected tradition.

Year after year, your group has taken on many noble causes. The work you do is admirable, and I give you my strongest support and best wishes. Your immeasurable contributions to our region's culture are truly remarkable.

Please accept my deepest gratitude and appreciation for the work that you all do for our cities, our region, and the Commonwealth of Virginia. You have my utmost respect and commitment, and I will continue to offer all that I can to your wonderful group in the future.

On behalf of the Virginia Beach City Council, we wish you the best in all your efforts, and continued success throughout the coming year.

Sincerely,

Robert M. "Bobby" Dyer
Mayor



Kenneth Cooper Alexander, Ph.D.
Mayor



CITY of NORFOLK

Office of the Mayor

TO ALL ATTENDING THE
15TH ANNUAL TASTE OF INDIA
OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY'S CHARTWAY ARENA
"MYSTICAL INDIA: HIGHLIGHTING INDIA'S MYTHOLOGY & FOLKLORE"
SATURDAY, April 20, 2024

Greetings!

As Mayor of the City of Norfolk, it gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all those attending the 15th Annual Taste of India. Norfolk is honored to be the host city for this all-day festival at ODU's Chartway Arena.

Since its inception in April of 2007, Taste of India has served as our region's largest single gathering of Asian Indians. This year's festival themed "Mystical India: Highlighting India's Mythology and Folklore," invites attendees to enjoy this authentic and informal window into Indian culture and explore India's incredibly diverse traditions, customs, languages, attire, music, food, and dance. Thank you to all event organizers, sponsors, and volunteers for providing local residents with the opportunity to experience India's rich cultural heritage through cuisine from area restaurants, shopping, children's activities and live entertainment.

As a city characterized by diversity, we are inspired by this annual display of Asian Indian heritage, culture, and authentic cuisine. Hampton Roads is home to a vibrant Asian Indian population comprised of IT professionals, scientists, physicians, engineers, professors, business owners and more. I would like to commend Old Dominion University for recognizing the role Asian Indian Americans have on the success and beauty of our city and for bringing India to our backyards for all to experience.

We are glad you are here, so please enjoy yourself, enjoy sampling the many different "Tastes of India", and enjoy Norfolk.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Cooper Alexander, Ph.D.
Mayor

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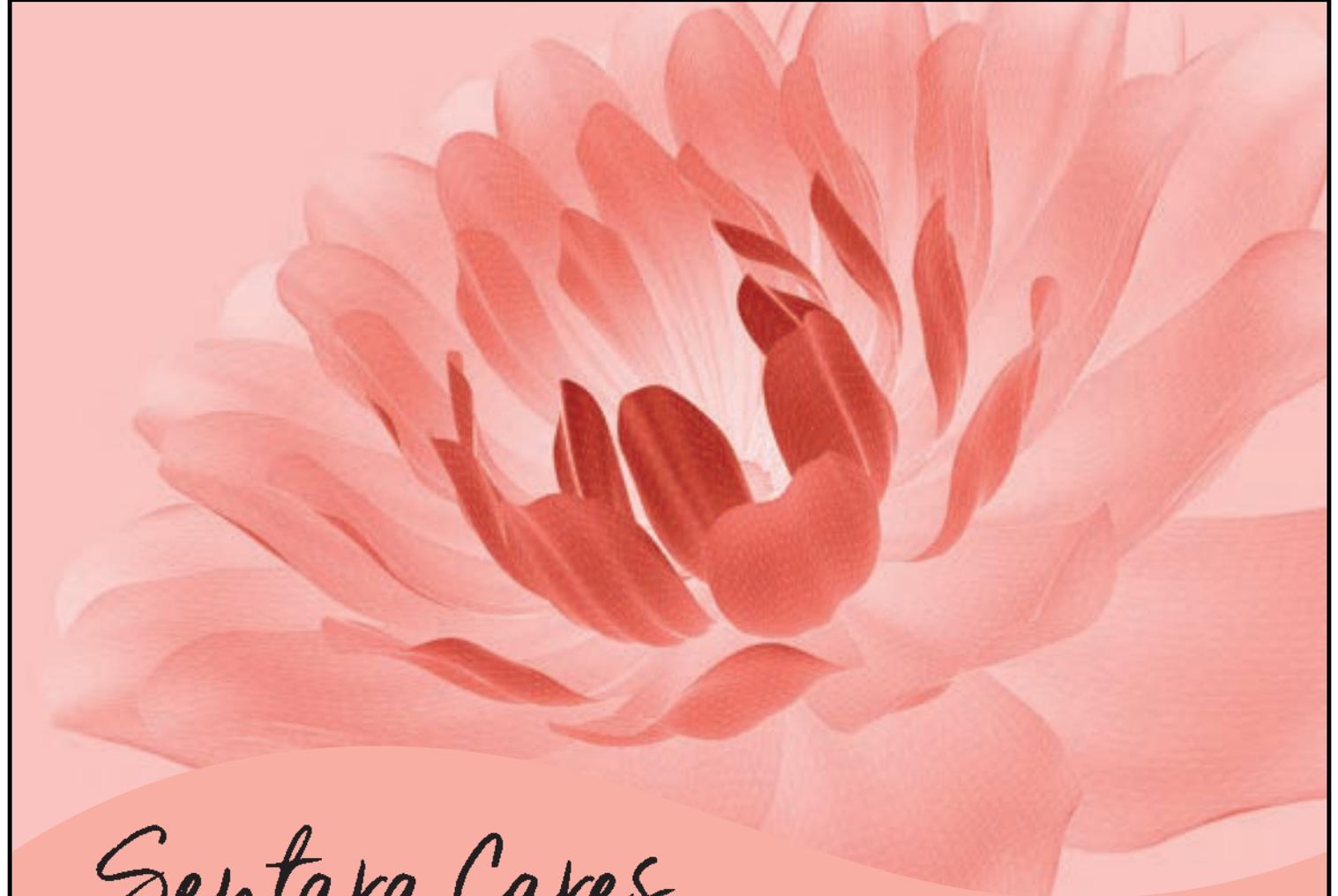
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Coastal Virginia Magazine is a proud supporter of the **15th Annual Taste of India!**

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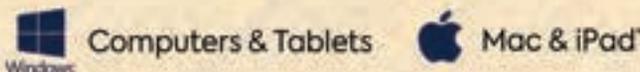


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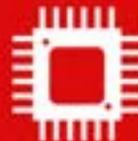


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- The mold of a man's fortune is his own hands. —Francis Bacon
- Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible. —Dalai Lama
- Sometimes you win, sometimes you learn. —John Maxwell
- Relax, destiny has a way of finding us. —Lisa Kleypas
- Small hinges swing big doors —If we make small changes in life, it can lead to big results. —W. Clement Stone
- Never regret a day in your life: Good days give Happiness; Bad days give Experience; Worst days give Lessons, and Best days give Memories. — Sukhraj Dhillon

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\$325,000



Represented Seller

4706 BRIANS WAY, CHESAPEAKE
\$495,000



Represented Buyer

6033 RIVER RD, NORFOLK
\$748,500



Represented Buyer

388 BOUSH ST, UNIT 407, NORFOLK
\$246,000



Represented Seller

3800 ATLANTIC AVE, UNIT 503, VIRGINIA BEACH
\$720,000



Represented Seller

6216 HEATHER GLEN DR, SUFFOLK
\$275,000



Represented Buyer

1900 ELDON CT, CHESAPEAKE
\$580,955



Represented Buyer

921 ATLANTIC AVE, UNIT 1402, VIRGINIA BEACH
\$1,550,000



Represented Buyer

2312 PLANTATION DR, VIRGINIA BEACH
\$515,000

MY RESULTS FOR MY CLIENTS IN 2023

- \$8,347,155 in Sales Volume With 15 Closed Sides
- 7 Seller Sides/8 Buyer Sides
- 12 Five-star reviews received

SELLER RESULTS:

- Percentage of listings taken vs listings sold - 100%
- Average list price to sale price ratio - 100%
- Median list price to sales price ratio - 101%
- Average market time for sold listings - 8 days (local market average 33 days)
- Median market time for sold listings - 3 days (local market average 15 days)
- 100% of the listings appraised at purchase price or higher

BUYER RESULTS

- Average contract to closing time for resale purchases - 18 days
- 100% of buyer purchases appraised at or above purchase price
- 100% of buyer purchases closed on the date specified in the contract

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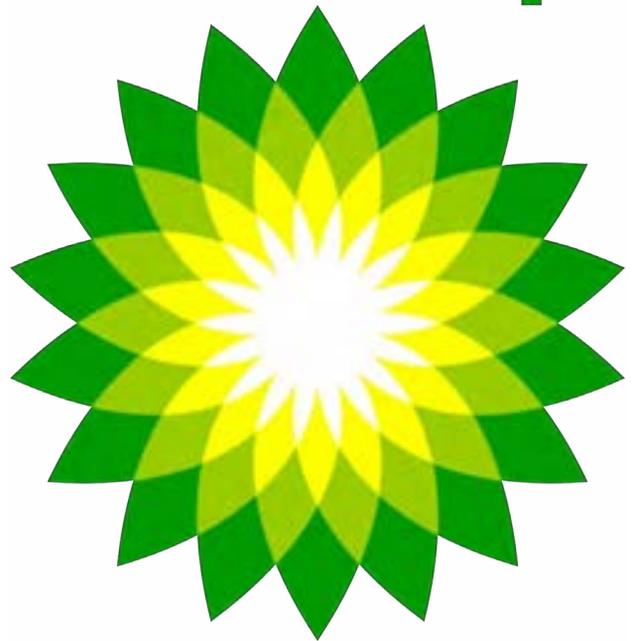
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Dr. Kinjal Sohagia is a board-certified and fellowship-trained physician in Sports Medicine and Interventional Pain Management. He has 12+ years of extensive experience in a variety of non-surgical procedures to help patients suffering from sports injuries, spine, vertebral, and disc-related problems. He has a special interest in back pain, overuse injuries, and regenerative medicine.

Dr. Sohagia completed his residency at the Institute for Family Health, NY where he also provided medical coverage for numerous athletic events, including the New York City Marathon in 2007 and 2008. He completed his fellowship at the University of Utah which is recognized as one of the top training programs in the field of sports medicine. During his fellowship training, Dr. Sohagia received extensive training in various spinal procedures and other non-operative techniques to treat back pain. He also provided medical coverage for orthopedic and sports injuries at various ski clinics and athletic events. He received extensive training in advanced spinal procedures and other techniques for non-operative treatment of back pain.

Dr. Sohagia is a member of the North American Spine Society, American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, American Medical College of Sports Medicine, and American Academy of Family Medicine. He enjoys painting, outdoor sports, and spending time with his family.



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VIRGINIA LIVING MAGAZINE - TOP DOCS IN 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2022.



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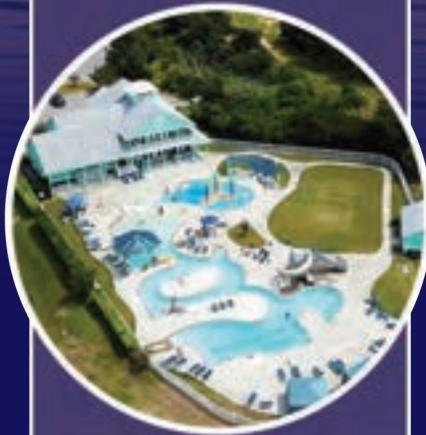
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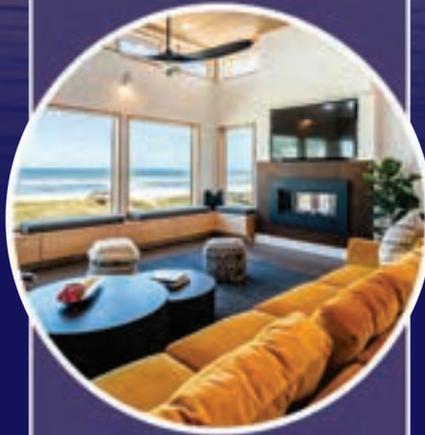
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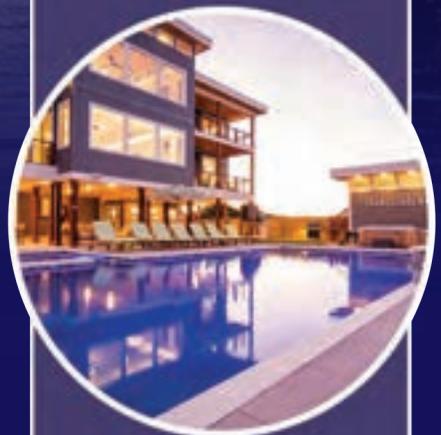
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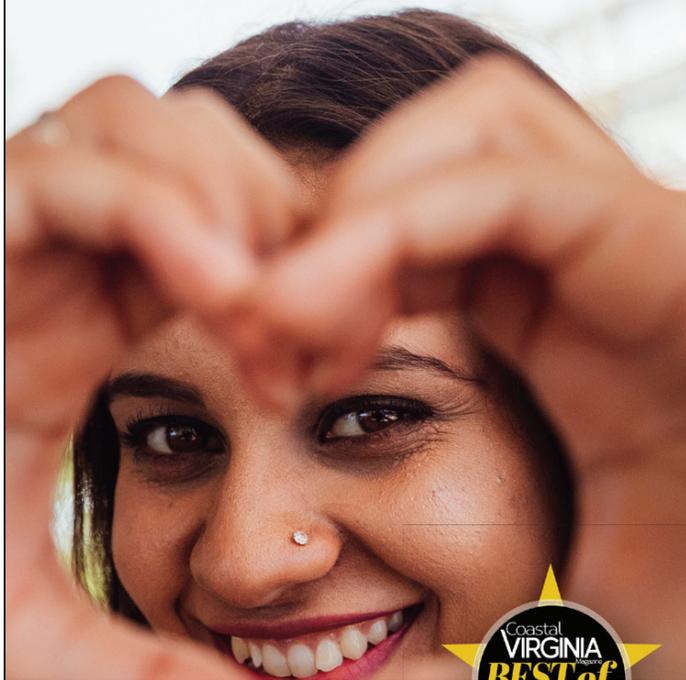
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Elaine Llana, MSN, FNP-BC

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It has been my pleasure and honor to be involved with the **TASTE OF INDIA** from its inception and also as past Chair. I am glad to see Taste of India celebrating its 14th annual event after a break due to the pandemic. The event has significantly grown over the years and the **HAMPTON ROADS** area has been fortunate to be able to enjoy a **TASTE OF INDIA** without leaving Hampton Roads.

An event such as this is possible only by full dedication and hard work of its volunteers. I would like to dedicate my appreciation to them and wish them continued success for years to come.

Ashok Patel

Wishing continuing success to

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Ashok & Nayana Patel



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Food



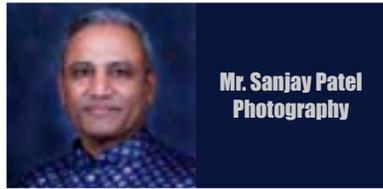
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Community Outreach



Taste of India brings a culture rooted in the belief of giving back. It is built by individuals within the community who generously volunteer their time, offer financial support, and dedicate themselves to hard work. At its core, Taste of India believes to unite the community, spreading a spirit of humanity through acts of support, comfort, and joy for those in need. It emphasizes that by giving back to the community, we can collectively make a meaningful difference in people's lives.

The Community Outreach team diligently upholds Taste of India's mission of giving back. Our actions speak louder than words as we work with joy and love. Thanks to the unwaverin support of our team and Taste of India members, we've been able to extend our reach to numerous places, spreading our support far and wide.

We've brought joy to the people who had to be in the hospital during holidays by distributing holiday cards crafted by children, donated hubdreds of toys during Christ-

mas to bring smiles to children's faces, and provided warmth and comfort with the donation of almost 1000 coats to youth shelters. Additionally, donated thousands of books to youth shelters, ensuring access to knowledge and inspiration.

Addressing basic needs, we've satisfied hunger by supplying food to shelters and provided essential daily supplies to churches supporting the homeless and those in need of shelter.

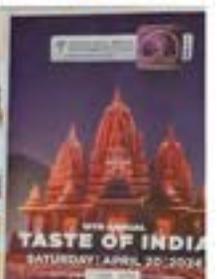
We've also extended gestures of love, such as distributing Valentine's cards made by children to nursing homes, spreading joy and companionship to the elderly.

Demonstrating our support to community we have provided the services at Salvation Army food pantry and ongoing food collection drive to support local food pantries.

Our efforts extend beyond immediate assistance; we've also lent ongoing support to raise research funds for medical conditions like Multiple Sclerosis.

MEGHANA SHAH
Chair, Community Outreach





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MYSTICAL INDIA

India's mythology and folklore

Dharti Patel, Chair Cultural Committee



India's cultural heritage is a treasure trove of mythology and folklore that spans millennia. From the ancient Vedas to the vibrant tales passed down through generations, Indian mythology and folklore offer insights into the beliefs, values, and imagination of its people. India boasts a diverse pantheon of gods and goddesses, each with their own myths and legends. From the mighty gods like Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva in Hindu tradition to the warrior goddess Durga and the elephant-headed Ganesha, these deities embody various aspects of life, nature, and the cosmos. Their stories, often depicted in sacred texts like the Vedas, Puranas, and epics like the Mahabharata and the Ramayana, offer moral teachings and philosophical insights.

India's folklore is as diverse as its cultural landscape, with each region boasting its own unique stories and traditions. From the enchanting folk tales of Rajasthan's desert to the Himalayan foothills, every corner of India is steeped in folklore. Indian folklore encompasses a diverse array of stories, beliefs, and traditions passed down through generations.

Despite the passage of time, India's mythology continues to exert a profound influence on its culture and society. From religious to mythological characters and events, abound in everyday life. Contemporary retellings of ancient myths through books, TV shows, and films serve to keep these timeless tales alive and relevant for new generations. In an era of rapid globalization and technological advancement, preserving India's rich mythological and folk heritage is more important than ever. India's mythology is not just relics of the past but living, breathing sources of inspiration and wisdom. They reflect the timeless human quest for meaning, identity, and transcendence, uniting people across generations and boundaries.

Our Cultural program will come alive with mesmerizing performances that showcase the nation's diverse artistic heritage. From Bharatanatyam, Kathak, and Odissi to folk dances such as Bhangra, Garba, and Lavani, each dance tells a story steeped in tradition and emotion. Performances on Bollywood melodies captivate audiences of all ages. With a myriad of dance styles spanning various regions, each with its unique movements, costumes, and music, Indian dance forms a colorful tapestry that continues to enthrall audiences worldwide.



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From Decor Committee's Corner

Rajeshree Amin, Chair, Decor Committee

TEAM: Ankur Khullar, Ria Kolarao, Raji Kaloji, Parita Patel, Margi Shah, Nupur Jain, Mayuri Patil

As a seasoned professional and devoted classical dancer, I embody diligence, discipline, and creativity, fueled by a lifelong passion for Indian art and design. Rooted in empathy and compassion, my character fosters meaningful connections, enriching every endeavor with authenticity and purpose.

Experience a realm of vibrant hues and intricate patterns with mystical Indian decor. Each element exudes a kaleidoscope of colors, weaving a tapestry of warmth and beauty that echoes the romance of the Taj Mahal. The Lotus flower, steeped in symbolism, offers a gateway to transcendence and enlightenment. Our fabrics whisper tales of ancient lands, beckoning you to journey through time and space. Traditional motifs, from mesmerizing mandalas to the graceful paisley design, adorn interiors with a symphony of hues, ranging from the golden saffron to the serene teal and the passionate ruby. With every stroke, Indian decor celebrates heritage, crafts, and culture, breathing life into spaces and souls alike.

**Warm regards,
Rajeshree Amin**





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From Sponsorship Committee's Corner

Vimal Patel, Chair, Ad/Sponsorship Committee

I write to you on behalf of the Taste of India 2024 Sponsorship Committee with profound gratitude for your unwavering support and generosity. Your contributions have been instrumental in making the event a resounding success, allowing us to unite our community in celebrating the rich and diverse tapestry of Indian culture.

Special recognition is due to our Diamond, Platinum, Gold, and Silver category sponsors, whose extraordinary generosity has significantly enhanced the event. Your support has enabled us to showcase the finest facets of Indian culture to a wider audience, fostering understanding and appreciation.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated team whose tireless efforts brought this event to fruition. My sincere thanks go to Manan Shah, Chair of Taste of India, for his exceptional leadership and guidance, as well. I also wish to acknowledge the contributions of Dr. Rutul Shah, Dr. Vinod Agrawal, Dr. Vasantha Hathwar, Sanjay Patel, Dr. Govindrajan Ramesh Dr. Pramod Malik, Deep Patel, and Dr. Vishnu Lakdawala, whose efforts in promoting the event and uniting the community, have been invaluable.



Once again, I express my deepest gratitude for your support in making Taste of India 2024 an unforgettable experience. We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with you on future endeavors.

**Warm regards,
Vimal Patel.**

From Youth Committee's Corner

Aanya Shah, Chair, Youth Committee

Hi everyone, I'm so honored to be your youth chair again this year. This year I've had a lot of help from people all around, and their efforts do not go unrecognized. The youth volunteers this year have been double of those last year comprising of more than 80 volunteers. With helping at contest mania and making sure each event runs smoothly to helping out at all the games on the day of Taste of India, our volunteers have showed up in all regards. We've had a great time being able to collaborate with the contest mania group and outreach group to make sure each event has enough support. I want to personally say thank you to all the youth volunteers who participated this year despite their busy schedules. With that being said, I am so proud of the outcome and growth of the youth committee and I hope our efforts make this year's Taste of India the best thus far!

**Aanya Shah
Chair, Youth Committee**



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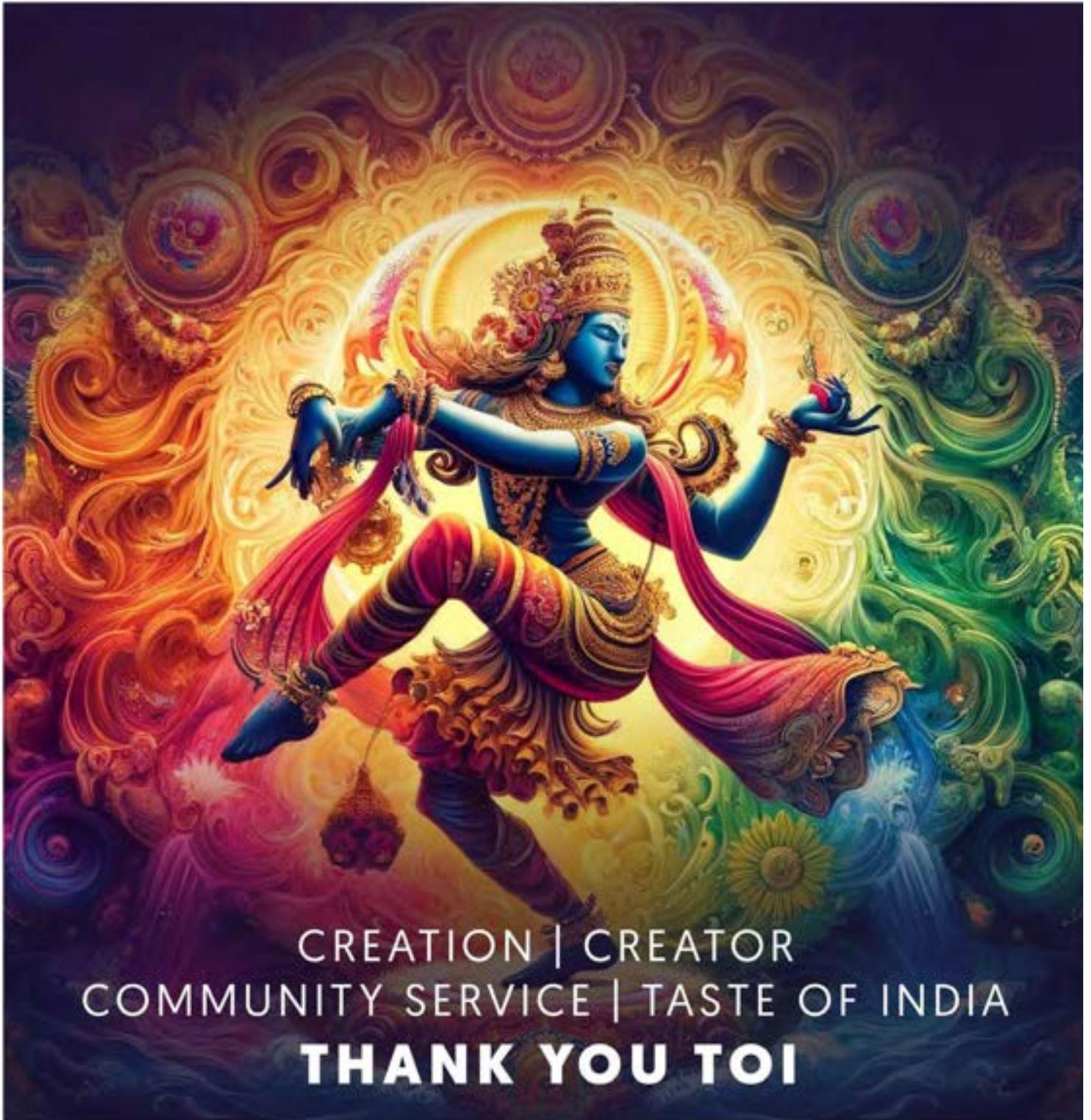
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Pradip and Parita Patel

TOI CONTEST MANIA 2024 - TALENT UNLEASHED

Taste Of India conducted Contest Mania by providing a great platform by uniting the community and offered an opportunity to individuals of all ages to exhibit their talents.

TOI Contest Mania happened on the weekend of March 22, 23 & 24th with around 750 participants of all ages taking part in various contests ranging from Academic competitions, Artistic showcases, Sports & Games and Fun challenges.

Kids & Youth Contests: Math Bee, Karaoke, Build-A-Biz, Art, Public Speaking, Poetry, Essay, Photography, Sandwich making

Adult Contests: Rangoli, Bridal hair style, Desi Sushi, Paani Puri eating and more. Games and Sports: Badminton, Chess, Carroms, Pool, Table Tennis and Tennis.



I am pleased and honored to have the opportunity to lead Contest Mania and be part of Taste of India. Our dedicated and hardworking volunteers, members, organizers made it an incredible experience. Serving and collaborating with everyone involved created a sense of positivity and a spirit of teamwork, fulfilling me and uplifting everyone involved. This shared journey magnified individual contributions, creating a positive ripple effect that resonates throughout.

A big thank you to Taste of India Chair Manan Shah, entire team, Hindu Temple of Hampton Roads committee and everyone for unbeatable support every step of the way and their contribution to making this event a huge success!

Sireesha Aleti
Contest Mania Chair



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CONGRATULATIONS TO TOI 2023

CONTEST MANIA WINNERS

The results of Art Competition (Team Leads - Hiral and Payal Shah), Essay Competition (Team Leads -Ruma and Mali Patel) and Poetry Competition (Team Leads - Jolly Patel) will be announced on APRIL 20, 2024 during the event.

| Team Leads | Contest list/Age group | 1st place | 2nd place | 3rd place |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Aarti Lahoti | Sandwich Making | Sanjana Sabbineni | Yoshita Padiri | Saanvi N Jadhav |
| Aarti Sanghavi | Karaoke Grades K-2 | Spruha Sharma | Tiara Dey | Thara Ponniah Manikandan |
| Aarti Sanghavi | Karaoke Grades- 3-5 | Sharadhi Chakravarthy | Tharani Nivas | "Nolan Bhandari & Shruthi Giridharan " |
| Aarti Sanghavi | Karaoke Grades-6-8 | Yamini Komira | Riona Roychoudhury | |
| Aarti Sanghavi | Karaoke Grades-6-8 | Yamini Komira | Riona Roychoudhury | |
| Bhranti Patel | Math Bee Grades 1-2 | Shreyash Zulapi | "Nitya Mopala & Avyukt Varma Thalluri" | |
| Bhranti Patel | Math Bee Grades 3-5 | Nolan Bhandari | Aarush Parimi | "Rohan Kuchibhatla & Abhinav Chokkalingam" |
| Bhranti Patel | Math Bee Grade 6-8 | Varsha Padmanabhan | Diya Mopala | Mruthyunjai Jawahhar |
| Jyotsna Talla | Youth Build-A-Biz | Akshith Magesh | Sharvil Shah | Megha Solarajan |
| Madhu Komira | Public Speaking Grade 1-3 | Thara Ponniah Manikandan | Priyasha Sengupta | Tharani Nivas |
| Madhu Komira | Public Speaking Grade 1-3 | Devika Padiri | Mihita Badiye | Dia Basu |
| Madhu Komira | Public Speaking Grade 1-3 | Vikram Goudar | Anuradha Basnet | Varsha Padmanabham |
| Bhranti Patel | Photography Grades K-2 | Thara Ponniah Manikandan | Shivanya Satheesh | Rudhran Vijay |
| Bhranti Patel | Photography Grades 3-5 | Shruthi Giridharan | Shrihan Pattnaik | Srinithi Murali. |
| Bhranti Patel | Photography Grades 6-8 | Avantika Rajasekaran | Riya Shah | Ramadvait Reddy |
| Dona Basu | Rangoli Winners | Pavani Proddaturi | Poomima Satheesh | |
| Reenu Agarwal | Bridal Hair Styling | Hetal Patel | Mayuri Patil | |
| Sheela Shah | Pani puri Men's | Rahul Patel | Saravanan Tamilvendhan | |
| Sheela Shah | Pani puri Women's | Debjani Kanjilal | Priti Zemse | |
| Urjita Dani | Desi sushi | Priyanka Patel | Mayuri Patil | Purvi Patel |
| "Sai Kumar Ponaganti & Dhrumil Patel | 8-Ball Pool | Hiren Patel | Kaushal Patel | |
| "Mahesh Patel & Sanjay Patel" | Badminton Women's | "Kanchan Mishra & Shivangni Singh" | "Vaishnavi Kaliappan & Nagasri Yapala" | |
| "Mahesh Patel & Sanjay Patel | Badminton Men's | Aneesh Panachikkuth & Sudhagar Selvaraj | Sanjay Patel & Manish Patel | |
| Ram Babu & Madhu Kaloji | Carroms Men's | "Sai Kumar Ponnaganti & Sajeev Sadanandan " | "Mohan Kornad & Lakshmanan Asokan " | |
| Ram Babu & Madhu Kaloji | Carroms Woman's | "Rathna Prabha Ponniah & Madhuvanathi Rajabhoj" | "Pushpalatha Bauliah & Anitha Arumugam" | |
| Jawahhar Jayaraman | Chess (Elite) | Aaradhya Patil | Tyler Soriano | Aransh Desai |
| Jawahhar Jayaraman | Chess (Elite) | Aaradhya Patil | Tyler Soriano | Aransh Desai |
| Jawahhar Jayaraman | Chess (Junior Rookie) | "Pranay Sabbineni & Vedvihaan Mamilla" | | "Ethan Huynh & Colin Kirshenbaum" |
| Jawahhar Jayaraman | Chess (Senior Rookie) | Aditya Patel | Aadarsh Shrestha | Tanay Srivastava |
| Umang Agarwal | Table Tennis Men's | Vijay Sheth | Ruthul Shah | |
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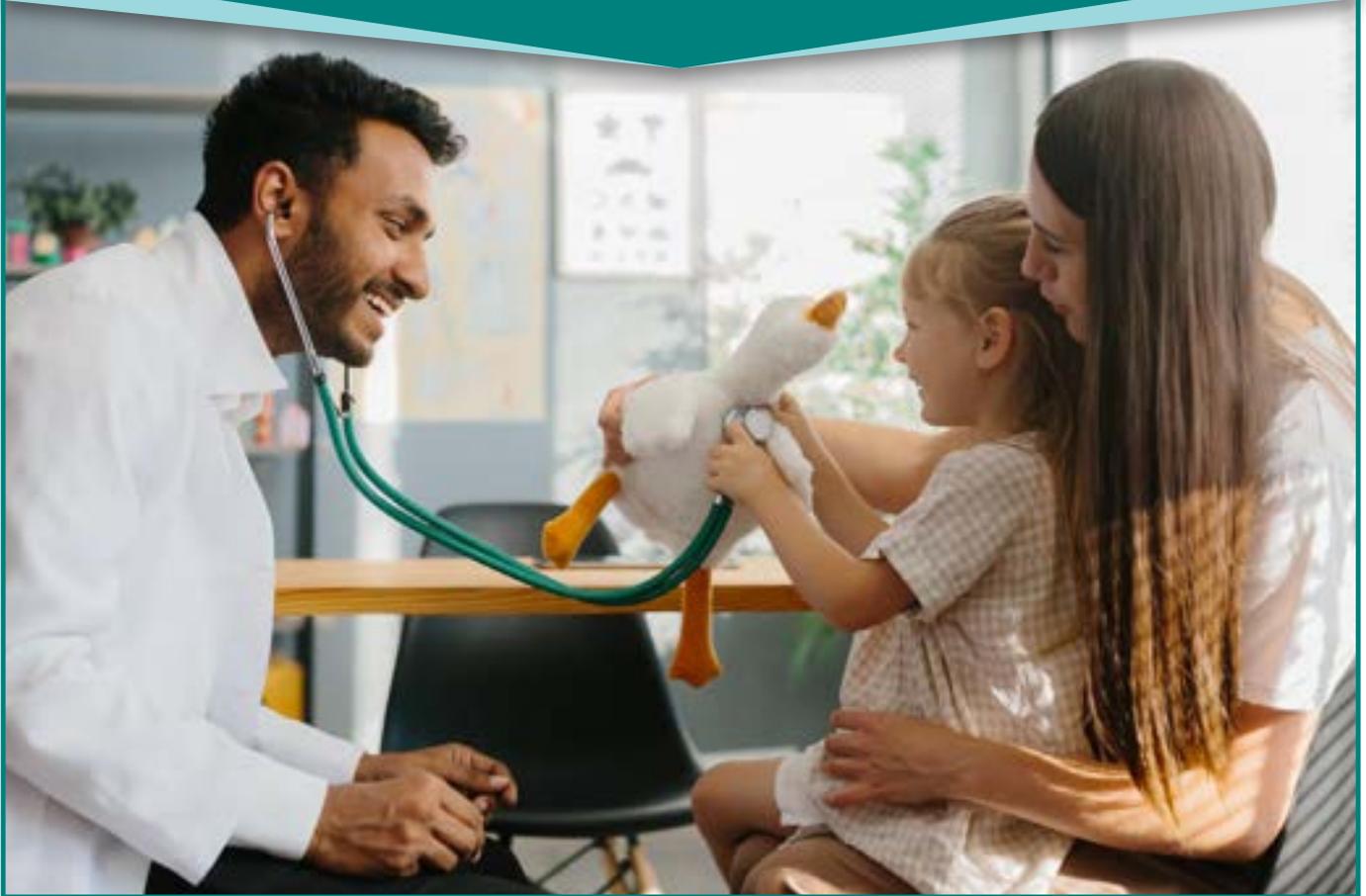
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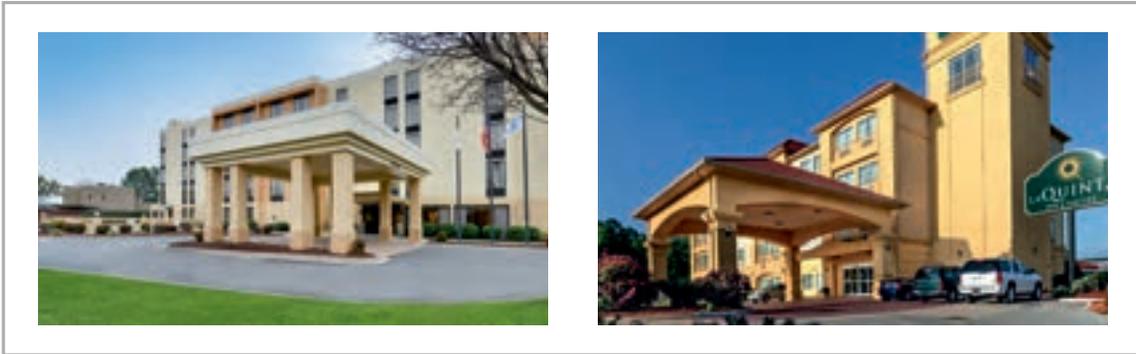


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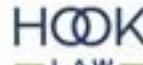
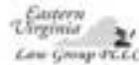
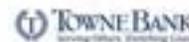
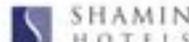
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