



**PEOPLE FIRST**



**CONGRATS GRADUATES!**

Smiles, hugs and congratulations all around as members of the class of 2023 from the former Tidewater Gardens community celebrated graduation and the end of a successful school year! People First, empowered by USI, along with the City’s Department of Housing and Community Development, hosted the End of the School Year Bash on June 30, for the graduates and their families and friends.

A friendly but intense game of tug-of-war was one of the highlights of the occasion, along with food, prizes and a special treat – a visit from the Norfolk Police Department’s Popsicle Patrol! There was also on-site registration for Pre-K programs, and the opportunity to meet and talk with various Community Partners about a variety of services.

And the fun continues this summer with a Family Zoo Day on July 29th for all of our residents. Congratulations to the class of 2023!

**CAREER FAIR**

Amazon, IKEA, and Lyon Shipyard were just some of the employers who met with former Tidewater Gardens residents seeking employment during the recent Community Career Fair. The City of Norfolk, NRHA and People First, empowered by USI sponsored the fair on June 29 at the Jordan Newby Library. Attendees had the opportunity to interview with ten major companies in the Hampton Roads region.

**PEOPLE FIRST BY THE NUMBERS**

- There are currently 583 households and 1546 individuals receiving family support services from People First.
- 323 individuals are employed out of the 425 able-bodied individuals.
- USI has assisted 37 residents in applying for an apartment in Reunion and 66 residents who have applied for an apartment at Origin Circle, the first two buildings in the redeveloped Kindred neighborhood.



**UNITY IN THE  
COMMUNITY  
back2  
School  
CELEBRATION**

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







# THIS MONTH IN ST. PAUL'S

**JULY  
2023**

## REDEVELOPMENT

### BLOCK "B1" RECEIVES 9% TAX CREDITS

Norfolk's Department of Housing and Community Development is pleased to announce that the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) has awarded \$1,513,583 in yearly 9% tax credits for the section of St. Paul's called "Block B1", located along Freemason St., Mariner St. and the new Resilience Drive in Kindred. These credits are highly competitive and in demand. This award is a major financing achievement for the project.

Block B1 will contain 81 housing units; 32 are replacement units, 19 are Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC); and 30 are market rate.



### MORE HOUSING ON THE HORIZON

It's full steam ahead for the next phase of construction in the former Tidewater Gardens community. Blocks 17/18, located on the extended Freemason Street between St. Paul's Blvd and Church Street, were recently included in VHDA's Bond round, with closing anticipated in August, and groundbreaking in September.

Blocks 17 and 18 will contain 140 units of housing, a public plaza, and roughly 30,000 square feet of commercial space. Construction is expected to take 22 months, with leasing to begin in the first quarter of 2025.

### WOMEN WHO LEAD



Norfolk State University and Black BRAND have launched "Women Who Lead," a 12-week program designed to boost the leadership skills of minority women, provide access to industries typically dominated by men, and aid the attainment of certifications for better wage prospects. The program aims to uncover talent and establish a pipeline for career opportunities.



Registration is now open, with an info session scheduled on July 31. Participants can expect to devote 3-5 hours weekly to activities ranging from leadership development to financial wellness discussions. The program is largely funded by corporate grants, with a refundable \$100 materials fee due upon acceptance. For registration or more information, please visit [www.nsu.edu.wwl](http://www.nsu.edu.wwl) or [www.blackbrand.biz/women-who-lead](http://www.blackbrand.biz/women-who-lead).

### ROADWAY OPENING



The traffic disruption is over and all St Paul's Boulevard lanes between Market Street and Wood Street are now open.

The road construction created successful tie-ins of storm drain, signal, and roadway systems to the new Freemason Street extension. We appreciate your patience as we worked towards this major milestone in the St. Paul's transformation project.

### ST. PAUL'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

The Advisory Committee will take a brief summer recess and reconvene on September 19, 2022, at 6 pm at the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore. Electronic updates will be posted on our website during the recess. 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](mailto:stpaulstransformation@norfolk.gov)

**ST. PAUL'S TRANSFORMATION**

**Monthly Update**