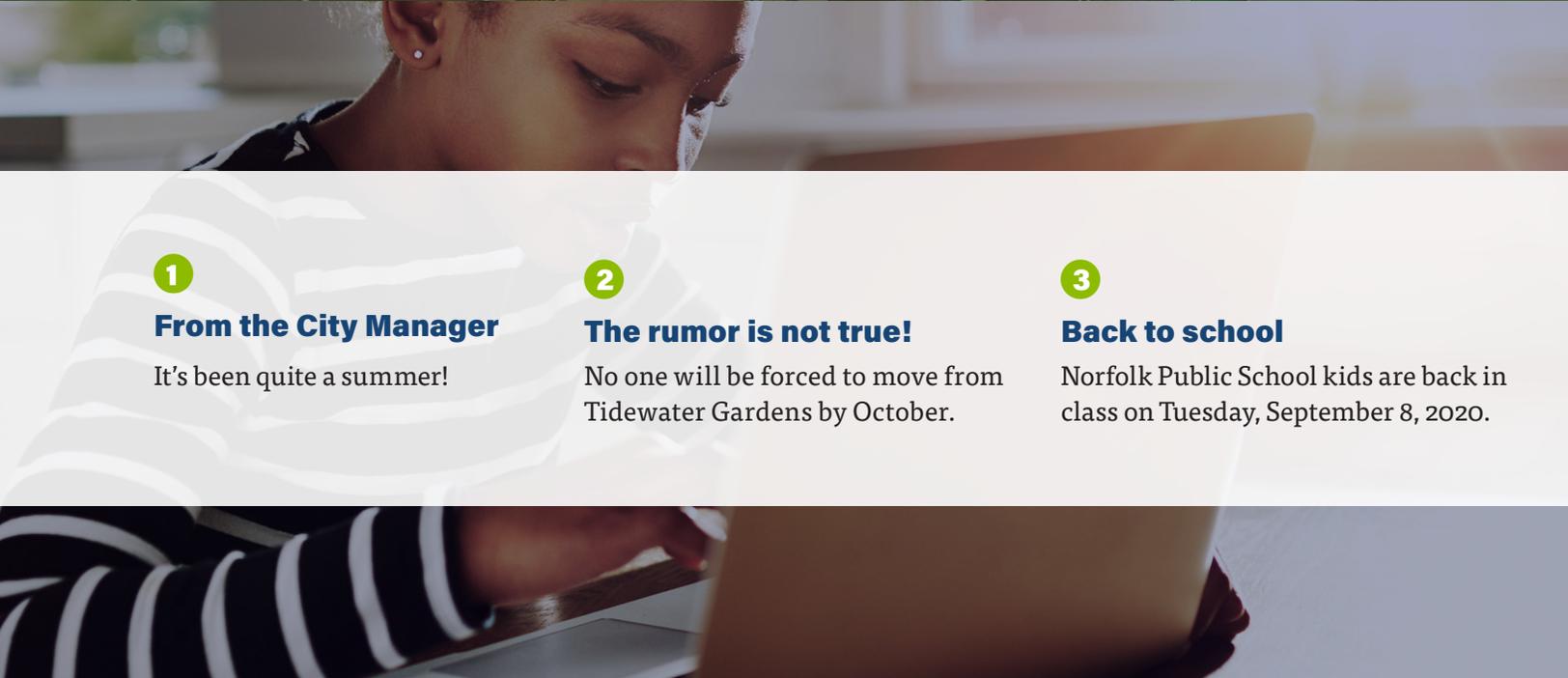




PEOPLE FIRST: Building a community, together.



1

From the City Manager

It's been quite a summer!

2

The rumor is not true!

No one will be forced to move from Tidewater Gardens by October.

3

Back to school

Norfolk Public School kids are back in class on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

From the City Manager



Greetings!

I hope you and your family are doing well and continuing to wash your hands, stay six feet apart and socially distant and wear a mask in public as precautions against contracting COVID-19. It's been quite a summer!

Despite the pandemic, work on the transformation of the St. Paul's area continues. Inside this newsletter you will find project updates and correct information to address a "rumor" that's been swirling around regarding relocation. Let me state for the record – no one will be forced to move out of Tidewater Gardens by October. It's simply not true.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, in April NRHA put relocation plans "on hold" for six months – meaning there was no requirement for you to look for alternative housing, move or use any relocation services during that time. You could continue to do so on a voluntary basis, but you were not required to do so. In October, NRHA will begin to issue formal 120 day move letters for families between Fenchurch and Chapel Street. Rest assured, you will have plenty of time to find alternative housing and People First is available to help you every step of the way.

It's back to school time, and Norfolk City Public Schools will begin the school year online. Look for information inside on all you need to know to get your child ready for virtual learning, necessary vaccines for little ones entering kindergarten, and where you can get resources for at-home learning.

We know the Sav-A-Lot grocery store closure caused a hardship for many of you and we are working hard every day to find a permanent solution to providing fresh foods and vegetables in the St. Paul's area. In the meantime, we are grateful to the Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia for their mobile market, the St. Mary's Food Pantry and the other community groups that have provided food and supplies for our residents. You will find a food distribution schedule and other helpful information inside.

These are tough and uncertain times, but please know that People First is available to help you with job training, education, housing, and health and wellness. If you haven't already, be sure to reach out to People First at 447 Walke St, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm or by calling (757) 390-4365.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chip Filer". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Chip Filer

Norfolk City Manager

**Connect with
People First!**
447 Walke St., Norfolk
757-390-4365
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Weekdays

The Rumor Is Not True!

There is a rumor that all residents in Tidewater Gardens will be “put out” by October, 2020. This rumor is false! No one will be forced to move from Tidewater Gardens by October.

In April of this year, NRHA sent a letter to all residents of Tidewater Gardens letting them know that relocation plans were being put on hold for six months because of the coronavirus pandemic. So from April until October, there is no need to look for alternative housing, move, or use any relocation services, unless you want to. If you have been issued a Housing Choice Voucher or a Public Housing or Project Based Voucher, you will get an extension to find your new housing.

All Tidewater Gardens residents will have the right to return to the new homes as long as the resident is in good standing when they relocate from Tidewater Gardens and continue to remain

in good standing during their relocation period. Tidewater Gardens residents get first priority on new subsidized housing for 5 years or first priority during the initial lease phase of any affordable housing units that accept Housing Choice Vouchers. Residents in good standing need to pay rent on time, have no lease violations or criminal activity and properly maintain their home. Questions about the right to return? Contact your People First coach.

In October the formal relocation process will begin again. In the meantime, now is a great time to connect with People First, empowered by USI to help you in the areas of job training, health and wellness, education and housing. People First, empowered by USI is located at 447 Walke St, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm or by calling (757) 390-4365.

PEOPLE FIRST empowered by USI

I would like to share a very powerful success story! By Cherrie Bryant

Hello, my name is Cherrie Bryant, and I would like to share a very powerful success story. I lived in the Tidewater Gardens community for about five years. When the opportunity to move was available for my family, I was delighted. I received my Housing Choice voucher in August of 2019. I was very happy with the opportunity to move forward with my dreams of moving into a house and being financially stable and responsible. People First reach out to me, and I was excited to work with Ms. Nicole and Ms. Kashira, who were so amazing with the process. They helped look at house after house and never let me settle just because I was ready to move.

People First, empowered by USI, can help you reach your goals and live your best life! Reach out to us at 447 Walke St, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm or by calling (757) 390-4365.

A lot of houses were too small, and I was worried about certain school districts because I have teenage sons and the space they would be able to have when it came to their studying and outside activities. When COVID came, and I was out of work, they gave me food, cleaning products and still kept finding housing choices; a few I lost due to COVID. When the time was right, I was asked to view one more home in the ODU area, and I did. As of June 2, 2020, I currently live in this big beautiful spacious house where my children will attend a better school and my job is not too far away. My home is filled with light, and I'm surrounded by wonderful neighbors who have already welcomed my family to the neighborhood,

(continued on page 6)

Tidewater Gardens Transformation Update

NRHA and Norfolk City staff continue the work to transform Tidewater Gardens as part of the Choice Neighborhood Initiative grant. Here's the latest progress:

- + **So far 217 families have relocated from Tidewater Gardens** with 118 of those families using a Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8).
- + **People First, empowered by USI, continues to engage community partners.** To date 12 contracts have been awarded for funding, and 19 Memorandum of Understanding/Memorandum of Agreements are in place. These partners will assist residents with services they may need in the areas of employment, education, and health and wellness.
- + **In June, tax credit funding was awarded for Block 20 apartments,** at the corner of Wood

and Fenchurch Streets, next to the transit station, a \$27 million project that will build 120 family units. Funding was also provided for Block 19 apartments, at Wood and Posey Streets, 70 units for seniors at a cost of \$14 million. Construction for these two apartment developments begin summer, 2021 and will be ready for lease in fall, 2022.

- + **The development team is also working on the design for Phase 2 buildings,** Blocks 17 & 18, located between St. Paul's Blvd and Fenchurch Streets. The developers are collecting feedback from residents on the design. Stay tuned!
- + **Demolition of the Shell gas station located on St. Paul's Blvd is currently underway** and will be complete by October, 2020. New housing will be built on the site.



BIRDSEYE VIEW

BLOCK 18 preliminary design

- + **NRHA will demolish one building this fall in Tidewater Gardens** – at the corner of Fenchurch and Wood Streets. In its place will be a new pump station water management facility to support future development. Further demolition of vacant housing will begin sometime in spring, 2021.
- + **First phase of roadway design is almost complete** - moving towards safe, connected streets that support all methods of transportation.
- + **The City is working on designing elements of the resilient park** – stay tuned, we will want your feedback soon!

+ **Keeping existing commercial businesses within St. Paul's is important** so the team is holding conversations to draw entrepreneurs from the community to occupy commercial spaces in the transformed area. If you or someone you know are currently operating a business out of your home, live in the Tidewater Gardens area and would like to talk about potential opportunities in the redevelopment, please contact Marcia McGill with the Office of St. Paul's Transformation at 757-636-9581 or via email at Marcia.McGill@Norfolk.gov.



1, 2 and 3 bedroom preliminary floorplans



BLOCK 17 preliminary design

Cherrie Bryant (continued from page 3)

and my sons have walked a few dogs.

They have helped bless me in a way I could never repay them no matter how many times I could thank them. For them to have so many clients and work through the pandemic, I felt they gave me all their attention and support. Nicole and Kashira were always so supportive without judgment or negativity in their voices, which dealing with some people in NRHA that's very hard

to come by. Thank you so much ladies in People First because I felt you put us first, and you women are angels. If anyone has had the privilege to work with you, they are truly blessed. I plan to live in my new home until I am ready to buy my next one. Thank you guys again and again. You have no idea how much joy and peace you have brought to my family.

Best wishes, Cherrie Bryant

USE YOUR SNAP EBT CARD FOR **ONLINE SHOPPING & HOME DELIVERY**

You can now use your SNAP EBT card to shop online with Amazon or Walmart and have groceries delivered to your home!

AMAZON.COM/SNAP

Free shipping on orders over \$35

WALMART.COM/CP/SNAP-ONLINE/1465096

Delivery fee of \$5.99

- ▶ Download the Walmart app
- ▶ Sign into your Walmart pickup & delivery account
- ▶ Select Payment Methods
- ▶ If your local store accepts EBT Online, you'll see an option to add your EBT card to your account
- ▶ Add your card information, then click Save Card
- ▶ By connecting your EBT card to your account, you'll be able to use EBT Online with no-basket minimums (Please allow up to 24 hours for the no-basket minimum to take effect on your account)

For more info on SNAP program:
dss.virginia.gov/benefit/snap.cgi



Food Distribution Programs for Residents of the St. Paul's area

Community	For more info	Pickup Location	Pickup Time
Calvert Square*	757-664-7956	TMC Office (893 Bagnall Rd.) Hours: Mon - Wed and Fri 10 am - 3 pm or 3 - 7 pm (depending on community events)	1st and 3rd Fridays, during TMC hours Call the TMC if you are unable to pick up during office hours
Young Terrace*	757-625-3006	TMC Office (823 Smith St.) Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am - 3 pm Sat 10 am - 3 pm	1st and 3rd Fridays, 9 am - 3 pm** Excess boxes, if any, are available during TMC office hours
Tidewater Gardens*	757-390-4365	People First Office (447 Walke St.) Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 5 pm	1st and 3rd Fridays of each month,** 1 pm - 4:30 pm, until all boxes are distributed
Oakleaf Forest	757-314-4251	Family Investment Center (1706 Greenleaf Dr.)	Door-to-door distribution on Fridays*** Excess boxes are available Mon-Fri 11 am - 2 pm

* Calvert Square, Tidewater Gardens and Young Terrace: Each week 5 breakfasts and 5 lunches are available for youth only. Sign up at your Property Management Office for Wednesday deliveries.

**Young Terrace and Tidewater Gardens: Seniors and residents with limited mobility can call the TMC/People First office to arrange for boxes to be delivered to their homes.

***Oakleaf Forest: Residents can call 757-314-4251 to sign up for Friday door-to-door delivery.

Foodbank Pickup Sites	Pickup Time
St. Paul's Community Mobile Pantry* (645 Church St.)	2nd and 4th Fridays of each month 9 am - 11:30 am

*The St. Paul's Community Mobile Pantry has produce, meat, dairy and pantry items available for residents to pick up.



HRT Quick Guide: Grocery Store Access for St. Paul's Residents

HRT route services currently provides daily grocery store access to stores across the city. The table below contains route information for the routes that depart from Downtown Norfolk Transit Center (DNTC) on St. Paul's Blvd. Each one of the routes listed below operates daily and provides a one seat ride from DNTC.

Route	Frequency (mins)	Grocery Store	Location
1	15 / 30 / 60	Harris Teeter	7550 Granby St. (Wards Corner)
4	60	The Fresh Market	924 W. 21st St.
4	60	Food Lion	2401 Colley Ave.
4	60	Aldi	730 W. 21st St.
8	30 / 60	Food Lion	3530 Tidewater Dr.
8	30 / 60	Food Lion	7525 Tidewater Dr. (Southern Shopping Center)
8	30 / 60	Walmart Supercenter	7530 Tidewater Dr.
11	60	Harris Teeter	1320 Colonial Ave.

To view bus routes and times visit:
<https://gohrt.com/routes/norfolk>



REC CENTER AMENITIES

-  Youth programs (ages 6 - 12)
Teen programs (ages 13 - 17)
-  Gymnasium (teens & adults)
-  Fitness rooms (teens & adults)
-  Express Book Nooks (in partnership with Norfolk Public Library)

BERKLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

121 W Liberty Street | Monday - Friday: 10am - 6pm | Saturday: 1pm - 5pm



EAST OCEAN VIEW COMMUNITY & SENIOR CENTER

9520 E 20th Bay Street | Monday - Friday: 10am - 6pm | Saturday: 1pm - 5pm



HUNTERSVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

830 Goff Street | Monday - Friday: 10am - 6pm | Saturday: 1pm - 5pm



LAMBERT'S POINT COMMUNITY CENTER

1251 W 42nd Street | Monday - Friday: 10am - 6pm | Saturday: 1pm - 5pm



NORFOLK FITNESS & WELLNESS CENTER

7300 Newport Avenue | Monday - Friday: 10am - 6pm | Saturday: 1pm - 5pm



NORVIEW COMMUNITY CENTER

6380 Sewells Point Road | Monday - Friday: 10am - 6pm | Saturday: 1pm - 5pm



For more information, visit norfolk.gov

Back To School

Norfolk Public School kids are back in class on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. All classes are online. If you need an iPad, Chromebook, laptop or wireless hotspot (MIFI) to access the internet, contact your child's school immediately and the school will schedule a pickup time. If you are unable to pick up the equipment, contact your child's school principal and he/she will arrange for home delivery. For more information » <https://www.npsk12.com/Page/15803>.

And remember, People First is here to help you with your family's educational needs. If you need help getting supplies, need a tutor for your child or any other educational services, Dana Watson, Education Specialist at People First is ready to help. Call her at 757-227-9632, or reach out to your Family Support Specialist for assistance.

Here are some other tips to help your child be ready for online learning, courtesy of Norfolk Public Schools:

Tips for Getting Students Ready for the Virtual Start of School

- + **Keep to the school schedules established by your child's school.** Every NPS school will be sharing a schedule with students that will include blocks of time for learning, teaching time, lunch/breaks, and extra support. A schedule will help establish routine and familiarity with what is expected for student learning.
- + **Make sure they have any materials necessary to complete all assignments.** Whether its pencil and paper, a mobile device, or a stable internet connection, now is the time to ensure your child has the right materials for learning. (see above for mobile device distribution details).
- + **Provide a space conducive to learning.** This isn't always easy. If they're too isolated, it's difficult to check in with them. If they're at the kitchen table, depending on the child or their environment, they may be too distracted. This is



even more challenging when everyone is home and the house is full.

- + **Create a daily plan.** Discuss and decide with your child what time they will get out of bed, get dressed, and eat breakfast so they have time to get settled before their school schedule begins.
- + **Make sure all work is completed.** Discuss with your child their work assignments and deadlines, and help them to organize their time to complete the assignments.
- + **Help them check messages and communicate with school.** Check for messages daily from your child's teachers and make sure to reply to any messages that require a response.
- + **Learn to identify your child's barriers.** You know your child better than anyone else. If your child is struggling, try to determine whether it is focus? Motivation? Too much or too little structure? Do they need a hug or finger-wagging or for you to sit with them? And if it's a knowledge deficit, exactly what do they not understand? When students say, "I don't get it," the first step is to identify exactly what "it" is, and this isn't always easy. Most students don't know what they don't know. That's why you and your child's teacher are there to help them.
- + **Stay connected with your child's teacher.** Contact your child's teacher anytime you feel that you or your child may need some extra support. NPS stands ready to help with a variety of resources.

COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN.

Will your child be age 5 by September 30?
REGISTER NOW.



YOU WILL NEED:

- Original copy of your child's birth certificate
- Recent physical (dated within one year of the first day of school)
- Your child's immunization record
- Proof of your address (current utility bill, lease and/or home contract)
- Completed registration packet for your school division

DON'T DELAY. ENROLL TODAY!

FOR INFORMATION, VISIT
Ready Set Register HR.org
OR YOUR CITY'S SCHOOL DIVISION WEBSITE.



CALLING ALL CREATIVES

We are looking for a few interested people to serve on the St. Paul's Public Art/Cultural Master Planning Committee. Committee members will be expected to attend (virtually) 6-8 meetings and community engagement sessions over the course of the next six months. To volunteer, lend your creative voice, and help us honor the cultural heritage of the community contact Marcia McGill at 636-9581 or marcia.mcgill@norfolk.gov.

NORFOLK ARTS



St. Paul's Community Mobile Pantry

Second and fourth Fridays of each month

9 to 11:30 a.m.
645 Church St., Norfolk, VA 23510

Neighbors can select from a variety of fresh produce, meat, dairy and grocery store staple items.

Free and open to community members.

Safety First Guidelines

- Stay in your vehicle at all times.
- Arrive with your trunk empty.
- Put your car completely in park at each stopping point.
- If walking up, please bring a sturdy bag.
- End all phone calls when driving through.
- If walking up, remain 6 feet apart and follow social distancing guidelines.
- Please wear a face mask.

People First: Building a community, together



St. Paul's Community Newsletter

810 Union Street
Norfolk, VA 23510



PRRST STD
POSTAGE & FEES
PAID
CITY OF NORFOLK
PERMIT NO. 501