

# CURRENTS

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## Out With the Old

A 104-ton overhead bridge crane in Newport News Shipbuilding's Machine Shop may not seem particularly noteworthy among the hundreds of cranes in the shipyard. However, until it was replaced in December, it was likely the oldest working crane at NNS, dating back to at least 1920.

"It was being used up until the last day," said **Jonathan Drake (O48)**, an electrical engineer and project lead in the group responsible for removing and replacing the crane. "It still functioned pretty well, but it had its issues."

Among the issues were difficulties finding parts for ongoing maintenance and repair. It took a crew about two days to remove the crane, which was taken to a scrapyard. A new 104-ton overhead bridge crane was installed in its place.

"They literally took down the old crane and put up the new crane right afterward. The new one has power and is running. We've just got to do some tests," Drake said. "We expect it to be in service within the next 30 days."



## Shipbuilders Complete Future Leader Xperience Program



Newport News Shipbuilding's Future Leader Xperience (FLX) program hosted its first graduation ceremony in December. The three-phase program prepares shipbuilders who are interested in pursuing a path to a first-line leadership position or other positions of increasing responsibility.

"These graduates are our FLX plank owners," said **Mark Gillette** (O44), who leads the program along with **David Adams** (O44).

The 28 shipbuilders recognized during the ceremony completed an online values assessment and worked with their supervisors to create action plans. They also participated in classroom and on-the-job training to develop communication skills and leadership behaviors.

"This program forces you to do a lot of self-reflection. Going through those exercises and assignments further reinforced why I wanted to be a leader in the company and that my heart, personal values and mind are in the right place to take a leadership role in the future," FLX program graduate **Emmylou Mosley** (E86) said during the ceremony.

**Susan Jacobs**, vice president of Human Resources and Administration; **Xavier Beale**, vice president of Trades; and



Future Leader Xperience graduates with NNS and program leaders. Photo by Ashley Cowan

**Charles Southall**, vice president of Engineering and Design, delivered remarks during the graduation ceremony.

Before FLX – which is open to all individual contributors – was developed, NNS offered separate leadership development programs for hourly and salaried employees.

"We took the strengths of both of those programs and combined them into one. Additionally, we combined both groups into the same classroom," Gillette said. "We wanted to present a consistent and clear message to everyone who aspired to be a leader."

FLX graduate **Cory Winston** (O53) said the program changed the way he thinks about leadership. "It's all about doing the right thing even when nobody is looking," he said. "Leadership is not like a hat that you can take off, throw in the closet and keep going. Leadership is something you take with you each and every day."

For more information, visit the FLX website on MyNNS or contact **David Adams** at 380-7810, **Mark Gillette** at 688-7755 or email [FLXProgram@hii-nns.com](mailto:FLXProgram@hii-nns.com).

## Out With the Old

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While it doesn't increase capacity, the new crane does offer a number of technological advantages, including a new data monitoring system that will provide details about preventive maintenance, operating trends and malfunctions. It's the first crane in the shipyard to employ such technology.

"It will extract maintenance information – like when we should change the oil – and allow us to access it remotely versus having to climb up the crane," Drake said. "We can get a heads up whenever there is an issue."

## Shuttle Stops Added for Hidens Parking Lot



Since parking and shuttle changes were implemented during shutdown, the Parking and Transportation team has audited parking capacity and shuttle usage. The team found available capacity at the Hidens parking lot to support additional shuttle stops along Washington Avenue.

All parking in the Hidens lot is open for use, and there are three Conex boxes that dictate shuttle drop-off locations. Conex Boxes 1 and 2 support 34th Street only. Shuttles from Conex Box 3 now service 46th and 43rd streets, in addition to the North Yard and 50th Street.

During peak shift change, the Hidens parking lot is serviced by buses. The entrance to the parking lot is located at the corner of 63rd Street and Warwick Boulevard. For additional parking opportunities, visit the Parking and Transportation website at [nns.huntingtoningalls.com/parking-transportation](http://nns.huntingtoningalls.com/parking-transportation). There is a new section called "Where Should I Park?" that helps employees find parking based on their work location.

## Ring Module Shop Delivers Record-Breaking Block IV VCS Sail



Shipbuilders in the Ring Module Shop (RMS) recently completed structural assembly of the sail module for *Virginia*-class submarine *Idaho* (SSN 799), setting records for Block IV.

The module was delivered to blast and coat 14 days ahead of schedule and was the most structurally complete Block IV sail delivered by the RMS. Shipbuilders completed all work associated with structural inspections, finished pull testing and completed the installation and testing of the captains' cage and look-out doors. Completing these milestones prior to shipment also allowed the sail structural team to break Block IV cost records.

"This is the best overall cost performance for the team of X11 fitters and X18 welders in all of Block IV," said **Mark Reynolds** (O63), a fitter general foreman. "The team is proud of what they have accomplished and look to keep the momentum going."

## Know Your Numbers Health Screenings

Employees who missed the Sept. 30, 2019, deadline for the Know Your Numbers program can still complete the program by March 31 to qualify for a \$600 discount on medical premiums beginning July 1. Salaried employees enrolled in a Huntington Ingalls Industries medical plan must complete a wellness profile and health screening to receive the discount.

Health screenings are available at the HII Family Health Center, and onsite screenings will be available throughout the shipyard starting Jan. 17. Visit [www.hiibenefits.com](http://www.hiibenefits.com) and click the Know Your Numbers Program tile for a full schedule of screenings and to complete the wellness profile. All personal information associated with the program is protected by privacy laws and never shared.



## Searching for Volunteer Opportunities?

Newport News Shipbuilding employees can search for volunteer opportunities and log volunteer hours using the Newport News Shipbuilding Gives website at [nns.yourcause.com](http://nns.yourcause.com) using their "MyID," located on pay stubs and the Outlook address book.

## Make Your Voice Heard During 2020 Action Planning



As Newport News Shipbuilding kicks off 2020, it's important for all employees to recognize the benefits of action planning, which is the best practice of high-performing teams. Actively participating in the development of goals to improve a team's business operations has been known to increase employee engagement and business performance across all industries.

All shipbuilders are expected to take part in creating their team's action planning session. It is every shipbuilder's responsibility to know the "one thing" their team is working on to improve business operations.

Regular check-ins are needed for plans to work. At least once a month, teams should ask themselves two questions: Are we working the plan? Is it making a difference? "It's like Pac-Man. Pac-Man makes progress one bite at a time and eventually gets all the way through the maze. You can't wait until the end of the year to see if you met your goal," said Component Fabrication and Assembly Director **Bob Schatzel**.

Action planning sessions are taking place through January, and managers should record action plans in Gallup online by Feb. 2. Email [EngageNNS@hii-nns.com](mailto:EngageNNS@hii-nns.com) for additional information about action planning.



Pictured from left are Propeller Club Treasurer **Kelly Brown** (K15), Foodbank Community Engagement Coordinator **Tracy Hansbrough** and Propeller Club Second Vice President **Willy Adams** (O19).



Pictured from left are Propeller Club Treasurer **Kelly Brown** (K15), Propeller Club Second Vice President **Willy Adams** (O19), Propeller Club Chairman **Rhonda King** (O43), Propeller Club member **Floyd Byrd** (X51) and Project Lifesaver representative **Kathy Kenda**.

## Propeller Club Supports Foodbank, Project Lifesaver

The Newport News Propeller Club made donations to the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank and Project Lifesaver on Dec. 11.

The Foodbank is the leading hunger relief organization across the greater Peninsula region, serving those who struggle with hunger in Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson, Williamsburg, Gloucester, James City, Mathews, Surry and York.

Project Lifesaver is a community-based, public safety, nonprofit organization that provides law enforcement, fire/rescue and caregivers with a program designed to protect, and when necessary, quickly locate individuals with cognitive disorders who are prone to the life-threatening behavior of wandering.



## DATEBOOK

### JANUARY 14

New Year's resolutions focus on areas we want to improve, including our finances. Learn how to make the most of your money in 2020 through SmartPath's Financial Resolutions class at noon in Bldg. 520-6 (James River Room) and at 4:30 p.m. in the VASCIC auditorium. Visit [nns.huntingtongalls.com/smartpath-registration](https://nns.huntingtongalls.com/smartpath-registration) to register. Can't make the in-person class? A live webinar will be available on Jan. 16. Visit [www.hiibenefits.com](https://www.hiibenefits.com) to register for the webinar.

### JANUARY 19

Jan. 19 is the deadline for individuals or teams to sign up for the six-week Weigh To Go Weight Loss Challenge. Participants will receive emails and encouragement along the way. The team with the highest percentage weight loss will receive \$50 Visa gift cards for each member. Any individual losing over 1% will be entered into a drawing for a smart watch. This challenge is open to all HII employees and spouses. To register, log into MyChart at [myquadmedical.com/hii](https://myquadmedical.com/hii) then hover over the Resources tab and click Wellness Online.

### FEBRUARY 3-21

Newport News Shipbuilding's 2020 United Way campaign begins Feb. 3 and continues through Feb. 21. Look for more information about how shipbuilders can impact the community during the campaign in future editions of *Currents*.

### FEBRUARY 8

Attend a lecture and book signing with William Fox, author of *The Apprentice School: Celebrating a Legacy*, from 2:30 until 3 p.m. at The Mariners' Museum and Park. The event is included with \$1 museum admission and free to Mariners' Museum members. For more information, visit [marinersmuseum.org/lectures](https://marinersmuseum.org/lectures) or contact Julie Murphy at (757) 952-0466 or [jmurphy@marinersmuseum.org](mailto:jmurphy@marinersmuseum.org).

### FEBRUARY 22

The graduation ceremony for The Apprentice School's Class of 2019 will be held at 11 a.m. at Liberty Baptist Church, located at 1021 Big Bethel Road in Hampton. Tickets are not required to attend the ceremony.

### FEBRUARY 23

The Peninsula Engineers Council (PEC) will host the annual Peninsula Engineer of the Year Banquet at the Hampton Roads Convention Center from 2 until 8 p.m. Join fellow engineers and friends at a dinner, during National Engineer's Week, to honor this year's recipient. Tickets will be available through your engineering society or [www.va-pec.org](https://www.va-pec.org). The PEC is an inter-society council comprised of representatives from 18 engineering organizations.

### MARCH 19

The Virginia Ship Repair Foundation is looking for technical advisers to assist local middle schools in its 14th annual LEGO Competition. Volunteers will help students design, build and present their shipbuilding innovations in LEGO CAD at the competition, held from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. March 19 at Nauticus. For more information or to volunteer, contact Sallena Nikitas at (757) 233-7034 or at [SNikitas@VirginiaShipRepair.org](mailto:SNikitas@VirginiaShipRepair.org).

## Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration is Friday

Newport News Shipbuilding's Inclusion and Diversity Council will host the fourth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration on all shifts Friday, Jan. 17.

Employees were required to register to attend the events. However, the first-shift celebration, which will be held from noon until 12:30 p.m., will be livestreamed in locations listed below. No registration is required to visit these locations as space permits to view the ceremony.

- **Applebee's**
- **Brooks Crossing**  
Room 319
- **Carrier Café**
- **Bldg. 600**  
Program Conference Room
- **Bldg. 872**  
Conference Rooms 2-4
- **Bldg. 903**  
Classrooms 3 and 4

## SEEKING SHIPBUILDERS

Visit [www.buildyourcareer.com](https://www.buildyourcareer.com) to search for the latest NNS job openings.

Job Title	Req Number	Dept.	Location
Business Planning Analyst 3	33653BR	X48	Newport News
Business Planning Analyst 4	33652BR	X48	Newport News
Craftsman Summer Internship	33710BR	TBD	Newport News
Engineer Construction 4	29403BR	O41	Newport News
Engineer Electrical 2	29410BR	O48	Newport News
Engineer Facilities 2 – Structural	29402BR	O41	Newport News
Engineer Facilities 3 – Electrical	29404BR	O41	Newport News
Engineer Facilities 4 – Structural	27267BR	O41	Newport News
iDS Computational Business Analytics Engineer 3	32750BR	X57	Newport News
iDS IT Software Engineer 3 – Siemens TeamCenter NX	25373BR	T53	Newport News
iDS Operations Research Engineer 3	32747BR	X57	Newport News
International Trade Compliance Analyst 3	33213BR	O17	Newport News
Lead Mechanical Engineer 3 – Processing	33779BR	E33	Newport News
Senior Manager Financial Planning and Treasury 3	33970BR	O72	Newport News
Senior Project Management Analyst	33671BR	O59	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.huntingtongalls.com/careers/refer-a-friend](https://www.huntingtongalls.com/careers/refer-a-friend) for more information.

## NNS SAFETY REPORT

Compared to figures from December 2018

