

Featured Events

July 16

The next **Ridley Tenant Council Meeting** will be held at 4:00PM. For more information, email Lynne Carruth at lcarruth@nrrha.org.

July 20

Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center presents "A Raisin in the Sun" at 7:30PM. Get discounted tickets for this classic play at <http://downinggross.org>.

July 20 - July 24

The **Newport News Police Department's Community Youth and Outreach Division** is hosting a Virtual Citizens Police Academy for Youth. More details inside.



Your Choice

A Newsletter for the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood

JULY | 2020 | ISSUE 43

We Want to Hear Your Thoughts on Progress in the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood

The Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood Implementation Team invites you to join us for a CNI Community Listening Session.

Community listening sessions are a great way to engage directly with residents and community stakeholders to learn more about their thoughts, perceptions, and desires about a specific topic or project. Additionally, community listening sessions provide information on the goals and/or progress on projects that directly impact residents. Your participation in this session will give us guidance on our continued implementation of The Transformation Plan.

The session will occur virtually via ZOOM and there will be gift card giveaways!

We are offering two dates to choose from: July 23, 2020 or July 30, 2020. Both sessions start at 5:30PM and will cover the same information.

To register, go to: www.newportnewschoice.com/register.

In May 2019, the City of Newport News and the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority received a \$30 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) [Choice Neighborhoods Initiative](#) (CNI) program. Funding is transforming the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood, creating new housing options, community services, recreational opportunities and parks. The city and housing authority also received a \$500,000 CNI Planning Grant in 2016 to develop a community-driven transformation plan for the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood, which includes Ridley Place public housing and an expanded area around the complex. The transformation plan can be viewed in its entirety online at www.newportnewschoice.com.



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 Neighborhood element!



Florence Kingston is the Director of Development for the city of Newport News. Under her leadership, the department is responsible for supporting business growth and retention and implementation of the Neighborhood Plan for the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood. Florence can be reached at 757--926-8428.



Marc Rodgers is a Senior Project Coordinator responsible for managing several development projects and coordinating project development activities with other city departments. Marc was integrally involved in the development of Brooks Crossing Innovation & Opportunity Center. Marc can be reached at 757-926-3789.



Derek Perry is the Economic Development Manager. He is the primary project manager for the coworking space being created at 2506 Jefferson Avenue. Derek also coordinates city activities in the implementation of the Neighborhood Plan for the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood. Derek can be reached at 757- 926-7083.



Kalila Walker is a Senior Project Coordinator responsible for managing the City/Economic Development Authority's Façade Improvement Grant Program. This program provides grants to support exterior improvements to commercial properties. Kalila can be reached at 757-926-7133.



Priscilla Green is a Senior Project Coordinator responsible for managing the implementation of several small business grant and loan programs. She coordinates with the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA) on reporting requirements for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Priscilla can be reached at 757-926-3803.



Tricia Wilson is the Business Development Specialist responsible for coordinating various Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs in close coordination with Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA). She also manages loan programs to support small business start up and growth. Tricia can be reached at 757-926-3793.



Elizabeth McCoury is the Redevelopment Project Manager and works closely with neighborhoods, business groups and other contacts to coordinate city resources through all phases of planning, implementation and management of redevelopment projects. Elizabeth can be reached at 757-926-6983.



Photo: Florence G. Kingston, Director of the Department of Development for the city of Newport News received the 2019 Cardinal Award at the Virginia Economic Developers Association Fall Conference in Richmond, VA.



Contact Us

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 757-926-8761

Progress and Updates

Housing

Housing development activities are moving forward

The Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NRRHA) continues with housing development activities. Phase 1 includes two multi-family buildings, located on Jefferson Avenue between 27th and 29th streets. The project is on schedule, at this time, despite the COVID-19 crisis. NRRHA is working closely with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and other funders to monitor progress and plan for possible delays.

Planning for Phase 2 development on the Ridley Place site has begun. Listening sessions have been scheduled for July 23 and July 30. These sessions will provide 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. More information will be provided soon.

In preparation for Phase 2, Ridley residents are relocating to new replacement apartments:

- All families living north of 16th Street, as well as families requesting early relocation due to medical issues, have been issued Section 8 vouchers.
 - 60 vouchers issued
 - 49 households have leased new housing
- Vouchers are being issued for families residing in units located south of 16th Street:
 - 47 vouchers issued
 - 3 households have leased new housing

Ridley Tenant Council Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 4:00PM. For more information, please email Lynne Carruth at lcarruth@nrrha.org.

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 5:30PM. For more information, please email Lynne Carruth at lcarruth@nrrha.org.

Neighborhood

Implementation efforts are advancing

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is providing technical assistance to enhance the Critical Community Improvements (CCI) plan. The goal of the technical assistance is to refine the CCI strategy to ensure they are transformative and fully leverage the wide range of activities occurring within the Housing, People and Neighborhood elements. Residents will be engaged and informed as the technical assistance work progresses and feedback is received from the consultant, Chris Shea of Econometrica.

Property Acquisitions

The city of Newport News, Economic Development Authority (EDA) and Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NRRHA) are purchasing properties that align with strategic priorities. The EDA recently acquired 608 and 610 Ivy Avenue and 2510 Jefferson Avenue. These properties will be used to support redevelopment activities and the implementation of the Neighborhood element of the Transformation Plan.

Coworking Space

Rehabilitation of 2506 Jefferson Avenue continues to progress and the shoring is in place for the front façade. Due to the condition of the building structure, demolition of the rear of the building progressed slowly so that more care could be taken to not cause damage to the front façade, which is scheduled to remain. Building rehabilitation completion is anticipated for late fall 2020.

In June 2020, the EDA approved the contract with Point Management Group for the operation of the coworking space. Point Management Group, LLC is a business based out of Suffolk, Virginia with significant experience working with disadvantaged business enterprises. While the building rehabilitation continues, Point Management Group will be working with stakeholders and the community to develop an operating plan and procedures.



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More Updates & Accomplishments

S23 Holdings to Invest \$64.4 Million in Newport News

S23 Holdings, LLC, a marine repair and construction company, is investing \$64.4 million to build a corporate and industrial campus in Newport News. In addition to its investment, S23 and its affiliates, including East Coast Repair and Fabrication, plan to create 332 new jobs. Governor Northam also announced that he has approved a \$664,000 grant from the Commonwealth's Opportunity Fund to assist the city with the project.

"We are excited to welcome S23 and its affiliate East Coast Repair and Fabrication to Newport News," said Mayor of the city of Newport News McKinley L. Price. "The collaboration between the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, the Newport News Economic Development Authority, and the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority, has paved the way for S23 and its affiliates to expand upon the rich maritime heritage in our city and provide meaningful opportunities for our citizens. This project reflects the core values of our city and the vision for transformation in the Southeast Community."

For more information, email Derek Perry at perryde@nnva.gov.

Newport News Receives \$1 Million in Support of Neighborhood Revitalization

The Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority will receive \$1 million in Vibrant Community Initiative (VCI) funding from the Commonwealth for the Marshall-Ridley Revitalization, a project that supports the holistic redevelopment of Carrier Point apartments in the city's Southeast Community. VCI combines multiple funding sources from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for programs that bring together housing, community development and economic development components.

The Marshall-Ridley Revitalization project will develop 82 mixed-income rental housing units and available storefront space. The effort will work to reduce poverty by delivering education, job training opportunities, and intensive case management coupled with new affordable housing and commercial space. The property is located in proximity to the Brooks Crossing Innovation and Opportunity Center.

For more information, email Lynne Carruth at lcarruth@nnrha.org.

Groundbreaking on Habitat House for James Family

Through a unique new partnership between five local Rotary Clubs, Habitat for Humanity hosted a Groundbreaking Ceremony on Thursday, June 18 at 2102 Madison Avenue. The Rotary partnership includes Hampton Rotary, Newport News Rotary, Oyster Point Rotary, Virginia Peninsula Rotary and Warwick at City Center Rotary who are partnering to raise funds and build a home for the James family. This is just one Habitat home in the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood. The lot was donated by the city of Newport News and Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority. For more information on Habitat for Humanity, visit www.habitatpgw.org.



Community Bulletin Board

EVENTS

Virtual Community Police Academy for Youth

Join the Newport News Police Department's Community Youth and Outreach Division for their first Virtual Community Police Academy for Youth! Beginning July 20 through July 24, from 1:00PM-2:00PM, participants ages 14-17 will have an opportunity to learn more about the Newport News Police Department as well as community resources, partners and engagement opportunities. There is no cost to attend but you must register. The link to register is: <https://nnpdvirtualcpay.eventbrite.com>. Contact MaRhonda Echols at 757-928-4740 for more information.

Small Business Support

Join Debra Farley at 10:00AM on July 15 to learn more about starting a small business. All sessions are virtual and registration is required. To register, go to www.hrsbdc.org and click the "Request for Counseling" link. For more information, email Debra at farleyd@tnc.edu.

2020 Summer Reading Challenge

The 2020 Summer Reading Challenge: The Secret Life of Books has begun and Newport News Public Library (NNPL) is challenging the community to read for 500,000 minutes! This program is for all ages, children and adults. Simply register online and log your reading minutes each week. The more you read, the more chances you have to win! For more information visit library.nnva.gov or stop by Main Street, Grissom or Pearl Bailey Library. Let's read and win together!

Virtual Job Fair Week

Newport News Public Schools is hosting a virtual job fair for teachers the week of July 20 through July 23 from 10:00AM-12:00PM each day. For more information and to register, visit http://sbo.nn.k12.va.us/hr/hr_docs/jobs_hrvirtual.pdf.

on its [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) pages. Programming focuses on one of BGCVP's five core areas: education, leadership and service, health and wellness, the arts, and sports and recreation. The videos are educational and entertaining. All youth are welcome to participate. For more information, send an email to mbenson@bagclub.com.

Grab-n-Go Breakfast and Dinner Meals Available

The Boys and Girls Club of the Virginia Peninsula (BGCVP) is excited to offer breakfast and dinner meals, Monday-Friday between 3:00PM-4:30PM. Meals can be picked up at the Marshall Courts Club, 3301 Marshall Avenue, Newport News or the Greater Hampton Roads club, 629 Hampton Avenue, Newport News. Meals are available to youth ages 18 and under. Club membership is not required to receive meals.

RESOURCES

Free Virtual Programs for Youth

The Boys and Girls Club of the Virginia Peninsula (BGCVP) is excited to offer free, virtual programs for youth every weekday

Rent and Mortgage Assistance Available

If you have been directly affected by COVID-19 and need help paying your rent or mortgage, contact the Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP) at 757-247-0379 between 8:00AM and 5:00PM to see if you are eligible.

CNI Community Garden Flourishes

The community garden, in the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood, is blossoming thanks to a great deal of loving care by resident volunteers and support from community partners. The community garden was created as an early action item during the planning phase of the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative; it was a response to a community need for access to fresh food. The Mission Continues and Hampton Roads Urban Agriculture have taken the lead on the effort to maintain the garden, in partnership with Zion Baptist Church who has kindly allowed the garden to be built on their property.



Earlier this summer, the Newport News Fire Department provided water for totes at the garden. The Mission Continues built a shade structure and gutters to capture rain water, which will be used in the future. The city also donated mulch and compost for the garden.

Over the past year, the garden has blossomed in countless ways, offered a variety of fresh vegetables to residents and served as the site for community events and gatherings. In addition to the shade structure and gutters, rain containers and a shed roof have been added. Members of the community have also joined together to maintain the garden, forming new friendships and close bonds with one another.

If you'd like more information on future plans, to donate, or volunteer, contact Renee Foster at 757-615-3506 or hrurbanag@gmail.com.