



# FEBRUARY

February 2022

## Housing Choice Voucher Newsletter

The United States has reported 67 million COVID-19 cases since the pandemic began. With the pandemic we have to make sure that we are staying safe to prevent catching COVID-19. The Virginia Department of Health has set up free COVID Testing in Suffolk. Local Rite Aids, Walgreens, and CVS also provide COVID testing as well. Visit **COVIDtests.gov** for information on free tests that may be available through government services. Listed are a few more facts about COVID and How to Stay Safe During the Pandemic:

- **Limited Contact:** We are preventing limited contact, staying 6 feet apart, and washing your hands. Make sure you are still practicing social distancing and staying masked up. Our office is still **closed** for walk ins but if you have an appointment with a caseworker then please make sure you are masked up when entering the building.
- **Masking Up:** Masks help limit the amount of respiratory droplets that go into the air to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Doctors, nurses and other medical staff have been wearing face masks for decades. Disposable masks should be thrown away if they become wet or dirty, and should only be used one time. Cloth face coverings should be washed.
- **Avoid poorly ventilated spaces and crowds:** If indoors, bring in fresh air by opening windows and doors, if possible. If you are at increased risk of getting very sick from COVID-19, avoid crowded places and indoor spaces that do not have fresh air from the outdoors.



**Free COVID-19 Testing Events**

Friday, January 28, 2022  
Friday, February 11, 2022  
Friday, February 25, 2022

Where: East Suffolk Recreation Center  
138 South 6th Street  
Suffolk, VA 23434

When: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

\*PCR testing only\*

For inquiries, please call 804-892-3682 or 757-514-4766

### Important Dates

- **February 21: President's Day (Offices Closed)**



## Free Tax Preparation

Prepare for the upcoming 2022 tax season with C.E.B. Financial Accounting & Tax Services. Free Tax Preparation is available for the “2022 Tax Season” Every Tuesday & Thursday Starting – Tuesday, January 18, 2022, through Thursday, October 13, 2022 The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people who generally make \$56,000 or less Services will be provided at:

### C.E.B. Financial Accounting & Tax Services

533 E. PINNER STREET SUFFOLK, VA 23434

They will be taking Scheduled **APPOINTMENTS ONLY** –

### No Walk-Ins

Call Tammy McClinton for more information . (757) 925-6550

Starting: January 4, 2022



## Free Paid Internship with Hope for Suffolk



Hope for Suffolk invest in teens through there farm work program and personal development workshops. Interns gain work experience, income, job training, community and a positive use of time. Interns attend weekly workshops (with dinner provided!) for which they receive community service hours. The workshops cover every-

thing from conflict resolution to making good impressions to budgeting to interview skills. The program runs from **March through October**. For young adults **between ages 15 and 20**. Their goal is to empower youth to overcome obstacles and to set and achieve personal goals.

While interning students can earn up to **\$10 per hour** while getting real work experience. They can earn community service hours, meet great people, and become empowered to become who you want to be. Participants will leave the program with life-long relationships, connections with employers, a resume, and training for success. They also will have scholarship opportunities that will help out as well.

Application: <https://wrpca.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/142/responses/new>

## Free Virginia Housing Homeownership Education Classes

Are you thinking about buying a home, but not sure where to start? Attend a free class to learn about the buying process and how to prepare for homeownership.

The course, developed by the Virginia Housing, teaches the key steps to homebuying. Industry experts — such as housing/credit counselors, real estate agents, lenders, home inspectors, and closing agents — volunteer their time and share their knowledge to make you a more informed buyer.

The class covers personal finances and credit, loan types, the loan process, working with a real estate agent, the home inspection, the closing process and more. Suffolk Redevelopment Housing Authority facilitates classes throughout the year.



For more information, contact **Rosie James**, Housing Counselor, SRHA at 757 925-6506, or register at [virginiahousing.com/freeclass](http://virginiahousing.com/freeclass).

**Location and Date of class:** Saturday, February 5, 2022: 8:45-3:30 – East Suffolk Recreation Center 138 S. 6th St. Suffolk

## The Portal on SRHA Website

All program participants and applicants are to if not have already register on our website ([www.suffolkrha.org](http://www.suffolkrha.org)) for the online portal. Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions, this is an awesome way to update your information for annual reexamination, interim changes, and upload documents.

We strongly encourage you to register at our website **[www.suffolkrha.org/pay-online](http://www.suffolkrha.org/pay-online)** to register for an account. Once, registered you will be able to upload document to your caseworker as well as make changes to your application. Please keep in mind you must first register with a valid email address to be granted access. Please remember your user ID and password. In addition, you can communicate directly with your caseworker and there is a record of any documents you upload. This will eliminate the need to visit the office. We are streamlining things making the process contactless and safe. This is a reliable method of doing business considering Covid-19 restrictions.





## Events for the month of February:

**February 7, 2022 Monday at 4pm-5pm : Family Food Fun: Soul Food Collard Greens [VIRTUAL + KIT] :** Make a family-friendly recipe together! This month's recipe is making Soul Food Collard Greens in honor of Black History Month. Registration required per family. All supplies are provided. For families. Sponsored by the Suffolk Public Library **Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/SuffolkPublicLibrary/>

*February*  
EVENTS



**February 11, 2022 Friday at 4pm-5pm Suffolk Sewing Circle: Knit a Shawl [VIRTUAL + KIT] :** Join the Suffolk Sewing Circle and learn how to sew! In this video tutorial, you will learn how to make a knitted shawl. This is a great knitting project for beginners. All participants will receive supplies needed for the class (while

supplies last). Please register for the program to receive your Virtual2Go kit. You will receive an email notification when your Virtual2Go Pack is available for pickup. Virtual2Go Packs on hold will be available for 7 business days. **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/SuffolkPublicLibrary/>

**February 16, 2022 Wednesday at 6pm-7pm Ask an Athlete [VIRTUAL]:** Curious to know about what it's like to be a college athlete? Learn from local college students/sports superstars as they answers questions about their experiences. For teens 13-17.

This video will premiere on the Suffolk Public Library Facebook page and YouTube channel. Subscribe to SPL's **Youtube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYzgXcsQuOCRHoNW5GFjS2Q>

**February 18, 2022 Friday at 6pm-7Pm Friday Teen Art Fun with Suffolk Art Gallery [VIRTUAL + KIT] :** Unable to attend the Thursday Art Gallery tours? Join us virtually to see the tour and do the art activity from home! All materials are provided. Registration required. For ages 12-17. SPL events are free to attend and open to people of all abilities. If you or someone in your party will require accommodations in order to participate, please call 757-514-7323 and ask to speak with the Community Learning Manager. **Youtube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYzgXcsQuOCRHoNW5GFjS2Q>

**February 24, 2022 Thursday at 7pm Sip and Spell: Adult Spelling Bee :** Join the Suffolk Public Library and Nansemond Brewing Station for a fun-filled adult spelling bee. There will be something for everyone to enjoy from learning new words to enjoying some spelling flubs with friends. For adults 21+. **Location:** Nansemond Brewing Station: 212 E Washington St. Suffolk

