

PEOPLE FIRST GROWING YOUR OWN!

One of the core goals of the Choice Neighborhood Initiative is to improve the overall quality of life for residents. Through the St. Paul's Transformation Project, former Tidewater Gardens residents now have an opportunity to access a wider range of housing options—from homes with yards and garden beds to apartment communities that offer both indoor and outdoor living spaces.



recently got the chance to dig in!

Hosted by People First^{USI}, and in partnership with Crestar Health, a hands-on agricultural workshop provided seniors with valuable gardening skills. Participants learned how to prepare soil, build plant domes, and better understand the stages of plant growth. At the end of the session,



each participant received seasonal flower and vegetable seeds to take home, giving them the tools to start their own gardens and apply what they learned.

The next agricultural class is scheduled for April 28, and enthusiasm is already

growing!



TRADE SCHOOL CAREERS



The traditional college experience isn't the desire or path for everyone, and through educational partnerships forged through the People First^{USI} program, former Tidewater Gardens youth are encouraged to explore a variety of career options to decide what truly aligns with their goals. People First is dedicated to helping students envision and pursue their futures on their own terms.

High school seniors looking for an alternative way to obtain meaningful employment recently participated in a tour of Tidewater Community College's Skilled Trades Academy, located in Portsmouth.

Students were exposed to a variety of skilled trade career options and gained a deeper understanding of the educational training offered by TCC. They asked lots of questions and were excited about opportunities beyond the traditional college/university pathway to develop a career.

People First^{USI} provided transportation and lunch, and offered support in reaching their career goals. Additional tours will be conducted during the summer for 2025-2026 high school seniors.

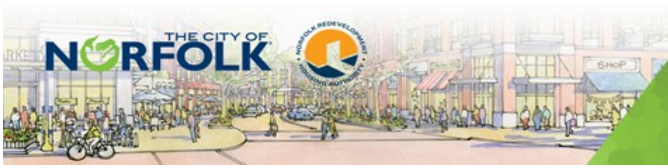


ST. PAUL'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

In place of an in-person meeting in May, an electronic update will be made available on our website at www.stpaulsdistrict.org.

Additionally, presentations and meeting minutes from previous sessions can be accessed on the site.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at stpaulstransformation@norfolk.gov.



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

**APRIL
2025**

DEVELOPMENT

NORFOLK HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACTING SYMPOSIUM

More than 100 people attended the first ever Norfolk Housing and Infrastructure Contracting Symposium on April 8!



Hosted by the Norfolk Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) and the Virginia Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity (SBSD), the full day event at the Kroc Center provided information on how small businesses can take advantage of housing and neighborhood infrastructure projects in Norfolk. From business credentialing to bonding basics, working capital, procurement, and estimating/bidding, the symposium was a one-stop shop where small business owners could access resources, network, and have their questions answered. Participants also experienced one-on-one time with contracting, finance and bonding agencies, along with Norfolk city staff representing various departments involved with city contracting.

The highlight of the event was a very inspiring presentation by Katherine Graham, owner of Heritage Contracting. Ms. Graham shared her personal story of overcoming adversity to now running a company with 5 locations throughout the U.S. Her message to attendees was to never give up.

The response to the symposium was overwhelmingly positive, with comments such as: *"What a great event! I learned a lot and met so many great people, thank you for putting on such a wonderful program; "The Symposium is great. A lot of great information and networking"; and "Thank you for the powerful closing story".*

A very special thank you to Deputy City Manager Trista Pope, Norfolk DCHD Assistant Director Marcia McGill, and her staff who were instrumental in making the symposium a success. We also thank exhibitors who provided invaluable information for participants: VDHCD, SBSBD, VSBFA, VDOT, Bowd Center, Dollar Bank, Heritage Contracting, NRHA, Norfolk Public Works, Norfolk Office of Procurement, eVa, Harkins Builders, Virginia Carolina Civil, Hampton Roads Bonding/Marsh McLennan Agency, BlackBrand, and ODU.

KINSHIP AT KINDRED

The transformation of the St. Paul's area of Norfolk continues with the groundbreaking ceremony for phase three of the project - Kinship at Kindred, located at 430 Church Street. The City of Norfolk's Dept. of Housing & Community Development, Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NRHA), Brinshore Development, Banc of America CDC and BBRM Norfolk Partners hosted the celebration. Kinship at Kindred is the first phase to be built on the original footprint of the former Tidewater Gardens community.



"The groundbreaking of Kinship at Kindred is the next step in revitalizing Tidewater Gardens, creating a vibrant, inclusive community that will provide new opportunities and enhance the quality of life for all Norfolk residents," stated Norfolk Mayor, Kenneth Cooper Alexander, Ph.D. "This project represents an \$85 million investment in the future of our city and our ongoing commitment to former residents and new to create a space and place for everyone."

Kinship at Kindred will offer 191 total units, with 33 designated as replacement dwellings for residents returning from Tidewater Gardens. Varied bedroom sizes, a playground area and retail spaces are part of the layout. Construction is expected to be complete in December, 2026.

This phase of the redevelopment highlights Norfolk's dedication to honoring the unique qualities of the former community—its wonderful people, rich culture, and deep history—while shaping the area into a dynamic, welcoming neighborhood that embodies the city's values and potential. It's about blending the old and the new, creating a place where everyone can thrive.

NRHA Executive Director Nathan Simms said this phase of development keeps momentum and motivation high in St. Paul's. "More shovels in the ground means more affordable housing is being cultivated. "