



# NEWS AND NEIGHBORS

Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority

JANUARY 2021

Volume 28, Issue 1

## MONTH OF JANUARY

**January 1**

New Year's Day

**January 18**

Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Day

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# A Message from our Executive Director



**Karen R. Wilds**  
Executive Director

As we enter the holidays, I want to take a moment to wish you a safe and healthy season and to share my gratitude with you.

We have each faced many common and yet individually unique challenges this year. While we may have to change our holiday traditions, we have an opportunity to explore new, diverse celebrations and to reflect and be grateful for the things we do have. Thankfully, the "light at the end of the tunnel" is in sight — and I am hopeful 2021 will be easier on all of us.

I urge you to think of ways to make deeper connections with your family, your neighborhood and yourself. Consider new goals and how NNRHA may help you to achieve those goals.

Stay safe and healthy in your celebrations. I wish you peace, prosperity, and renewed hope in 2021.





# Scholarship Information

**STUDENT  
AND  
ADULT  
LEARNERS**

## NNRHA SCHOLARSHIP INTEREST FORM

Student Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Address \_\_\_\_\_

Housing Community \_\_\_\_\_

Student Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_

Current GPA (Grade Point Average) \_\_\_\_\_

*\*All interest forms are due by Wednesday, March 10, 2021.*

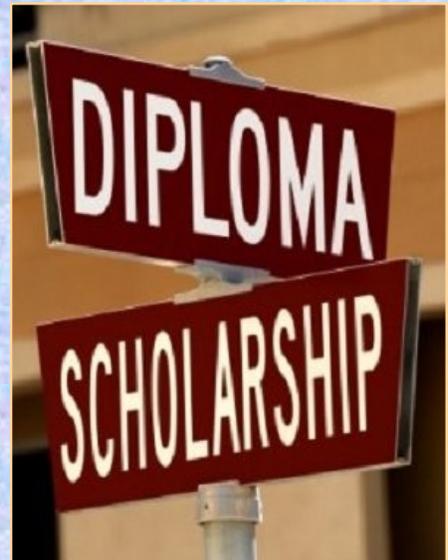
Please return the completed form to your rental office or contact Mrs. Charlene Bowser at 757.928.6170 by Wednesday, March 10, 2021.



Are you a High School senior in need of money for college? Applicants must expect to graduate from an accredited high school in June 2021 with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better in overall academic courses.

Are you an adult interested in going to college, but lack the resources? Well, look no further, NNRHA may have money for you.

Simply complete the Scholarship Interest Form and return it to your rental office. A Scholarship Consultant will contact you.



# Struggling to Pay Your Rent due to COVID-19?

## You may be eligible for financial assistance through the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program.

Virginia Housing is now administering relief for renters experiencing financial difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic through the Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program (RMRP). Through this new state program, you can apply (or your landlord may apply on your behalf) to receive funds to pay delinquent rental payments dating as far back as April 1, 2020, to current payments due.

### Eligibility

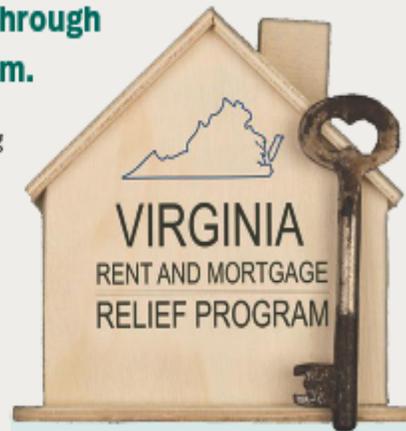
RMRP will provide financial help on behalf of renters who meet the following criteria:

- ▶ Have a valid lease in their name or other documentation confirming the landlord-tenant relationship.
- ▶ Have a rent amount that is at or below 150% Fair Market Rent.
- ▶ Have a gross household income at or below 80% area median income (based on current month's income).
- ▶ Have experienced a loss of income due to the coronavirus pandemic, for example:
  - Being laid off.
  - Place of employment has closed.
  - Reduction in hours of work.
  - Loss of spousal/child support.
  - Inability to find work due to COVID-19.
  - Having to stay home with children due to closure of day care/school.
  - Unwilling or unable to participate in previous employment due to the workplace's high risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

### Required documentation

You'll need the following as proof of eligibility:

- ▶ Proof of income (pay stubs, bank statements, letter from employer, social security documents, pension).
- ▶ Valid lease or other documentation confirming the landlord-tenant relationship.



### Learn More & Apply:

- ▶ **Your landlord may be able to apply on your behalf.** Contact your landlord for information.
- ▶ **Or, apply for yourself. Get started on DHCD's website:** [dhcd.virginia.gov/RMRP](https://dhcd.virginia.gov/RMRP)

Funding for RMRP is made available through Virginia's allocation of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act and is administered through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. The funds will be available through Dec. 30, 2020 or until the money has been expended. Interested applicants will work directly with grantees throughout Virginia to complete applications and process payments. Virginia Housing is the grantee for landlord-initiated applicants.



# WORK ORDER NUMBERS

Marshall	928-6181
Lassiter	928-2690
Spratley House	928-6189
Ashe Manor	928-6189
Aqueduct	833-5700
Pinecroft	269-4300
Orcutt Townhomes	928-6189



**\*USE ONLY AS AN  
ALTERNATE NUMBER**

**Please use this number ONLY after  
5:00 p.m. 247-0484**



## Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program (RMRP)



The Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program (RMRP) is designed to support and ensure housing stability across the commonwealth during the coronavirus pandemic.

Depending on availability of funds and household need, the RMRP may provide financial assistance for rent or mortgage payments for eligible households. This includes financial assistance for rent or mortgage payments past due beginning April 1, 2020 and onward.

Financial assistance is a one-time payment with opportunity for renewal based on availability of funding and the household's need for additional assistance and continued eligibility.

Please contact the organization listed below for more information on your eligibility:

**United Way Resource Center**

757-229-2222

Monday - Friday

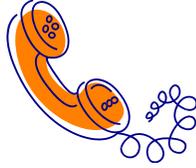
8:30 AM 4:30 PM

## FREE TRAINING PROGRAMS

The Family Investment Center offers free training in the following courses:

- Self-Paced Typing;
- Employability Skills Workshops;
- Resume' Prep;
- Job Lead Assistance;
- Homeownership.

### CONTACT:



Family Investment Center  
600 C Ridley Circle  
Newport News, VA

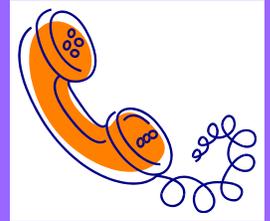
Monday thru  
Friday

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
757.928.3680

## PROGRAMA LIBRE DE INSTRUCCION

Centro de Trabajo Para la Familia ofrece los cursos que sigue:

- Mecanografía;
- Habilidades de obrero;
- Ayuda con su resumen y su entrevista;
- Como se encuentra trabajo;
- Como encontrar y poseer una casa.



### CONTACT:

Centro de Trabajo  
Para La Familia  
600 C Ridley Circle  
Newport News, VA  
757.928.3680

Lunes-Viernes  
8 de la mañana  
4:30 de la tarde  
757-928-3680



**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**

### MISSION STATEMENT



The mission of the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA) is to create affordable housing, viable neighborhoods, and opportunities for self-sufficiency that enhance the quality of life for all citizens of Newport News.

Although no  
one can go back  
and make a  
brand new start,  
anyone can  
start from now  
and make a  
brand new  
ending.

— — Carl Bard

## REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE



If you or anyone you know and love is affected by substance abuse help is available.

We all know the heartache and devastation that drugs can bring to our families.

Program Name	Services	Payment
<b>Tidewater Area Hot Line</b> 459-8467	Narcotics Anonymous	No fees
<b>Narcotics Anonymous VA Regional Hot Line</b> 1-800-777-1515	Support group for recovering substance abusers.	No fees
<b>Hampton Roads Clinic Reflections</b> 827-8430	Outpatient Counseling I.V. Methadone Maintenance 30-45 day Residential Facility	Sliding fee Scale Medicaid
<b>Project Link</b> 245-0217	Case management and coordination services for prenatal abuser	Sliding fee Scale Medicaid
<b>AI Anon/Alateen</b> 1-888-425-2666	Support group Alcoholism-friends/relatives and teens.	No fees
<b>AA Hotline</b> 595-1212	12 Step Program	No fees
<b>Peninsula Area Help Line</b> 875-9314	Narcotics Anonymous	No fees

## FILING A COMPLAINT...



Here is the Customer Service

Hotline Number:

757-928-6063 or 757-928-3680

A TENANT HOTLINE IS A FREE SERVICE FOR TENANTS LIVING IN PROPERTIES OWNED AND MANAGED BY THE NEWPORT NEWS REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY. WHEN FILING A COMPLAINT, YOU MUST STATE YOUR FULL NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER AND SPEAK AS SLOWLY AND CLEARLY AS POSSIBLE.

WE WILL CALL YOU BACK WITHIN 72 HOURS REGARDING YOUR CONCERNS.

THANK YOU



**GOAL:** Let this year represent positive change in your life. Let's strive to live peaceful with our neighbors and our brother man.



**NEWPORT NEWS REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY  
SECTION 504 REQUEST FOR A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION**



**PUBLIC HOUSING**

**RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR  
MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

Tenant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Complex Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/Apt. #: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

The Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA) is required by law to provide special services, transfers or modifications to apartments, buildings or grounds to meet the needs of tenants with disabilities. These are called reasonable accommodations. NNRHA may require documentation to support a claim for a reasonable accommodation. The information supplied will be kept confidential pursuant to law.

NNRHA will work with you to determine how to fulfill your request.

Tenant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ No one in my household has a disability.  
(I do not need to complete the rest of this form)

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not requesting NNRHA to provide an accommodation at this time.

The following person (s) in my household has/have a disability and need one or more of the reasonable accommodations below:

\_\_\_\_\_ Uses a wheelchair

\_\_\_\_\_ Uses a walker

\_\_\_\_\_ Vision impaired

\_\_\_\_\_ Hearing impaired

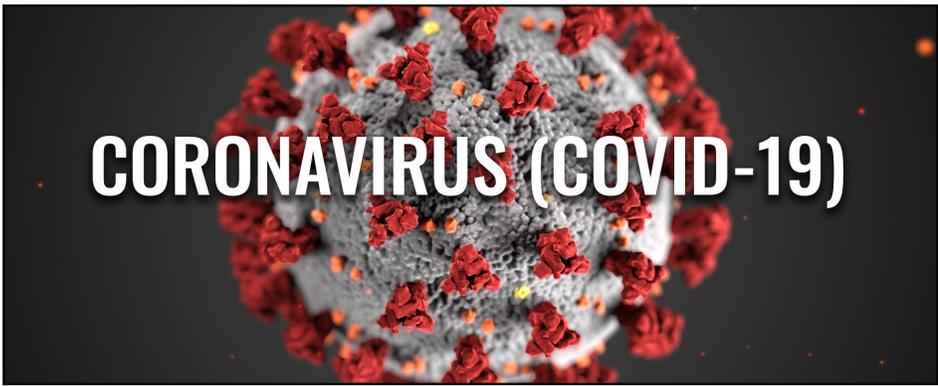
\_\_\_\_\_ Grab bars

\_\_\_\_\_ Audio visual smoke  
Alarm

\_\_\_\_\_ Door bell light signaler

\_\_\_\_\_ Other accommodations, please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Coronavirus: Keeping you informed

## Coping with the Coronavirus

The outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) may be stressful for people. Fear and anxiety about a disease can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions in adults and children. Coping with stress make you, the people you care about, and your community stronger.

### What is it?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that can infect humans or animals. Most people become infected with the coronavirus that causes the common cold at some point during their lives. However, three types – Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (SARS), Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS), and the new SARS-CoV-2 (also known as COVID-19) – can cause severe respiratory infections.

### What's the risk?

The immediate risk is low for the general U.S. population. Most U.S. cases have involved people who had been traveling; however, there have been person-to-person cases spread abroad and in the United States. Officials from the city, the schools, and the public health department are meeting regularly to monitor the spread of the disease and to prepare for the potential of a pandemic.

### How it spreads?

Coronavirus disease spreads primarily through contact with an infected person when they cough or sneeze. It also spreads when a person touches a surface or object that has the virus on it, then touches their eyes, nose, or mouth.



### Important Coronavirus Messages

We encourage you to report illness or quarantine if you are not feeling well. This will prevent spreading the COVID-19 to your loved ones and friends.

### Newport News Health Department

The call center is open from 8:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. Please call 757-594-7069 if you have questions about where to get tested if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

### Why is it important to wear a mask?

Masks may help prevent people who COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others. Wearing a mask will help protect you and the people around you, including those at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and workers who frequently come into close contact with other people (e.g., in stores and restaurants). Masks are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings. The spread of COVID-19 can be reduced when masks are used along with other preventive measures, including social distancing, frequent handwashing, and cleaning and disinfecting touched surfaces.

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

# Self-Care...

## Taking Care of Yourself During a Stressful Time

The COVID-19 pandemic has been stressful for most people. There is fear and anxiety about the disease itself, loss of a job or reduced hours, financial worries, unsure about what the schools will be doing, and feeling isolated. Everyone reacts differently in stressful situations and it is **ALWAYS** okay to get help.

The "Warm Line" has been set up to help people who are having trouble dealing with the changes in our lives due to COVID-19. Unlike 911, which is used only for emergencies, a warm line offers support and gives people the chance to talk about their struggles and mental health. The COVID Warm Line number is **877-349-6428 Toll Free 9 AM - 9 PM, Monday-Friday; 5 PM - 9 PM, Saturday & Sunday.**

**Transitions Family Violence Services**  
Pathway to safety & source of hope call 24/7 at 757-723-7774.

**National Domestic Violence Hotline** - For victims and survivors of abuse who need support, this hotline is available 24/7. Call 1-800-799-7233 or 1-800-799-7233 for TTY. If you are unable to speak safely, you can log onto the [hotline.org](http://hotline.org) or text LOVEIS to 22522.

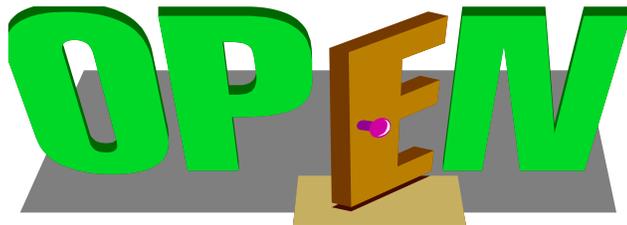
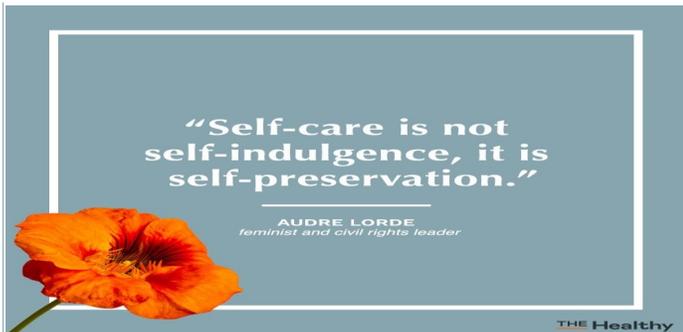
### 2-1-1 Virginia

Dialing 211 is a free, confidential referral and information helpline and website that connects people to health and human services they need, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### The Disaster Distress Helpline

1-800-985-5990, is 24/7, 365 day a year, national hotline dedicated to providing immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster.

**Virginia Department of Social Services** has a family violence and sexual assault hotline available 24/7 at 1-800-838-8238.



The waiting list for housing assistance at the Warwick SRO is open for single room occupancy only.

Please call (757) 928-6060, Monday-Friday, from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. to schedule an appointment.



This newsletter is published by the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority

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Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority  
P. O. Box 797  
Newport News, VA 23607

## Manager's Corner

### General Overtime Guidelines

Maintenance staff will respond to the following calls:

1. Gas Leaks;
2. Electrical Problems;
3. Smoke Detector;
4. Power Outages (only at Pinecroft, Ashe Manor, Spratley House, Ridley and Marshall);
5. No Heat between 5:00 pm on Friday and 8:00 am on Sunday or holidays if the next day is a working day. If the next day is not a working day, accepts calls until 6:00 p.m.;
6. Floods and Sewer Problems;
7. Broken Windows;
8. Collapsed ceiling or damaged roofs;
9. Commode stopped up (if two in apartment hold to next day if that is a normal business day);
10. Lock Out/Lock Change;
11. Damaged Exterior Doors;
12. Fire.

**Note to Residents:** If you believe the situation can wait until the next day, call first thing in the morning.

### EMERGENCY HEATING ASSISTANCE

Virginia Department of Social Services offers Crisis assistance, which is intended to meet a household's emergency heating need, when no other resources is available. Applications are accepted online at **Common Help**, by calling the Enterprise Customer Service Center at (855) 635-4370, and at local department of social services from January 4 through March 15, 2021.

# RENTER'S INSURANCE

It's so cheap that it is a waste of money NOT to have it !

Most insurance companies offer renter's insurance for only a few dollars a month. So think about it. Could you afford or have time to replace all of your belongings should something happen to your residence?

#### What is renter's insurance?

It is insurance that renters purchase to protect their personal property including furniture, televisions, stereo equipment, cameras, jewelry, clothing and artwork.

#### What does renter's insurance protect against?

Most policies protect personal property against loss by fire, lightning, wind, smoke, vandalism, theft and explosions. Renter's Insurance will also cover additional expenses incurred as a result of the above.

Look under "Insurance" in the yellow pages of the telephone book or look for companies located in the Newport News area. Don't take chances with your belongings.!

According to Section II, 9-C of the Resident's Lease "Management will not be responsible for any of Tenant's personal belongings which are damaged or destroyed by natural disaster or other circumstances which are beyond the control of Management".

Happy  
New  
Year

# Safety Corner

Although Suicide Prevention Awareness Month is recognized annually in September, we should attempt to take notice of family members, friends, and co-workers that may be showing signs of depression and other negative behavior as a possible cry for help. If you know anyone who has, or is beginning to show any of these signs, you should seriously consider this an opportunity to start a conversation on available resources for help.

Signs of depression and or suicide may consist of, but are not limited to the following:

- ◆ Sadness
- ◆ Guilt
- ◆ Irritability
- ◆ Loss of energy
- ◆ Loss of interest in activities
- ◆ Sleep changes
- ◆ Appetite changes
- ◆ Suicidal thoughts

For further information, please visit the Every Day Matters Foundation website to help you find information and resources to help someone who may be showing any of the above behaviors.

<http://www.everydaymatters.com/images/NC-Suicide-Prevention-Ad.jpg>

Should you have any safety or security questions or concerns please contact Safety & Security at 757.928.2660.

## Helpful Tips... Conserve Energy & Reduce Utility Bills



### The Following Tips Will Be Helpful In Savings On Heating Bills:

Did you know that for every degree you reduce the heat within 60°-70° range will save you 2% on your heating costs. Running at 5° less you will save you 10% on your next bill.

Turn your thermostat down to 68 degrees if possible.

- Lower the thermostat when you are away for more than 4 hours at a time. The energy used to reheat your home will be less than what it would take to keep your home heated while you were gone. 55° is a good target.
- Dress warmer for cold weather, wear sweaters and socks.
- Let the sunshine in during the day, open curtains for natural light and warmth, close them at night to retain the heat.
- Try to arrange furniture so that you are sitting near interior walls.
- Replace bulbs with energy star bulbs. The price in these bulbs have started to decrease. These bulbs use 75% less energy and last 10 times longer than regular bulbs.
- Make sure lights are turned off in unoccupied rooms. Turn off TVs when no one is in the room watching them. Put computers and monitors to sleep when not in use.
- Shorten showers.



★ FREE TAX  
★ PREPARATION  
★ SERVICES

**TIRED OF PAYING HIGH TAX PREPARATION FEES?**

**NEED HELP FILLING OUT YOUR TAX RETURN?**

**College Students**

**Teenagers**

**Part-Time  
Employees**

**Seasonal  
Employment**



For more details on tax preparation, please call FIC at  
928-3680