

# Featured Events

## Every Monday

### Youth Steel Drum Classes

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center, 2410 Wickham Ave.

## Friday, Dec. 13

### ARTech Lights & Open House

3:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Brooks Crossing Innovation Lab, 550 30th Street, Suite 102.

## Thursday, Dec. 19

Ridley Tenant Council, 4:00 p.m., Family Investment Center, 600-C Ridley Circle.



# Your Choice

A Newsletter for the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood

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## Graduation: Neighborhood Leadership Series II

### *Meet the Neighborhood Leadership Series II Class of 2019!*

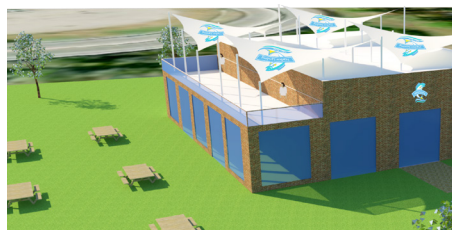
Eleven students completed the ten week program. This is the fifth graduating class. In honor of this milestone, a graduation was held on Nov. 4th at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center.

### *Purpose of the Leadership Series Program*

The city of Newport News introduced the Neighborhood Leadership Series in 2017 to strengthen resident leadership in the Southeast community. This program is a two-part curriculum [Neighborhood Leadership Series I & II] that teaches participants critical skills needed for them to engage in community organizing and leadership. Lesson examples include: city government basics, collaborative civic engagement, marketing, business development, public speaking, writing, fundraising, and more!

### *The Outcomes: Concept Plan for a Commercial Kitchen, Seafood & Farmers' Market*

This graduating class created a redevelopment strategy for a portion of the Seafood Industrial Park and Waterfront Lumberyard areas. The conceptual plan included a Seafood Market, Farmers' Market, and a Community Kitchen in the southeast neighborhood. The heart of the vision for both spaces, is the opportunity to bring all walks of life together to cook and shop for fresh seafood or produce, and more.



*Image above: The class created a 3-D model of Harbor Landing, a conceptual plan for a Commercial Kitchen, Seafood and Farmers' Market.*



*Janee Sasso: Author, entrepreneur, motivational speaker, and more.*

The keynote speaker for the graduation was Jaynee Sasso. She is a New Jersey native, residing in the Hampton Roads Virginia area. As founder of the new innovative companion transportation company, Senior Runs and a 2018 winner of Start Peninsula, she is committed to drive change in her community through entrepreneurship. She has an extensive financial background and has served others as a financial professional and business consultant through a variety of capacities over her 20-year career.

Cover photo: Graduating class from the Neighborhood Leadership Series II program in Newport News.



## Contact Us

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-  757-926-8761

# Community Bulletin Board

### Ridley Tenant Council

Ridley residents are invited to the Tenant Council Meeting Thursday, Dec. 19, 4:00 p.m. at the Family Investment Center, 600-C Ridley Circle. Join your fellow neighbors to discuss the neighborhood and any upcoming events.

### Free GED Classes

Mondays & Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. or Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Discovery STEM Academy, 12 Chestnut Ave. Are you interested in obtaining your GED? Call 928-6838, ext. 38900 or email [jessica.morris@nn.k12.va.us](mailto:jessica.morris@nn.k12.va.us).

### Free Youth Steel Drum Classes

Mondays, 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center, 2410 Wickham Ave. Ages 10-18 are invited to join a steel drum class. In-person registration is required, call 247-8950.

### Holiday Frost 2019

Free children’s holiday celebration on Friday, Dec. 13, 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center, 2410 Wickham Ave. This year’s theme is “The Nightmare Before Frozen” - merging two iconic holiday films into one amazing live experience! Kids leave with their first gift of the holiday season. RSVP is encouraged, at eventbrite, <https://bit.ly/2O9Mrgx> (link is case sensitive).



### NlightN Holiday Event Series

Experience the holiday cheer throughout the city with three main events!

**Lights at the Fountain**, Dec. 7 - Dec. 31, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at City Center, Oyster Point.

**Celebration in Lights**, November 28 - January 1, 5:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. at Newport News Park.

**ARTech Lights & Open House**, Friday, Dec. 13, 3:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Brooks Crossing Innovation Lab, 550 30th Street, Suite 102. Come see the Double Helix animated art installation created by Jefferson Lab scientists and enjoy a variety of fun activities including:

- Skating rink [also available Dec. 14, 1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Dec. 15 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.]
- Silent disco
- Bonfire
- “Techtivities” from Jefferson Lab, Newport New Shipbuilding and Brooks Crossing Innovation Center
- Food and beverage vendors
- Bonding with your loved ones and community



# Community Snapshots



Images from left to right: Graduates from the Neighborhood Leadership Series II commencement ceremony and city staff that facilitated the program.