



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

**APRIL  
2021**

## PEOPLE FIRST

### Right to Return Events

People First and the project team are hosting two engagement events on the Right to Return that guarantees residents of Tidewater Gardens at the time of the CNI grant award first right of refusal to the new housing developments. A Q&A session will take place on Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM via phone conference and an information fair will take place in the neighborhood on Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm People First partners will also be in attendance to engage with families to share information on programming and resources. Both sessions are exclusive to Tidewater Gardens residents only. To learn more about the Right to Return policy, [visit our website](#).



TIDEWATER GARDENS RESIDENTS:

**YOU HAVE A CHOICE  
YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO RETURN**

**Education:** People First and partners Boys & Girls Club, CHIP, Communities in Schools, Norfolk Public Schools, Teens with a Purpose, and YMCA are planning a 'Cheeks in the Seat' attendance awareness campaign to increase academic success and post-secondary success of Tidewater Gardens youth and a strengthened community. It will also specifically address the negative impact of COVID-19 on attendance and engagement. This campaign will formally launch this summer, but in the meantime, teens participating in Teens With a Purpose programming have already released their first Tik Tok video to support the campaign; [watch it here!](#)



**Health & Wellness:** CHIP hosted a baby shower for expectant parents and parents of newborns in Tidewater Gardens. Residents completed Kaleidoscope Counseling's 12-week Sisters Offering Solutions (SOS) program. SOS is an evidence-based support group for women to share experiences and explore solutions to cope with life struggles, relationships, parenting, relocation and more and learn skills to become the woman participants desire to be. One participant said the program was *"the best thing that has happened to me"*. Finally, the Hampton Roads Dental Van provided comprehensive dental services to residents this month.

**Economic Mobility:** Two organizations will receive grant awards through the Micro Grant program launched in March. Young Investors Group will expand financial education programming for Tidewater Gardens youth. Youth will utilize stipends to increase savings, purchase stock and participate in weekly sessions designed to develop professional work ethic. Don't Duck History will work with residents to capture oral and written histories to document their presence and experiences in the neighborhood. Residents will receive a copy of the final product that will also be shared with Norfolk Public Libraries and be incorporated into the redeveloped community. The next grant cycle is June; access the application [here](#).

### Resident Services and Engagement Snapshot (as of 3/31/21)

- Signed up for services so far: 1,456 People (includes children)/ 533 Households
- Total number of household assessments completed: 475
- Service linkages since August 1, 2019: 582
- Housing Stability Interventions: 62
- Relocations: 303 (163 of which utilized Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV))

## REDEVELOPMENT



**Build Your Business, Build Your Community Campaign:** Women and Minority-Owned businesses are encouraged to apply for job opportunities available in the Tidewater Gardens redevelopment. The new campaign is featured on 20 Hampton Roads Transit buses for the next six months. This campaign is in addition to digital and online behavior targeting on 92% of websites in Norfolk as well as promotion on City and Development websites. This campaign supports the City's Economic Inclusion (EI) efforts. Interested business owners should visit the City's [EI website](#) for resources and information.

**City Infrastructure and NRHA Demolition:** Work begins this month on Wood Street and Posey Lane infrastructure and the new pump station on the corner of Fenchurch and Wood Streets detailed in last month's report. There will be an impact to traffic for approximately 14 days as the intersection of Wood and Fenchurch Street will be closed for construction April 26<sup>th</sup> – May 10<sup>th</sup>. Access to and from Church/Fenchurch and Wood Streets will be maintained via detours during that time; please look for re-route signage and construction flaggers when driving through the area. Demolition of McDonald's is expected to begin in May and the Request for Proposals (RFP) was released as a sheltered bid for women and minority-owned businesses only. The team is currently reviewing bid packages. The demolition of 16 buildings between Fenchurch and Chapel street will also begin in May and is expected to be completed in October. The demolition contractor will begin utility cutoffs as buildings are vacated and follow with asbestos abatement.

### Teens With a Purpose Tree Survey for Resilience Park



Teens with a Purpose (TWP) spent a Thursday afternoon during spring break participating in a tree survey to assist with planning efforts for the 26-acre 'blue-greenway' resilience park with Stromberg Garrigan & Associates (SGA) and the St. Paul's Transformation Office. Preserving and incorporating existing trees into the redevelopment is a priority. A first step in that process is surveying the tree inventory to help determine which trees can be preserved and where new ones can be planted. The teens learned how to measure the trees, identify different species, their characteristics, and discussed the importance of preserving and incorporating natural, grounding elements in the neighborhood. To hear more about TWP's work in St. Paul's, click [here](#).

**Voices of Tidewater Gardens:** This new video series shares the stories and experiences of Tidewater Gardens residents as the neighborhood undergoes redevelopment. The neighborhood transformation project is driven by, and centered on, families. This series will amplify the voices of families at the core of this transformation and convey the 'why' for this project. To watch the video series, visit the St. Paul's Transformation [website](#) and Facebook page @St.PaulsNFK.



**ST. PAUL'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE Next Virtual Meeting:** May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. Tune in [here](#). Missed the last meeting? You can find the [meeting minutes here](#).