

Featured Events

October 17

Come out and share your thoughts on the revitalization of Ridley Place from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at An Achievable Dream Tennis Center, 1300 Ivy Avenue, Newport News

October 27

Owl-O-Ween Kids' Paint Night, starts at 6 p.m. Children of all ages can put on their best costume and join in via Zoom to create a Halloween-inspired masterpiece! Registration is required. Limited to 40 participants. Program kits/supplies will be provided for registrants to pick up.

Ongoing through November 2

Please share your feedback on the redeveloped Ridley Place look by completing this 5-minute survey.

NAME THE NEW COWORKING Space!

IN THE SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY

Submit your naming entry for the new coworking space if you live or own a business in the 23607-zip code.

SEPT. 28 THRU OCT. 30

namethespace.com

Newport News
Where Great Things Are Happening



Your Choice

A Newsletter for the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood

OCTOBER | 2020 | ISSUE 46

The Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood is Transforming! Join the Transformation.

Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood Discovery Workshop

Planning for the second phase of new development on the Ridley site has begun. A design workshop was held on Saturday, September 19 and a second workshop will be held on Saturday, October 17 from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at An Achievable Dream Tennis Center, 1300 Ivy Avenue, Newport News.

These workshops are designed to give Ridley Place residents and the broader Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood (MRCN) community an opportunity to learn more about the new housing and provide feedback on the new layout.

Make plans to join us, rain or shine, for raffles, food, gift certificates, free PPE, and school supplies.

Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood Design Survey

In addition to the our discovery workshops, our partners at WRT Design are gathering additional feedback through an online survey. This survey, much like the discovery workshops, is designed to get your feedback on the look of the redeveloped Ridley Place. Please take this 5-minute survey, which is available through Monday, November 2.

Thank you for helping us transform the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood into a vibrant, safe and welcoming community. Please use this link to learn more about our progress.

For more information, contact Lynne Carruth, CNI Project Manager, at 757-928-2655 or lcarruth@nnrha.org.



PROVIDING COVID-19 RELIEF
TO VULNERABLE SMALL BUSINESSES ACROSS THE 757 WITH A FOCUS ON
SMALL, WOMEN & MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES

GRANTS RANGING FROM \$2,500 - \$10,000
PLUS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

GRANT APPLICATIONS OPEN OCTOBER 1. VISIT BIT.LY/WE CARE757 FOR MORE DETAILS.



newportnewschoice.com



Contact Us

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

[Instagram.com/newportnewschoice](https://www.instagram.com/newportnewschoice)

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

newportnewschoice@nnva.gov

757-928-2620

Progress and Updates

Housing *Housing development activities are moving forward*



The Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA) continues with housing development activities. Plans for the first phase of new housing are under review by the Newport News Planning Department. This development includes two multi-family buildings, located on Jefferson Avenue between 27th and 29th Streets. Construction will begin in early 2021 with a projected completion date of May 2022.

Housing Finance

NNRHA continues to secure funds for the new housing. The financing package for construction of Phase One is nearly complete. The package includes Low-income Housing Tax Credits, state grants, and local city funds. Three applications for Federal Home Loan Bank funding are pending.



Relocation

In preparation for new development on the Ridley site, current residents are relocating to new housing using vouchers. Below is the status of the relocation process:

- Group 1: 59 families living north of 16th Street, and families requesting early relocation due to medical issues have found new housing.
- Group 2: 95 vouchers have been issued, so far, to families living south of 16th Street. 44 families have leased new apartments; 14 families have used their vouchers to leave the area; the remaining households are searching for housing.

- Group 3: 12 vouchers have been issued to families living in the area bounded by Ivy Avenue, 16th Street and Ridley Circle. Residents are in the process of leasing or looking for housing.

For assistance, call Starr Lane 757-928-6076

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

The next Citizens Advisory Committee meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, October 20 at 5:30 p.m. For more information and updates, please email Lynne Carruth at lcarruth@nnrha.org.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Newport News Commonwealth's Attorney Howard E. Gwynn and the staff at the Newport News Commonwealth's Attorney's Office is asking you to take a stand with them against domestic violence.

Take a stand by educating yourself about domestic violence and how it affects our community. Volunteer at local agencies, participate in domestic violence awareness month events,

and lend your voice to become an advocate.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, domestic violence is a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by an intimate partner against another using willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior.

Below are some warning

signs that you may be in an abusive relationship:

- your partner has physically harmed you
- your partner is or has been verbally abusive
- your partner is or has been intimidating you
- your partner is or has been destroying your belongings

If you or someone you know is in an unhealthy relationship, please contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 (SAFE). Locally, please contact Transitions Family Violence Services at (757) 723-7774 or the Newport News Victim Services Unit's Domestic Violence Team at (757) 926-7422.

If you are in immediate danger, call 911.



Contact Us

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

[Instagram.com/newportnewschoice](https://www.instagram.com/newportnewschoice)

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

newportnewschoice@nnva.gov

757-928-2620

Community Updates & Resources

Southeast Community Public Art Temporarily Relocated for Routine Maintenance

The W. Hale Thompson and Pearl Bailey murals that are iconic features in the city’s Southeast Community have returned to the artist’s studio for routine maintenance. Hampton Roads-based artist and Newport News native Asa Jackson will restore both murals in his Newport News studio and reinstall them later this month.

The W. Hale Thompson mural, honoring the local civil rights leader and attorney, was installed in 2018 at 611 25th Street, the former home of Thompson’s Law Office. The Pearl Bailey mural graces the Pearl Bailey Library and celebrates the Tony and Emmy award-winning entertainer. Both public art pieces, commissioned by the Newport News Economic Development Authority, serve as gateways into the Southeast Community and support the city’s Choice Neighborhoods Initiative. To learn more, [visit www.newportnewschoice.com](http://www.newportnewschoice.com).



Newport News Launches Workforce Assistance Program for 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.



Text-to-911 Option Now Available

Newport News residents can now Text-to-911. In the event of an emergency, the Newport News Police Department recommends that if you can voice call 911, you should. By calling, dispatchers can gather more information, listen for distress in a caller’s voice, and gather background information — all important information for first responders when going to an emergency.

Text-to-911 is the ability to send a text message to reach a 911 dispatcher from your mobile phone or device. Text-to-911 should only be used for the following:

- If you need help, but cannot safely speak on the phone or are unable to speak. (Examples include abduction, domestic violence or an active shooter situation.)
- If you are deaf, hard of hearing or speech disabled, and there is no TTY available.

When you Text-to-911, it is most important to provide your location first. Then, explain the emergency and be prepared to answer questions, if possible. Please do not send photos or videos to 911. Do not copy others on the message to 911 as Text-to-911 cannot include more than one person.

As a reminder, 911 is to be used for emergencies only.

If it is not an emergency but you need to get in touch with NNPD, please call the non-emergency number at (757) 247-2500.



Contact Us

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

 [Instagram.com/newportnewschoice](https://www.instagram.com/newportnewschoice)

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

 newportnewschoice@nnva.gov

 757-928-2620

Community Happenings

City Advises Residents to Follow CDC and VDH Guidance for Halloween Activities

The City of Newport News is advising residents to follow CDC and Virginia Department of Health (VDH) guidelines for Halloween activities this year in order to limit potential exposure to COVID-19. In keeping with those guidelines, Parks, Recreation & Tourism's 10th Annual "Spooktacular" event is being modified this year and adding additional locations, and Newport News Public Library is offering two Halloween themed virtual events.

This year, Spooktacular is a drive-thru trunk-or-treat event taking place on Saturday, October 31. Come by any of the three community centers listed below for a spooky good time and lots of candy. Wear your costumes and trunk-or-treat from the safety of your car! Please remain in your vehicle, and follow the signs for entering and exiting the drive-thru events.

- Denbigh Community Center, 15198 Warwick Blvd. from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.
- Brittingham-Midtown Community Center, 570 McLawhorne Dr. from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- Doris Miller Community Center, 2814 Wickham Ave. from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Trick-or-Treating Recommendations

Trick-or-treating involves the increased risk for transmitting COVID-19 due to the potential for close proximity to many people and the difficulty for trick-or-treaters to follow mask use and social distancing recommendations. Both the CDC and VDH have deemed traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating a high risk activity. For those who choose to trick-or-treat, the Newport News City Code specifies that trick-or-treating is for children 12 years of age and younger and ends at 8 p.m.

Citizens are also encouraged to monitor [Halloween2020.org](https://www.halloween2020.org) for COVID risk levels and recommended activities.

Brooks Crossing Innovation Lab

Music Theory Studios

Virtual SEW Theory

Age: 12-16

The sewing goal is to incorporate simple and youthful design concepts that allow new sewers real experience with easy patterns and materials. With the ability to learn virtually, each student will gain more clarity and insight by having a one on one view and approach to connecting and communicating with the instructor.

The Instructor is a fourth-generation seamstress and accomplished fashion designer. Some of the course material will be provided.



6-week course beginning October 21st

Wednesdays, 3-4pm

First Come, First Serve

Seats are limited so Register NOW!

Registration will close two days before the start date.

Email: Brookscrossing@odu.edu

Brooks Crossing Innovation Lab

Music Theory Studios

BeatMaking 101

Ages: 12-16

The music production goal of this course is to incorporate music theory with software instruction. Students will learn tempo, bar structure, counting, music terminology and much more.



6-week course beginning October 22nd

Thursdays, 5-6pm

First Come, First Serve

Seats are limited so Register NOW!

Registration will close two days before the start date.

Email: Brookscrossing@odu.edu