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MAY 2018

We hope to see
you there!

- **Joint Task Force Meeting** on Thursday, May 10th at 6 p.m. Dinner and networking start at 5:30 p.m. Location: Marshall Early Learning Center, 743 24th Street.
- **King-Lincoln Park Day and Choice Neighborhood Celebration** on Saturday, June 2nd from noon to 4 p.m. Join us at the park for food, fun, information, and entertainment.
- **Juneteenth Freedom Festival** on Saturday, June 18th from noon to 4 p.m. Location: Brooks Crossing, 30th Street and Jefferson Avenue.

Interested in finding out
more about CNI?
Please give us a call or
check out our website!



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

**NEWPORT NEWS NAMED FINALIST IN
\$30 MILLION HUD GRANT COMPETITION**

The Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority and the City of Newport News have been named a finalist in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) Implementation Grant competition. The competition awards up to \$30 million in individual grants to localities to help revitalize and transform distressed public and/or assisted housing areas. In Newport News, the target housing complex is Ridley Place and the Choice Neighborhood is the roughly 1-square-mile area bounded by 39th Street to the north, the Hampton Roads harbor to the south, I-664 to the west, and Marshall Avenue to the east.

As part of the application review process, a HUD team will visit Newport News this month to tour the area, better understand the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan, and assess the City and Housing Authority's ability to implement the plan. Newport News is one of six finalists chosen from a pool of 20 applicants. The other finalists are: Flint, Michigan; Phoenix, Arizona; Shreveport,

Louisiana; Baltimore, Maryland; and Tulsa, Oklahoma. HUD expects to make its award announcements in July.

CNI Implementation Grants support those communities that have undergone a comprehensive local planning process and are ready to implement their Transformation Plan. Successful implementation requires public agencies to work with private agencies, organizations (including nonprofits), and individuals throughout the community to gather and leverage all resources to create a financially sustainable plan.

For more information on the Newport News Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, visit www.newportnewschoice.com.

Source: City of Newport News, Department of Communications, April 17, 2018.



MARSHALL-RIDLEY
A CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD

The Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood logo was redesigned through the Early Action Subcommittee. Community members worked on a branding strategy for Jefferson Avenue, designing banners to promote neighborhood assets and draw visitors.

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Empowering Neighborhood Leaders

Family, friends and community partners joined the first graduating class of the advanced Neighborhood Leadership Series (NLS II) on Thursday, April 19th for an evening of presentations and celebration at Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center. The leadership series is a training and capacity building tool introduced to Choice Neighborhood residents in 2017. During NLS I, residents were provided with a foundation of knowledge regarding local government operations and the importance of getting involved in their community. NLS II builds on knowledge gained from the introductory class and provides a more creative, interactive, and “hands-on” learning experience to advance local leaders.

NLS II participants kicked off the evening with presentations of their group projects, demonstrating how to develop new civic organizations to help lead transformation in the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood. During the 10-session course, participants enjoyed 18 individual speakers representing 15 unique organizations and took 5 field trips to expose participants to non- and for-

profit businesses, media relations and individuals and organizations to help them develop their own neighborhood organizations.

The advanced program was designed and facilitated by Ms. Delceno Miles (Miles Agency) and Ms. Barbara Hamm Lee (Sharing Info, LLC). The advanced series was supported by individuals and organizations including Brad Brewer (CNU), Sharon Rheinhard (W.M. Jordan), Maxie Lee, Mark Johnson (SunTrust), Edith White (HRCAP), Michael Monteith (Peninsula Community Foundation), Melanie Beal (Dominion Energy), Barbara Ciara (WTKR), and Mathew James (Peninsula Council for Workforce Development).

Graduation commenced at the conclusion of the presentations, with Sheriff Gabe Morgan providing an inspirational keynote address.

Congratulations to the first NLS II graduates! Look for more information on the graduates’ proposed organizations in upcoming newsletters.

Catrina Cain
A'na Grace
Lamin Hanna
Angel Henderson
Kimberly Holliday
Yugonda Sample-Jones
Earl Sargent
Celeita Scott
Ernest Thompson



Students presented their proposals for new civic organizations to support neighborhood transformation (top). Sheriff Morgan gave the keynote address during the graduation ceremony (center). Graduates pose with Barbara Hamm Lee (far left) and Delceno Miles (far right) who facilitated Neighborhood Leadership Series II (bottom). Graduates from left to right are Lamin Hanna, Yugonda Sample-Jones, Katrina Cain, A'na Grace, Angel Henderson, Kimberly Holliday, Earl Sargent, Celeita Scott, and Earnest Thompson.

NLS I and NLS II will be offered again this year. If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact the **Department of Planning** at **757.926.8761**.

Let's Celebrate!

Don't forget to bring your family, friends and neighbors to King-Lincoln Park on Saturday, June 2, 2018 to celebrate completion of the *Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan* (and transition into the implementation phase of neighborhood revitalization), the start of summer, and the many recreational opportunities offered in the park and the surrounding community. The event will feature a broad range of free activities for all ages, community exhibits, food (food trucks), and live entertainment. Check www.newportnewschoice.com for updates.



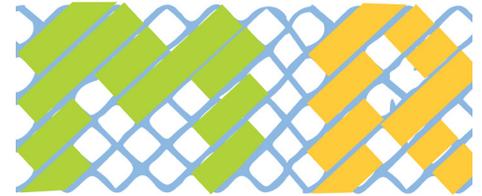
Save The Date!

The Downtown Newport News Merchants and Neighbors Association, Inc. will hold its Annual Juneteenth Freedom Festival on June 16, 2018 from noon to 4:00 p.m. at Brooks Crossing. All are invited to enjoy food, fun and family. This event is free and open to the public.

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the end of slavery in the United States. It also provides a national platform to recognize the many achievements of African Americans and an opportunity to speak out against ongoing injustices.



The Early Action Activities Subcommittee and the Planning Team continue to work on implementing early action projects. Construction on the boardwalk at King-Lincoln Park to provide access to the waterfront will start later this month (top two photos). S. Ross Browne will paint a mural at the Boys and Girls Club (third photo). Banners featuring the new logo will be mounted on the light posts along Jefferson Avenue (bottom).



Fence Art Design Contest: Call for Submissions

The Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood is in search of a design for fence art at Marshall Early Learning Center and Achievable Dream Academy. The contest is open to all students who live in the 23607 zip code. The winning design will be created on the fence around the schools. For more information call **Brian Pierce at 926.8761** or email bpierce@nnva.gov. *Deadline to submit is May 21, 2018.*

Upcoming Events

- **Make & Take Mother's Day Craft** at Pearl Bailey Library on Thursday, May 10th at 3 p.m. Kids 6 to 12 years old are invited to this free activity to craft a card and gift for Mother's Day.
- **Spoken Word** at Pearl Bailey Library on Thursday, May 10th at 5:30 p.m. This new program is for teens ages 12 to 17 interested in performance art that is word based. *Registration is not required, but is encouraged.*
- **Mother's Day Craft Polooza** at Doris Miller Community Center on Saturday, May 12th from noon to 4 p.m. Join staff to celebrate mom's special day by making her a one-of-a-kind gift. Cost is free. Light refreshments will be served.

- **Male Mentoring Program** at Pearl Bailey Library on Thursday, May 24th at 4:30 p.m. Boys ages 9 to 18 are invited to join this free mentorship program and be paired up with members of Big Brothers Big Sisters and Zeta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. *Registration is required.*
- **Thrifty Thursday - Let's Get Crafty** at Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center. Bring your kids, ages 7 and up, to participate in this free arts and crafts series through the summer. Join staff on May 31st at 4:30 p.m. for painted stones. **Register with Downing-Gross at 757.247.8950 or stop by at 2410 Wickham Avenue.**
- **NNPS Graduation** for An Achievable Dream Academy on Thursday, June 7th at 6 p.m. at the Ferguson Center.
- **NNPS Graduation** for Woodside (10 a.m.), Denbigh (2 p.m.) and Heritage (6:30 p.m.) high schools on Saturday, June 9th at Hampton Coliseum.
- **NNPS Graduation** for Menchville (2 p.m.) and Warwick (6 p.m.) high schools at Hampton Coliseum.

Meet the Artist: S. Ross Browne

On April 11, 2018 residents of the Choice Neighborhood selected S. Ross Browne to paint a neighborhood mural on the Boys and Girls Club on Hampton Avenue. Mr. Browne was one of six artists who responded to the City's Request for Proposals to paint the mural. The neighborhood mural was one of three actions selected by the community as an early action activity, using designated funds from the HUD Planning Grant to implement.

Mr. Browne is a gallery owner and professional studio artist with over 25 years' experience. He studied Communication Art and Design at Virginia Commonwealth University and Photography at The Corcoran School of the Arts in Washington, DC. He is also an alumnus of The Miller School of Albemarle in Charlottesville. Check out www.srossbrowne.com for selected works.

Mr. Browne's vision for the mural was to create realistically rendered figurative imagery in combination with dynamic linear and geometric color fields reminiscent of that used by the Africobra Art Movement. He worked with members of the community to develop the iconic imagery that will

form the foundation of the mural, which he plans to begin painting later this month. Mr. Browne anticipates finishing the mural in approximately three weeks, depending upon the final design and scale of the final design.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held to celebrate mural completion. Stay tuned for more information.

Summer Camps

If you haven't already, check out the Youth Programs for Newport News Parks, Recreation and Tourism to see what opportunities there are for summer camps. First day of the summer program is Monday, June 18th. Children must be registered no later than Wednesday, June 13th in order to start on the first day. **Register online at www.ezchildtrack.com or call 757.926.1400 for assistance.**

Other camps are available through the Virginia Living Museum (www.TheVLM.org or call 757.595.1900), Peninsula Fine Arts Center (www.PFAC-VA.org or call 757.596.8175), Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center (www.DowningGross.org or call 757.247.8950), and the YMCA (www.peninsulaymca.org or call 757.245.0047). Don't wait, register now!

What we are working on this month...

Final Draft Transformation Plan: Public hearings to present, review and adopt the plan are scheduled in May and June. The Final Draft *Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan* will be presented at the City Council Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at 7 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

Celebrating the Neighborhood and its Assets: The Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism is collaborating with the Choice Neighborhood planning team to expand the King-Lincoln Park Day event to include a celebration of the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative planning process and the completion of the Transformation Plan.

Transitioning from Planning to Implementation: Interested in representing the neighborhood on the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) during the implementation process? The CAC will help monitor and guide implementation of the Transformation Plan. Call Planning at 757.926.8761 for more information.