PEOPLE FIRST

Senior and Junior event: This month, People First hosted a Senior and Junior event for residents from 9th to 12th grades to discuss their plans after graduation. The event was on May 20th, 2022, at the Wyndham Garden hotel. The People First educational specialists and workforce specialists talked with the youth about their career plans, including utilizing a vision board, conducting career surveys, and providing information on college scholarships to at least 13 Tidewater Gardens participants. Transportation, food, and drink were provided during the event.

Stay Tuned for more information on this year’s Summer Blast 2022: The Summer Blast event will be held at Norfolk Scope on August 6th, 2022. The event is to honor this year’s high school graduates and Tidewater Gardens residents. The residents will be able to connect with partners providing services in health and wellness, housing stabilization, and economic mobility. Besides, the family-friendly event will include food, drinks, crafts, etc. More Summer Blast details to come!

Help Tidewater Gardens residents successfully move by supporting our Housewarming Supply Drive: The Housewarming Supply Drive provides relocated families with new household items, including kitchen utensils, shower curtains, towels, cleaning supplies and more to support the transition to new housing. Beside the supply drop off location, gift givers can also utilize Amazon Wish List by scanning the QR code for convenience.

Eviction Relief and Prevention Resource Clinic: The City of Norfolk’s eviction relief and prevention programs received a $1 million boost in providing relief funding and support services to renters facing eviction. The resource clinic was hosted on May 21st, 2022, at the Venue, located inside Military Circle Mall, with no registration needed. Light refreshments were provided to attendees. To ensure the Tidewater Gardens residents were aware of this opportunity, People First delivered the flyers to the residents and provided information about the resource clinics.

Resident Services and Engagement Snapshot (as of 04/30/2022)

- 590 Households signed up for People First services
- 562 Households (unduplicated) completed household assessments
- 33 Service Linkages1 in April and 62 Housing Stability Interventions2

Relocation Updates (as of 04/30/2022)

- 515 Households or 83.33% have transitioned out of Tidewater Gardens (272 of those utilized Housing Choice Vouchers)
- 54.12% expressed a desire to return to the new community
- 82% selected housing options in Norfolk
- 85% moved to neighborhoods with a poverty rate of less than 40%

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1 Intentional connection to a supportive service resource for which a family has demonstrated need in housing stability, economic mobility, health and wellness, or education. People First tracks referral, waitlisting, enrolled, connected, and completed.

2 Rent and utility relief, mobility and landlord-tenant counseling, barrier removal support to ensure families remain stably housed.
REDEVELOPMENT

Community Naming Concepts: Neighborhood infrastructure work continues to progress this month as the team has begun the collaborative work to name the redeveloped community. Brinshore Development’s marketing consultant, Yellow Duck Marketing, presented three naming concepts to St. Paul’s Advisory Committee (SPAC): Triumph, Kindred, and Greenway District. The names were based on collective information from resident conversations, pastor meetings, past survey responses, community engagement events, etc. The women-owned marketing firm has received constructive feedback from SPAC members. A survey outreach will be coming soon to obtain residents’ feedback, especially the current and relocated Tidewater Gardens residents. More details to come!

Demolition: Phased II Demolition is underway, with four buildings having been demolished. Out of 36 buildings in Phase II, 25 buildings have completed the environmental abatement. The total contract value for Tidewater Gardens Demolition to date is $3,934,141 with 69% going to Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises. Five buildings will be awarded in the next cycle.

New Pump Station: A new pump station is anticipated to be under operation this summer! The new pump will help support the new housing units with adequate wastewater collection and treatment, which is vital for the neighborhood’s health and clean waterways.

Infrastructure Phase I Construction: Construction on improvements to roads and infrastructure as part of the Tidewater Gardens revitalization continues to progress. To stay informed on lane and road closures in Tidewater Gardens because of construction, please visit www.stpaulsdistrict.org. The City of Norfolk also has a 24-hour construction hotline at 757-664-7220 for questions and concerns.

ST. PAUL’S ADVISORY COMMITTEE The next meeting is on June 21st, 2022, at 6 pm at St. Mary’s Basilica. Missed the last meeting? You can find the meeting minutes here.

Questions? Please email us at stpaulstransformation@norfolk.gov for more information.