

Featured Events

December 17

Ridley Tenant Council will meet virtually at 4:00 p.m. For more information, email Lynne Carruth at lcarruth@nnrha.org

December 18

FREE COVID-19 Testing available at First Baptist Church-East End, 3000 Jefferson Avenue from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Results from the tests conducted on the this date will be available 48-72 hours after the sample arrives at the lab.

December 21

The Hampton Roads Small Business Development Center is hosting a holiday meet and greet for small business owners. Registration is required. Click [here](#) to register and for more information.



Your Choice

A Newsletter for the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood

DECEMBER | 2020 | ISSUE 48

YouthBuild Participants Excel and Put Skills to Work Serving the Community

Earlier this year, the City of Newport News and Volunteers of America Chesapeake received a grant from the Department of Labor to create Newport News Youthbuild to engage city residents ages 16-24 in job readiness training, financial literacy classes and career exploration opportunities. The program goal is to help young people obtain employment in construction and other in-demand industries, including carpentry, maintenance and pre-apprenticeships in plumbing, heating ventilation and air conditioning, and electrical services.

Through the program, participants received carpentry training that focused on how to shape and install building materials during the construction of residential homes. During training at the city's Four Oaks Training Center, students learned techniques, as well as the importance of precise measurements and teamwork in the construction process. Safety was a critical part of the training and students were credentialed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).



Young people were able to put their new skills to good use by working with [Habitat for Humanity Peninsula & Greater Williamsburg](#) to build a home in the city's Southeast Community. Students worked alongside the construction crew and volunteers to help build a home for a single mother and her two young children. The project gave students a chance to implement safety measures learned during OSHA training and receive professional instruction from certified grade A construction professionals.

After helping with the home for two days, young people in the program reflected on how life-changing the work had been. Many said it was inspiring to do something that improved their future while helping others. Damon Washington, a YouthBuild participant, stated, "What you do now will go a long way in the future to prepare for self, family and the community."

For more information on Newport News YouthBuild or to apply for enrollment, visit the [program website](#) or call 757-386-5922.



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 newportnewschoice@nnva.gov

 757-928-2620

Updates and Opportunities

A New Website Exclusively for Ridley Residents



This month, the Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP) launched a new website dedicated to keeping current and prior Ridley Place residents informed and empowered during the transformation at Ridley Place.

The website, [Ridley411.com](https://www.Ridley411.com), was developed by HRCAP in partnership with a team of Community

Champions who live, work, own property or operate a business in the Ridley Place vicinity. [Ridley411.com](https://www.Ridley411.com) offers a variety of information and resources to assist with the personal and community transformation.

To learn more about the services available to Ridley residents through HRCAP, contact Dr. Landis Faulcon at landis.faulcon@hrcapinc.org.

Housing Progress in the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood

Development plans for the first phase of the new housing are under review by the Newport News Planning Department. This development includes two multi-family buildings located on Jefferson Avenue between 27th and 29th Streets. Construction will begin in early 2021, with a projected completion date of May 2022. A contest to name the new buildings will be held in January 2021. More details about the contest will be available soon.

Planning is underway for the second phase of new development, which will occur on the Ridley Place site. Design workshops were held on September 19, 2020 and October 17, 2020 and provided an opportunity for community residents to offer input and ask questions about the new housing development. The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), City of Newport News and Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority are working with the design team to develop a final concept plan for Ridley Place.

Housing Finance

The financing package for construction of Phase One is nearly complete. The package includes low-income housing tax credits, state grants, and city funds. This month, additional funding will be requested from the Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development.

Relocation

In preparation for new development on the Ridley site, residents are relocating to new housing through a phased system. A total of 217 vouchers have been issued to families. As of November 30, 2020, 142 families have secured new permanent housing.

Phase 1: Fifty-eight families living north of 16th Street and families relocating early due to medical issues have found new housing. Three families continue to look for housing.

Phase 2: Seventy-one families south of 16th Street have found new housing. Twenty-seven are in the process of leasing or looking for new housing.

Phase 3: Thirteen families living in the area bounded by Ivy Avenue, 16th Street and Ridley Circle have found new housing and forty-six are in the process of leasing or looking for housing.

If you are a Ridley resident in need of relocation assistance, please call Starr Lane at 757-928-6076.





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Community Resources

Navigating Wealth Building Program Offers Employment and Training Services to Residents

Is investing in yourself and developing the skills you need for a successful career one of your New Year's Resolutions? Attend an information session on the city's Navigating Wealth Building Program to learn how you can make 2021 a year of new opportunities and job success!

In 2019, Newport News launched the Navigating Wealth Building Program to offer workforce development supports to residents. This program provides employment and training services at the Brooks Crossing Innovation and Opportunity Center. The city's Department of Development works with the Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP) and a wide array of partners to offer a comprehensive program that appeals to each person's unique skills and interests while preparing them for successful, long-term employment.



HRCAP is currently accepting applications for the next session, which begins in early 2021. To learn more about this program, Newport News residents are invited to attend information sessions on Monday, January 4 or Monday, January 11 at the Brooks Crossing Opportunity Center, located at 550 30th Street, Suite 102. Sessions will be held at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and you only need to attend one session. For more information or to register, call 757-975-5303 or email navigatingwealth@gmail.com.

Take advantage of this opportunity to invest in yourself and your future in 2021! As part of the Navigating Wealth Building Program, participants earn credentials and higher education certificates and/or degrees, receive on-the-job training, internships, GED support, pre-registered apprenticeships, skills training, and other workforce development services. The program also offers unique certificates, including Northstar Digital Literacy, Workplace Excellence Series, Career Readiness Certificates and OSHA-10.

The program is free and participants are able to receive stipends. Attend an informational session to learn more!

Newport News Police Department Offers a Safe Exchange Zone for Transactions

Residents who buy and sell items online are encouraged to conduct their transactions at the Newport News Police Department Headquarters (NNPD) at 9710 Jefferson Avenue. Two parking spaces are designated in front of the building for conducting a safe exchange. The spaces have 24-hour video surveillance, however, transactions should be made between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

These safe exchange spaces are meant to facilitate person-to-person transactions. Property may not be left unattended. Large bulky, and/or cumbersome items, (i.e. appliances, furniture, etc.) are not allowed and the exchange of any contraband, stolen property or other illegal items or the conduct of any unlawful transactions is prohibited.

For tips on how to stay safe when making an exchange, visit the [NNPD website](#) and check out the NNPD's [video](#).