

# Featured Events

**Thursday, Mar. 5**

**Say it Loud! Exhibit**

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Lift and Connect Center, 618 18th Street.

**Mar. 12-20**

**Complete the Census**

Take the Census using the link provided on the postcard - include everyone in the household. Finish no later than Apr. 1.

**Sunday, Mar. 8**

**Free Girl-preneur Brunch**

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Brooks Crossing Innovation & Opportunity Center, 550 30th Street, Suite 102.



# Your Choice

A Newsletter for the Marshall-Ridley Choice Neighborhood

March | 2020 | ISSUE 39

## Census 2020: You Matter, Be Counted!



*Counting every person because we all matter.*

### *What is the Census?*

Every ten years, America comes together to count every resident in the United States. A good way to remember when a Census is happening is, it occurs every time the year ends with a zero. This count of every person living in the country is used to determine local funding for important services like: roads, schools, educational programs, housing support, supplemental programs (i.e. SNAP and WIC), health clinics, attracting new businesses, drawing political boundaries, and more!

### *Census Impact: Southeast Community*

In addition to funding services, the Census guides how much money is provided to non-profit organizations that serve communities. Some examples of those in the Southeast Community are: HRCAP, Boys and Girls Club, Community Free Clinic, C. Waldo Scott Center, Head Start and more.

### *We are in this Together!*

For every person who does not respond, communities lose up to \$2,000 per person for 10 years in federal funding. In 2010, Newport News had several low-response areas. If we have a similar low-response rate this year, the city could lose up to \$101 million in funding per year.



### *How can you help?*

- **Check the mailbox between March 12-20.** Residents will receive notices to complete the 2020 Census (only 10 questions).
- **Respond online** using a personal computer, phone, public library, the Family Investment Center or in the computer lab at the Brooks Crossing Innovation and Opportunity Center [BCIOC].
- **Every household gets one** blue Census form. One person completes the form for every person who lives there.
- If a household has not responded after numerous attempts a Census employee will come to a household requesting the Census be completed. The worker will have a Census badge and use an iPhone with a Census logo.
- The paper form is in English and Spanish. Thirteen languages, including English and Spanish are offered online and over the phone.

Cover photos: Top photo, some cast members from the Little Shop of Horrors production at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center. Source of bottom photos: Getty Images.



## 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](mailto:newportnewschoice@nnva.gov)

757-926-8761

# Community Bulletin Board

### Sign it Loud! Exhibit

Thursday, Mar. 5, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Lift and Connect Center, 618 18th Street. Come learn about the history of people, places and events in the East End of Newport News. Contact Ana Grace, 757-759-5335.

### Sign-up for STEP!

Summer Training Enrichment Program [STEP], a seven week paid training opportunity for ages 19 - 24. Participants will get skills that will aid in transitioning into the workforce. Apply at [bit.ly/hrvastep](https://bit.ly/hrvastep) or 757-926-7030. Applications due Friday, Mar. 6.

### Hip-Hop Dance Class

Thursdays in March, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center, 2410 Wickham Ave. Fun dance classes for kids and adults with Tony Truong. Contact 757-247-8950 or go to [bit.ly/FB-hiphop](https://bit.ly/FB-hiphop) to get tickets for \$7.50 per person or full class package for \$20.

### Free Girl-preneur Brunch

Sunday, Mar. 8, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Brooks Crossing Innovation Lab, 550 30th Street, Suite 102. Celebrate International Women's Day and bring your daughters/granddaughters to learn about the power of girl business ownership and other empowering topics. Register at [bit.ly/girlboss2](https://bit.ly/girlboss2).



### Small Business Sessions

Thursday, Mar. 19, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Lift and Connect Center, 618 18th Street. Learn how to start, sustain or grow your own business. Contact Ana Grace, 757-759-5335.

### Ridley Tenant Council Meeting

Residents are invited to the Tenant Council Meeting Thursday, Mar. 19, 4:00 p.m. at the Family Investment Center, 600-C Ridley Circle. Join your neighbors to discuss the neighborhood and any upcoming events. Contact 757-928-2620.

### Homeownership Program

April 1-30 Habitat for Humanity's Homeownership Program will be accepting applications. This program gives low to moderate income individuals and families the opportunity to explore homeownership. Contact, Natasha Bugey, MPA at 757-913-5653.

### Job Fair @ Brooks Crossing

Thursday, Apr. 2, 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Brooks Crossing Innovation Lab, 550 30th Street, Suite 102. Event will include employers from various career fields. For more information, contact Tia Tabb, [tia.tabb@hrcapinc.org](mailto:tia.tabb@hrcapinc.org).

# Community Snapshots



Images from left to right: Training by Virginia Technical Academy for the Brooks Crossing Innovation and Opportunity Center [BCIOC] team. Mayor McKinley L. Price at the Little Shop of Horrors production. NNDHS Youth Running Club from C. Waldo Scott Center for HOPE participated in the One City Marathon Nautical Mile Fun Run. At the C. Waldo Scott Center for HOPE, attendees painted canvases during the Saturday Art Expression program.