

Featured Events

November 14

Newport News Public Library will debut a special documentary about Whittaker Memorial Hospital at 3:00 p.m. on their [YouTube Channel](#).

November 21

The Blessing Bag Giveaway, sponsored by Social Butterflies Foundation will be at the Pearl Bailey Library, 2510 Wickham Avenue, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. offering FREE bags filled with masks, hand sanitizer and more.

November 23

Brooks Crossing Innovation Lab and Brielle Farrow Music have partnered to offer a FREE voice recording technique class. Registration is required. Send an email to brookscrossing@odu.edu to register.



Your Choice

A Newsletter for the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood

NOVEMBER | 2020 | ISSUE 47

The Southeast Community in the Spotlight: New Documentary Celebrates Whittaker Memorial Hospital

The Southeast Community in Newport News has a rich history, including serving as home to the first and only African American hospital in the city and in Eastern Virginia. The hospital was established through the hard work and vision of two African American physicians, Drs. Walter T. Foreman and Robert L. Whittaker, who wanted to provide quality medical care to the city's growing Black population during the first half of the 20th century. They partnered with Drs. William P. Dickerson and Welcome T. Jones to found the hospital in 1908. Prior to this, the only medical care available to the city's Black residents was a clinic housed in the city jail.

Whittaker Memorial Hospital quickly grew, moving from the James A. Fields House to a frame hospital built in 1915 and finally a three wing, multi-story brick building with modern operating facilities in 1943. Designed by two prominent African American architects, William Henry Moses, Jr. and Charles Thaddeus Russell, the new hospital building had a 58-bed capacity but grew through two later additions to 166 beds. It served the city's Black community until closing in 1985 and is one of a few African American hospitals in the U.S. built and designed by African American physicians and architects.



In honor of the 77th anniversary of the dedication of Whittaker Memorial Hospital, Newport News Public Library (NNPL) is debuting a documentary, "The Story of Whittaker Memorial Hospital," on the [NNPL YouTube channel](#) at 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 14. This short film tells the story of early African American physicians in the Southeast Community and their struggle for inclusion. The film is narrated by people who worked at Whittaker Memorial Hospital and leaders in the field of African American studies.

Following the premiere, NNPL will host a virtual panel discussion with the filmmakers and oral history participants. The Zoom link for the discussion will be available on Friday, November 13 on the [NNPL Facebook page](#) and the [NNPL events calendar](#).

"The Story of Whittaker Memorial Hospital" is the first installment in a series focused on African American history in the Southeast Community of Newport News. The documentaries are part of NNPL's "Say It Loud Project," a multi-media series that documents the socio-political history of African Americans in Newport News, with a special emphasis on the development of the Southeast Community. For more information, visit the [Newport News Public Library website](#).



Contact Us

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 newportnewschoice@nnva.gov

 757-928-2620

Community Happenings



Brooks Crossing Innovation Lab
and
Brielle Farrow Music
BFM
South Farrow Music
present
Creative Video Tunes
Learn how to create videos using your mobile device and favorite tunes in this 2-part virtual course.
Ages: 8-12
November 30th and December 4th @ 4-5pm
Registration is required!
Email: Brookscrossing@odu.edu
Registration will close two days before the class start date!
OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

Community Organization Spotlight: EmPower All, LLC

This month we spotlight EmPower All, LLC for their service to citizens in the Southeast Community. The mission of the organization is to cultivate socioeconomic change by encouraging, exposing, and engaging individuals and families living in marginalized communities.

EmPower All, LLC also works to bridge the gap in capacity building by connecting their strong volunteer base with gratifying and impactful community activities and organizations.

If you are looking for ways to connect or share opportunities and resources with a powerful team, contact President and Founder Yugonda Sample-Jones on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/yugonda) or at 757-214-4843.

Thank you for your dedication and service!

Name Announced for Coworking Space at 2506 Jefferson Avenue - The Offices @ Two Five & J

The Newport News Economic Development Authority (NNEDA) is pleased to announce the name of the coworking space at 2506 Jefferson Avenue – “The Offices @ Two Five & J”. This name was selected following a naming contest that was facilitated by NNEDA during the month of October.

“The Offices @ Two Five & J” name was submitted by Tanya Williams as a nod to the moniker associated with the location of the space near the intersection of 25th Street and Jefferson Avenue.

2506 Jefferson Avenue is being rehabilitated by NNEDA to create a coworking space where small businesses and entrepreneurs can rent low-cost office space and access business assistance resources. The Offices @ Two Five & J are designed to create a culture of business startup and entrepreneurship, with the overall goal helping reduce the barriers businesses face as they begin to grow, scale up and become successful.

The Offices @ Two Five & J are expected to open in the first quarter of 2021. Those interested in the space should contact Ray Ransom, Community Manager, at ransom@pointmgt.us.



Pictured: EmPower All, LLC President and Founder Yugonda Sample-Jones and her special guest at the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood Design Workshop.



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Community Resources

Social Butterflies Foundation's



Flu/COVID-19 BLESSING BAG GIVEAWAY

Saturday, November 21st 1-4pm

Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church

141 Kempsville Rd Chesapeake VA 23320

(In the parking lot)

Pearl Bailey Library

2510 Wickham Ave, Newport News, VA 23607

(By the front entrance)

The first 150 people will receive FREE Blessings bag filled with masks, hand sanitizer, etc. Be safe this Flu/COVID-19 season.

www.socialbutterfliesfoundation.org

For more info, please contact Shawanda 757-536-7008

Follow us on Social Media IG & FB/socialbutterfliesfoundation

Workforce Assistance Program Available for Newport News Residents

The City of Newport News has launched the CARES Workforce Assistance Program (C-WAP). This innovative new program offers residents workforce development training in industries that are in critical need of employees and that pay minimum wages of \$13.50 per hour. The city's goal is to help over 215 residents obtain industry credentials and employment by the end of the year.

The C-WAP program is facilitated by the Greater Peninsula Workforce Development Consortium and offers training in healthcare, information technology, maritime, construction/trades and truck driving. Courses will be led by certified instructors.

The C-WAP Program is open to Newport News residents over the age of 18 who are not tied to compulsory school attendance. Residents must be unemployed or underemployed due to COVID-19 and/or experiencing family hardships resulting from the pandemic.

Courses begin immediately and there is no cost for residents to be involved in the program.

Participants will graduate with national credentials by December 30. For more information, email cwapcoordinator@gmail.com or call 757-354-7764.

Newport News Public Schools Meals-To-Go Service New Hours Available for Families

All Newport News Public Schools (NNPS) sites will now provide meals for all NNPS students Monday through Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at locations throughout the city.

Families may go to the closest location to receive a prepackaged breakfast, lunch, snack and dinner for each student. On Fridays, households will also receive breakfast and lunch for Saturday and Sunday. If you arrive in a vehicle, just open the trunk and the NNPS team will place your meals inside.

Go to <http://www.nnschools.org/cns/> for a complete list of pick-up locations.

