



PEOPLE FIRST

EMPOWERING FORMER TIDEWATER GARDENS FAMILIES!

When it comes to housing, health, education and wellness, former residents of Tidewater Gardens need look no further for help than People First, USI! Here's an update on activities:

- The People First team made sure no child went hungry during spring break. They delivered close to 200 Spring Break Food Boxes to families with children. Many thanks to People First partner, the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore for providing the food.
- People First is addressing mental wellness through its Stress Awareness community event on April 26, 6-7:30PM via Zoom. Community resources are available for those 18 and above. For more information contact People First at (757) 390-4625.
- Capital Investments in Norfolk is a new People First community partner that will provide residents with opportunities to participate in certification classes in cable fitting, line work tower technician, and electric vehicle technicians. They also offer a paraprofessional certification.
- Entrepreneurship is one way to financial freedom, and People First is partnering with ODU's Women's Business Center and the City of Norfolk to present the DreamBuilder Entrepreneurial Training Program. This instructor-led innovative 9-class course explores all areas of business ownership through a carefully crafted and engaging curriculum.



DATA AT A GLANCE:

- There are currently 588 households and 1,551 individuals receiving family support services from People First, USI, with a total of 592 assessments completed.
- This month, USI has provided 150 service linkages based on the needs and assessments of families.

REDEVELOPMENT

THE NEXT PHASE OF KINDRED

As construction continues in the Kindred community, development partner Brinshore is planning for the next phase of new housing. Brinshore has successfully submitted applications for Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) to Virginia Housing.

This next phase of construction will be located at the corner of Church Street and Mariner Street near St. Paul's Boulevard. This area will be a mixed-income, 81-unit family community comprised of 1-, 2-, 3-, 4- and 5-bedroom multi-family and townhouse style homes. Each unit will include in-unit laundry, dishwasher, refrigerator, range/oven, range hood, and microwave, along with phone and cable/TV connectivity, and hardwired high speed internet capabilities. The buildings are currently planned to be Enterprise Green Communities certified, with Energy Star-rated appliances and water conserving fixtures. Ten percent of the housing units will be fully accessible under Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS), and three units will be outfitted for the hearing or sight impaired. In addition, the community will house 8-thousand square feet of ground floor commercial space.

Virginia Housing is expected to announce LITHC awards in May.



RE-CONNECTING ST. PAUL'S TO DOWNTOWN NORFOLK

More than 40 city, state and community representatives gathered on March 23, 2023 at the Basilica of St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception (St. Mary's) for a very special check presentation from Senator Mark Warner and Congressman Bobby Scott. The two congressional leaders were in town to present a \$1.6 million check to the City of Norfolk to address social inequity and economic disparities caused by past transportation infrastructure decisions.

The award is a planning grant to be used by Norfolk's Transit department to develop solutions to the "spaghetti bowl", the 14-lane wide jumble of i-264 ramps and interchanges that cuts the St. Paul's neighborhood from access and connectivity to downtown. Norfolk is one of 45 projects across the country to receive the grant as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

In addition to the check presentation, Senator Warner, along with Congressman Scott, Councilpersons Danica Royster, John "JP" Paige and State Delegate Angelia Williams Graves, conducted a round table discussion with community members about the St. Paul's project. Several leaders spoke of the project as an economic boost to the City and a way to create small business inclusion. They also spoke of the need to address food insecurity and access to affordable broadband.



MORE FEDERAL DOLLARS FOR KINDRED COMMUNITY

Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority was recently awarded an additional \$10 million grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to be used in the continuing transformation of the Tidewater Gardens community, now known as Kindred. This is in addition to the original \$30 million Choice Neighborhood Grant awarded to transform the area into a mixed-use, mixed-income neighborhood and is intended to offset the cost inflation in the housing market.

Norfolk is one of 16 grantees to receive the additional funding. "When it comes to Choice Neighborhoods, HUD is an invested partner at the table," said HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge. "Cities and public housing authorities are working tirelessly to address affordable housing shortages despite pandemic era construction cost increases. The additional Choice Neighborhoods funding represents HUD's commitment to creating new housing for the communities that need it most. The Choice Neighborhoods approach is a comprehensive model that can be transformative for communities and we invite more communities to consider tapping into it."

Kindred is slated to be completed in the fall of 2025.

ST. PAUL'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

This month's meeting is on April 18th, 2023 from 6-7:30pm at the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore, 800 Tidewater Drive in Norfolk. Missed the last meeting? You can find the meeting minutes at <https://stpaulsdistrict.org/home/about/advisory-committee/>.

Questions? Please email us at stpaulstransformation@norfolk.gov