

THIS MONTH IN ST. PAUL'S

FEBRUARY
2024

PEOPLE FIRST



THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT!

What happens as a result of the synergy between the Franklin Johnston Group and People First, USI? For Chayla Brown, it's a new job and a new home at Origin Circle in Kindred!

During the construction phase of Reunion and Origin Circle, The Franklin Johnston Group, developer and property managers of the apartment homes, shared office space with People First, USI. Marlon Lizano, property manager for both buildings, mentioned his need for staff. That was all the People First, USI workforce specialist needed to hear. She immediately recommended former Tidewater Gardens residents who would be up to the task.

Chayla Brown was interested. She had an interview and was hired on the spot! Marlon said, "She's perfect for the Housekeeper/Porter position. She is a quiet force, reserved, focused on her tasks, has a great work ethic and gets the job done!"

According to Marlon, she is also "really in tune" with the residents. She responds to their needs, answers questions and is instrumental in re-establishing community. Right after her interview, Chayla took another step and inquired about renting a home in Origin Circle. She has been approved and will move into her new home in March.

Chayla says, "I'm excited about my new job and moving back to Kindred. It's a dream come true".

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Education and Economic Mobility pillars were front and center for former Tidewater Gardens residents in the new year, with a particular focus on high school students and residents in search of employment. People First, USI education and workforce specialists worked together to create the "Chat N Chew – College & Career Expedition". This event was designed for families with juniors and graduating seniors to provide suitable options for careers after high school. Residents engaged with community partners, including Hampton Roads Workforce Council, Huntington Ingalls, United States Navy, TD Phlebotomy, ODU, Merchant Marines, and the United States Coast Guard to explore career opportunities.

In addition, residents currently seeking employment were able to meet with hiring managers for access to job openings and on-the-job training opportunities.

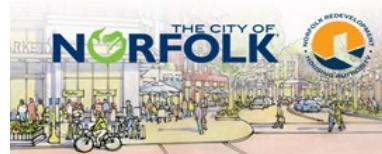
And for teens interested in attending college, a trip across the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel to Hampton University was eye-opening! Students, along with People First, USI education specialists, toured the historically Black university, had a chance to explore college life and get answers to their questions about higher education. The goal is to successfully guide students as they plan for academic success post high school graduation.

ST. PAUL'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

The next meeting will be held on February 20, 2024 from 6-7:30pm at the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore, 800 Tidewater Drive in Norfolk. You can find the meeting minutes of previous meetings at <https://stpaulsdistrict.org/home/about/advisory-committee/>.

Questions?

Please email us at stpaulstransformation@norfolk.gov



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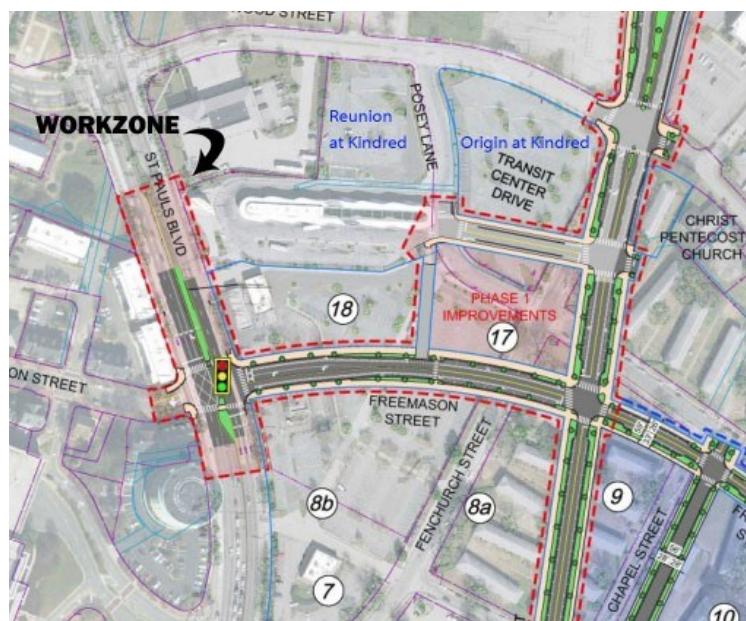
DEVELOPMENT

ORIGIN CIRCLE NOW AVAILABLE

Origin Circle, the second building of apartment homes in Kindred, received its temporary certificate of occupancy (TCO) this month and will be open to all soon, including former Tidewater Gardens residents who choose to move back to the community.

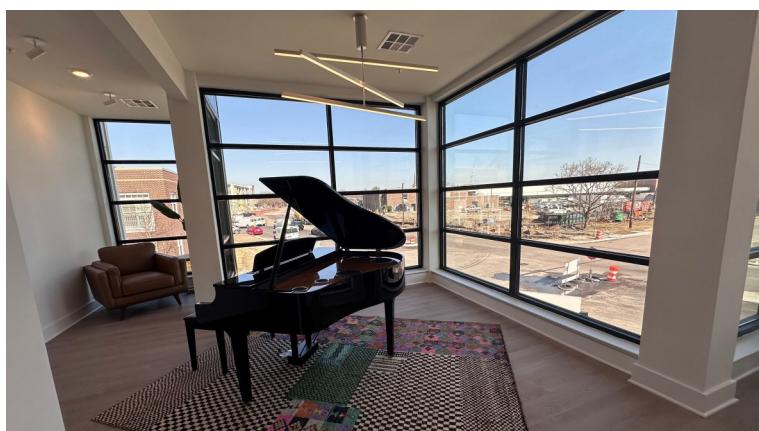
Origin Circle is 120 apartment homes featuring stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, in-unit washers and dryers and 9' ceilings. Amenities include a clubhouse, grilling station, playground, picnic area and a game room. Apartment homes are designed to fit the lifestyle needs of young professionals, growing families and empty nesters.

LANE CLOSURES ON ST. PAUL'S BLVD



Lane closures are in effect from now through the end of March on St. Paul's Blvd between E. Charlotte Street/Wood Street and Market Street as improvements are made to reconnect downtown with the new Kindred neighborhood.

Through the end of March, watch for median lane closures and lane reductions in both directions along St. Paul's Boulevard. The reduction to two lanes in each direction is necessary as part of infrastructure upgrades for the St. Paul's area revitalization, including a new traffic signal and the extension of E. Freemason Street to Tidewater Drive.



ST. PAUL'S TRANSFORMATION