

# CURRENTS

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Shipbuilders across the yard are receiving digital thermometers. Photo by Aaron Pritchett

## HERO Offers Help for Back-to-School Stress

When **Josh Koziel**'s son suddenly faced his last semester of elementary school out of the classroom, Koziel knew his son was stressed.

"I could hear my son asking himself 'What is going on? What am I supposed to be doing?'" said Koziel, an IT finance manager at Newport News Shipbuilding. "All the uncertainty was causing him angst."

Koziel's family, including his 11-year-old son, was facing a lot of changes even before the pandemic took hold. In January they had sold their home and moved into a rental while building a home in a new school district where their son would start middle school.

"My son was going to move from his small elementary school to a new school," Koziel explained, "but when COVID-19 hit, over just a few days he had to learn that he would end his last year of elementary school at home, not in the classroom with his friends."

When they saw their son was stressed, Koziel and his wife called HERO: HII Employees Reach Out. Koziel explained to the HERO representative that his son was experiencing anxiety and could benefit from counseling. Since then, his son has had multiple video sessions with a local counselor at no cost.

"Other than making sure he's set up on the call," Koziel explained, "it's between him and the counselor. My son is a social guy so he enjoys his time with the counselor and is getting a lot out of it. He's learned ways..."

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## Combating the Spread

To help shipbuilders monitor their health as the COVID-19 pandemic continues – and as flu season approaches – Newport News Shipbuilding is handing out digital thermometers to employees.

Last week, the company began distributing thousands of thermometers to production employees and front-line supervisors across the shipyard. Shipbuilders are encouraged to check their temperature before their shift and to stay home if they have a fever or feel sick.

As a reminder, shipbuilders should continue to use face coverings and practice social distancing whenever possible to help prevent the spread of illnesses like COVID-19 or the flu. There are some thermometers available for salaried employees on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, contact **Luke Alley** (O46).

## Shipbuilders Donate Thousands of School Supplies

It was unlike any School Tools Drive in the past, but generous Newport News Shipbuilding employees still donated more than 8,000 school supplies for students across Hampton Roads during the annual event in late July and early August.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, all of this year's donations were purchased online. In past years, shipbuilders had the option to donate online or via box collections at NNS.

"Due to safety protocol, the NNS workforce was not able to proceed with the on-site tangible goods school supply drive this year, which

has run in conjunction with the virtual drive in past years," said **Judy Fundak** (K18). "This year's drive was solely virtual and we are grateful for the supplies that were donated by our employees who are experiencing their own challenges with the onset of the upcoming virtual school year and other COVID-related crises."

Donated school supplies are being distributed via social services agencies in Newport News, Hampton and York/Poquoson, as well as local Boys & Girls Clubs and ForKids – which serves families dealing with homelessness – in Norfolk.

## HERO Offers Help for Back-to-School Stress

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...to deal with his anxiety, which he says are helping.”

And the counseling has helped Koziel and his wife as well.

“It’s a relief for us to see his demeanor change as he progresses through the counseling,” Koziel said. “It’s good for him and helps him recognize he’s not alone in these feelings.”

With the new school year approaching, Koziel feels his son is better equipped to manage a new school, whether online or in person.

“I definitely feel like my son deals with change better now that he has counseling,” Koziel said. “If I could do it all over again I would

have called HERO sooner. It’s a free service that helps with so much, and with so many people struggling with mental health right now, there’s no harm in giving it a try.”

HERO offers free emotional support and resources to help employees and their families. Employees can call 1-855-400-9185 or visit [www.hiihero.com](http://www.hiihero.com) (code: Huntington Ingalls) to speak with a trained representative. All HERO support is 100% free and confidential.

There also is a “Back-to-School Help” tab to the COVID-19 mental health resources hub on the HII benefits website ([www.hiibenefits.com](http://www.hiibenefits.com)).



Devin Heath, center, is pictured with Stan Best, academics supervisor, and Jessica Walker, craft instructor. Both are board members of The Apprentice School Foundation. Framed in the background is the original Executive Order No. 24 “Rules of Apprenticeship” issued July 1, 1919, by then-Newport News Shipbuilding President Homer L. Ferguson.

## Apprentice School Foundation Awards Scholarship

The Apprentice School Foundation awarded its first 2020 scholarship to **Devin Heath**. The Martinsburg, West Virginia, native started his apprenticeship Aug. 3 as an outside machinist. He is a 2020 graduate of Hedgesville High School, where he had a 3.70 GPA.

Heath was active in his community putting in over 900 hours of service. He also served as the team captain for his high school wrestling and track teams.

The Apprentice School Foundation provides a tax-deductible opportunity for alumni, friends and community partners of The Apprentice School to help fund scholarships, historic preservation and community service projects that carry on the school’s legacy. The foundation awards four scholarships annually. Visit The Apprentice School Foundation’s website ([www.tasfd.org](http://www.tasfd.org)) for more information.

## August PMSA Events

Due to COVID-19, the Project Management Institute is now offering project management professional (PMP) certification testing online. Join the Project Management Shipbuilders Association’s (PMSA) **Mary Amparo** at noon on Aug. 26 via WebEx as she provides a front row seat of her experience completing the PMP certification test online. Visit the PMSA website on MyNNS for WebEx login information.

Registration is also underway for August PMP exam prep courses. To learn more about fall 2020 programs, visit the PMSA-NNS PMI Certification Information page on MyNNS and select the PMP Exam Boot Camps tab or contact PMSA Boot Camp Lead **Debra Brand** via email.

PMSA would like to congratulate **Mary Amparo** and **Steven Wells** for recently earning their PMP credentials.

## NOTICE: PPE Not Required During Standard Lunch Shifts

Since Newport News Shipbuilding has returned to standard shifts, including standard lunch times, PPE is not required during the designated lunch times of noon until 12:30 p.m.; 8:30 until 9 p.m., and 2 until 2:20 a.m. However, there is no change in the requirements for face coverings.

## Environmental Management System Audit Begins Aug. 24

An Environmental Management System (EMS) ISO 14001 Audit is scheduled for Aug. 24-26. Shipbuilders should know Newport News Shipbuilding’s environmental policy and how it reflects in their work.

The policy can be summarized by the acronym “SOAR” – stop pollution, obey rules, always improve, and reduce waste. Visit the EMS-SOAR website on MyNNS for more information. For questions, contact **Sarah Lambert** (O27) at 534-3645.

## AROUND THE YARD

### NNS Kicks Off Relay For Life Fundraising

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of the traditional in-person 2020 American Cancer Society Relay For Life event. However, Newport News Shipbuilding has kicked off virtual fundraising and will partner with BayPort Credit Union for a drive-thru luminaria event in September.

Shipbuilders can purchase luminaria bags to honor cancer survivors, those who lost their lives to the disease, and caregivers. NNS Relay For Life T-shirts also are on sale. Luminarias can be purchased for \$10 each or three for \$25. T-shirts can be purchased for \$10. To order luminarias or T-shirts, contact **Amy Prillaman** (O93) at 688-4453 or via email or **Jenn Cherry** (O22) at 688-2742 or via email by Sept. 12.

Shipbuilders also can make donations at [www.RelayForLife.org/NNS](http://www.RelayForLife.org/NNS).

The drive-thru luminaria event will be held from 7:30 until 9 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 19, at BayPort Credit Union, located at One Bayport Way in Newport News. Luminarias will be lit at 7:30 p.m. and will burn during the event to serve as a reminder of the purpose of Relay For Life.

### Free HRT Passes Available for Shipbuilders

Newport News Shipbuilding is providing 2020-2021 Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) GoPass365 passes to employees at no cost. They can be used on all HRT services, including Tide light rail, bus, ferry, VB Wave and the MAX until June 30, 2021.

These non-transferable passes are for NNS employee use only. Passes must be used at least 14 times per month which is equivalent to seven days of use to and from work.

Employees can pick up their pass from the Parking and Transportation side of the O45 Trailer 42467 (T29 in YardMaps), which is located next to the South Yard gas pump. Passes are available for pick up between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Email [ParkingSolutions@hii-nns.com](mailto:ParkingSolutions@hii-nns.com) for questions or concerns. As a reminder, HRT is making route changes to accommodate most bus routes to and from NNS for the new three-shift schedule, effective Aug 24.

### This Week's COVID-19 Q&A

#### **Shipbuilders all over the world face similar challenges due to COVID-19. Is Newport News Shipbuilding talking to representatives of other shipyards to share ideas in this new normal?**

Yes. NNS has collaborated with Ingalls Shipbuilding, Electric Boat, Norfolk Naval Shipyard and others to talk about lessons learned and best practices, especially related to temperature screening, testing and cleaning approaches. This effort has included the NNS Crisis Action Group as well as Environmental Health and Safety, Security, Medical, Waterfront Support and program representatives.

#### **If masks are considered required personal protective equipment, why hasn't NNS disciplined employees who don't wear them?**

Employees either not wearing masks or wearing them incorrectly are subject to discipline like any other PPE violation. The company has disciplined employees for mask violations and will continue to do so.

#### **The state of Virginia has offered COVIDWISE, a smartphone app that uses Bluetooth technology to notify users if they have come in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Will NNS encourage use of this app?**

This is a new app and its effectiveness is still being evaluated. NNS isn't advocating its use, but employees can use the app on their personal smartphones. They can also use it on the personal side of company-issued phones while following security guidelines. Like the Virginia Department of Health, NNS will not rely on this app for contact tracing at this time.

#### **If NNS is trying to limit unnecessary exposure, it would be more beneficial (when applicable) to train new hires via WebEx. Is this a possibility?**

Since we've been dealing with COVID-19, Human Resources and Administration has reviewed options for virtual orientation and training. Salaried new employee and leadership orientation is now fully virtual. Some technical training for new hires, such as planning and design, is also done online. NNS continues to explore other remote-training/orientation options. However, some new hires must be trained here at NNS due to the nature of the position.

#### **If I choose to take an Unpaid COVID Leave of Absence, do I have to take the entire month of September?**

Yes. All leave requests will start on or before Sept. 1 and will end Sept. 30. Employees will return to work Oct. 1. As a reminder, the application period is Aug. 17-27.

### Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 at NNS

Cases reported Aug. 10-16: **56**

Total cases at NNS: **571**

Total number of NNS employees medically cleared to return to work: **258**

See case details at [nns.huntingtoningalls.com/411](http://nns.huntingtoningalls.com/411).



## DATEBOOK

### AUGUST 17-27

Shipbuilders with children under 15 and/or with special needs can apply for an Unpaid COVID Leave of Absence. The application period is Aug. 17 until Aug. 27. All leave requests will start on or before Sept. 1 and end Sept. 30. Employees will be required to return to work on Oct. 1. Visit [nns.huntingtongalls.com/411](https://nns.huntingtongalls.com/411) for more information.

### AUGUST 19

Join **Michelle Pope** (E08) from 12 until 12:30 p.m. for a virtual learning session on emotional intelligence and change management. Change management is the process that helps people understand, commit to, accept, and embrace change. Coping with change is not easy. Learn the stages of accepting change and moving forward. Sign up on MyNNS. No charge is provided.

### AUGUST 19-SEPTEMBER 2

Attend virtual workshops with physical therapists from the HII Family Health Center that can help you identify and avoid neck, shoulder and lower back pain. You'll learn simple stretches and exercises to help with daily aches and pains. The webinars will be available on Aug. 19, Aug. 26 and Sept. 2 at noon and 4 p.m. Visit [www.myquadmedical.com/hii](https://www.myquadmedical.com/hii) for details and to register.

### AUGUST 27

Shipbuilders looking to sharpen speaking, listening and leadership skills are invited to join an online "Spear and Gear" Toastmasters Club Zoom meeting from 5 until 6 p.m. RSVP by Aug. 26 to receive further meeting details. Contact **Jamar Skyles** (X44) and **Michael Miller** (E37) at [spearandgeartoastmastersclub@gmail.com](mailto:spearandgeartoastmastersclub@gmail.com) from a personal email address.

### SHOULD YOU QUARANTINE OR GET TESTED FOR COVID-19?

Shipbuilders who are questioning whether they should quarantine or be tested for COVID-19 can visit [nns.huntingtongalls.com/411](https://nns.huntingtongalls.com/411) to view a decision tree that can help determine the correct course of action.

## NNS Adds New Doctor to COVID-19 Crisis Team

Dr. Vijay Subramaniam, who specializes in respiratory and lung disease, has joined Newport News Shipbuilding's COVID-19 crisis team to help keep shipbuilders safe.

Watch a video on MyNNS to learn more about Dr. Subramaniam, what he's seeing in the community and what he expects moving forward in terms of case numbers, a possible vaccine and more.

## Watch the Green Crane's Final Move

Shipbuilders recently moved Newport News Shipbuilding's 310-long-ton Goliath gantry crane into its final position. Over the next few weeks, crews will disassemble the crane that has served NNS for five decades. Towers built in the dry docks under the crane will be used to lift it so disassembly can begin from the bottom. Watch the final move on MyNNS.

The crane's replacement – a 315-metric-ton Goliath gantry crane – officially came into service last fall.

## Access Center Has New Hours

Newport News Shipbuilding's Access Center is now open for badging Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. until noon and from 12:30 until 4:30 p.m. Temporary badges needed outside of these hours are being issued at the 37th Street traffic gate. The Clearance Office is providing on-site assistance Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. by appointment only.

The O15 Security Access Control Center inbox is still monitored throughout the day. Requests should continue to be sent to the inbox as normal. See the Aug. 10 edition of *Currents* for more details.

### CHILD CARE SURVEY

EVMS Minus 9 to 5 and Smart Beginnings Virginia Peninsula are working together to find collaborative approaches to meet child care needs as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. Parents of children under the age of 13 across Hampton Roads are invited to complete a short survey about their child care needs, learning supports and their choices for care during the pandemic. Survey responses will help inform a regional Child Care Task Force that will work to address these needs quickly. The survey is open until Friday, Aug. 21, and it does not collect any identifying information.

### 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	2521	X44	Newport News
Business Planning Analyst 4	2520	X44	Newport News
Cost Engineer 3	1620	O19	Newport News
Engineering Co-ops	263	TBD	Newport News
Engineer Systems 2	2474	E81	Newport News
Engineering Technician 4	2480	E25	Newport News
Engineering Technician 4	2485	E25	Newport News
Experienced Mechanical Inspector	654	X67	Newport News
Industrial Security Analyst 2	788	O96	Ballston Spa, NY
Operations Research Analyst	2321	X47	Newport News
Patternmaker 2	2493	M71	Newport News
Payroll Analyst 4	1772	O95	Newport News
Production Planning and Scheduler 3	307	X44	Newport News
Supply Chain Specialist 4	1382	O51	Newport News
Systems Architect 5	1479	T53	Newport News

Employees are encouraged to use MyHR or the "Current HII Employees Job Search" button at [www.buildyourcareer.com](https://www.buildyourcareer.com) to apply. The company continues to offer cash bonus awards for referrals to select positions, visit [www.huntingtongalls.com/hii-careers/refer-a-friend](https://www.huntingtongalls.com/hii-careers/refer-a-friend) for more information.

## NNS SAFETY REPORT

Compared to figures from July 2019

Year-to-Date Injuries

**621 (down 15%)**

Year-to-Date Injuries with Days Away, Restricted or Transferred

**458 (down 5%)**

Safety Improvements

**1,183 (10% below goal)**