

CURRENTS

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Photo by Ashley Cowan

Shipbuilders Keep Test Center Running Smoothly

As COVID-19 cases surge across the nation and in Hampton Roads, the number of administered tests at Newport News Shipbuilding's COVID-19 Test Center continues to increase. Last month, the center recorded up to 1,000 tests per week, and on Tuesday it passed the 10,000-test mark since opening in late August.

The test center team consists of shipbuilders who check at least 100 employees into their appointments daily. Team members explain the test process, then guide employees to a nurse for nasal swabbing.

"It's still taking care of our employees, just at a different location," said **Anita Adams**, an administrative assistant. "This is one of the best teams that I've worked with in the shipyard. It's a wonderful group of people

and we're making it happen."

Adams and her team's goal is to get employees in and out of the test center as quickly as possible. **Alex Ranger** (O38), who works on third shift, said he has used the test center twice. "You're in and out in about 10 to 15 minutes," he said. "It's a smooth process."

Stephanie Neary is the NNS COVID-19 Test Center supervisor. She credits the test center team and others across the shipyard for keeping the test center running. "This includes support from Facilities, IT, Security, and X36 tool rooms," she said. "It takes a village."

To contact the Test Center, call the NNS COVID Hotline at 1-844-243-8749.

Crisis Action Group Works to Keep Employees Safe

Every weekday at 7 a.m., Engineering Manager **Ryan Woolridge** (O48) joins a team of shipbuilders to talk about the current COVID-19 situation at the shipyard and strategize how to keep shipbuilders safe. In his 10 years at Newport News Shipbuilding, he never expected to be a part of something like this, but sees great value in it.

"We are dealing with a pandemic that no one has experience with. We can't go out there and attract talent who has experience dealing with this, so it helps to have a team that is dedicated to making sure our employees stay healthy and safe," Woolridge said.

The team, known as "The CAG" or COVID-19 Crisis Action Group, was...

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NNS to Receive COVID-19 Vaccines

Newport News Shipbuilding will receive COVID-19 vaccine doses for employees, NNS President **Jennifer Boykin** announced last week. The vaccine is not mandatory for shipbuilders, but it is strongly encouraged.

The first groups to receive the vaccine at NNS will include: first responders; essential personnel who man the facility during holidays and inclement weather; and employees over 60. The company expects to eventually receive enough doses for the entire workforce. See the insert to read Boykin's full message to the workforce regarding vaccines.



Stephanie Neary is the NNS COVID-19 Test Center supervisor.. Photo by Matt Hildreth

Crisis Action Group Works to Keep Employees Safe

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

...formed immediately after COVID-19 hit last March, and it has been in place ever since. Modeled after a military operational approach, the CAG draws on subject matter experts at all levels from across the shipyard to make decisions and rapidly execute the company's response to the pandemic.

Following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, the CAG has implemented safety protocols like a shift change to assist with social distancing

NNS Celebrates Martin Luther King Jr. Day Virtually

Newport News Shipbuilding celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day virtually last week. A virtual panel discussion titled "Together Strong – Life Unites: Unpacking Fear, Relationships, and Communication," was held Jan. 11.

On Jan. 15, a video celebration was released featuring NNS President **Jennifer Boykin**; **Susan Jacobs**, vice president of Human Resources and Administration; **Xavier Beale**, vice president

of Trades; **Lucas Hicks**, vice president of New Construction Aircraft Carrier Programs; **Jessica Rosser**, welding foreman; **David Wilkins**, construction supervisor; **Tashiana Adams**, welder; and **Charles Spivey**, president of United Steelworkers Local 8888.

Watch the video on MyNNS or the NNS to Go app. **Please note:** No charge is provided. Employees who watch the video must do so on their own time.

Zone Parking to Return

Newport News Shipbuilding will implement a zone parking system in all company-owned parking lots this spring.

"With the arrival of USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) and USS *Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78) later this year, an additional number of people will be entering shipyard gates each day and parking will once again become a challenge – even with a significant number of employees continuing to work from home," said **Wayne Potter**, NNS Parking and Transportation manager. "The reason for implementing a zone system is to ensure NNS employees have adequate parking,"

Potter says the team has incorporated lessons learned from previous zone parking roll outs into the plan and will provide shuttle services

when the virus first hit, making masks readily available to shipbuilders, implementing temperature screenings, and setting up the testing center at Bldg. 601, to name a few. While Woolridge represents the waterfront, **Emily Tavai** (O20) brings her human resources experience to the team. Tavai participated in the effort to facilitate working from home during COVID-19.

"The CAG team is a very diverse group. It's not just HR or production. There is representation from across the yard. Everyone brings a different perspective," she said. The team members have rotated every few months, keeping diversity and ideas fresh and forthcoming.

There are 13 core members on the CAG who rely on shipbuilders throughout the yard to ensure shipbuilders' voices are heard. A steering committee of shipyard leaders also assists with the decision-making process.

The CAG is currently assisting with vaccine distribution plans, and it will remain operational until the pandemic's impacts subside.

when the new system is implemented. "Our goal is to simplify parking for everyone, especially our shipbuilders who need to be on site every day," he said.

Additional information about the new zone system will be distributed via company communication channels as more information becomes available. At this time, parking on NNS property remains open and employees can park in any NNS parking space on a first-come, first-served basis. This does not include parking spaces identified as 24-hour reserved, spaces used by government and U.S. Navy personnel, HII Family Health Center parking, privately owned and leased lots, expectant mother, visitor, and handicap spaces.

AROUND THE YARD

VCS Program Shipbuilders Donate Thousands of Meals to Virginia Peninsula Foodbank

As the holidays approached late last year, Newport News Shipbuilding's *Virginia* Class Submarine X43 team changed its normal plan of exchanging gifts and instead decided to donate those funds to the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank.

"Working at the shipyard, many of us have been impacted by COVID-19. We have had to wear our masks and change our work practices. But millions of people haven't had that option," said X43 General Foreman **James Gilliam**. "For 10 months, millions of people's lives have been completely upended. Laid off, hours reduced, single parents forced to figure out child care, small businesses closed forever, millions of jobs are permanently gone, Zoom school and the threat of eviction. We tried to alleviate one aspect of the suffering and help the roughly 20% of people in the area that are food insecure."

The management team set an initial goal of \$1,500. That amount

would be equivalent to 6,000 meals. The entire team got behind the initiative, and the goal was increased three times to a final amount of \$3,000.

The VCS X43 team answered the call and then some. Shipbuilders raised more than \$4,100 – or 136% of the final goal established. The total collected equates to more than 16,400 meals.

Lead General Foreman **Rick Plumlee** addressed the team before shutdown. "2020 was a year nobody will soon forget. I want to thank the team for their awesome support of the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank. To consider how many people will be fed with the over \$4,100 dollars this team raised does my heart good and I'm sure yours as well. What an amazing job by Team X43," he said.

Shipbuilders can still visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/x43-vcv-holiday-giving to support the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank.

Shipbuilders Support United Way With Gingerbread House Competition

In December, the Overhead Team (O97) hosted a gingerbread house design and building competition to raise funds for the United Way. Adhering to COVID-19 restrictions, voting was held online, with a \$1 donation required for each vote. The winning house received the most votes through donations. The team's engagement and generosity made the effort a success and set the groundwork for a larger fundraiser later with intentions for a wider field of participants from across the shipyard.

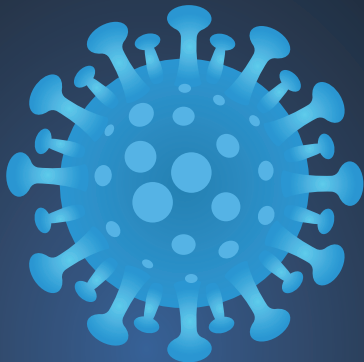
Congratulations to the winners:

- First Place: **Wanda Mills**
- Second Place: **Margaret Griffey**
- Third Place: **Dakota Cunningham**



Wanda Mills' gingerbread house won first place in the O97 Team's competition to raise money for the United Way.

Confirmed Cases of COVID-19



Cases reported Jan. 11-18: **210**

Total cases at NNS: **2,042**

Total number of NNS employees medically cleared to return to work: **1,327**

See case details at nns.huntingtoningalls.com/411.

The Legend Continues: HII Celebrates 10th Anniversary

This year, Huntington Ingalls Industries is celebrating its 10-year anniversary. HII was created on March 31, 2011, when Newport News Shipbuilding and Pascagoula, Mississippi-based Ingalls Shipbuilding combined to form America's largest shipbuilding company.

Today, HII is a Fortune 400 company with 42,000 employees. Take a look at milestones from HII's first decade at huntingtoningalls.com/anniversary.

DATEBOOK

JANUARY 26 AND 27

Join PreventT2 to reverse prediabetes. PreventT2 is a free virtual group support program designed to prevent or delay Type 2 diabetes for individuals with prediabetes or those at risk of developing diabetes. Led by a trained BeWell for Life coach, attendees will learn the skills needed to lose weight, get active and manage stress. Virtual sessions begin Jan. 26 and 27. Visit www.myquadmed.com/hii/T2 for details and to enroll.

JANUARY 27

Get your money right this year with SmartPath, a free benefit for all Newport News Shipbuilding employees. Register for a webinar at noon to learn how you can better manage your financial life. To register, visit www.joinsmartpath.com/hii/classes. If you can't attend live, register anyway and SmartPath will email you a recording of the webinar.

JANUARY 28

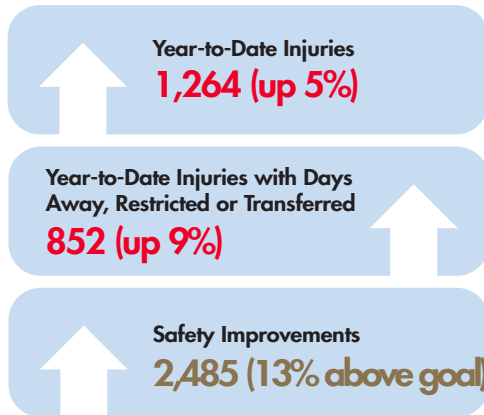
Join Engineering and Design and guest speaker **Cailee Helmick** from 12 until 12:30 p.m. for a Virtual Learning Session (VLS) on FITNNS. FITNNS is an employee resource group (ERG) dedicated to promoting physical, mental, and financial fitness for all shipbuilders. Their mission is to encourage shipbuilders to live a healthy, well-rounded lifestyle by providing resources and highlighting opportunities. Sign up on MyNNS to receive a calendar invite to attend. No charge is provided. For questions and concerns, email EDConnections@hii-nns.com.

FEBRUARY 1

Newport News Shipbuilding's United Way campaign will kick off Feb. 1 and run through Feb. 19. It takes the entire community working together to bring about lasting change. By focusing on common goals that are the basic things everyone needs for a good life, shipbuilders can help create a better tomorrow for everyone. Look for more information about the campaign in future editions of *Currents*.

NNS SAFETY REPORT

Compared to figures from December 2019



Apprentice School Graduation Update

Plans are underway to celebrate The Apprentice School's Class of 2020 in a manner that keeps the Builder spirit alive, and also protects the health and safety of graduates, their families and friends. This means that the previously announced graduation date will change.

More information will be shared as plans are solidified.

Annual United Way Campaign Begins Feb. 1

Newport News Shipbuilding's United Way campaign will kick off Feb. 1 and run through Feb. 19. Shipbuilders who make purchases at Walmart.com or on the Walmart app can round up their total to the nearest dollar to support NNS' United Way campaign through Jan. 29.

Shipbuilders who have received assistance from United Way and wish to share their story during the campaign should email currents@hii-nns.com.

January L.A.W. Course

Join Learning After the Whistle (L.A.W.) for an opportunity to grow personally and professionally in January. L.A.W. is a program offered by Newport News Shipbuilding's Leadership, Professional and Organization Development Department (O44) for all employees.

L.A.W. classes are currently offered virtually, at no cost to employees and beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Attendance is on employees' own time, and no time charges are provided. To learn more, visit the website on MyNNS or email LearningAftertheWhistle@hii-nns.com. The schedule of January course offerings is below. Course descriptions are available on MyNNS:

Jan. 26

StrengthsFinder (via WebEx)
4:30 until 7 p.m.

SEEKING SHIPBUILDERS

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

| Job Title | Req Number | Dept. | Location |
|---|------------|-------|--------------|
| Cost Estimating Analyst 4 | 4646 | N365 | Newport News |
| Engineer 4 | 4528 | E70 | Newport News |
| Engineer Electrical 1 | 3490 | E70 | Newport News |
| Engineer Lead Test 2 – Work Control REC Team | 1514 | E25 | Newport News |
| Engineer Lead Test 3 – Senior Work Control REC Team | 1515 | E25 | Newport News |
| Entry-level Structural Welder | 3569 | X18 | Newport News |
| Experienced Blaster | 4096 | X33 | Newport News |
| Manager Engineering 3 – Lean Leader | 4227 | K95 | Newport News |
| Radiological Interpreter 3 | 3755 | E37 | Newport News |
| Structured Threat Analyst 5 | 3790 | T51 | Newport News |

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





Newport News
Shipbuilding

Jan. 15, 2020

Dear Shipbuilders,

As COVID-19 vaccination plans are being established across the nation and in our community, I want to update you on all that we are doing to provide vaccines to our workforce in a safe and efficient way.

NNS is categorized as “1B” for the vaccine, which includes frontline essential workers. For the last eight weeks, we have been working hand-in-hand with the local Virginia Department of Health office on the plan for NNS to receive doses of the vaccine. We expect this to happen in about two weeks. As you can imagine, the plans are fluid, but if this plan does not change, **we anticipate having vaccines available for our workforce by the end of January.**

This is outstanding news for our workforce and an important action we can all take to move our company, our community and our nation forward. I want to personally thank our exceptional medical and EH&S teams for their tireless efforts.

Our task team is already coordinating the logistics of administering the vaccine to employees across all three shifts.

- The old Apprentice School gym on Marshall Avenue, Building 601, will be the vaccine center. (This is the same location where we conduct COVID testing.)
- The medical staff from the HII Family Health Center (QuadMed) will administer the vaccine.

The team is developing a vaccination schedule in accordance with CDC guidance. The first groups to receive the vaccine include: first responders; essential personnel who man the facility during holidays and inclement weather; and employees over 60. **We expect to receive enough vaccines for the entire workforce**, and additional scheduling details will be published as plans are finalized.

While the vaccine is not mandatory for NNS employees, it is strongly encouraged. The CDC advises that getting a vaccination will help keep us from getting COVID-19 and will be an important tool to help stop the pandemic. Additional information can be found here (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html).

Again, this is an evolving plan. There will be a lot of new information shared in the days and weeks ahead. I appreciate your attention and patience as we work through these details and communicate this next chapter in our COVID-19 journey.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Boykin
President, Newport News Shipbuilding

A DIVISION OF HUNTINGTON INGALLS INDUSTRIES