

Featured Events

August 27

The Hampton Roads Community Action Program and Wells Fargo are co-hosting a free information session on credit and home ownership at 1:00PM. For more information and to register, call 757-643-4086; press option 1.

August 29

IMPACT 2020 Backpack and School Supply Giveaway will be held from 10:00AM-2:00PM at Brittingham-Midtown Community Center. More details inside.

August 31

The deadline to submit your application for the Grow Your eBusiness Grant is 5:00 p.m. More details inside.



Your Choice

A Newsletter for the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood

AUGUST | 2020 | ISSUE 44

Newport News Public Schools Beginning the 2020-2021 School Year Virtually

During its special meeting on August 5, the Newport News School Board voted for all students to begin the school year with virtual learning during the first quarter (September 8 – November 2). School leadership provided details on their Return to Learn plan, which emphasizes educating and developing students of all ages and abilities, as well as the School Division's commitment to health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Newport News Public Schools (NNPS) is committed to ensuring that every student can participate in virtual learning – anytime, anywhere. Their CoNNected @ Home Program provides resources to help NNPS students and their families connect, engage and succeed. A Chromebook will be provided for each student in kindergarten through 12th grade. Schools will notify students and families by phone and e-mail when a pick-up schedule is established. Pre-K and elementary students will receive their Chromebooks later this year.

The [NNPS CoNNected @home program](#) will provide free mobile Wi-Fi hotspots to eligible families who might not otherwise have reliable access to the internet. Families can apply for assistance on the [NNPS website](#).



The academic plan has been revised to include learning modules that will review and reinforce content that was not covered before mid-March when schools transitioned to virtual learning. Teachers will communicate performance and grades to parents and students regularly and consistently.

Families may access a learning intent form through ParentVue to decide if their child(ren) will continue virtual learning through the end of the first semester (January 27). Families can also indicate if their elementary student needs a loaner device and if they have child care needs. Parents/guardians without a ParentVue account may sign up for one by contacting their child's school.

To read more about virtual learning, please visit the [Frequently Asked Questions webpage](#). NNPS has also posted the [Middle School Virtual Learning Sample Schedule](#) and [High School Virtual Learning Sample Schedule](#) online, and plans to update their site frequently as additional information becomes available. Visit their [Return to Learn website](#) for more details.

The Faces of CNI

“The Faces of CNI” is designed to help you get to know the people working on the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative in Newport News. Staff from the city of Newport News, the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority and the Hampton Roads Action Program (HRCAP) are working together to implement the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan. The plan has three elements: Housing, People and Neighborhood. This month we are spotlighting the dynamic team working on the Housing element!



Karen R. Wilds is the Executive Director of the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority. The Authority is the lead applicant for the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant. Karen is responsible for the overall administration and implementation of the grant. She can be reached at 757-928-2662.



Sandra Powell is the Deputy Executive Director of the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority. She was actively involved in the planning stage of the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood. Sandra assists in the implementation of housing development and revitalization efforts for the Housing element. Sandra can be reached at 757-928-2644.



Carl Williamson is the Director of Housing Operations for the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority. He is responsible for property management, the Housing Choice Voucher Program, occupancy, resident services, and special projects. Carl can be reached at 757-928-2658.



Starr Lane is the Relocation Coordinator for the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority. Starr works closely with Ridley Place residents, assisting each of them with all aspects of their transition. She is a liaison between residents, NNRHA staff, property management, and other agencies. Additionally, she maintains contact with former Ridley Place residents and will coordinate their move back after the area is revitalized. Starr can be reached at 757-928-6076.



The Housing element of the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood involves the development of new apartments, which will serve as replacement units for current Ridley Place residents. Additionally, these redevelopment efforts are a catalyst for mixed-income and mixed-use opportunities in the neighborhood. The Newport News Housing and Redevelopment Authority (NNRHA) works closely with the community and a team of design and construction professionals to plan and develop the new housing. A primary partner is real estate developer, Pennrose; the company responsible for coordinating the construction process. Pennrose will also manage all new off-site rental housing. WRT, an architectural firm, is responsible for designing the buildings and Breeden Construction is the builder.



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Progress and Updates

Neighborhood

Coworking space efforts are advancing

In June, the Economic Development Authority authorized a contract with Point Management Group, LLC for the operation and management of the co-working space being created at 2506 Jefferson Avenue. Point Management Group is a Small, Women-owned, and Minority-owned (SWaM) business based out of Suffolk, Virginia with significant experience working with disadvantaged business enterprises (DBE), in addition to managing various types of shared office facilities.

Point Management Group's area of expertise and focus is business development and engagement with small, minority-owned and disadvantaged businesses. Past experience includes providing DBE certification and training and on-the-job training support services for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Business and Workforce Development Center, as well as at North Carolina's Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses. Additionally, the firm served as the DBE Program Manager for several Virginia Department of Transportation projects to ensure inclusion and utilization of DBEs.

Point Management Group is excited to be on board and to begin engaging with and collecting feedback from the community as they work to develop operating plans and procedures for the space ahead of construction completion.

Housing

Housing development activities are moving forward

The Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA) continues with housing development activities. Phase 1 includes two multi-family buildings, located on Jefferson Avenue between 27th and 29th Streets. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in November 2020.

Planning for Phase 2 development of the Ridley Place site has begun. Two community listening sessions were held on July 23 and July 30. These sessions provided Ridley residents and the broader Marshall-Ridley community with

updates on CNI activities and an opportunity to provide community feedback. Additional engagement activities will follow in late summer and fall providing additional

opportunities for residents to give feedback and ask questions. More information will be available soon.

In preparation for new development on the Ridley site, current residents are relocating to new apartments. Vouchers are provided to families who will relocate in several groups. Here is the status of the relocation:

- Group 1: Nearly all 60 families living north of 16th Street, as well as families requesting early relocation due to medical issues, have found new housing.
- Group 2: 65 vouchers have been issued, so far, to families living south of 16th Street. 19 families have moved; ten have relocated to apartments in Newport News and nine families have used their vouchers to leave the Hampton Roads area.
- Group 3: Vouchers will be distributed in fall 2020 to families living in the area bounded by Ivy Avenue, 16th Street and Ridley Circle.

For more information and assistance with relocation, call Starr Lane: 757-928-6076.

Housing Finance

NNRHA successfully secured funding for the new housing and received two low-income housing tax credit awards and a grant from the Vibrant Community Initiatives program. Three applications for Federal Home Loan Bank funding are pending and an application for pre-development funding from Virginia Housing was submitted in late July. Additional funds will be available through bond financing.

Ridley Tenant Council Meeting

The last meeting was held on Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 4:00PM. For more information and updates, please email Lynne Carruth at lcarruth@nnrha.org.

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

The last meeting was held via Zoom on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 5:30PM. For more information and updates, please email Lynne Carruth at lcarruth@nnrha.org.



Contact Us

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757-928-2620

More Updates & Accomplishments

Hampton Roads Community Action Program: Serving Ridley Place Residents

From April 1 to June 30, 2020, Ridley Place residents received a variety of services, resources and support from the Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP) and partners in their network.

- **291** Ridley Place residents are enrolled in case management
- **73** children in the Ridley Place community are enrolled in early education programs
- **12** Ridley Place residents are participating in higher education opportunities
- **20** Ridley Place residents completed job training or other workforce development programs and **6** Ridley Place residents obtained employment
- **122** Ridley Place households accessed broadband internet service

HRCAP hosts racial equity roundtable, tour and more

HRCAP invited United States Senator Tim Kaine and Congressman Bobby Scott to a racial equity roundtable and neighborhood tour of Ridley Place. The visit increased awareness of issues impacting Ridley Place residents as they prepare for their move.

Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Service Provider Network is growing

HRCAP has recruited two new Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) service providers: Newport News YouthBuild; operated by Volunteers of America Chesapeake, and Iscream (neighborhood ice cream

truck). Currently, the Service Provider Network consists of more than 75 community partners and businesses.

The Lift and Connect EnVision Center: A One-Stop Resource Center

The Lift and Connect EnVision Center (LCEC) has evolved into a one-stop resource for Ridley Place residents. Residents seeking information, resources and assistance with their transition have easy access to family, financial, and workforce specialists through coordinated on-site programs, phone calls, individual coaching, and other customized services. CNI Program Navigator Anita Abrams is the single point of contact for the center; she coordinates and navigates daily activities, resident contact, and support services. With a focus on customer service and responsiveness, Ms. Abrams works closely with staff and the Ridley Tenant Council to ensure LCEC activities and programs are aligned with resident needs and interests.

HRCAP continues to provide food to Ridley Place families after the partnership with the World Central Kitchen ended in early July. Fresh produce is provided to Ridley residents each week thanks to a partnership with Mercy Drops Dream Center.

For more information on the support available through the LCEC, contact Anita Abrams at 757-759-5335 or anita.abrams@hrcapinc.org.

Rent and Mortgage Assistance Available

If you have been directly affected by COVID-19 and need help paying your rent or mortgage, contact HRCAP at 757-247-0379 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to see if you're eligible.



Community Bulletin Board

EVENTS

IMPACT 2020 School Supply Drive

Newport News students and their families are invited to attend IMPACT 2020, the city's annual back-to-school event, on Saturday, August 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Brittingham-Midtown Community Center (570 McLawhorne Drive). This free event is for students in grades K-12 and is hosted by the Newport News Department of Human Services' Youth Programs Division. Students will receive a backpack filled with school supplies and more! Families must pre-register for the event and select a time slot to arrive. [Register](#) online now! If you have questions or need additional information, contact Shavar Bland at 757-926-6472 or blandsj@nnva.gov.

Newport News Public Library Receives Grant

Newport News Public Library has been awarded a \$7,000 grant from Virginia Humanities to develop a multimedia exhibit in honor of the achievements of residents from the Southeast Community.

The exhibit, **Say It Loud: A Salute to the Heroes of the Southeast Community**, is part of a multi-phased project the library launched to commemorate and preserve the city's historical legacy. The exhibit will debut at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center in winter 2021. For more information on the project, please visit or call the Virginiana Room at the Main Street Library at 757-591-4858.

RESOURCES

Grow Your eBusiness Grant

The Newport News Economic Development Authority is offering continued support for local small businesses affected by COVID-19 with the Grow Your eBusiness Grant. This grant is designed to provide one-time financial assistance to eligible for-profit, small businesses in Newport News in amounts not to exceed \$2,500. Applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on August 31, 2020. To learn more and submit an application, click [here](#).

SWaM Certification Information Workshop

Are you a small, women-owned, or

minority-owned (SWaM) business who wants to do business with the Commonwealth of Virginia? Small business owners who are looking to participate in Virginia's specialized procurement and contracting opportunities are encouraged to become SWaM certified. This workshop will cover the SWaM Program, certification process and on-line application portal (live demo), required documents needed to apply, and how to use the certification to do business with the Commonwealth. This free workshop will be held on August 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. You must [register](#) to attend.

UPDATES

The 2020 Census

The 2020 Census is happening now! Please respond by visiting www.my2020Census.gov, by calling 1-844-330-2020, or by completing and returning the Census envelope that came in the mail. For educators, the Census has developed Statistics in Schools (SIS), which provides free educational material using Census data. This resource can be customized to enhance the learning experience or be added to lesson plans. You are invited to visit the SIS website at www.census.gov/schools.

Newport News Human Rights Commission Delivers

In July, the Newport News Human Rights Commission collaborated with the Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP) and several community partners including the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), Ridley Tenant Council, the F.A.M.M Project, students, and the City of Newport News Planning Department to deliver more than 70 bags of PPE (personal protective equipment), snacks, and information to Ridley households.

Each bag contained first-aid kits, toiletries, tissue, hand sanitizer, paper fans, all-purpose household cleaner water, Census 2020 and fair housing literature. A total of 102 children were reached and each bag included an activity or toy (e.g. coloring book, crossword puzzle, stress ball) for their education and enjoyment.

