

# CITY MANAGER UPDATE

February 13, 2026



## Empowering Norfolk's Small Businesses

The City of Norfolk, in partnership with Assembly, BGrace Design and Atlantic Union Bank, hosted a hands-on workshop designed to equip entrepreneurs with the tools and knowledge they need to successfully open and grow physical storefronts. Attendees gained practical insights into site selection, compliance with legal and financial requirements and strategies for creating customer-focused spaces.

This initiative reflects Norfolk's ongoing commitment to fostering a strong and resilient small business ecosystem. By connecting business owners with resources and expert guidance, the City aims to ensure every enterprise has the opportunity to thrive and contribute to Norfolk's economic vitality.

## Celebrating NFK2050: Norfolk's Vision for the Future

On December 9, City Council adopted NFK2050, Norfolk's new Comprehensive Plan, which became effective January 1. This plan represents years of hard work, collaboration and input from residents, stakeholders and partners.

This week, the Planning Department hosted a well-deserved cake-cutting celebration to thank everyone who contributed to the process and to mark the start of the next phase: implementation.

NFK2050 is more than a plan, it's a roadmap for a vibrant, resilient Norfolk through 2050. Thank you to all who helped make this vision a reality!

Learn more about NFK2050 and what's next at [nfk2050.com](http://nfk2050.com).



## Join Us for a Community Conversation

Norfolk is working to make City buildings, programs and services easier to use for people with disabilities, and your input is needed!

On February 25, residents can learn more about updates to the City's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) plan and share ideas for improving accessibility across Norfolk.

Sign up today at [www.norfolk.gov/CommunityConversations](http://www.norfolk.gov/CommunityConversations).

## Your Voice = Norfolk's Future

The Norfolk Resident Survey is now open! The City is partnering with ETC Institute for the third time to gather feedback on City Programs, services and quality of life.

Take the survey at [www.norfolksurvey.org](http://www.norfolksurvey.org).

Some residents will also receive a survey invitation in the mail. Completing the mailed survey is especially important because it helps the City measure progress compared to previous surveys and ensures results reflect a representative sample of Norfolk residents. Survey feedback will help guide City decisions and the FY28 budget.

Learn more at [www.norfolk.gov/CommunitySurvey](http://www.norfolk.gov/CommunitySurvey).

## Senior and Disabled Real Estate Tax Relief Program Accepting Applications



The City of Norfolk's Senior and Disabled Real Estate Tax Relief Program is now accepting applications for the 2027 fiscal year. Eligible Norfolk homeowners are encouraged to apply for real estate tax exemptions and/or deferrals.

To qualify:

- Residents must be age 65 or over, or totally and permanently disabled.
- Homeowners must live in the property.
- The combined income of owners and relatives living in the home cannot exceed \$67,000 per year.
- Net worth, excluding the home, cannot exceed \$350,000.

Residents must apply each year for the program and applications must be postmarked by June 1, 2026, to be considered for tax relief in the 2027 fiscal year (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027).

Information and applications are available at [www.norfolk.gov/SeniorTaxRelief](http://www.norfolk.gov/SeniorTaxRelief).

Residents can also call (757) 823-1130 or email [SeniorTaxRelief@norfolk.gov](mailto:SeniorTaxRelief@norfolk.gov) for assistance.



## Keyshawn Davis Visits Residents and Staff at Norfolk Juvenile Detention Center

Fresh off his first junior welterweight victory at Madison Square Garden on January 31, Olympic Silver Medalist and Norfolk's own Keyshawn Davis is back in town.

Before the media appearances and interviews about The Davis Brothers' return to the ring in Norfolk this spring, Davis spent an afternoon with the residents at Norfolk Juvenile Detention Center.

Between volleyball spikes, basketball fast breaks and pizza, the champion boxer took the time to connect with the young residents, sharing that boxing—and life—requires focus and dedication. He encouraged them to surround themselves with positive people and to walk away from negativity. "Sometimes, the smartest thing to do is walk away and do what's best for you."

This is the second time Davis visited NJDC, and fulfills a promise he made to residents and staff his first time visiting that he'd be back. "These are the kids who need the most attention," he said. "They understand us because we understand them and where they come from."



## Norfolk Public Schools Showcases Career Training Partnership

Norfolk's Fleet Management Division is proud to partner with Norfolk Technical Center (NTC/NPS) on the Automotive Tech Job Training Program.

This partnership gives NTC students the chance to gain valuable, hands-on experience alongside professional technicians, creating a rewarding career pathways and bright futures in the trades.



Click [HERE](#) to watch the Norfolk Public Schools video showcasing this successful partnership.

## Public Works Snow Response

For two weekends in a row, The City of Norfolk, led by Emergency Management and Public Works, led snow operations plans— robust preparations led to quick recovery and response.

Two weekends of around the clock staffing—12 hour shifts and two crews.



They battled bitter cold and sub-zero wind gusts to remove snow overnight, January 31-February 1.

## NDHS Named Partner of the Decade by Friends of Foster Care

Norfolk's Department of Human Services (NDHS) was honored as Partner of the Decade by The Friends of Foster Care during the organization's Diamond Anniversary Gala on January 30 at Hilton Norfolk The Main.

The Friends of Foster Care Chair and CEO Audra Bullock commended NDHS for its unwavering commitment to connecting foster parents, social workers and community partners in ways that ensure no child is overlooked. She emphasized that NDHS has demonstrated how a nonprofit and a public agency can work side by side to strengthen the foster care experience and expand opportunities for children.



Over the past 10 years, this partnership has supported more than 5,000 children, helping them experience a sense of belonging and a pathway toward a thriving future.

## UNCF Mayors' Masked Ball



### 2026 HONOREES



DOMINION ENERGY



DENNIS MATHEIS  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Seneca Health



DR. ETHELYN MCQUEEN-GIBSON, DNP, RN  
Associate Nurse Manager  
Director of Quality & Access  
EVMS at Old Dominion University  
Urban League of Hampton Roads, Inc.



THOMAS RANSOM  
Executive Vice President  
Virginia Region President  
Truist Financial Corporation

Supporting HBCUs and the students we serve  
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[#VALUNCF](#) [#MMBHamptonRoads](#) [#VALUNCF](#)

This year, Mayor Kenneth Cooper Alexander, PhD will host the ninth annual UNCF Mayors' Masked Ball on Saturday, March 7, at The Main.

The Hampton Roads UNCF Masked Ball is a premier fundraising gala and social event focused on raising public awareness as well as donations supporting deserving students across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Learn more at [uncf.org/HamptonRoadsMMB](#).

## Keep Norfolk Beautiful Recognized for Distinguished Performance

Keep Norfolk Beautiful and the Norfolk Environmental Commission were honored to receive the Elizabeth River Project's River Star Business Distinguished Performance Award, recognizing their long-standing commitment to restoring and protecting the Elizabeth River.

Live Green Norfolk was also recognized for highlighting the strength of community engagement and the creativity residents bring to sustainability efforts.

This recognition reflects the collective work of partners, volunteers and neighbors across the region. Both organizations expressed gratitude for the Elizabeth River Project's leadership and for the community's continued dedication to keeping Norfolk beautiful.



## Team Norfolk Rolls Up Sleeves

At the end of a long week dealing with winter storm preparations, Norfolk Public Works showed their ongoing commitment to community on Friday, January 23, for its Warm Hearts Winter Blood Drive.

A total 20 units of blood were donated by 17 donors—including two first-timers!

Donors enjoyed sweet treats and got to pick out a pair of cozy winter socks as a token of appreciation.



The event exemplifies the team's strength and dedication to community, even in the midst of demanding responsibilities. Look for the next Public Works Blood Drive event late spring/early summer.

Click [HERE](#) for photos

## Upcoming Events

### Cupid's Closet: Community Clothing Swap

Saturday, February 14  
Keep Norfolk Beautiful  
3500-A Granby Street  
10 a.m. - Noon

Bring gently used clothing, mugs, tote bags and plant propagations to swap with something brand new (to you)! Please bring no more than one bag or box-full of clean, gently used clothing. RSVP is encouraged, but not required.

### MacArthur Memorial: The 34th Naval Construction Battalion

Thursday, February 19  
Virtual Event  
7 p.m.

Join the MacArthur Memorial for a virtual presentation about the first African American Seabee Battalion in the history of the USN.

### Community Engagement Street Team (CEST) at Hunters Square

Thursday, February 19  
Hunters Square  
825 Goff Street  
11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Norfolk Department of Human Services' Community Engagement Street Team (CEST) is back on the road, bringing access to benefits programs, public assistance and support services to residents where you are—in the neighborhoods!



To maximize fairness and transparency, the Finance Department's Office of the Purchasing Agent posts all approved non-competitive purchases on the City's web site. These postings include, on a rolling basis, Sole Sources and Emergency purchases approved in the prior 12 months. To enhance Council's access to this information and in accordance with City Code Sections 33.1-40 and 33.1-41, we are providing the link: [Sole Source and Emergency Awards.xlsx \(norfolk.gov\)](#) and QR code for direct access to the listings.