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DECEMBER 2017

We hope to see you there!

- **Ribbon Cutting:** *Sister To Sister, Inc.'s Resources Center on Sunday, December 10th at 10 a.m. Location: 2009A Jefferson Avenue*
- **Community Workshop** on Thursday, December 14th at 6 p.m. Location: Marshall Early Learning Center, 743 24th Street
- **Annual Christmas for the Children** on Saturday, December 16th from 1 to 3 p.m. Event is for children ages 1 to 17, who must be accompanied by adults. Visit with Santa, free hot chocolate, free toys and winter clothes. Location: 617 27th Street
- **Free Family Film:** *Beauty and the Beast* on Wednesday, December 27th at 2 p.m. Location: Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center, 2410 Wickham Avenue

What's New With CNI?

October and November were busy months for the Choice Neighborhood planning team. Following the September Community Workshop, the team worked to incorporate community feedback and revise the housing concepts, visions and goals to ensure that the Housing, People and Neighborhood plans clearly reflect the neighborhood's priorities and preferred design styles for housing, parks, and streetscapes. Revisions will be presented at the December Community Workshop and included in the draft Transformation Plan, which is due to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at the end of December.

If you did not have the opportunity to participate in the workshop, but are interested in seeing the design concepts and recommended actions, please go to www.newportnewschoice.com and check out the presentation under the community meetings link.

Community Workshop: Draft Transformation Plan

Come see the results of the community's hard work over the past year! Join your neighbors, service providers, and other stakeholders to review the Housing, People and Neighborhood visions and goals that are captured in the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan. This will also be an opportunity to talk about the transition from planning to implementation and volunteer for various actions and committees.

The meeting is scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. at Marshall Early Learning Center (743 24th Street). Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. and informational tables will be set up for various programs and services. Come meet personnel from various service providers including Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Hampton Roads Community Action Program, Boys & Girls Clubs, and United Way.

Transportation is available for residents of Ridley Place, Lassiter Courts, and Marshall Courts. Childcare will be available by request. If you have questions or need transportation or childcare, **please call** the Department of Planning at 757.926.8761 **no later than December 12th.**



NEWPORT NEWS CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD

Get involved.

For questions or to **VOLUNTEER**, please contact: Garrett Morgan, Senior Planner at gmorgan@nnva.gov
Phone: 757.926.8761 (Department of Planning)
Britta Ayers, Manager of Comprehensive Planning at bayers@nnva.gov



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Ms. Grace, here at the Neighborhood Leadership Series graduation party, was born and raised in the Southeast Community.

Meet A'na Grace, Resident and Community Planning Liaison

This month, the Choice Neighborhood planning team had the opportunity to interview A'na Grace. Ms. Grace is a Choice Neighborhood resident and active planning process participant, working to make positive change in her neighborhood. She has been engaged in the planning process since it kicked off in fall 2016, is a graduate of the Neighborhood Leadership Series, and is committed to the implementation process as we move forward.

How long have you lived in the neighborhood?

I was born and raised in the East End. I moved in 1989 for educational and career purposes, but moved back to the neighborhood in 2015 after I retired.

What are some of the things that you like best about the neighborhood?

I like the proximity to the waterfront, neighborhood walkability, the library, and cultural events.

What are three challenges that you think need to be addressed in the neighborhood to improve overall quality of life?

The three challenges I think need to be addressed are economic development, waterfront development, and historic preservation.

Economic Development: We need jobs, business opportunities, shopping and entertainment.

Waterfront Development: There are some revenue raising opportunities. The waterfront can be a destination and business development opportunity.

Historic Preservation: We need historical markers and designated tourist attractions.

What have you learned from the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative planning process? What do you hope to carry forward as you continue to grow as a neighborhood leader? What would you like other residents to know about the process?

I enjoy being a part of the planning process, meeting with the planning team and the co-working departments, i.e., Housing and Development. There are many moving parts and I better understand how the departments come together, disseminate tasks and bring them all back for completion. My hope to carry forward is to clearly explain the planning process to community residents in a concise way and to encourage as many as possible to become part of the process.

Tell us about an organization in which you are involved. What is your role in that organization?

I am the Reorganization Committee Member for the East End Neighborhood Association, and a Community Planning

Liaison for the Newport News Choice Neighborhoods Initiative.

[For more information on East End Neighborhood Association, check out Facebook or the events page of First Church of Newport News.]

Interested in a Culinary Career?

The Virginia Peninsula Foodbank offers a 12-week free Culinary Training Program for eligible adults to develop skills that can lead to jobs and self-reliance. Kenneth Burrell, recently retired from the military, always had an affinity for cooking and signed up for the program as soon as he heard about it. Not only did Mr. Burrell learn the proper way to work in and run a kitchen, he also learned about leadership, conflict resolution, teambuilding, resume writing, financial planning, interviewing, and goal setting. Upon graduation, Mr. Burrell successfully interviewed for the Gaylord Hotel in Oxon Hill, Maryland, where he quickly moved from Prep Cook to Lead Cook.

Interested in the program? Culinary training takes place in a full commercial kitchen under the leadership of an experienced professional chef. Students prepare approximately 5,000 hot meals each week for the Kids Cafe Program as part of their hands-on training in the kitchen.



Additionally, students receive their ServSafe Manager Certification and job readiness training by community professionals.

Graduates have over a 90% employment rate at local businesses. The Culinary Training Program provides an added bonus for the community. As a result of this daily training program, the food prepared by the trainees will expand the Kids Cafe Program and significantly increase the number of hot meals available for children at risk of hunger. The Kids Cafe Program currently serves 27 sites at schools, Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs, community centers and faith based organizations.

For more information about the Culinary Training Program, please contact the Foodbank's Nutrition Programs Director at 757-596-7188 ex.103

**Reprinted with permission from Virginia Peninsula Foodbank, Nutrition Programs Director.*

Sister To Sister

A new resource center is coming to the Southeast Community. Sister To Sister, Inc.'s "Each One Teach One" Center at 2009-A Jefferson Avenue opens next month, but the organization is holding a ribbon cutting event on Sunday, December 10th from 3 to 5 p.m. The event is open to the public.

Beginning January 22, 2018, the center will offer various day and evening programs, resources, and information on services for underrepresented youth, the homeless, and indigent families of Newport

News. Among the programs offered to residents are S.U.P.E.R. Saturday, She-Can Empowerment workshops for women, computer literacy classes for youth and adults, training and certification for men, and job readiness workshops. Citizens can also attend parenting classes, anger management programs, health and wellness classes, and participate in various assistance programs for the homeless. In addition, the center is available to the public for hosting meetings, receptions and seminars. Center hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, with varying hours on Saturdays. There is no membership requirement or fee associated to utilize the center, but donations are being accepted.

The mission of Sister To Sister is to build healthier communities by empowering youth and families. The organization was founded in 1992 by Ms. Hakima Abdul Samad Muhammad and Dr. Pamela D. Hall. To learn more about Sister To Sister and the Each One Teach One Resource Center visit www.sisteriisister.com.

**Article from Newport News Now, December 8th edition, prepared by Newport News Communications Department.*

First Annual Silence EMPOWERS Violence Youth Symposium

Calling all youth ages 10 to 17, youth pastors, senior pastors, parents, community organizers, members of law enforcement, City Officials, and other community focused individuals



to join The Catalyst Effect and partners at the First Annual Silence EMPOWERS Violence Youth Symposium. The Silence EMPOWERS Violence...Break The Code movement, created by The Catalyst Effect, is about bringing awareness to the negative effects of silence in the face of community violence and creating and implementing community initiatives to take action and make communities safer.

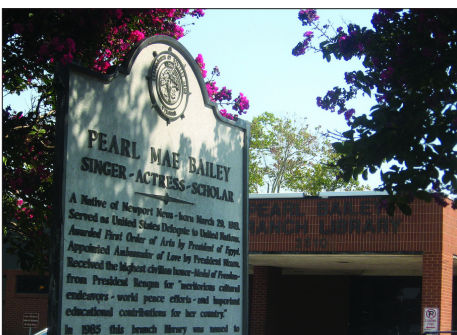
The symposium, which takes place on December 21st at South Morrison Family Education Center (746 Adams Drive) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., features a variety of guest presenters on topics including guns, gangs, drugs, bullying, and domestic violence. The symposium is brought to the community in collaboration with Newport News Youth Services and the Youth & Gang Violence Prevention Team.

Seating is limited, so please register early at www.eventbrite.com (search for The Catalyst Effect) or call 757.550.0461. Lunch will be provided and transportation is available upon request. The symposium also includes entertainment and door prizes.

Free Technology Classes at the Library

New to Microsoft Office Suite? Starting a new job and need a refresher course in computer basics? Not sure how to search the Internet or do basic Internet functions? Don't worry! You aren't alone and Newport News Public Library System is available to help you out. The Library System offers free computer classes at its Grissom, Pearl Bailey, Main Street, Public Law, and South Morrison branches.

Most classes are single sessions and last approximately two hours. Registration is required and opens up approximately two weeks before the start of the class. Registration can be done on line or by calling the library. Stop by Pearl Bailey Library at 2510 Wickham Avenue for the current class schedule or more information.



Family Investment Center: Providing Assistance

The Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority's (NNRHA) Family Investment Center (FIC) assists public housing residents in becoming self-sufficient by providing better access to job training, educational and employment opportunities. Located at 600-C Ridley Circle, the FIC provides a range of programs and services including employment based workshops, job placement assistance, youth workforce training, and transportation. NNRHA also provides college scholarships to eligible high school seniors and adults interested in pursuing higher education.

How do you join the FIC and benefit from their programs? Call 757.928.3680 to schedule an appointment with an FIC Aide.

Community Maintenance Walks

Weather permitting, City staff will conduct neighborhood walks every Thursday morning in the Choice Neighborhood in December and January. The walks are part of the City's larger effort to address blight and hazardous properties in the Southeast Community. Comprised of staff



members from Codes Compliance, Fire, Police, and the Solid Waste Division, the team canvasses neighborhoods, identifying structures that are in poor condition, abandoned vehicles, illegal dump sites, and various other nuisances and hazards.

The weekly walks also allow City staff the opportunity to engage with community members. When asked how the walks help the Police Department with its mission, Donald Greathouse, Community Resources Officer for the South Precinct, described the walks as "offering officers a chance meet residents and talk to them about neighborhood issues." The walks are one example of the Department's continuing community policing initiatives.

If you have questions about the walks, contact Eoghan Miller at 757.926.3681.

What we are working on this month...

Draft Transformation Plan: The planning team will present revised concepts, goals and strategies at the December Community Workshop. The draft Plan is due to HUD at the end of December. The final Marshall-Ridley Transformation Plan is due to HUD by June 28, 2018.

Neighborhood Leadership Series II: The planning team is working on the course outline for the advanced level of Neighborhood Leadership Series (NLS), which is anticipated to occur in early 2018. We are also revising the course outline for NLS I (beginner's program) based on graduates' feedback. We anticipate that NLS I will be offered again in spring 2018.

Early Action Activities: Based on subcommittee direction and Steering Committee feedback, the planning team continues to work on the project scopes and completing environmental review. Projects will be submitted to HUD by the end of December for review and approval.