

Featured Events

June 8 - July 1

The Newport News Police Department's Community Youth and Outreach Division is offering virtual BINGO games to residents of all ages.

June 15

Newport News Parks, Recreation and Tourism's Youth Programs is excited to open summer camps! Space is limited. Register online at www.nnva.gov/1006/youth-programs.

June 17

The Hampton Roads Small Business Development Center is offering a free, virtual session to small business owners.



Your Choice

A Newsletter for the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood

JUNE | 2020 | ISSUE 42

Earn while you learn with Newport News YouthBuild College and Career readiness program for youth ages 16-24

Begin a career in construction and other in-demand industries with Newport News YouthBuild. Thanks to a grant from the Department of Labor, Volunteers of America Chesapeake & Carolinas and the city of Newport News are preparing to launch this exciting new program, which gives young people ages 16-24 the skills needed to obtain a great job and keep it.

In this program you'll receive construction classroom/hands-on training, mentorship and career coaching, leadership development, community service opportunities, financial literacy courses, and more. You'll also gain real-world construction experience building homes. That's right, you'll earn money building actual homes for families, all while working towards industry-recognized credentials, employment placement or apprenticeships.

Newport News YouthBuild is open to young men and women ages 16-24 who live in Newport News. Priority will be given to residents in zip code area 23607. The program lasts eight months with follow-up support services for one year.

The program will launch in Summer 2020, with a second session in Fall 2020. Applications are currently being accepted and mandatory information sessions are hosted virtually twice a week in June.



Enrollment space is limited, so apply today! Visit www.voachesapeake.org/youthbuild for more information and to access the online application. You can also register for the required online information sessions. If you have questions or would like to speak with someone about the program, please call 757-975-5204 or youthbuildinfo@voaches.org.

Invest in yourself, your future and your city – become a part of Newport News YouthBuild!

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 People element!



Anita Abrams is the CNI Program Navigator with HRCAP. She is responsible for community partner recruitment and resident engagement. She can be reached at 757-247-0379.



Dorothy C. Dickerson-Etsobi is the Senior Supervisor of the Family Services Team at HRCAP. This team provides direct services to Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood residents and families. She is responsible for case management and relocation coordination services. Dorothy can be reached at 757-310-6486.



Terri Francis is the Director of Family Services and Housing at HRCAP. Her team is comprised of specialists and case managers. Together, they focus on building relationships with Ridley residents and connecting them to needed services and resources. Terri can be reached at 757-643-4086.



Kitisha Green is a Family Services Specialist with HRCAP, working with residents to attain financial security, housing stability and other personal goals. She can be reached at 757-593-5235.



Deja Horsley is the Teen Advocate for HRCAP, advocating for youth through networking and education. She strengthens youth connections and opportunity, while assisting with school-based youth development and teen pregnancy prevention. Deja can be reached at deja.horsley@hrcapinc.org.

NOT PICTURED: Ravenne Hodge is a Family Services Specialist at HRCAP. She is responsible for case management, advocacy and customer engagement. Ravenne can be reached at 757-284-5700.

NOT PICTURED: Joseph Robins is the Financial Literacy Coach for HRCAP. He assists individuals and families. Joseph can be reached at 757-310-6483, ext. 127.

NOT PICTURED: Cynthia Randall is the Program Support & Data Quality Manager with HRCAP. She reviews reports and manages data quality for programs and community outreach initiatives. Cynthia can be reached at 757-298-8539.



Dr. Landis Faulcon

In May 2020, Dr. Landis Faulcon joined the Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP) as the Senior Project Manager for the People Plan, an element of the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood. She brings more than 20 years of leadership experience in community and economic development initiatives.

She has worked with appointed and elected officials at all levels of government, neighborhood organizations, at-risk and special needs populations, businesses, and developers on a variety of issues and special projects. She welcomes new opportunities to lead, inspire, and empower others.

When asked why she believes the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood work is important, she said: "The Newport News Choice Neighborhood Initiative is a phenomenal opportunity to change lives for generations to come."

"The keys to success include treating people with dignity and respect, building trusting relationships, open communications, and continuous community engagement."



Contact Us

Find us on social media or sign up to receive this newsletter by email.

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 [facebook.com/newportnewschoice](https://www.facebook.com/newportnewschoice)

 newportnewschoice@nnva.gov

 757-926-8761

Progress and Updates

Housing

Housing development activities are moving forward

The Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA) 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. NNRHA 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. The Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood team is drafting a community engagement plan to provide Ridley residents and the broader community the opportunity to be a part of the preliminary development for Ridley. Engagement activities will include a listening session and design forums. More information will be provided soon.

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

- All 60 families living north of 16th Street, as well as families requesting early relocation due to medical issues, have been issued Section 8 Vouchers. About half of the families have located housing.
- Vouchers are being issued for families residing in units located south of 16th Street:
 - 17 vouchers issued May 22
 - 10 vouchers issued May 29
 - 23 vouchers will be issued in late June

Ridley Tenant Council Meeting

The Ridley Tenant Council has not met for the past several months due to COVID-19. A virtual meeting is scheduled for June 18 at 4 p.m. For updates and more information, please call 757-928-2620.

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

The meeting scheduled for May 19 was cancelled to avoid a conflict with local elections. The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. For updates and more information, please call 757-928-2620.

People

Services to residents continue during COVID-19

To ensure the residents in Ridley Place have access to the knowledge and resources they need, the Family Services team at Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP) has continued to provide services during the coronavirus pandemic. While observing the guidelines established by Governor Northam, the Lift and Connect EnVision Center has been closed to the public, however, essential personnel have been on-site to respond to calls and requests for service. Family Services Specialists have utilized phone calls, text messages, and emails to maintain contact with residents. Since March 2020, staff have provided education and resources on topics such as tax preparation, earned income tax credits (EITC), financial literacy, fair housing rights, mental health, and renters and homeownership education. For additional information or to request services contact Dorothy C. Dickerson-Etsobi at 757-310-6486.

Meal Distribution at the Lift and Connect EnVision Center

HRCAP has partnered with the World Central Kitchen to distribute meals to residents in the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood, other HRCAP clients, and residents in the Greater Hampton Roads area. This meal distribution program targets residents and families who are experiencing food insecurities. To date, 1,200 meals are distributed daily! Meals are provided by three local restaurants: Smoke BBQ (Newport News), Sal's by Victor, (Williamsburg), and Honey Butter's Kitchen (Williamsburg). Periodically, fresh produce and other food items have been donated by additional local partners.

Residents and HRCAP program participants in need of food can pick-up meals for themselves and members of their households from the Lift and Connect EnVision Center, Monday through Friday between 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. Residents and participants must be over the age of 18 to pick-up meals. For more information, contact Mikoa Logan at 757-701-4071.

Community Bulletin Board

EVENTS

Virtual Bingo

Join the Newport News Police Department's Community Youth and Outreach Division for a FUN game of Bingo and healthy competition with your fellow community members! Now through July 1, games will be played on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning at 1:00 p.m. Instead of number Bingo, we will be utilizing "community policing" terms to share information on programs and services offered by the Department. To sign up, visit <https://nnpdcyodvirtualbingo.eventbrite.com>. Contact MaRhonda Echols at 757-928-4740 for more information.

Small Business Support

Join Debra Farley at 10:00 a.m. on June 17, July 15, August 19 and September 16 to learn more about starting a small business, developing a business plan, and other resources. All sessions are virtual using Zoom. Registration is required. To register, go to www.hrsbdc.org and click the "Request for Counseling" link. For more information, email Debra at farleyd@tncc.edu.

Virtual STEM Camps

Brooks Crossing Innovation Lab, in partnership with Northern Virginia Community College, is excited to offer Virtual STEM Camps for the entire household. The curriculum includes hands-on projects with VEX robotics, cybersecurity and fabrication tools. For more information, send an email to brookscrossing@odu.edu.

2020 Census: Newport News and Hampton Unite

The cities of Newport News and Hampton are joining forces to encourage people to respond to the 2020 Census. Mayor McKinley L. Price, DDS of Newport News and Mayor Donnie Tuck of Hampton are holding a friendly competition to see which city has the highest number of responses by July 1.

To respond, visit www.my2020Census.gov, call 1-844-330-2020, or return the Census envelope that came in the mail.

To learn more about the Census, Newport News residents can call 757-933-2311.

RESOURCES

SNAP Benefits

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has worked to increase the amount of funding available and accessibility of the SNAP benefits. Key modifications include:

- Emergency issuances of SNAP benefits
- Annual SNAP certifications that were due to expire between March and June 2020 were extended six months
- SNAP recipients can use their cards to purchase food for delivery through Amazon and Walmart
- Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT), a temporary food benefit available to families with children who would have received free or reduced price meals if schools were open.

For more information on SNAP, go to <https://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/snap.cgi>.

For more information on P-EBT, call 804-726-7000.

Mayor Price Distributes Masks To Fight Spread of COVID-19

On June 2, Mayor McKinley L. Price, DDS distributed face masks to vulnerable residents, young people, first responders, essential personnel and community volunteers throughout the city. This is part of the United States Conference of Mayors' (USCM) national Masks for Mayors initiative. Through this campaign, Mayor Price received over 4,200 protective face masks to distribute to fight the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). The USCM partnered with national firm Bella Canvas to donate more than one million non-medical grade masks and cloth face masks nationwide. "We want our residents, first responders and others to stay safe, and wearing a mask or face covering plays a large part in that," said Mayor McKinley Price.



Mayor Price began his day by distributing masks with the meals handed out by Newport News Public Schools at An Achievable Dream Academy. This site is one of the busiest in the city, with an average of 300 meals served daily. Masks were also distributed to residents in the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood, including the Lift and Connect EnVision Center in Ridley Place. Mayor Price then presented supplies of masks to the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Virginia Peninsula, the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank, the Newport News Fire Department, Newport News Police Department, Newport News Sheriff's Department, and the Newport News Department of Public Works.

Effective Friday, May 29, Governor Northam mandated that any person age ten and older must wear a mask or face covering at all times while in public indoor settings. For more information on face coverings, including how to properly wear one or make your own, visit the Virginia Department of Health website: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/cloth-face-covers/>.