

# ST. PAUL'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2022



PEOPLE FIRST: BUILDING A COMMUNITY, TOGETHER.

## BREAKING GROUND

*Tidewater Gardens construction  
officially begins*



THE CITY OF  
**NORFOLK**





## BREAKING GROUND: AN OPEN EDITORIAL



CHIP FILER  
NORFOLK CITY MANAGER



RONALD JACKSON  
NRHA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# OP-ED: THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT FOR TIDEWATER GARDENS FAMILIES

*Dr. Chip Filer, City Manager, City of Norfolk*

*Ron Jackson, Executive Director, Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority*

In April, we broke ground on one of the most significant redevelopment projects in Norfolk's history. Together with residents and community leaders, we dug shovels into the dirt to celebrate the next phase of the Tidewater Gardens Transformation: construction.

This is a significant milestone in a project that began years ago when the City of Norfolk and Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NRHA) made a promise to Tidewater Gardens families who were living in dilapidated apartments that frequently flooded: You deserve better, and we will do better. We committed to building high-quality housing in a modernized, resilient community that residents and future generations would want to call home. We held public meetings, hosted listening sessions and engaged residents to hear what they wanted in their new community: **We listened and acted on those recommendations.**

This project will breathe new life into a historically African American commercial corridor with 7,300 square feet of retail space and will improve accessibility to amenities throughout Norfolk. And there will be housing for Tidewater Gardens residents who want to return. The groundbreaking is for two blocks of the community that will include 192 units for seniors and families with a combination of ADA-accessible, affordable and mixed-income one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments. All Earthcraft Gold-certified units will be equipped with Energy Star-rated appliances and cable and high-speed internet connectivity. The redevelopment will also include a fitness room, computer lab, classrooms, conference room, playground and on-site parking. Our shared vision for revitalization is holistic, innovative and ambitious: **We are blazing a new trail.**

Preparing for construction while navigating a pandemic has not been easy, especially for Tidewater Gardens families. To help them thrive during this transition, we established the People First initiative, which provides housing relocation assistance and supportive services in education, job

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placement and training, health and wellness. Norfolk dedicates \$3.5 million a year to help strengthen and support families: **We are putting people first in all that we do.**

We are also working with private-property owners and landlords to increase participation in the Housing Choice Voucher program and providing incentives to them to encourage the acceptance vouchers from Tidewater Gardens families. Additionally, the city passed an ordinance to prevent discrimination based on how renters pay their rent. These important steps will ensure all Tidewater Gardens families are able to safely relocate to affordable homes: **We are engaging the private sector to support our community.**

The city and NRHA are revitalizing Tidewater Gardens with intentionality, ensuring the new community's identity celebrates the history of Tidewater Gardens and reflects what residents and stakeholders envision. In collaboration with our development partners, we created a naming process for the new community, of which Tidewater Gardens residents are an integral part. Brinshore Development, the firm leading construction, held resident and community member focus groups to create two naming themes, which will be presented to Tidewater Gardens residents in a survey. Resident engagement continues to be a priority: **We are transforming the neighborhood together.**

As we break ground, we are taking a major step forward to achieve our shared vision of an inclusive neighborhood where Norfolk families can live, work and thrive—a neighborhood where present and future Tidewater Gardens residents will be proud to call home. Information for residents and project updates are available on our website, [www.stpaulsdistrict.org](http://www.stpaulsdistrict.org). Tidewater Gardens residents in need of People First services or assistance can call 757-390-4625.



**Resident Debra Ross of Tidewater Gardens spoke at the groundbreaking about her gratefulness for the redevelopment and her help from People First.**





## BANK ON HAMPTON ROADS

Congratulations to six residents from the St. Paul's Transformation Area for completing a five-month financial literacy program designed to help residents gain financial independence. This program, Bank On Hampton Roads, combines classroom instruction with personal coaching and savings incentives to help participants become financially empowered and feel confident in making sound financial decisions. Instruction and coaching focus on increasing income, growing savings, reducing debt, building credit, developing a budget, and learning to protect assets. One resident increased their credit score by 51 points during the class period, and two residents graduated in March 2022. **The next session begins in September 2022. To get more information about the Bank On program curriculum, please visit <https://www.norfolk.gov/3387/Bank-On-Norfolk>.**

## HOT FUN IN THE SUMMERTIME!

There are lots of ways to engage our youth this summer:

**Norfolk Explorers Summer Camp:** Summer camp at the City's recreation centers; serves ages 5-12 years of age, available June 27th-August 19th from 8 am to 6 pm. Visit [Norfolk.gov/3443/Parks-Recreation](https://www.norfolk.gov/3443/Parks-Recreation)

**Rebuild America Sports Clinics & Community Day** – Beginning Saturday, May 7th, thru August 13th clinics are open to school aged youth and community day is open to all. Visit [rebuildamerica.tv/projects](https://rebuildamerica.tv/projects).

**Free Gym Membership for youth** – from May 16th to August 31st, youth ages 14-19 can work out at Planet Fitness all summer. For more information or to register, go to [planetfitness.com/summerpass](https://planetfitness.com/summerpass).

**Next Step to Success Summer (NSTS) Program** – June 27th to August 19th, for Norfolk youth ages 13-16. NSTS is a new program geared for youth 13-15 years old in Norfolk and provides a wide range of academic, enrichment, character education curriculum, activities, field trips and special events. Visit [barryrobinson.org/next-step-to-success](https://barryrobinson.org/next-step-to-success) for more information.







# JULY

## NORFOLK NIGHTHAWKS

It's more than hoop dreams! Come out for the basketball and stick around for more – like employment opportunities, professional development, G.E.D. enrollment, healthcare services and more. For young adults 18+

**July 1 – October 15**  
**Friday and Saturday Nights**  
**9PM - Midnight**

### LOCATIONS

Huntersville Community Center  
(830 Goff Street)  
Young Terrace Community Center  
(804 Whitaker Lane)  
Southside Boys & Girls Club  
(701 Berkley Avenue Ext.).

LEARN MORE: [WWW.NORFOLK.GOV/NIGHTHAWKS](http://WWW.NORFOLK.GOV/NIGHTHAWKS)



**Adventurous Summer Camp:** Teens with a Purpose is in full gear with its 3rd Annual Adventurous Summer Camp, but it's not too late for your kids to join in! From now through August 8th, the camp will empower young people to use their voice, creativity, reflection, and action to affect personal growth, transform lives, and impact communities. Adventurous is a curriculum-driven and unique summer experience that includes outdoor activities, field trips, visual and mass media art, photography, cookouts, and so much more for rising 7th to 12th graders. Free to attend, registration is required. Get more information at [www.twp-themovement.org/event/adventurous-summer-camp](http://www.twp-themovement.org/event/adventurous-summer-camp).

**Summer Food Service Program:** The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore and the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank participate in the Summer Food Service Program. Meals are offered to all children without charge to assist them during the school closure in summer. Meals are provided on a first-come-first-serve basis at the Calvert Square Envision Center from June 21st to August 19th, 2022, from Monday to Friday, with breakfast (9 am – 10 am) and lunch (12 pm – 1 pm).

**Summer Blast 2022:** It's happening at Norfolk Scope on August 6th, 2022! Join us as we honor this year's high school graduates and Tidewater Gardens residents. You will be able to connect with partners providing services in health and wellness, housing stabilization, and economic mobility. This is for the whole family with food, drinks, crafts, and more. Be on the lookout for more Summer Blast details to come!

For more activities, visit [www.stpaulsdistrict.org](http://www.stpaulsdistrict.org).





SUBMIT YOUR OPINION  
AND YOU COULD WIN A  
**\$100 GIFT CARD!**

GIFT  
CARD



## A NEW NAME FOR A TRANSFORMED COMMUNITY!

The City of Norfolk, Norfolk Redevelopment Housing Authority (NRHA), and Brinshore Development want your opinion on a new name for the transformed community currently known as Tidewater Gardens. We're in search of a name that honors the resiliency, friendship and faith that formed this historic community while also celebrating its bright future. Surveys will be mailed to all residents, and hard copies will be available at four area locations: Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority, 555 E. Main Street, The Basilica of Saint Mary, 232 Chapel Street, City of Norfolk City Hall, 810 Union Street and People First Office, 521 Ruffner Street. Also, you can visit, [www.stpaulsdistrict.org](http://www.stpaulsdistrict.org) for a link to the online survey starting the week of July 4th. **All responses must be submitted by July 31, 2022 and you will be registered to win a \$100 gift card!** We value your input so help us choose a name for the newly redeveloped Tidewater Gardens!





## A TRANSFORMATION IN PROGRESS!

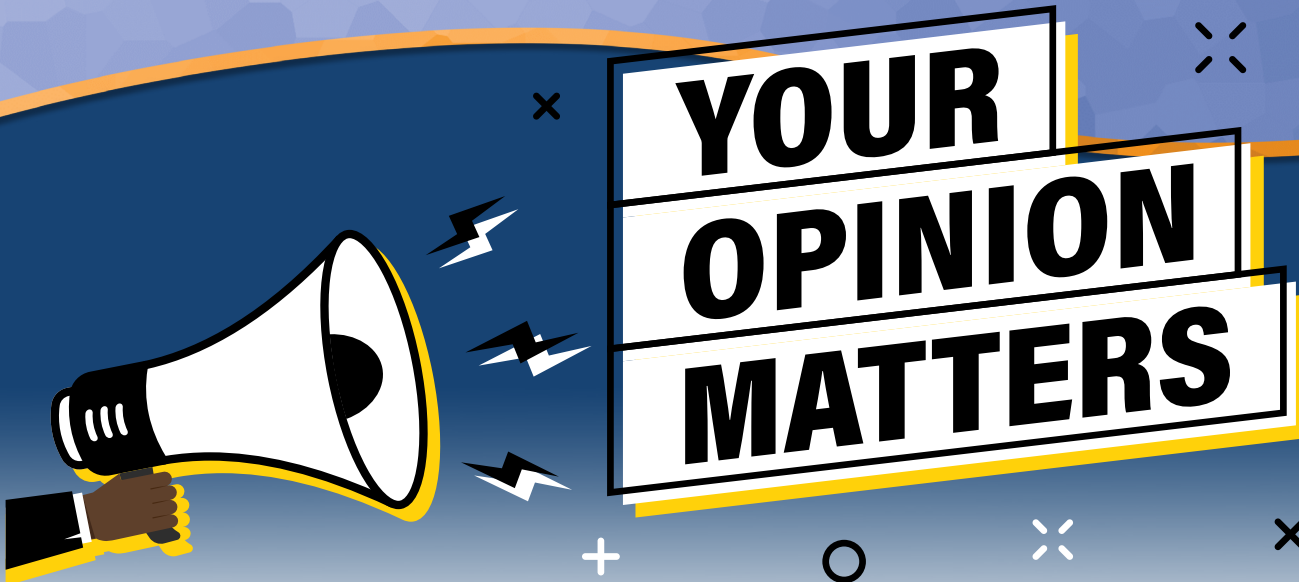
The next phase of the Tidewater Gardens redevelopment is well underway with the start of construction on the new 192-unit multi-family and senior building beginning in April 2022. With an anticipated construction period of 18 months, the units will become available for occupancy in the fall of 2023.

Public infrastructure has made significant progress with the completion of the pump station, and stormwater, utility, and road street realignment are moving forward. Demolition of the former Tidewater Gardens buildings in Phase 1 is complete with 16 buildings in total between Fenchurch Street, Charlotte Street, Chapel Street, and Mariner Street down. Phase II is moving forward with the abatement and demolition of 36 additional buildings.

This fall, the team anticipates the construction start of more housing on the corner of Church St and Brambleton and the start of construction of Phase II of the public infrastructure work.

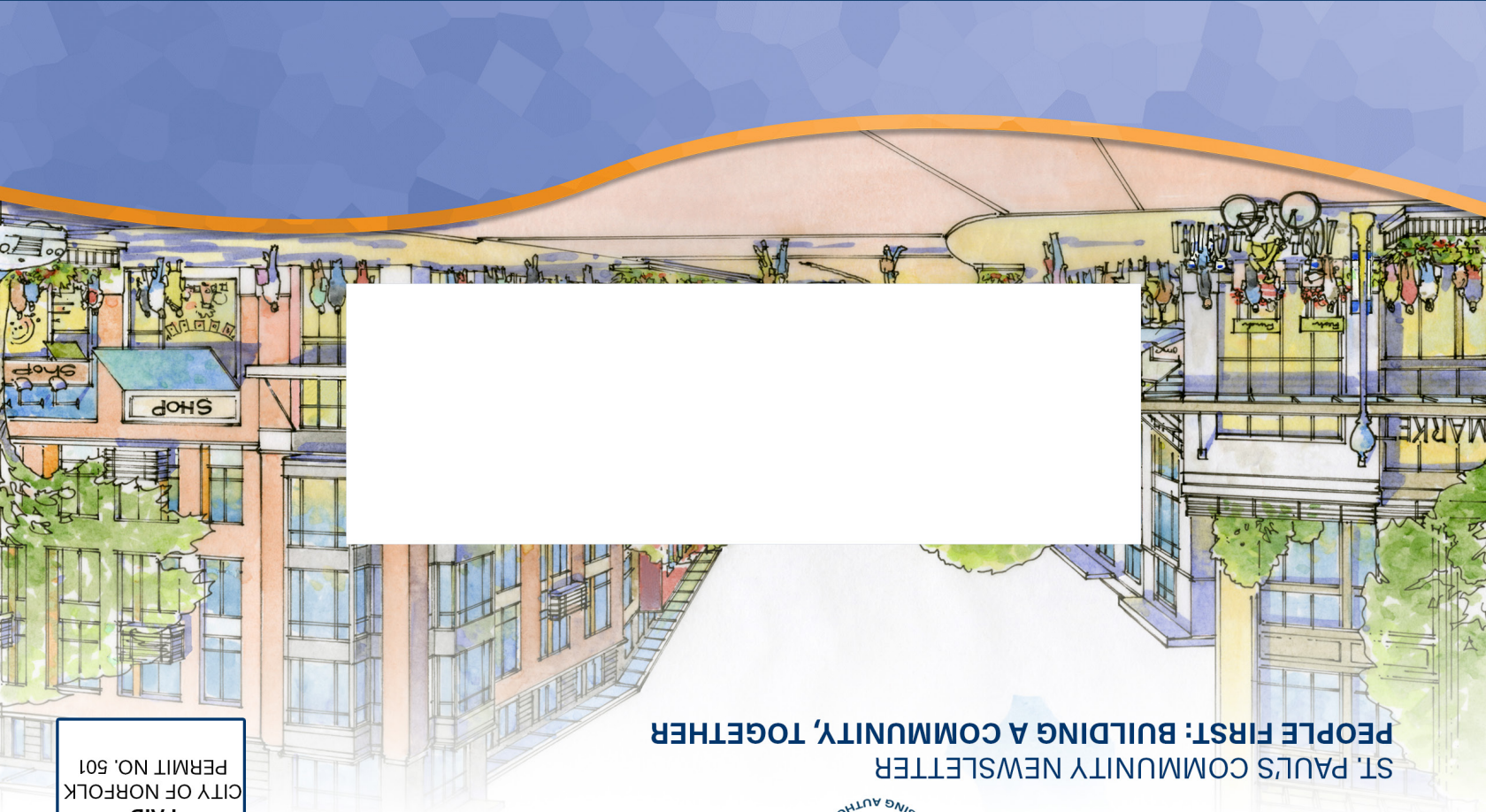






## RUFFNER TRANSITION SURVEY

In March 2022, Norfolk School Board approved a plan to close Tidewater Park Elementary School. Enrolled students at Tidewater Park will transition to Ruffner Academy. Ruffner will become a combined school for grades 3 through 8, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. The 2022-2023 school year will be a planning year for this transition, including discussions with the staff, students, and families of the affected schools. NPS developed a survey to ensure Ruffner will offer academic excellence with new programs. Use your voice – take the survey! Visit: [npsk12.com/Page/18540](https://npsk12.com/Page/18540).



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POSTAGE & FEES  
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