



**THIS MONTH
IN ST. PAUL'S**

**OCTOBER
2024**

PEOPLE FIRST

PEOPLE FIRST FAMILY NIGHT



Feeding mind, body and soul was the goal of the latest “Chat and Chew” event sponsored by People First, empowered by USI. Dozens of former Tidewater Gardens families came together recently to enjoy a good meal, receive important updates and participate in fun, age appropriate activities.



There was something for everyone. Adults received Information on the right-to-return policy, housing choice vouchers, and updates on the Kindred transformation project.

Teens and adults participated in vision

board activities and goal setting. Even the little ones got in on the action with hands-on activities and affirmation crafts.

Transportation was provided to Norview Community Center and we thank them for providing space for the event.



CLUB RUDOLPH NEEDS YOU!

The holidays are fast approaching, and for many of the close to 600 families successfully relocated from the former Tidewater Gardens community, holiday gift buying is simply not in the budget. We need your help!

Please consider participating in Club Rudolph, a program designed to collect holiday gifts specifically for teens 13 and older. It’s easy and fun to get involved. Purchase gift cards (see ideas below), or age appropriate items such as video games, board games, winter coats and hats, bicycles, scooters, or electronic devices and drop them off at People First— 259 Granby Street, Suite 300 between now and December 1, 2024. No need to wrap the gift, we’ll take care of it.

You can also personalize a gift to a specific teen. Just call Gabrielle Robinson at 757-390-4625 or email her at gabrielle.robinson@usi-inc.org, for a wish list. Or if you’d like to set up a donation box at your business, we can help with that too!

Gift Card Ideas:

- Fashion Nova, Forever 21, H&M, Amazon, and Shein
- Bath and Body Works
- Panera, Sonic, McDonalds, Chipotle, Chick-fil-a
- Nike
- Starbucks
- Apple & Google Play
- Xbox & PlayStation
- Sephora
- Video Game Heaven
- Best Buy
- Walmart
- Barnes and Noble
- GameStop
- Visa
- Target

ST. PAUL'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Next month’s meeting will be held in person on October 15th, 2024 from 6-7:30pm at the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore, 800 Tidewater Drive in Norfolk. You can find the presentations and meeting minutes of previous meetings [here](#).

Questions?

Please email us at stpaulstransformation@norfolk.gov.



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DEVELOPMENT

THE TRANSFORMATION CONTINUES...

In 2022, Norfolk Public Schools approved a plan to close Tidewater Park Elementary School and transfer students to Ruffner Academy, a former middle school now changed to a combined school for grades 3-8, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.



This year, the City of Norfolk issued a sheltered Request for Proposal (RFP) for bids to perform the demolition services. Sheltered proposals are a tool in the City's Economic Inclusion toolbox that limits the bidding to small, women, or minority businesses. Specific outreach efforts to this underserved community of contractors is a priority of the transformation effort.

Seven bids were received and the contract was awarded to Cephas, a Minority/Women-owned business out of Richmond, VA. Demolition of the building is underway!

MEMORIAL MARKER RE-INSTALLED

The historical marker commemorating the activism of civil rights pioneer Evelyn Butts has been reinstalled at the corner of Brambleton Avenue and Church Street. It was removed temporarily to avoid damage during the construction of Aspire at Church Street apartment homes.



Norfolk native Evelyn T. Butts worked tirelessly to secure voting rights for African Americans.

In 1963, she initiated a federal lawsuit to eliminate Virginia's poll tax. Three years later, the Supreme Court ruled the tax a violation of the U.S.

Constitution.



The marker's location is significant as Ms. Butts would stand on that very corner passing out voting rights pamphlets. She also conducted voter registration drives and helped create Concerned Citizens of Norfolk, which resulted in the election of African Americans to public office.

Remember to vote this Election Day (or before) on November 5th .

Historic cannon ball markers were also reinstalled.



Get Certified!

Schedule of Free SWaM and DBE Workshops



SWaM/DBE Certification Workshop
9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
[REGISTER HERE](#)



SWaM Certification Workshop
9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
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SWaM/DBE Application Assistance One-on-One Sessions

SWaM Certification: Angela Barber - angela.barber@sbsd.virginia.gov
DBE Certification: Nina Britton - Nina.Britton@sbsd.virginia.gov