

**Mayor's St. Paul's Advisory Committee Meeting:** The St. Paul's Advisory Committee met virtually Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. During the meeting, the committee received updates on numerous ongoing project efforts. Consultants from Stromberg, Garrigan & Associates, Inc. and Toole Recreational Planning provided an update on community-oriented planning efforts to date on the 26-acre resilience park or 'blue-greenway'. People First-USI provided an update on new initiatives including a micro grant opportunity for new service provider organizations and a landlord incentive program designed to increase quality housing options for large families in neighborhoods with low poverty rates. Committee member Deirdre Love provided an update on the Violence Subcommittee's efforts and upcoming March for Peace event on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> in partnership with Teens With a Purpose. The City's St. Paul's Transformation Office and Neighborhood Development Department shared updates on the city's inclusionary housing efforts to increase affordable housing and preserve quality of existing housing. The St. Paul's Office also provided updates on economic inclusion efforts and NRHA discussed relocation in Tidewater Gardens. The next meeting is April 20<sup>th</sup>.

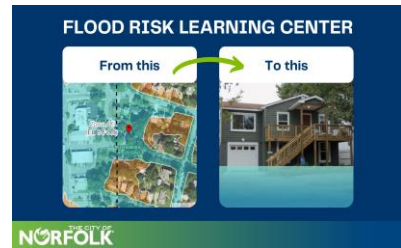
**Voices of Tidewater Gardens Video Series:** The Communications Department launched a new video series sharing the stories and experiences of Tidewater Gardens residents as the neighborhood undergoes comprehensive redevelopment. The neighborhood transformation project is driven by, and centered on, families and the desire to improve life outcomes for residents through an investment in [People First](#) supportive services and by physically transforming the neighborhood into a connected, resilient community where everyone can thrive. This video series will amplify the voices of families at the core of this project by sharing their stories of transformation. New videos will be released on a regular basis. To watch the video series, visit the [St. Paul's Transformation website](#) and [Facebook page @St.PaulsNFK](#).



**Rent Ready Norfolk RentingSmart Academy training:** On Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Neighborhood Development's Rent Ready Norfolk Program offered a RentingSmart Academy course entitled 'Eviction: The Last Straw'. Approximately 50 Norfolk-based landlords and property managers attended this training event. Members of the city's Eviction Mitigation Team and Rent Ready Norfolk Advisory Board were also in attendance. Offering this course was significant for two reasons. First, the Virginia General Assembly has recently passed several housing amendments, both COVID- and non-COVID-related, that directly impact rental housing. Secondly, the current federal eviction moratorium is set to expire on March 31, 2021 which will leave hundreds of Norfolk residents vulnerable to the eviction process. The course focused on housing law amendments and how those amendments affect the eviction process. The course also covered rental assistance resources available to landlords and tenants to address rental and utility arrearages. The course was facilitated by Mr. Martin Wegbreit, Director of Litigation for the Central Virginia Legal Aid Society.

**Nauticus' Women in STEM Event:** In honor of Women's History Month, Nauticus reflected and celebrated the often-overlooked contributions of women with a special *Women in STEM* event over the weekend of March 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Visitors enjoyed programs highlighting the amazing women creators, scientists, artists, and innovators who have played a role in inspiring women of all backgrounds to be bold and brave. Featured STEM programs included "Women of the WisKy", depicting women who played a vital role in building the Battleship *Wisconsin*, and a virtual trip to Bermuda with Nauticus. Visitors learned from BIOS Director of Education and Community Engagement, Kaitlin Noyes, and Nauticus Educator, Susie Hill, who have spent time with the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS) to mitigate marine debris. Saturday's **954** visitors that attended throughout the day, was the highest attendance recorded since Nauticus reopened in July 2020.

**Flood Risk Learning Center & Flood Awareness Week:** The week of March 14, the city participated in Virginia's Flood Awareness Week and officially launched the Flood Risk Learning Center. This brand new, interactive website provides an easier way for residents to understand their property's flood risk by depicting flooding on a photo of the property, rather than on a map. It's as easy as:



- 1) Visit: [norfolk.floodriskcenter.com](https://norfolk.floodriskcenter.com)
- 2) Search for a specific address
- 3) See potential flood levels pictorially on that property
- 4) Receive customized interpretations of flood risk and steps to mitigate flood impacts or lower your insurance premiums



**surveyNFK:** What hidden or recent historic and cultural pieces of our 400-year-old city's architecture are worth sharing? Through the end of June, the Planning Department is taking public comment on the Historic Resources Draft Survey Plan. The survey plan outlines the histories, themes and threats to known and unknown historic buildings, sites, structures, objects, and potential districts. Take the surveyNFK interactive poll and tell us what you feel is historic and important in the city: [https://www.opentownhall.com/portals/77/Issue\\_10411](https://www.opentownhall.com/portals/77/Issue_10411)

### **Norfolk Happening Now! Upcoming Events for Your Awareness**

#### **March 25 (5:30pm – 6:30pm) Where is the Data in Your Neighborhood? (Online Event)**

Easily find information on permits, trash pick up, polling places, police incident reports and more. The City of Norfolk, Virginia shares data on all these topics in its Open Data Portal, available at [data.norfolk.gov](https://data.norfolk.gov). Join city staff from Neighborhoods, Information Technology and Civic Lab to explore available data, and learn how to search, sort and filter to learn about the data in YOUR neighborhood. We'll show you how in this interactive program.

#### **March 30 (4:00pm) FY2022 Budget Presentation to Norfolk City Council (Virtual Meeting)**

#### **March 30 (6:00pm) Princess Anne Corridor Public Information Meeting (Online Event)**

The City of Norfolk's Department of Transit is preparing safety improvements along Princess Anne Road from Park Avenue to Ballentine Boulevard. These improvements include pedestrian sidewalk, traffic signals, and more. Citizens are invited to attend a virtual public information meeting to hear about these improvements and provide any input on the design. The meeting can be attended virtually or by phone.

#### **March 29 (2:00pm) Author Aarian Daniels - Lex Talk Dyslexia - Norfolk Public Library: Facebook Event**

Did you know 1 in 5 people has dyslexia? NPL has teamed up with Author Aarian Daniels and Lex Talk Dyslexia, an advocacy group in Hampton Roads dedicated to raising awareness for children with dyslexia. Join us on Monday, March 29 at 2 PM on Facebook for a virtual read-aloud of Daniels' new book, "Carey Overcomes Dyslexia." This is a community-wide read intended to empower families to start a dialogue on finding resources for this learning disability.



**SIXTY-DAY TENTATIVE SCHEDULE  
COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS AND MEETING TOPICS  
(MEETINGS ARE HELD ELECTRONICALLY)**

**March 30, 2021**

- **FY2022 Budget Presentation**

**April 6, 2021**

- Budget Worksession #1
- Council Interests
- St. Paul's Update

**APRIL 8 – Public Hearing: Operating, CIP, Tax Increase (if needed) and HUD Annual Plan**

**Items coming to City Council on April 13<sup>th</sup> from the City Planning Commission:**

- **SYCAMORE PLAZA (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow the construction of 56 multi-family dwelling units at properties located at Indian River Rd, Wilson Rd and Francis St
- **CHADD WHEELINGTON II (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow the expansion of an existing, nonconforming single-family residence within an industrial zoning district at 2131 Wheeling Ave
- **DIRECT MOTORSPORT (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow for an automobile sales and repair establishment at 5870 Poplar Hall Dr
- **WALMART FUELING STATION #5488 (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow the operation of a commercial fueling depot at 7530 Tidewater Dr, Suite 1
- **639 WOV, LLC (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow the existing apartment building to operate short-term rental units at 639 Ocean View Ave
- **KENJOH OUTDOOR ADVERTISING (Applicant)** conditional use permit to permit an outdoor advertising sign on two parcels located on the north side of an unimproved portion of Mississippi Ave
- **ORIGAMI ASIAN BISTRO (Applicant)** condition use permit to allow the continuing operation of a nightclub with on-premises alcohol sales and live entertainment with a disc jockey and dance floor until 2:00 a.m. at 5957 E. Virginia Beach Blvd

**April 13, 2021**

- Budget Worksession #2
- City Planning Update
- HUD Annual Plan/Consolidated Plan Briefing
- Missing Middle Concept

**April 27, 2021**

- Budget Worksession #3

**Public Hearing: Real Estate Reassessment (if needed)**

**May 4, 2021**

- Budget Worksession #4
- Council Interests

**Upcoming Items for City Council from the April 22nd City Planning Commission Meeting:**

- **CITY PLANNING COMMISSION (Applicant)** zoning text amendment to the conditional use permit process for restaurant management changes.
- **NORTHAMPTON COMMERCIAL, LLC (Applicant)** amend plan Norfolk2030, rezoning and conditional use permit to allow a multi-family apartment community at 5900 Northampton Blvd
- **LESLY COMPANY (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow the existing single-family home to operate as a short-term rental unit at 1273 Little Bay Ave
- **XIAOMING WANG (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow the existing single-family home to operate as a short-term rental unit at 9633 12<sup>th</sup> Bay St
- **CASSEUS NELSON (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow the existing apartment building to operate short-term rental units at 2144 E. Ocean View Ave
- **TAKE 5 OIL CHANGE (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow for an automobile repair and maintenance establishment at 7483 Tidewater Dr
- **MAGOO'S CIGAR COMPANY (Applicant)** conditional use permit to allow the sale of smoking or vaping products at 246 Granby St

**May 11, 2021**

- City Planning Update
- City Council Budget Adoption**

**May 25, 2021**

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**June 1, 2021**

- Council Interests

**June 8, 2021**

- City Planning Update

**June 22, 2021**

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**July 13, 2021**

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**July 20, 2021**

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**Council Recess – July 27<sup>th</sup> to August 24<sup>th</sup>**

**August 24, 2021**

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## Council Interests

### **Moody's Reaffirms Norfolk's Aa2 Credit Rating**

Moody's Investor Services ("Moody's") reaffirmed the Aa2 credit rating during its annual surveillance of the City's existing long-term general obligation bonds. This rating reflects the City's regional importance anchored by a strong military presence, efforts to diversify the economy that aid in stabilizing the tax base, proactive and conservative long-range planning and satisfactory reserve levels.

Moody's also highlighted the City's proactive approach to addressing coastal flooding and social issues, including its commitment to improving the economic power of its residents through several programs that will strengthen economic metrics over time. For example, Moody's noted the redevelopment of the St. Paul's Neighborhood utilizing capital plan funding, a \$30 million grant from the Housing and Urban Development to start transitioning current low-income housing to mixed-income housing, as well as \$14.4 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Further, Moody's noted the City's efforts in receiving the \$112 million HUD National Disaster Resilience Competition grant, the \$5 million grant to create a Coastal Resiliency Laboratory to spur economic development by innovating in coastal design, and the 1 penny on the real estate tax rate (\$1.85 million) dedicated to resilience efforts.

Moody's noted Norfolk's elevated debt burden and robust capital plan, as well as vulnerabilities to federal spending reductions, coastal flooding and sea level rise. However, Moody's also noted the trend of structurally balanced operations has led to growth in reserves and an increase in the City's financial flexibility.

This high-quality credit rating will continue to assist the City in receiving low cost of funds on its debt.

## Articles of Interest



### Cities Building Climate Resilience

Cities, which once wooed businesses by touting advantages like low taxes and a strong workforce, now must also show that they're resilient to climate threats. Officials in Phoenix, Arizona, and Norfolk, Virginia, explain how location intelligence serves as a backbone of their resilience work.



THIS MONTH  
IN ST. PAUL'S

FEBRUARY/  
MARCH  
2021

## PEOPLE FIRST

**Build your business with a MICRO GRANT!**

YES..... We are OPEN WELCOME

People First is offering a one-time grant to small, community-based organizations who want to serve Tidewater Gardens residents in one of USI's Key Pillars of Education, Economic Mobility or Health & Wellness.

You can get up to \$7500 for staffing, benefits, program & office supplies and more!

PEOPLE FIRST  
URBAN STRATEGIES, INC.

Call 390-4625 or contact Nicole Todd at [nicole.todd@urbanstrategiesinc.org](mailto:nicole.todd@urbanstrategiesinc.org) to apply before **Friday, March 19.**

**Micro Grant Opportunity:** People First launched a rolling Micro Grant opportunity for small, community organizations interested in providing services to meet identified needs within the key pillars of education, economic mobility, and health and wellness. Grantees will build capacity through the program working towards eligibility for larger contract opportunities in the future. Applications for the first quarter grant cycle are due March 19<sup>th</sup>. Applications will be accepted and grants awarded every quarter.

**Economic Mobility:** People First and Dominion Energy are partnering to streamline EnergyShare program resources to assist relocating families with account balances and deposits. Dominion will also provide outreach materials and attend group mobility counseling sessions to ensure families have the support and information needed to be successful clients.

**Health & Wellness:** EVMS is offering an art therapy program for Tidewater Gardens families with children ages 5-18. The open art studio allows participants to share their experiences while engaging in artmaking (some of the artwork is pictured here). Program participants also receive lunch and a book.

**Education:** In March, People First distributed school supplies, masks, and books to Tidewater Gardens families in preparation for the phased in-person learning transition at Norfolk Public Schools.

**Relocation:** 120-day relocation notices are being issued to just over 100 households in Tidewater Gardens in March. People First continues to hold several group mobility sessions during the week and on Saturdays to distribute notices and review important information with these households.



### Tidewater Gardens Resident Services and Engagement Snapshot (as of 2/28/21)

- Signed up for services so far: 1,429 People (includes children)/ 524 Households
- Total number of household assessments completed: 470
- Service linkages since August 1, 2019: 573
- Housing Stability Interventions: 61
- Relocations: 298 (159 of which utilized Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV))

## REDEVELOPMENT

### Economic Inclusion

#### Tidewater Gardens Redevelopment M/WBE Virtual Vendor Fair



On March 11<sup>th</sup>, the Brinshore-led Development Team hosted a virtual vendor fair for minority and women-owned businesses to learn more about upcoming contract opportunities related to the construction of the first new housing developments on Blocks 19 & 20. Over 230 people attended the virtual meeting. A recording of the meeting and more information about how to connect to contract opportunities can be found online at [www.norfolktidewater.com](http://www.norfolktidewater.com).

**Contractor Certification:** It is important that businesses have the appropriate certifications in place that identify them as a small, minority, or women-owned organization to be supported by this project's economic inclusion efforts. Certifications include SWaM, MBE, WBE, DBE, and Section 3 and different aspects of the project may require different certifications based on varied federal, state, and local regulations. Please help support our economic inclusion efforts to engage more small, women, and minority-owned businesses by sharing our [new economic inclusion website](#) with your networks and encouraging them to review their certifications based on the type of work they are interested in doing.

**City Infrastructure:** Construction will begin on Wood Street & Posey Lane at the end of April to support Blocks 19 & 20 with new infrastructure. This year-long project includes all new roadway, streetscape, stormwater, and utility infrastructure. This project is a coordinated effort with the new pump station that will also support the new housing with wastewater treatment services. Blocks 19 & 20 are adjacent to Norfolk Fire-Rescue Station #1 and directly north of the HRT Downtown Transit Center.



**St. Paul's Cultural Trail & Art Committee:** The committee will help design a conceptual plan for a cultural trail that will be an important part of the neighborhood transformation work in Tidewater Gardens. The trail will be interwoven in a network of green streets and will strive to honor the history, culture, and character of the neighborhood. This committee is led by Norfolk Arts and comprised of local artists, historians, educators, St. Paul's residents, and community organizations. The committee will also provide feedback on public art, placemaking, and other relevant projects in the redevelopment. This committee will have their first meeting March 17<sup>th</sup>.






**ST. PAUL'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SPAC) Next Virtual Meeting:** March 16<sup>th</sup> and April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. Tune in [here](#) and review previous meeting minutes [here](#).

  
**THE CITY OF NORFOLK**  
 PUBLIC WORKS  
**Major Improvement Projects Dashboard**

[Citywide Improvement Projects and Map](#)

| Image   | Project   | Project Location   | Project Overview   | Current Status     | Estimated Completion | Budget        |
|---|---|--|--|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|
|    | <a href="#">Botanical Garden Cobblestone Bridge Replacement</a>       | 6700 Azalea Garden Road  | Replace deteriorated bridge structure and repair adjacent sections of canal bulkhead.  | Under Construction | Late 2022            | \$2,000,000   |
|    | <a href="#">Chrysler Hall Complex Improvements</a>                    | 215 St. Paul's Boulevard   | Updating facility with various interior and exterior improvements  | On Hold            | TBD                  | \$4,000,000   |
|    | <a href="#">Fire-Rescue Station #11 Replacement</a>                   | 3127 Verdun Avenue   | Design and Construction of new Fire-Station #11 to replace existing station  | Under Review       | Late 2022            | \$5,500,000   |
|    | <a href="#">Fire-Rescue Training Tower</a>                            | Granby Street & Thole Street   | Assess and develop a site to facilitate fire-rescue training, including the design and construction of a new training tower and building.  | Under Construction | Late 2022            | \$1,200,000   |
|    | <a href="#">Five Points Resurfacing</a>                               | Chesapeake Boulevard between Hyde Circle and Green Street, including the Five Points Intersection. | Reconstruct the concrete intersection with asphalt. Curbs and gutters will be replaced for better storm water mitigation. Pedestrian safety enhancements will also be added, included the installation of ADA ramps. | Under Design       | Mid 2022             | \$2,900,000   |
|   | <a href="#">Southside Library (Richard A Tucker Memorial Library)</a> | 2350 Berkley Avenue Ext.   | Construction of new Branch/Neighborhood Library  | Under Construction | Early 2021           | \$8,000,000   |
|  | <a href="#">NDRC Ohio Creek Watershed Project</a>                     | Chesterfield Heights and Grandy Village  | Coastal improvement project to reduce flooding, improve public spaces and ensure these communities thrive for years to come.   | Under Construction | Late 2022            | \$112,000,000 |
|  | <a href="#">Granby Street Bridge Repairs</a>                          | Lafayette River between E 42nd St and Willow Wood Drive (over Lafayette River)                     | Repair key structural components & protect bridge elements from deterioration  | Under Construction | Late 2022            | \$7,000,000   |
|  | <a href="#">North Bound Hampton Blvd.. Bridge Rehab</a>               | Hampton Blvd. and Claud Ln.  | This project will improve the condition of the North Bound Hampton Blvd. Bridge, by repairing key structural components and protecting them from deterioration.  | Under Design       | Early 2023           | \$7,000,000   |



|   |   |  |   |                    |            |             |
|---|---|--|---|--------------------|------------|-------------|
|   | <a href="#">Campostella Bridge Rehabilitation</a>                             | Campostella Road & Kimball Terrace                   | Repair key structural components and upgrade guardrail to meet VDOT standards   | Under Design       | Late 2022  | \$7,000,000 |
|  | <a href="#">E Little Creek/Admiral Taussig Blvd Intersection Improvement.</a> | East Little Creek Road and Admiral Taussig Boulevard | Intersection improvements, including traffic signal upgrades and pedestrian accommodations  | Under Construction | Late 2021  | \$950,000   |
|  | <a href="#">W Ocean View Avenue/Tidewater Drive Intersection</a>              | W. Ocean View Ave & Tidewater Drive                  | Replace W. Ocean View Flyover with at-grade crossing/lighted intersection   | Under Construction | Early 2021 | \$3,200,000 |
|  | <a href="#">Sidewalk Infrastructure - Citywide</a>                            | Various locations                                    | Add new sidewalk at Easy Street/Tidewater Dr, Indian River Rd (Wilson Rd-Marsh St), and Princess Anne R (Shelton Ave-Fleetwood Ave). Future funding needed for Little Creek Rd (Chesapeake-Carlton St) and Sewells Point Rd (PA Rd-Azalea Garden Rd). | Under Design       | Mid 2022   | \$2,550,000 |
|  | <a href="#">North Colley Ave Streetscape Improvements</a>                     | Colley Avenue & 43rd Street                          | Streetscape improvements along Colley Ave north of 38th Street.   | Under Construction | Mid 2021   | \$600,000   |