



NEWS AND NEIGHBORS

Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority

March 2021

Volume 28, Issue 3

HOLIDAYS OBSERVED DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH

March 14

Daylight Saving's Time begins

March 17

St. Patrick's Day



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Maximizing Opportunities & Transforming Lives

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

FREE

TAX PREPARATION Services

- ✓✓ Low Income Families
- ✓✓ Seniors
- ✓✓ Disabled Residents

INCREASE YOUR TAX RETURN BY MORE THAN \$6,000!

Sponsored by Families Achieving Community Economic Stability (FACES) Coalition

For a complete listing of VITA Preparation Sites and Eligibility Requirements, visit:

www.hrcapinc.org

See Page 3 for details



Scholarship Information

STUDENT
AND
ADULT
LEARNERS

NNRHA SCHOLARSHIP INTEREST FORM

Student Name _____

Student Address _____

Housing Community _____

Student Contact Number _____

High School _____

Current GPA (Grade Point Average) _____



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



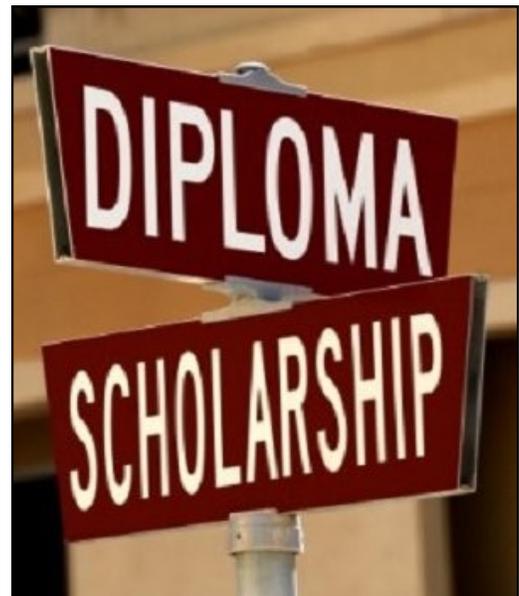
Are you a high school senior in need of money for college? Applicants must expect to graduate from an accredited high school in June 2021 with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better in overall academic courses.



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.



2021-2022 Scholarship Resource List

Useful Sites

- ◆ [FinAid](#)—Links to scholarships, grants, loans and graduate aid.
- ◆ [StudentAid.gov](#)—Information from the U.S. Department of Education on preparing for and funding education beyond high school.
- ◆ [CollegeAffordability Guide](#)—This site's mission is to provide clear, correct info and advice on the many options students have to reduce the cost of their degree, and to offer a fresh analysis of which colleges are doing the most to make high-quality education affordable.

How-To Programs and Books

[The Scholarship Workshop](#)— Scholarship information from an award-winning author and scholarship winner.

[The Scholarship Academy](#)— Offers curriculum to help students identify tailored scholarship options and build solid scholarship profile.

Search Engines and Scholarship Programs

- ◆ [ScholarSnapp](#) - A free, simple to use data standard that allows students to reuse their application information including contact information, essays, transcripts, etc.-from one scholarship application to another thereby streamlining the college scholarship application process.
- ◆ [Scholly](#) - A mobile app that provides students with a fast and simple way to find scholarships for colleges. (Created by Christopher Gray, a Coca-Cola Scholar!)
- ◆ [Peerlift](#) - Proven scholarships, internships, summer programs, and more gathered by fellow students. (Founded by a team of 2017 Coca-Cola Scholars!)
- ◆ [Fastweb](#) - Create a profile and let Fast Web do the research on scholarships, internships colleges and more for you.
- ◆ [CashCourse](#) - Information that helps college students stay financially informed.
- ◆ [Common Knowledge Scholarship Foundation](#) - Educational and scholarship opportunities for students of all levels.
- ◆ [Cappex](#) - A free website where you can learn which colleges want you, before you apply and learn about more than \$11 billion in merit aid scholarships.
- ◆ [Scholarships.com](#) - A free college scholarship search and financial aid information.
- ◆ [Scholarship America](#) - Provides information and resources for your scholarship search.
- ◆ [Chegg](#) - A place to connect with scholarships and learn about colleges.
- ◆ [Thurgood Marshall College Fund](#) - Provides scholarships, programmatic and capacity building support to the 47 public Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).
- ◆ [KnowHow2GO](#) - Complete information on college prep, whether in middle schools or seniors.
- ◆ [Gates Millennium Scholars](#)— Provides outstanding low-income African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American, and Hispanic American students with an opportunity to complete an undergraduate college education in any discipline they choose.

FACES VITA Tax Sites

SCAA - VITA

(Formerly Courthouse Community Center)
13813 Warwick Blvd., Suite BC2
Newport News, VA 23602

Service Hours:

Saturday—9:30 am to 11:30 pm
Open February 1st to April 15th
Walk-ins accepted

Family Investment Center

600 C Ridley Circle
Newport News, VA 23607

Service Hours:

Please see HRCAP Mobile Sites Below
For services for this VITA Site. Refer questions to (757) 928-3681 or tjones@nnrha.org

USW Region 8 Local 8888

4106 Huntington Avenue
Newport News, VA 23607

Service Hours:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday
8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Open February 3rd to October 15th
Walk-ins accepted

HRCAP Mobile Site 2

Clark Multi-Purpose Center
392 Maple Avenue
Newport News, VA 23607

Service Hours:

Monday—10 am to 1 pm
Open from February 8th to TBD
Walk-ins accepted

To Free File your taxes visit [IRS.gov/Free File](https://www.irs.gov/FreeFile) where you can prepare and file your federal individual income tax return for free using tax-preparation-and filing software.



Resident Scholarship Program

Pursue Your Dreams

2021 PROGRAM NOW OPEN!

HAI Group's Resident Scholarship Program has been providing scholarships to public housing and housing choice voucher residents since 2003. To date, we've awarded more than \$1,400,000 to over 450 residents!

This year, we'll be awarding scholarships worth \$6,000 each to 20 residents to continue their education. Students may enter—and be awarded—scholarships for up to four consecutive years.

ELIGIBILITY:

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

Enrollment:

Is or will be enrolled in the fall for the 2021-2022 academic year in an accredited and/or licensed technical school or accredited two- or four-year college or university in the United States.

Residency:

Resides in a housing authority or in a property with a housing choice voucher (HCV) administered by a housing authority that is a member of Housing Authority Risk Retention Group (HARRG) or Housing Authority Property Insurance, A Mutual Company (HAPI) or resides in an affordable housing property insured by Housing Enterprise Insurance Company (HEIC).

OR

Individuals fulfilling the requirements in the official rules (www.housingcenter.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2021-Official-Rules.pdf), during the scholarship entry period who are declared a scholarship recipient and who are in receipt of a scholarship will subsequently be exempt from the residency requirement listed above during the four-consecutive-year term of the academic scholarship period awarded, subject to all other rules and conditions.

Citizenship:

Must be a United States citizen or permanent resident (with a green card).

Other:

Must follow all other rules outlined in the official rules (www.housingcenter.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2021-Official-Rules.pdf).

ACT NOW!

Entries must be submitted online
by 5 p.m. EST on Friday,
April 30, 2021. Questions? Visit

www.housingcenter.com/scholarships

or contact us at

scholarship@housingcenter.com.

Important Invitation to Opt-In

Go to www.housingcenter.com/scholarships-opt-in to continue receiving correspondence and updates on the Resident Scholarship Program.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for the latest news and updates regarding our scholarship program!



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Conronavirus Update from the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank

During times of crisis, the Foodbank plays an important role in meeting community needs. In response to the coronavirus, the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank has been working to provide food to people who might otherwise go hungry.

The Foodbank's Mobile Food Pantry Program is distributing food in high-traffic spots across the peninsula and they are working with partner agencies to ensure people receive the food they desperately need. The team from the Foodbank's Culinary Training Program is preparing breakfast and lunch grab-and-go bags for children throughout our local area. The Foodbank has also hosted several large-scale public food distribution events to help individuals and families struggling to locate healthy meals. During a distribution event in Newport News last week, they provided food to support 500 households.

If you are struggling to get the food you and your family need, please visit the Get Help page on the Foodbank's website to locate a mobile food pantry or partner agency that can help. Please call prior to visiting to confirm hours of operation, as distribution plans change quickly and without much notice.

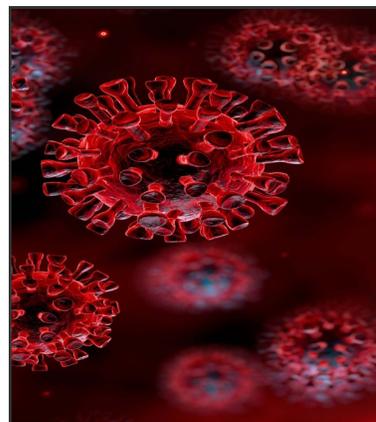
Due to the increased demand for food in grocery stores, the Foodbank has seen a significant decrease in food pick-ups and store donations, which means personal donations are even more important. You can still drop food donations off at their Hampton headquarters at 2401 Aluminum Avenue. All donations are quarantined for 72 hours before they are available to be distributed. You can make a monetary donation to help purchase truckloads of supplies, donate through YouGiveGoods or purchase through online retailers to ship items directly to the Foodbank's doors. For additional information on any of these options, you can contact Tracy Hansbrough at thansbrough@hrfoodbank.org.

NEWPORT NEWS HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Call center is open 8 AM - 6 PM

Please call 757-594-7069

If you have questions about where to get tested if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.



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

Keeping you informed:
Coronavirus:



**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:

What You Need To Know About Section 3

Section 3 Act

Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u)(as amended), requires that economic opportunities generated by certain HUD financial assistance for housing (including Public and Indian Housing) and community development programs shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be given to low and very low-income persons, particularly those who are recipients of government assistance for housing, and to businesses that provide economic opportunities for these persons.

Who Are Section 3 Residents?

Other HUD programs covered by Section 3 (to distinguish between HUD Public and Indian housing programs) are those that provide housing or community development assistance for housing rehabilitation, housing construction, or other public construction project.

Public housing residents including persons with disabilities.

Low and very low income persons who live in the area where a HUD assisted project is located.

What is a Section 3 Business?

A Section 3 business is one:

That is owned by Section 3 residents
Employs Section 3 residents or;
Subcontracts with businesses that provide opportunities to low and very low income persons.

► **What types of Economic Opportunities are available under Section 3?**

- Jobs and Employment opportunities
- Training and Educational opportunities
- Contracts and Business opportunities

► **Who will provide the Economic Opportunities?**

• Recipients of HUD financial assistance and their contractors and subcontractors are expected to develop a Section 3 Plan to assure that economic opportunities to the greatest extent feasible, are provided to low and very low-income persons and to qualified Section 3 businesses. One element of that Plan is the use of a Section 3 clause which indicates that all work performed under the contract is subject to the requirements of Section 3.

► **Who receives Economic Opportunities under Section 3?**

For training and employment:

- persons in public and assisted housing;
- persons in the affected project neighborhood;
- *participants in HUD Youth-build programs;*
- *homeless persons.*

For contracting:

- businesses which fit the definition of a Section 3 business.

► **How can individuals and businesses find out more about Section 3?**

For contracting opportunities contact:

The Office of Human Affairs
Representative: Emmagene Slade
392 Maple Avenue, P.O. Box 37
Newport News, VA 23607
Phone: 757-247-6747 Fax: 757-380-1269

For training and employment opportunities contact:

Representative: LaSandra Wingate
Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority
P. O. Box 797
Newport News, VA 23607-0797
Phone: 757-928-2628

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

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.



FREE Online Renter Education Course



Whether your tenants are new to renting, have a challenging rental history or have been renting for years, they can benefit from our free resources!

Virginia Housing's FREE Renter Education course provides the support, knowledge and expertise your tenants need to be successful. Join Virginia Housing in helping more Virginians become successful renters! To gain access to these resources now, visit VirginiaHousing.com/Renters.

- 24/7 FREE online course for renters
- Quizzes to ensure understanding
- Certificates of successful completion
- Download our FREE Renter eBook



safety Corner

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT— SYMPTOMS

Symptoms can be physical, psychological, or both. Keep in mind that older children may not talk about the problem, because they fear or want to protect the offender. Or they don't believe they will be taken seriously.

General symptoms

Certain general symptoms may suggest that a child is experiencing some type of abuse or neglect include:

- ◆ Slower-than-normal development. The child does not show the abilities and skills normally found in other children the same age, such as starting to talk or socialize with others. Some children regress, which means they slip backward, losing skills they had before.
- ◆ Failure to thrive. This is a term that means the child isn't gaining weight or height the way he or she should. Although this can be caused by a medical problem, it can also be a sign that the child is not being well cared for.
- ◆ Unusual interaction with a parent. The parent may not be interested in the child. Or the child may be constantly trying not to upset the parent. The child may actually be afraid of the parent.
- ◆ Mental health problems, such as having low self-esteem, anxiety, depression, or thoughts of suicide.
- ◆ Suddenly getting lower grades in school.
- ◆ Behaving in a way that isn't appropriate or that causes problems. In a young child, this could mean being unusually fussy, being afraid, or not being interested in activities. Children often act out what they have seen or experienced, such as violence or sexual activity. Older children may act out in unusual ways, such as having sex, fighting, using drugs, or running away.

Should you have any questions or concerns, contact Safety & Security at 928-2660.

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.



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 48 HOURS REGARDING YOUR CONCERNS.

THANK YOU

REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE



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

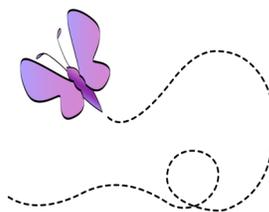
If you or anyone you know and love is affected by substance abuse help is available.

Program Name	Services	Payment
Tidewater Area Hot Line 459-8467	Narcotics Anonymous	No fees
Narcotics Anonymous VA Regional Hot Line 1-800-777-1515	Support group for recovering substance abusers.	No fees
Hampton Roads Clinic Reflections 827-8430	Outpatient Counseling I.V. Methadone Maintenance 30-45 day Residential Facility	Sliding fee Scale Medicaid
Project Link 245-0217	Case management and coordination services for prenatal abuser	Sliding fee Scale Medicaid
AI Anon/Alateen 1-888-425-2666 AA Hotline 595-1212	Support group Alcoholism-friends/relatives and teens. 12 Step Program	No fees No fees
Peninsula Area Help Line 875-9314	Narcotics Anonymous	No fees
Advanced Recovery Systems 1-888-338-1433	Alcohol, Eating Disorders and Substance Abuse	Private Insurance

Coronavirus: Keeping you informed

Why is it important to wear a mask?

Masks may help prevent people who have 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.



MARCH 14, 2021



Manager's
Corner

Requested Work Orders

Marshall	928-6154
Lassiter	928-2690
Spratley House	928-6187
Ashe Manor	928-6187
Aqueduct	833-5700
Pineroft	269-4300
Orcutt Townhomes	928-6187



Please use this number
ONLY after
5:00 p.m.
(757) 247-0484

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.

After Hours Guidelines

Maintenance staff will respond to the following calls:

1. Gas Leaks;
2. Electrical Problems;
3. Smoke Detector;
4. Power Outages (only at Pineroft, 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.



All tenants should contact their rental office about proper installation of cable and satellite television before being installed by the company.

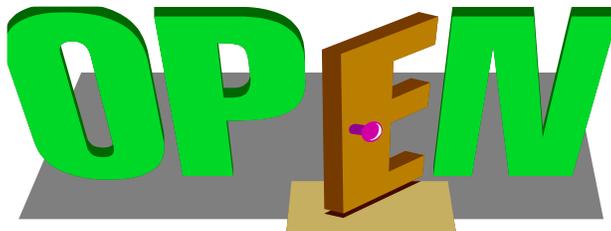
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- ◆ 24/7 FREE online course for renters
- ◆ Quizzes to ensure understanding
- ◆ Certificates of successful completion
- ◆ Download our FREE Renter eBook



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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