

ST. PAUL'S COMMUNITY  
NEWSLETTER  
**SPRING 2024**

PEOPLE FIRST: BUILDING A COMMUNITY, TOGETHER.



*Welcome home to Kindred.*



**KINDRED**



THE CITY OF  
**NORFOLK**



## RIGHT TO RETURN

The Tidewater Gardens Choice Neighborhoods Initiative redevelopment project is progressing well. The first replacement housing opened in 2023 at Riverside Station and in 2024 at Reunion and Origin Circle. These properties are currently fully leased.

NRHA has opened the waitlist for the Project Based Voucher units at the new apartments located at 645 Church Street. This new building is called “Aspire at Church” and has 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments specifically for former Tidewater Gardens residents and others in the St. Paul’s community. They will begin leasing in July of this year.

As a former Tidewater Gardens family, you have first preference for lease up. Eligible applicants can apply online by computer or smartphone at <https://nrha.myhousing>. Hard copy applications can also be mailed to NRHA, Attn: Occupancy Department, PO Box 968, Norfolk, VA 23501. See photos of the units and amenities in the building at [www.AspireNorfolk.com](http://www.AspireNorfolk.com). Put in your application today if you are interested. People First can help with the process so call them today at 757-390-4625!

### We’re here to help you!

If you have concerns about any of the Right to Return criteria, please call the People First team as soon as possible. We can work with you to solve any issues that might affect your ability to return. If your enrolled in supportive services with People First then you know we help you create a plan to pay off old debts, establish a payment plan with NRHA and even working with utility companies to resolve issues that might prevent you from getting utilities in your name.

Also, did you know that we can provide assistance to cover security deposits for new units, moving expenses and penalties for early lease termination fees paid by NRHA & City of Norfolk?

We recommend reaching out to your People First Family Support Specialist TODAY! For support and assistance, give us a call at 757-390-4625.

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THE CITY OF  
**NORFOLK**



# CAREER ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL

Career Online High School (COHS) is an online high school diploma and workforce readiness certificate program. Over 11,000 adults have graduated from COHS. Now, thanks to the Norfolk Public Library, you can too!

## Career Certificates

- ✓ Child Care
- ✓ Commercial Driving
- ✓ Food and Hospitality
- ✓ General Career Preparation
- ✓ Home Care Professional
- ✓ Hospitality and Leisure
- ✓ Manufacturing
- ✓ Office Management
- ✓ Retail Customer Service
- ✓ Security Professional

## Set Up for Success

- ✓ Graduate in 18 Months
- ✓ Certified Instructors
- ✓ Academic Coach
- ✓ Technical Support
- ✓ Transfer Credits



**APPLY NOW**



 757-664-7328 ext. 358

 [onlinehighschool@norfolk.gov](mailto:onlinehighschool@norfolk.gov)



**FREE  
ENROLLMENT**

Offered to a  
Limited Number  
of Qualified  
Adult Students.



[NorfolkPublicLibrary.org](http://NorfolkPublicLibrary.org)

## LEARN AND EARN!

Are you an adult looking to complete your high school education and become workforce ready? Then check out Norfolk Public Library's Career Online High School (COHS).

In 18 months, you can have an online high school diploma and certification in a variety of professions, including child care, commercial driving, manufacturing, office management and much more.

Enrollment is free! For more information visit [onlinehighschool@norfolk.gov](mailto:onlinehighschool@norfolk.gov) or call 757-664-7325, ext. 358. Classes are limited, so make that call or go online today!



## CALLING ALL LIFEGUARDS!

Did you know that 64% of African American children and 45% of LatinX kids cannot swim or have very little skills in the water? That is particularly alarming since Norfolk, and the Hampton Roads area in general, is surrounded by water. That's why the City of Norfolk is recruiting full-time lifeguards to work year-round in our city.

In addition to providing lifesaving skills in the water, you will have the opportunity to instruct swimming lessons, water fitness classes and assist in general swimming pool operations. The job pays \$20 an hour and comes with benefits!



For information on certification requirements and to apply, visit [www.norfolk.gov/parksandrec](http://www.norfolk.gov/parksandrec) or scan the QR code.

## MANAGING YOUR MONEY

Tired of living paycheck to paycheck? Want to get a better handle on your finances? Trying to build your credit or start saving?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, check out Bank On Hampton Roads (BOHR)! This free five-month financial education program provides information and education to help you understand your finances, gain confidence, and become empowered to make sound financial decisions.

Classes begin in September! Visit [bankonhr.org](http://bankonhr.org) to join the registration waitlist for the September 2024 classes.



## SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

The end of the school year is right around the corner, which means it's time to find positive summer programs for your children. People First, USI can help! There are several programs available that are holding spots specifically for residents enrolled with People First, USI services, including Southside Boys and Girls Club, Teens with a Purpose, Nauticus, Leaders of Tomorrow, Norfolk Explorer and Navigator Camps, Next Steps to Success and Champions. These opportunities are on a first come, first served basis. Connect with your People First, USI family support specialist today to discuss options for a healthy, fun-filled, educational summer for the young ones in your family!



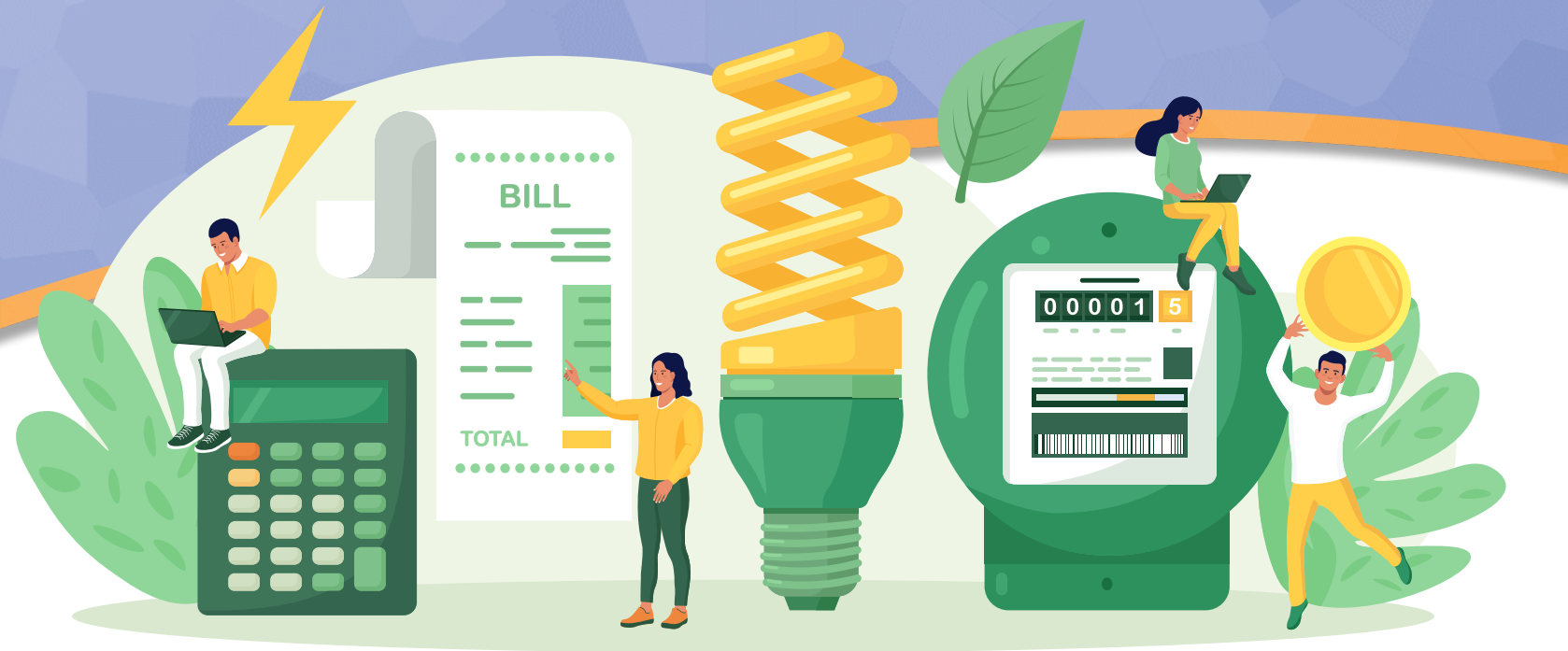
## **SLOW DOWN!**

Drivers beware! Speeding through a school zone could cost you.

In a targeted effort to reduce speeding in school zones and keep students safe, the City of Norfolk has installed 19 cameras around 10 Norfolk Public School locations. Camera activation started on March 4 and until May 3, speeding drivers will receive a warning in the mail. As of May 6, drivers caught speeding during designated school zone hours will pay a \$100 fine. Instructions as to how to pay the fine will be provided with the notice of violation/citation.

Cameras are located near Bayview, Larchmont, Little Creek, Norview and Richard Bowling elementary schools; Ruffner Academy and Southside STEM Academy; and Booker T. Washington, Granby and Norview high schools. Signage alerting drivers of cameras are installed at least 100 feet before the cameras' locations.

Remember, in a school zone, slow down, pay attention, save yourself some money and keep our kids safe!



## KEEPING YOUR ENERGY BILL LOW

Residents who have moved back to the Kindred neighborhood have brand new, appliances in their new apartment. While the energy efficient appliances make the electric bill low, there are additional things you can do to keep it even lower.

- 1. Unplug your appliances:** It goes without saying that turning off the lights when you don't need them can reduce the cost of your electric bill, but did you know that simply unplugging your appliances can help reduce costs, too? Unplugging phone chargers, toasters, hairdryers and other small appliances when they're not in use can shave dollars off your electric bill every time. Consider getting timed surge protectors or outlet additions that can turn off things that you don't need to use while you're not home, like TV cable boxes, modems, routers and the microwave.
- 2. Cool naturally:** One of the biggest uses of electricity in a home, particularly during the summer, is air conditioning. While some hot days are unbearable and it's impossible to go without A/C, on more temperate days, try to cool your home naturally. Open windows, block out the sun and use fans. Try opening two windows, then place a fan backward in one open window to draw hot air out. This will allow the cool air from the other open window to flow freely.
- 3. Clean your air filters:** Your air conditioner has a filter to keep dust and dirt from blowing in the air. However, it needs to be changed regularly. A dirty filter is not only bad for your lungs, but makes the air conditioner less efficient, causing your unit to work harder (or need to be on a higher setting) in order to make your space cool.
- 4. Upgrade and update appliances:** New appliances are much more energy-efficient than old-school dinosaurs. Luckily, you don't have to worry about this one as all of your major appliances are BRAND NEW and energy efficient. However, consider upgrading some additional appliances, such as computers, TVs, hairdryers, hair straighteners, toasters and blenders. The newer models tend to be more eco- and wallet-conscious.
- 5. Seal windows and doors:** HVAC efficiency is key to keeping energy costs down, and it simply won't work to the ideal standard if your home is leaking the heating or air. To prevent heated/cooled air from escaping to the great outdoors, conduct a thorough exam of doors and windows once a year.
- 6. Give your HVAC a break:** Many people are making their HVAC system and appliances work harder than they really need to be comfortable. For example, try changing the thermostat by 10 or so degrees when out of the house or tucked in for the night. You might be surprised to find that you sleep just as well at 65 degrees in the winter under a comforter, as you do when it's set to 75 degrees.

## CONTINUED: KEEPING YOUR ENERGY BILL LOW

- 7. Limit your hot water usage:** If you've allowed friends and family members to wash clothes at your apartment before, consider that a thing of the PAST. If you continue this habit, understand your bill will be high! Also, people typically overuse hot water when doing laundry, washing hands and taking long showers. The first two tasks work just fine with cold water, so make the switch in order to save precious pennies on your electric bill. Then, shorten your shower by a couple of minutes. You'll get just as clean at less cost.

There are programs available to help you manage your electric bill, such as the Percentage of Income Payment Program, or PIPP.

PIPP helps income challenged Dominion Energy customers manage their electric bills year-round. Your monthly bill amount, or "PIPP Amount," is based on a percentage of household income and the primary heat source.

For example, if your monthly income is \$1,000 and your primary heat source is electric, your monthly PIPP payment would be capped at \$100 (10% of your income). If you make 12 on-time and in-full payments, your outstanding balance will be eliminated. PIPP applications and eligibility are managed by the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS). Applications are accepted year-round.

For more information, visit [www.commonhelp.virginia.gov](http://www.commonhelp.virginia.gov).



## RIDE FOR FREE

Parents and guardians, are you tired of chauffeuring your teen(s) to every ball game, rehearsal, school activity or the mall? Teens, would you like some "travel freedom?" Hampton Roads Transit has the answer!

It's called the HRT Freedom Pass. It's for teens ages 13-17 years old, with unlimited free rides on Hampton Roads Transit's bus, ferry, and light rail services. Service is available in the cities of Norfolk, Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Portsmouth, and Virginia Beach.

The pass expires two months after the student's expected high school graduation date, or their 18th birthday, whichever is later. Any exceptions to this policy will be handled on a case by case basis.

To get your FREE pass, visit [gohrt.com/programs/student-freedom-pass](http://gohrt.com/programs/student-freedom-pass).





## ST. PAUL'S AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The St. Paul's area Advisory Committee (SPAC) was created in 2018 by Mayor Kenneth C. Alexander, Ph.D., and members of the Norfolk City Council. The 18-member committee represent a full range of civic voices and stakeholders who provide a community perspective to the work of transforming Kindred and the St. Paul's area. The Advisory Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month, 6-7:30 p.m., at the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore, 800 Tidewater Dr.

Norfolk residents are invited to observe the working sessions of the group. This committee does not accept public comment during the meeting. There is an opportunity to network with members at the end of each meeting and share your thoughts and suggestions.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting, Tuesday, May 21.

## NORFOLK THRIVE

The City of Norfolk, Urban Renewal Center and the United Way are looking for residents who are ready to take their lives to the next level! If you are employed with few assets and income constrained, have stable housing, 18 or older, a resident of Norfolk, and have a child enrolled in school or daycare, you may qualify for the NFKThrive program. This program is designed to help you pay off debt, start a savings account, buy a home, change careers, advance your education and plan for the future.



Interested? Apply at [www.nfkthrive.org](http://www.nfkthrive.org).



## FRESH VEGGIES!

You can tell the weather is getting warmer because the farmer's markets are back!

The East Beach Farmers Market will happen every Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon, beginning May 4 through November 23. The market is at Bay Oaks Park, 2413 E Ocean View Ave. Come for fresh local produce, pasture raised meat and eggs, local honey, sweets, fresh breads and more!

And the Community Harvest Market, presented by the James E. Newby Foundation and the Historic First Baptist Church, Bute Street, is back with its monthly harvest markets. Fresh fruits, vegetables, books, health information and more is available. The market happens May 11, June 15, July 20 and August 17, from 9 a.m. until noon on each Saturday. The market is in the parking lot of the Historic First Baptist Church, Bute Street, 418 E. Bute St.



**COMMUNITY HARVEST MARKET**  
SPONSORED BY THE  
**JAMES E. NEWBY JR. M.D. FOUNDATION**

In partnership with  
**The Historic First Baptist Church**



**May 11 , June 15 , July 20 , August 17 (9am to 12 noon)**  
First Baptist Parking Lot    418 E Bute St    Norfolk, VA 23510  
[www.newbyfoundation.org](http://www.newbyfoundation.org)

## FIRST EMERGENCY CALLBOX INSTALLED IN CALVERT SQUARE

Residents in Calvert Square organized and advocated for a different way to reach out for help in their neighborhood and NRHA listened – and now Calvert Square has the first emergency callbox.

The callbox is a single button that summons emergency services. It's a way for residents to communicate a need without using additional surveillance methods such as cameras and license plate readers, which are already in the community.

Residents signed a petition, spoke up at City Council and NRHA Board meetings, and continued to advocate until change happened.

NRHA is monitoring how often the callbox is used to determine its effectiveness and the volume of calls. This is the first time a callbox has been installed in a Norfolk neighborhood. Karen Rose, the Director of Safety and Security for NRHA says, "Resident safety and peace of mind are at the heart of all our programs at NRHA. This is another example of how we are working to provide both."





## PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE

Exposing children to new science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) opportunities that are fun and exciting is a great way to spark an interest in pursuing a STEM career.

Get your child involved in the FREE Nauticus STEM to STERN Career Program! The program introduces the unlimited potential of maritime STEM careers to students in a new and exciting way.

Students investigate the contributions of the resilient people of Hampton Roads beginning with the Head Keeper at Old Point Comfort Light, William Roscoe Davis who was born a slave on Todd's Farm in Norfolk and culminating with Dr. Mark Davis, current biochemist and community leader.

In addition, fourth graders are taught about many maritime careers, and shown how STEM is a part of almost every maritime position; even the skilled cook uses math in the kitchen. Students are also taught the right pathways to achieve different career goals.

The goal is to help young residents dream big, understand the pathway to success and have a maritime industry career right here in Hampton Roads. If you'd like your fourth grader to participate, visit [nauticus.org/educate/students/education-programs](https://nauticus.org/educate/students/education-programs).



# START COLLEGE FOR FREE!

2024 high school and GED graduates, listen up! You can start your college career for FREE this summer at Tidewater Community College!

It's called the LEAP program. Enroll in up to 12 credits to begin your college career or transfer your credits to another four-year college or university at no cost. You must be a recent high school and/or GED graduate (January through June 2024) with no college experience.

LEAP pays for in-state tuition and fees only. Eligible students who are classified as out-of-state will be awarded in-state funds only and will owe the remaining balance.

All students will also receive up to \$500 for textbooks and supplies at the TCC Barnes and Noble campus bookstores for the summer semester.

## LEAP APPLICATION NOW AVAILABLE

To Apply:

1. Submit TCC's free application for admission at [www.tcc.edu/apply](http://www.tcc.edu/apply).
2. Complete the steps to enroll.
3. Register for summer classes.
4. Submit the LEAP application at [www.tcc.edu/come-to-tcc/leap/#leap-application](http://www.tcc.edu/come-to-tcc/leap/#leap-application).

**HAMPTONROADS WORKFORCECOUNCIL**  
ONE REGION. ONE WORKFORCE. ONE ECONOMY.

**VIRGINIA SHIP REPAIR ASSOCIATION**

## OPEN ENROLLMENT!

### LAUNCH YOUR CAREER WITH THE NORFOLK STRONG MARITIME TRAINING WORKFORCE PROGRAM

IN-DEMAND CAREERS FAMILY SUSTAINING WAGES	SUPPORTIVE SERVICES AVAILABLE
MARITIME WELDERS ELECTRICAL TECHNICIANS WIND TURBINE TECHNICIANS COMMERCIAL DRIVERS AND MORE	CHILDCARE STIPENDS TRANSPORTATION

VA RELAY 7 1 1 OR 800-828-1120.  
LANGUAGE TRANSLATION SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT  
DAWN MORGAN 757-629-4680

THEWORKFORCECOUNCIL.ORG

THE HAMPTON ROADS WORKFORCE COUNCIL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER/PROGRAM. AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

# SPEND THE SUMMER AT NAUTICUS

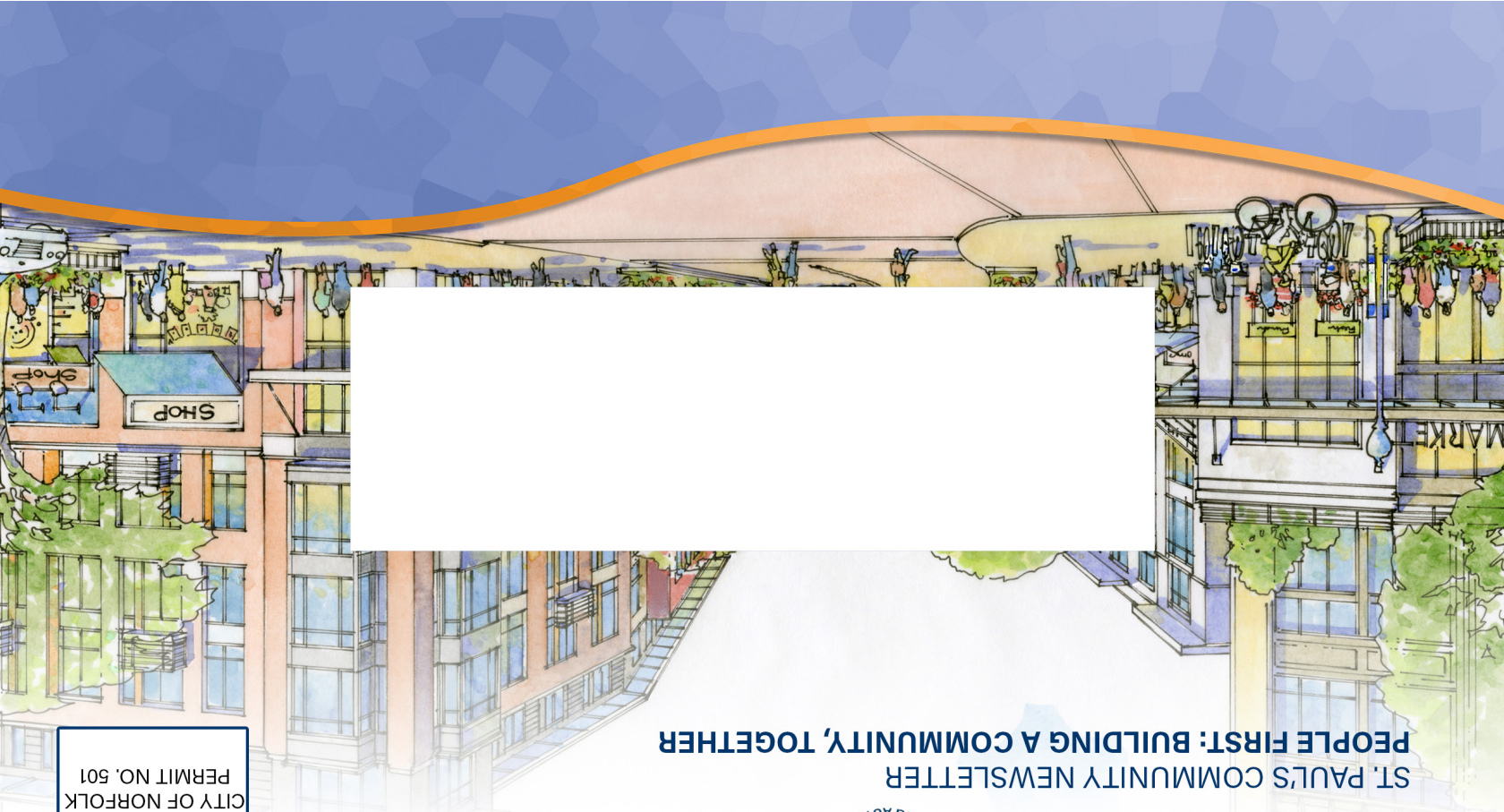
Is your camper ready for an adventure packed summer along the downtown Norfolk Waterfront? Nauticus' Summer Camps combine fun and games with exciting, hands-on STEM to STERN activities.

The Design. Build. Sail. camp is open to all children ages 8-12. Nauticus summer camps run from June 24th to August 9th. Full session details are listed below.

Limited Scholarship opportunities available, contact [education@nauticus.org](mailto:education@nauticus.org) for more information.



NAUTICUS  
**SUMMER CAMP**  
**Design. Build. Sail.**  
*Selling Out Fast!*  
— JUNE 24 - AUGUST 9 —



ST. PAUL'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER  
PEOPLE FIRST: BUILDING A COMMUNITY, TOGETHER



PRRSTSTD  
POSTAGE & FEES  
PAID  
CITY OF NORFOLK  
PERMIT NO. 501