

CURRENTS

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New portable guardrails are set up on the flight deck of USS *Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78). Photo by **Matt Hildreth**

New Guardrails Improve Safety and Efficiency

New portable guardrails in use on the flight deck of USS *Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78) are improving safety and enabling shipbuilders to work more efficiently.

“We’re excited about this,” said X43 General Foreman and Trade Business Manager **Cliff Edwards**, as he showed off the bright yellow guardrails with non-skid bases. “It puts another layer of safety in the hands of shipbuilders.”

The system is currently protecting shipbuilders working around CVN 78’s advanced weapons elevators. In use since late January, the guardrail system meets all Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Newport News Shipbuilding safety standards.

“It allows X43 (Machinery Installation Department), which owns and tests the elevator, to be self-sufficient and move it from elevator to elevator as we need to,” said X43 General Foreman **Mike Bousquet**.

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Representatives from Newport News Shipbuilding are recognized during a House of Delegates session on Wednesday, Feb. 13. Photo by **John Whalen**

NNS Day at the General Assembly

A group of Newport News Shipbuilding employees spent Wednesday, Feb. 13, in Richmond meeting lawmakers in the Virginia General Assembly and learning how the legislature and its actions impact the shipyard.

“We’re here to share positive stories about Newport News Shipbuilding with our legislators, thank them for their past support and let them know how their investment in us is making a positive impact,” said **Tom Cosgrove**, NNS’ manager of Corporate Citizenship and Government Relations.

The trip to the state Capitol also provided a chance for shipbuilders to interact with the Virginia Manufacturers’ Association, the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and their own representatives in the state Senate and House of Delegates. “Legislators need to hear from their own constituents – not just NNS lobbyists – about the importance of their support for our issues,” Cosgrove said. “That is the real value of having shipbuilders come to Richmond for the day.”

For **Keisha Pexton**, NNS’ director of Training and Workforce Development, the General Assembly trip revealed how important it is to advocate for legislation that could benefit NNS, including bills that impact grant funding opportunities or training programs at community colleges.

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Pictured from left are Dr. Latitia McCane, Deborah Moore, Michele Isaacson, Jessica Gomez, Delegate Matthew James, Brent Woodhouse and Jim Erickson. James represents parts of Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Suffolk. Photo by John Whalen

NNS Day at the General Assembly

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“Being here has given me a better perspective of the volume of bills that we have the opportunity to influence as a company,” she said. “Now, I feel the need to lean in a little bit more to broaden my knowledge so it better positions me to make decisions moving forward.”

Shipbuilders had the opportunity to sit in on committee hearings and visit the House and Senate chambers during sessions in which NNS was recognized. Lawmakers in the House also approved a resolution commending The Apprentice School as it

celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.

Gary Artybridge Jr., manager of Community Relations, said he talked with legislators about SEEKnns programs that are positively impacting students in their districts. “I definitely learned a lot,” he said. “It showed me that there is always an opportunity to share what is going on. Even if it’s in the legislator’s backyard, they might not necessarily know.”

Colleen Harvey, manager of Disability Services at NNS, was able to personally thank the patron of a bill the company is supporting during this year’s General Assembly session. “I think they appreciated that our attitude was more thanking them for their service rather than advocating for a bill,” she said.

While shipbuilders visited legislators, NNS’ Mobile Experience (MX) trailer was set up outside the Capitol to allow legislators, their staffs and other visitors to learn about the shipyard’s digital transformation.

“Last year, the state invested in the Virginia Digital Shipbuilding Workforce Program, a partnership between NNS and Old Dominion University,” Cosgrove said. “Having the MX trailer in Richmond gave legislators hands-on demonstrations of the value of that investment.”

New Guardrails Improve Safety and Efficiency

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

In the past, X43 shipbuilders relied on temporary stanchions installed by fitters (X11), which meant X43 shipbuilders would expend time coordinating an available X11 crew to install or move the barriers. However, the portable guardrails can be installed and moved by X43 crews in about 20 minutes and cause no damage to the ship’s non-skid or critical coatings.

In addition to the advanced weapons elevators, other applications of the guardrails could help protect shipbuilders working near catapult

troughs, aircraft elevators, jet blast deflectors and other areas.

“The safety benefits are obvious, but it also decreases our downtime and increases our efficiency, creating a cost savings and positively impacting schedule,” Edwards said. Shipbuilders from *John F. Kennedy* (CVN 79) recently visited CVN 78 to evaluate the guardrails for possible use on their ship.

“We want everybody to benefit from this project because we think it’s going to save money and could potentially save lives,” Edwards said.

HII Scholarship Program Accepting Applications Through April 16

The Huntington Ingalls Industries Scholarship Fund is accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year.

Up to 100 new scholarships will be awarded this year. Individual award amounts will range from \$1,500 annually for selected students enrolled in a two-year college program to \$3,000 per year for selected students enrolled in a four-year program. The fund also awards scholarships of up

to \$3,000 toward pre-K school readiness education costs.

Children of all HII employees are eligible to apply, with the exception of children of senior executives and those employees who have been with the company for less than two years. The selection process is independent of HII and based on both scholarship and financial need. No employee or officer of HII will play a part in

the selection process.

In the three years since it was established, the HII Scholarship Fund has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships to children of HII employees.

Visit www.scholarsapply.org/hii-readiness for the school readiness scholarship. Visit www.scholarsapply.org/hii-scholarship for the post-secondary school scholarship.



Shipbuilders attend the S3 - Shipbuilders Stop Smoking kickoff at the HII Family Health Center last October. Photo by John Whalen

Shipbuilders who have been tobacco-free for six months or have successfully completed a tobacco cessation program can declare themselves “tobacco-free” through UPoint on www.hiibenefits.com and save \$660 on their annual medical premium. Shipbuilders who don’t remember their UPoint password should call the HIBC at 1-877-216-3222 before annual enrollment begins.

Last October a group of Steelworkers joined the S3 – Shipbuilders Stop Smoking tobacco cessation program through the HII Family Health Center. Upon completion of the program they will qualify for the “tobacco-free” discount on their medical insurance.

Watch a video on MyNNS featuring one of the S3 participants and his experiences in the program.

Interested in completing a tobacco cessation program? Available services include:

- Free wellness coaching at the HII Family Health Center. Visit www.myquadmedical.com/hii or call 327-4200 for an appointment.
- 24/7 over-the-phone coaching through Teladoc for a one-time \$10 fee. Call 1-800-TELADOC or visit www.teladoc.com/hii or to get started.

Get Healthier and Save Money by Quitting Tobacco



This spring, the United Steelworkers (USW)-represented employees will be required to declare their tobacco-use status during Annual Enrollment. Non-represented employees will also have to update their tobacco-use status.



United Way Campaign Begins March 4



Newport News Shipbuilding’s 2019 United Way campaign will run from March 4-22. A new digital giving platform, Newport News Shipbuilding Gives, is launching this year and will make it easier than ever for shipbuilders to support United Way. Look for more information in upcoming editions of *Currents*.

Quality Management System Audit Begins Feb. 25

The American Bureau of Shipbuilding Quality Evaluations (ABS-QE) will conduct a surveillance audit of Newport News Shipbuilding’s Quality Management System (QMS) Feb. 25-28.

The audit team will review work documents associated with many areas of the shipyard, including records for equipment calibration, training, production control, product testing, internal audits and corrective and preventive actions.

Auditors may also request to randomly interview employees in both nuclear and non-nuclear work areas. Basic information that all shipbuilders should know for the audit:

- Your job/work practice
- The procedure(s) that govern your work
- Where your procedure(s) are located

Employees should also be familiar with NNS’ Quality Policy, which states “It is the policy of NNS to deliver products and services that meet customer requirements. NNS shall continuously strive to improve the first-time quality of its products and services through continual improvement techniques as a key component of its QMS.”

A successful audit will maintain the shipyard’s ISO 9001 certificate for the Quality Management System. The shipyard was first certified to ISO 9001 in 1993 and has renewed the certification every three years since. For more information, contact **Remona Price** (O04) at 380-2889.

- The NNS quality policy, stated below and in procedure Q-1000
- Your department’s quality objectives



Matthew Keller, from left, Jonathan Vannoy, Jeromy Rich and Cecil Eley cut the ribbon to officially open the new break room in the Detail Pipe Shop. Photo by Ashley Cowan

Shipbuilders Open New Break Room in Detail Pipe Shop



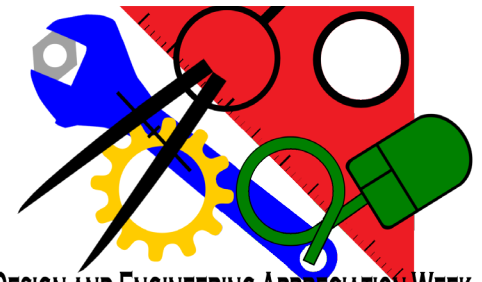
A ribbon-cutting ceremony Wednesday, Feb. 13, marked the official opening of a reclaimed space that has been converted into a break room in the Detail Pipe Shop.

The area is part of Newport News Shipbuilding's initiative to reclaim spaces to benefit shipbuilders. The break room serves employees on all three shifts with microwaves, tables, refrigerators and vending machines. It features new flooring, windows and space for team engagement activities.

Shirley Younger (X42) is a pipefitter who has worked at NNS for 13 years. She said the space is a great place to socialize when she eats lunch. "This break room allows me to meet a lot of people," she said. "We play games and have a lot of fun during our lunch break."

Carl Caro (X18) said he is grateful for the new area. "I have worked at NNS for 36 years," he said. "Adding these reclaimed spaces around the shipyard is a good change. I appreciate it."

Watch a highlights video of the ribbon-cutting ceremony on MyNNS.



DESIGN AND ENGINEERING APPRECIATION WEEK

Celebrating NNS' Designers and Engineers

For the fourth consecutive year, the Engineering and Design Division is celebrating Design and Engineering Appreciation Week (DEAW) with a series of events promoting teamwork and creative thinking, with a dash of healthy competition.

DEAW coincides with National Engineers Week and highlights the unique skillsets of shipbuilders in Engineering and Design. This year, 45 teams will face off in a series of four events, with the top 10 teams competing in a final tournament to be crowned 2019 Grand Champion.

DEAW runs from Feb. 18-22 in conference rooms in Bldgs. 160/161, 4633, 600, 902 and 903, as well as VASCIC. The final championship event is Feb. 26 in The Apprentice School gym. All events are held during lunch, and all shipbuilders are invited to cheer on teams.

Meet the New Doctors at the HII Family Health Center

The HII Family Health Center is hosting a meet and greet event from 1 to 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 26, with the facility's newest doctors, Dr. Jon Moretz, Dr. Tim Kwiatkowski and Dr. Jennifer Driscoll.

Eligible employees and their families are welcome to stop by to meet the staff, learn about the health center's services and enter a drawing to win a YETI cooler. Free flu shots will also be available — no appointment necessary. For details about the event, call the health center at 327-4200.



Commemorating The Apprentice School's Centennial

In honor of The Apprentice School's centennial this year, Newport News Shipbuilding is sharing video messages from notable Virginians congratulating the school on this milestone.

Visit nns.huntingtoningalls.com/apprentice-school-centennial often for new celebratory messages as well as other photos and historical videos.

AROUND THE YARD

NNS, USW Partner to Obtain New Parking Spaces



Newport News Shipbuilding and the United Steelworkers recently partnered to make dozens of parking spaces available for shipbuilders in the South Yard.

NNS employees with aqua decals can now use nearly 50 designated spaces in Full Gospel Kingdom Church lots located at 3100 Washington Ave. – across from The Apprentice School – and 215 32nd Street from 11 p.m. Sunday to 11 p.m. Friday each week.

Master Shipbuilder **Reginald Foote** (X43) serves on NNS' Parking Committee as the union liaison. He was appreciative of the collaboration between the union and the company that made the additional parking spaces available. "It's all about quality of life," he said. "It's very important to work in conjunction to make sure we do everything we possibly can for our people and our company. It's a win-win situation."

Shipbuilders who use these lots should pay close attention to posted signs and park only in NNS-designated spaces.

HRT Offers Express Route Between Williamsburg and NNS

Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) offers express service between Williamsburg and Newport News Shipbuilding Monday through Friday. Route 121 leaves the Williamsburg Transportation Center on North Boundary Street at 5:30 a.m. It arrives at NNS' North Yard Gate at 6:15 a.m. and at the Newport News Transportation Center at 6:25 a.m.

In the afternoon, Route 121 leaves the North Yard Gate at 3:40 p.m. It arrives at the Newport News Transportation Center at 3:50 p.m. and at the Williamsburg Transportation Center at 4:30 p.m. For more information about HRT routes, visit www.gohrt.com.

Nominate Visionary Women for WiSE Recognition

To kickoff Women's History Month in March, Women in Shipbuilding Enterprise (WiSE) is soliciting nominations for visionary women from the past or present.

When submitting a nomination, please write why this woman is visionary. Nominations should be submitted to **Cynthia Allen-Whyte** (N358) via email by Feb. 25. Winning nominations will be highlighted on the WiSE website, private Facebook group (NN WiSE- Women in Shipbuilding Enterprise) and in *Currents*.

PEER Program Seeks Candidates for July Selection



The Professional Enhancement and Enrichment Rotation (PEER) Program is seeking qualified applicants for its next cohort selection in July.

The program is open to salaried individual contributors.

Learn at lunch events begin this month and will continue in March and April. Check the Datebook for dates and locations. An open house will also be held from 4 until 6 p.m. April 15 in Bldg. 903-7 (MDC). For more information, visit the PEER website.

Section of 41st Street Closed for Sewer Work

Crews from the city of Newport News are working this week to install a new sanitary sewer and manhole along 41st Street between Washington and Huntington avenues.

Weather permitting, the work is expected to last about one week. As a result, a section of the street in front of Bldgs. 520 and 521 will be closed and street parking restricted through Friday, Feb. 22. If work goes as planned, no parking signs will be removed Monday, Feb. 25.

CELEBRATING AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Celebrate African-American History During Thursday Event

The African American Shipbuilders Association (AASA) is hosting its signature event, the annual Black History Month Celebration, at 4 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 21, in Bldg. 520-6 (James River Room).

"We openly welcome all employees to join us as we step back in time to experience African-American history, while entertaining you through music, dance, demonstrations, photos and more," said AASA President **Stephanie White** (K21).

Olive Ezell, a notable college professor and talk show host whose heritage stretches through Africa, the Caribbean and America, will be the guest speaker.

This year is special for AASA and marks the 10th anniversary of the employee resource group. A team of nine shipbuilders came together in 2009 and worked afterhours to build the organization, which is focused on professional development, networking and community outreach. AASA has since grown to more than 500 members.

AASA continues to support the community in a variety of ways, including:

- Hosting seminars focused on resume writing, professional and personal strengths, and education
- Supporting research for heart disease, sickle cell anemia and cancer, in addition to toy drives and job fairs
- Hosting social events promoting professional networking
- Sponsoring educational bus trips – focused on black history – to Washington, D.C.

DATEBOOK

FEBRUARY 20

The Veterans Employee Resource Group (VERG) will hold a general membership meeting from 4:30 until 5:30 p.m. at The Apprentice School (Alumni Room). For more information, contact **Adam Krininger** (PEER M40) at 380-4286.

FEBRUARY 23

The graduation ceremony for The Apprentice School's Class of 2018 will be held at 11 a.m. at Liberty Baptist Church, located at 1021 Big Bethel Rd. in Hampton. Former Second Lady of the United States Dr. Jill Biden will deliver the commencement address. No tickets are required to attend. Business attire is required.

FEBRUARY 27

The Professional Enhancement and Enrichment Rotation (PEER) Program is hosting a learn at lunch (bring your own lunch) event for potential candidates from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in VASCIC-3 West. The program is open to salaried individual contributors. To sign up, shipbuilders should email their name, department, phone number and learn at lunch date to PEERProgram@hii-nns.com.

FEBRUARY 28

The "Spear and Gear" Toastmasters Club will host a speech contest meeting from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in Bldg. 520-6 (James River Room). The event is open to all Newport News Shipbuilding employees, and no RSVP is required. The event will provide a forum for employees to learn how to become more effective communicators and leaders. Contestants have a chance of competing at the Toastmasters International Area 45 International and Table Topics Speech Contest. For more information, contact **Jason Paquette** (E83) at 534-2770

MARCH 13

The Professional Enhancement and Enrichment Rotation (PEER) Program is hosting a learn at lunch (bring your own lunch) event for potential candidates from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in Bldg. 600-1 (Conference Room A). The program is open to salaried individual contributors. To sign up, email PEERProgram@hii-nns.com with your name, department, phone number and learn at lunch date.

MARCH 20

The Professional Enhancement and Enrichment Rotation (PEER) Program is hosting a learn at lunch (bring your own lunch) event for potential candidates from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in Bldg. 160-2 (EOC). The program is open to salaried individual contributors. To sign up, email PEERProgram@hii-nns.com with your name, department, phone number and learn at lunch date.

MARCH 26

Newport News Shipbuilding's American Cancer Society Relay For Life team will host a kickoff event from 4:15 until 6 p.m. in Bldg. 520-6 (Executive Dining Room). Employees who are interested in participating in Relay For Life can sign up at the kickoff. For more information, contact **Adam Krininger** (PEER M40) at 380-4286.

MARCH 26

The L.E.A.R.N. Program will host an after-work presentation with **Bharat Amin**, vice president and chief information officer, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in Bldg. 520-6 (James River Room). The event is open to all employees by reservation only. Sign-up on the L.E.A.R.N. website on MyNNS. For questions, contact **Tanika Vasquez** (E08) at 688-7916, **Helen Dennie** (O28) at 380-4831 or email LEARN@hii-nns.com.

MARCH 27

The Professional Enhancement and Enrichment Rotation (PEER) Program is hosting a learn at lunch (bring your own lunch) event for potential candidates from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in Bldg. 903-7 (MDC). The program is open to salaried individual contributors. To sign up, email PEERProgram@hii-nns.com with your name, department, phone number and learn at lunch date.

APRIL 10

The Professional Enhancement and Enrichment Rotation (PEER) Program is hosting a learn at lunch (bring your own lunch) event for potential candidates from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in Bldg. 520-4 (O19 Conference Room). The program is open to salaried individual contributors. To sign up, email PEERProgram@hii-nns.com with your name, department, phone number and learn at lunch date.

MAY 4

The 2019 NNS Submarine Golf Classic will be held at 9 a.m. at Cypress Creek Golf Club. This is a four-person Captain's Choice tournament. The cost is \$75 per person (\$300 per team). Tournament proceeds will benefit the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank and the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation. The rain date is June 1. For more information, contact **J Mathews** (X82) at 292-6341 or **Alicia Wonders** (X84) at 688-4145.

NNS 5K Scheduled for Sept. 7

Newport News Shipbuilding and BeWell for Life announced that the 2019 NNS 5K Fun Run/Walk will be held on Sept. 7. The event has traditionally been held in the spring. However, the date change will help minimize any possible issues with the ongoing construction on Huntington Avenue.

Opportunities to Give Blood

Newport News Shipbuilding is hosting blood drives for the American Red Cross at three locations in March. See details for each location below. A charge is provided for shipbuilders who donate.

Bldg. 520

7:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 7

James River Room

Contact **Judy Fundak** (K18) at 380-3011 or via email to make an appointment.

Bldg. 903

8 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Tuesday, March 12

Second Floor Conference Rooms A and B

Contact **Christina Charnock** (E70) at 380-2863 or via email to make an appointment.

Bldg. 600

7 a.m. until noon

Wednesday, March 13

First Floor Conference Rooms B and C

Contact **Natasha Eck** (E83) or **Sara Hodges** (E83) via email to make an appointment.

SEEKING SHIPBUILDERS

Visit www.buildyourcareer.com to search for the latest NNS job openings.

Job Title	Req Number	Dept.	Location
Trainee Outside Machinist	27506BR	X43	Newport News
Experienced Inside Machinist	27490BR	X43	Newport News
Experienced Outside Machinist	27491BR	X43	Newport News
Experienced Refueler	27493BR	X43	Newport News
Experienced Ship Safety Watch	27495BR	X43	Newport News
Experienced Structural Welder	28468BR	X18	Newport News
Contract Administrator 2	27197BR	O19	Newport News
Engineer Systems Architect 2	28186BR	X57	Newport News
Engineer Systems Architect 2	28191BR	X57	Newport News
Engineer Systems Architect 3	28190BR	X57	Newport News
iDS Engineer Systems 3	28193BR	X57	Newport News
iDS ERP Data Analyst 3	28188BR	X57	Newport News
iDS PLM Data Analyst 3	28189BR	X57	Newport News
Engineer Electrical 3	26696BR	E19	Newport News
Quality Engineer – Software Engineer 3	25661BR	E44	Newport News

Employees are encouraged to use the "Current HII Employees" portal to apply. The company continues to offer cash bonus awards for referrals to select positions, visit www.huntingtoningalls.com/careers/refer-a-friend for more information.