

Featured Events

May 14, 2020

The Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood Virtual Community Meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. This meeting included an overview of the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative and updates on housing progress, plans for the neighborhood, and services for residents and much more!

May 19, 2020

It's Election Day in Newport News!



Your Choice

A Newsletter for the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood

May | 2020 | ISSUE 41

Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood Virtual Community Meeting

On Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., we held a virtual community meeting! While we couldn't hold a regular Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) meeting due to the coronavirus, we had news we wanted to share with you!

We began with a brief overview of the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative and the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood area, and then provided updates on how things are moving forward with housing, plans for the neighborhood, services for residents and the community, and much more!

Guest speakers included representatives from:

- Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority
- City of Newport News
- Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP)
- Newport News Public Schools

If you missed the meeting, you can enjoy the replay in several ways:

- Newport News Choice Facebook page: [facebook.com/NewportNewsChoice](https://www.facebook.com/NewportNewsChoice)
- NNTV – Cox Channel 48 and Verizon Channel 19
- Newport News TV YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUTef6RSO4Q>



Do you have questions you want to ask? Please email them to newportnewschoice@nva.gov. To learn more about the history of this initiative and to read the Transformation Plan, go to www.newportnewschoice.com.




Contact Us

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

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 757-926-8761

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 in partnership with the community across three plans: Housing, People and Neighborhood. This month we are spotlighting two of our Project Managers.



Meet Grant Duffield

In November 2019, Grant Duffield joined the city of Newport News as the Senior Project Manager for the Marshall Ridley Choice Neighborhood Initiative. Grant brings over 20 years of public management and community development experience as well as work with low-income housing organizations and efforts. Working within the City Manager's Office, Grant is charged with coordinating and guiding the City's efforts in close collaboration with the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Hampton Roads Community Action Program and other project partners. You can expect to see him in the neighborhood and at community events.

When asked why he believes the CNI work is important, he said: "I recognize the monumental challenges and opportunities that face us today. I look forward to working in partnership with our residents and stakeholders as we build a new beginning for our Marshall-Ridley neighborhood and community."



Meet Lynne Carruth

In April 2020, Lynne Carruth began as the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Project Manager for the Newport News Redevelopment & Housing Authority. Her job is to implement the goals and strategies laid out in the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan. This means developing and managing the project scope, budgets, and schedules as it relates to the Housing Plan; collecting and analyzing data; and ensuring compliance with federal regulations. It also means working closely with partners such as city departments, private and non-profit organizations, and residents in the community.

When asked why she accepted this role, she said: "I believe that CNI takes a unique and powerful approach to neighborhood revitalization. I am excited to be working with partners to achieve the community-driven goals established in the Transformation Plan."

Plan Progress and Happenings

Housing Plan

Housing development activities are moving forward

The Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA) continues to move forward with housing development activities. Plans for Phase 1 housing are approximately 50% complete and the project is on schedule, at this time, despite the COVID-19 crisis. Planning for community engagement regarding the housing design and layout on the Ridley property has also begun. NNRHA is working closely with HUD and other funders to monitor progress and plan for possible delays to housing development and financing.

In preparation for Phase 2 development on the Ridley site, families are relocating to new replacement apartments.

- Fifty-six of a total of 60 Section 8 vouchers have been issued to families living in Ridley units north of 16th Street.
- Nineteen families have moved to apartments in Newport News and one family has left the state.
- Twenty-nine families are in various stages of the housing search process.
- Seven families have identified an apartment and will move in once the apartment has been inspected.

Housing Finance

NNRHA received tax credits for a portion of the Phase 1 housing and is waiting to hear about a second application. Several other applications for Federal Home Loan Bank and state funding are pending. Application deadlines have been extended and grant notifications have been delayed, in some cases, as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

Ridley Tenant Council Meeting

The Ridley Tenant Council did not meet in April due to the COVID-19 crisis. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21st at 4:00 p.m. and will be held remotely.

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

The Citizens Advisory Committee meeting was held remotely on April 21st. The meeting scheduled for May 19 has been cancelled due to local elections. The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

For updates and more information, please call 757-928-2620.



Neighborhood Plan

Financial Assistance for Newport News Small Businesses

To ensure the resiliency of local businesses, the City of Newport News and the Newport News Economic Development Authority (EDA) have established the Newport News COVID-19 Small Business Resiliency Grant to support eligible small businesses impacted by COVID-19. The goal of the grant is to assist small businesses impacted by Directive #3 and Directive #4 of Governor Northam's Executive Order 53.

This grant is one-time financial assistance given to eligible for-profit small businesses, excluding franchises and national chains, in amounts not to exceed \$5,000. There is a limited amount of funds for this program. The grants will be committed and funded on a first-come, first-served basis based upon availability of funds, program guidelines and submission of a complete application and supporting documentation.

Qualifications

A business may qualify for consideration provided it meets all of the following:

- For-profit business impacted by Governor Northam's Executive Order 53, specifically those enumerated in Directive #3 and Directive #4.
- Must be located in Newport News, Virginia.
- Must have been established and operational prior to January 1, 2020 and have a current Newport News business license.
- Must be in good standing with local taxes and licenses.
- Had 25 employees or fewer as of March 1, 2020.
- Had \$2 million or less in annual gross receipts during calendar year 2019.

The application period opened on Friday, May 8, 2020. Interested businesses may obtain more information and download an application by visiting the Department of Development's website at: <https://www.nnva.gov/2558/COVID-19-Small-Business-Resiliency-Grant>.

For questions about the program guidelines or application process, please contact Priscilla Green at 757-509-2587 or greenpa@nnva.gov.



Community Bulletin Board

RESOURCES

Grab and Go Dinners

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Virginia Peninsula (BGCVP) is excited to be providing Grab and Go dinners each weekday between 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Marshall Courts and Greater Hampton Roads Clubs. Club membership is not necessary, and meals are available to all youth ages 18 and under. For more information about the dinners and other available resources, contact Michele Benson at mbenson@bagclub.com.

Educational Resources

Virginia Cooperative Extension is still providing educational resources for Virginia residents during this time! The Newport News office is closed to the public, but they are still taking your phone calls and assisting with your educational needs. For more information, please call 757-591-4838.

Case Management, Financial Literacy and Employment Services

The Lift and Connect EnVision Center, located at 618 18th Street, is still offering case management, resource referrals and general information to Ridley Place residents. Also, financial assessments and wellness checks are being conducted in addition to employment services via the resource bus outside the center. As a COVID-19 precaution, the office is not open to the public and no face-to-face appointments can be made. However, Family Services staff will maintain contact via phone calls, text messages or emails. For assistance or questions, please contact Ms. Dickerson at 757-310-6486.

Services for Senior Populations

The PACE Program (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) is still enrolling participants using telehealth services. PACE is taking care of seniors in their homes. For assistance and more information, please call 757-613-6917.

EVENTS

NNVA Counts: 2020 Census

Have you responded to the 2020 Census? If not, you can still respond TODAY!

- Complete online at www.my2020census.gov
- By phone at 844-330-2020
- By mail using the notice you received

Your data is confidential. Federal law protects your census responses and your answers can only be used to produce statistics. By law, your information cannot be shared with immigration, enforcement agencies or law enforcement agencies. It also cannot be used to determine your eligibility for government benefits.

If you have questions, call 757-933-2311.

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Service Provider Spotlight

The Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP) leads the People Plan portion of the Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI). The People Plan aims to improve educational outcomes for youth and ensure that families in the targeted housing have opportunities for improved health, safety, and employment. HRCAP serves families in the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood area by collaborating with other service providers. Each month, a service provider is spotlighted for their work and commitment to MRCN families.



The service provider of the month for April 2020 was Stephanie Taylor, Prevention Services Supervisor with the Newport News Department of Human Services. Stephanie leads workshops focused on encouraging parent/child connections regarding nutrition and education on healthy eating habits. Previous workshop topics include meal planning, saving money while shopping, physical activity, fruits and vegetables, proteins for building strong bones and teeth, and food safety. Since January 2020, workshops have been held twice per month at the Lift and Connect EnVision Center. Although workshops are temporarily suspended due to COVID-19, Stephanie looks forward to resuming them once the State and City lift restrictions.

Thank you for your service, Stephanie!