



THIS MONTH  
IN ST. PAUL'S

AUGUST  
2023

## PEOPLE FIRST ZOO FUN IN THE SUMMERTIME!



Lions and tigers and bears – oh my! Those were just some of the animals children and their parents were able to see during Family Day at the Zoo, hosted by People First, empowered by USI. On July 29th, former Tidewater Gardens families spent time exploring wild life at the Zoo and enjoyed a healthy lunch. Residents also had the opportunity to register for Pre-K and other programs for young people. Thank you to the Norfolk Zoo for providing entry to former Tidewater Gardens families for this special event!

## PEOPLE FIRST IN ACTION

People First, empowered by Urban Strategies, Inc., just completed its fourth year of service to the residents of the former Tidewater Gardens community. The organization continues its mission of empowering residents in the areas of housing stability, health, education, and job training. Here is an example of what happens when residents and People First work together – success!

**WHO:** A senior resident with custodial rights of her five grandchildren ages 4, 5, 9, and 14-year-old twins, expressed interest in enrolling the youngest children in school but shared she wasn't exactly sure how to navigate the Parent Vue portal for registration.

**WHAT:** The People First Education Specialist (ES), offered to set up a time with the resident in the People First Resource lab to assist with activating her account. The first day, the resident and the ES spent two hours creating the account and uploading all known



documents. Prior to completion of registration, the system required custody paperwork to be uploaded. Unfortunately, the resident did not have the required paperwork to complete the application. Another date was scheduled to complete the registration process. Two days later, the resident returned to the USI office, in the rain, to upload the custody papers for the children, but unfortunately her account had been locked.

**THE WIN:** The ES was able to call the NPS preschool office to get assistance and help her log back into the system. All required paperwork was submitted to the online portal and both grandchildren are enrolled for school. Residents, former or current, know they can depend on People First/USI to go above and beyond to advocate for them. **Now two more former Tidewater Gardens youth will have quality early learning experiences in the 2023-2024 school year.**

MacArthur Center  
Norfolk Public Schools  
The cornerstone of a proudly diverse community  
THE CITY OF NORFOLK

UNITY IN THE  
COMMUNITY  
back2  
School  
CELEBRATION

Saturday, August 19  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
MacArthur Center



## PEOPLE FIRST BY THE NUMBERS

- There are currently 583 households and 1,546 individuals receiving family support services from People First, USI, with a total of 593 household assessments completed as of July 31st, 2023.
- USI has provided 306 linkages to community services based on the needs and assessments of families.

## ST. PAUL'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Next month's meeting will be held on September 19th, 2023 from 6-7:30pm at the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore, 800 Tidewater Drive in Norfolk. You can find the meeting minutes of previous meetings at <https://stpaulsdistrict.org/home/about/advisory-committee/>.

### Questions?

Please email us at [stpaulstransformation@norfolk.gov](mailto:stpaulstransformation@norfolk.gov)





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## DEVELOPMENT EMPOWERING MINORITY & WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES

The St. Paul's project is not only transformational for residents in Norfolk, but it's also a chance to transform business opportunities, especially for minority and women owned businesses. On July 27, the Norfolk Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) convened the "Minority and Women-owned Business Contract Access Focus Group" at the Richard A. Tucker Memorial Library.



Focusing on the St. Paul's Transformation Project, this exclusive gathering of 13 construction vendors and subject matter experts explored avenues to enhance economic inclusion in city projects. Key discussions centered on opportunity access and RFP responses, challenges and support. Constructive feedback and suggestions were received, with ideas ranging from mentorship programs and banking assistance, to vendor partnerships and more. The session was a platform for dialogue and a space for collaboration. DHCD staff are reviewing all suggestions, and we thank the vendors for their time and expertise.

## UNITY PLACE

Building permits have been secured and construction starts in September for the next new buildings in St. Paul's. It's called Unity Place at Kindred – the newest apartment homes located at 600 East Freemason Street and 466 St. Paul's Blvd. The official groundbreaking ceremony is Wednesday, September 13th from 1-3PM.



## UPCOMING SWaM CERTIFICATION WORKSHOPS



Are you a small, minority, or women-owned business aiming to become a successful part of the St. Paul's Transformation Area project and across Commonwealth of Virginia?

**Becoming SWaM certified is your initial step towards that journey!**

Join us for specialized workshops tailored to guide you through:

- **SWaM Certification Information Session:** Understand the SWaM program, certification types, online application steps, eVA Procurement Portal and more.
- **Application Assistance Session:** Get hands-on guidance on the SWaM Certification online application.

Location: Housing and Community  
Development Department  
501 A Boush Street,  
Norfolk, VA 23510

Presented by: Angela Barber,  
SBSD Business Services Manager  
Hampton Roads/Eastern Shore Region

**Spaces are limited! Check the next page for dates and reserve your seat!**

THE CITY OF NORFOLK DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT		VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS & SUPPLIER DIVERSITY SBSD		(757) 664-6800 stpaulsdistrict.org stpaulstransformation@norfolk.gov
<b>SWaM CERTIFICATION WORKSHOPS</b>	<b>AUG 22</b>	<b>SWaM Info Session</b> 2 Sessions 10am - 12pm EST 1pm - 3pm EST		
	<b>SEP 14</b>	<b>SWaM Hands on Application Assistance</b> 2 Sessions 9am - 11am EST 1pm - 3pm EST		
	<b>OCT 3</b>	<b>SWaM Info Session</b> 10am - 12pm EST  <b>SWaM Hands on Application Assistance</b> 1pm - 3pm EST		
	<b>OCT 24</b>	<b>SWaM Hands on Application Assistance</b> 2 Sessions 9am - 11am EST 1pm - 3pm EST		
	<b>NOV 9</b>	<b>SWaM Info Session</b> 10am - 12pm EST  <b>SWaM Hands on Application Assistance</b> 1pm - 3pm EST		

Parking available at York Street Garage. Present ticket for validation.

ST. PAUL'S TRANSFORMATION