

MEDIA RELEASE



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Jordan-Newby Anchor Branch Library Plaque Dedication Honors Two Distinguished Norfolk Families

NORFOLK, VA – The new Jordan-Newby Anchor Branch Library at Broad Creek opened its doors to the public in June 2018, but its roots date to 1922. It has been a resource to the Norfolk community since its inception in the early 20s when it was called the Brambleton Branch of Norfolk Public Library and named in honor of Mr. George Bramble, a prominent landowner.

Intricately woven into the fabric of the history of the branch are members of two very distinguished families; the Jordans and the Newbys, and their courageous acts and endless contributions to the Norfolk community. In 1986, a new Brambleton library branch opened on Park Avenue in Norfolk and was renamed Jordan-Newby Branch in 1997 to honor the Honorable Joseph A. Jordan Jr., Mr. James E. Newby Sr., and their respective family members.

Norfolk Public Library invites the public to share in a Plaque Dedication Ceremony to honor the Jordan and Newby families on Saturday, December 15 at 11:00 a.m. at the Jordan-Newby Anchor Branch Library at Broad Creek on 1425 Norchester Avenue, Norfolk, Virginia. Special guests will include Mamie B. Johnson, Councilwoman for the City of Norfolk, Ward 3; distinguished members of both the Jordan and Newby families, Tracy Clark (Jordan Family), and Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander (Newby Family); and special musical performances by Dr. Bianca Jackson, Assistant Professor of Music at Norfolk State University, accompanied by Dr. Matthew Russell, Assistant Professor of Music at Norfolk State University. This event is open to the public and light refreshments will be served.

Joseph A. Jordan Jr. (1923-1991) was a Norfolk attorney and Civil Rights advocate. He was responsible for bringing many Civil Rights suits to court, including one on behalf of Mrs. Evelyn Butts of Norfolk, which Jordan successfully argued before the U.S. Supreme Court, ending the poll tax as a prerequisite for voting in state and local elections in Virginia. In 1968, he became the first African American elected to the Norfolk City Council since 1889. He served three terms on the council, including two years as vice-mayor, and was appointed as a judge in the U.S. District Court in 1977.



In 1975, Jordan urged the construction of the Martin Luther King Memorial, which stands today at Brambleton Avenue and Church Street. His wife, Dr. Patricia Gardner Jordan, was an educator in the Norfolk Public School system and served as Director of the Lyman Beecher Brooks Library at Norfolk State University. Jordan was an early advocate for a public library to serve Broad Creek.



James E. Newby Sr. (1900-1983), was a Norfolk educator who began his career teaching carpentry at Booker T. Washington High School in 1928. Later, he served as vice principal at Ruffner Junior High beginning in 1952 and was appointed principal of Norfolk's newly constructed Rosemont Junior High School in 1961. His son, Dr. James E. Newby Jr. (1930-1971), was the first African American board-certified specialist in internal medicine in Hampton Roads who also served as the president of the Norfolk Medical Society, Chief of Medicine at Norfolk Community Hospital, and founded the hospital's first residency program in Internal Medicine.

In 1965, he became the first African American to serve on the Norfolk Planning Commission. Dr. Newby's brother, Dr. Thomas A. Newby (1935-1997), was a Norfolk educator and science teacher who served as the Assistant Principal and Principal at Campostella Junior High, the Director of Norfolk's Central Cities Project, and Principal of Norfolk's Transition School. Dr. Thomas Newby most notably became the first graduate of Booker T. Washington High School to serve as its principal.

About Norfolk Public Library:

The Norfolk Public Library offers access to information, books, programs, and online resources to meet the needs of our diverse community for life-long learning. The library system consists of one main library, ten branch libraries, two anchor branch libraries, and a Bookmobile. All programs are FREE of charge. Visit www.norfolkpubliclibrary.org or call us at (757) 664-READ for more information. *NPL- Creating a City of Readers.*

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