Russell Choice Neighborhood Planning Initiative

HUD recently announced a new type of Choice Neighborhood Initiative (CNI) Planning grant opportunity that could provide funds for “action activities” in Russell. The Vision Russell team seized this exciting opportunity to start making visible changes in the neighborhood and submitted a grant application on February 9th. HUD is expected to announce the grant recipients in late June 2016.

If selected, Louisville could receive up to $1.5 million for action activities that have been listed as top priorities within Russell’s CNI Transformation Plan and that meet HUD’s guidelines. Examples of possible projects include:

- Cleaning up and turning vacant lots and properties into community gardens or small parks;
- Garden tool loan programs;
- Neighborhood beautification projects such as murals, sculptures, signage or other ideas that highlight Russell’s many assets and rich history;
- Fresh food initiatives, such as farmers’ markets and mobile food trucks;
- Improvements to the fronts of businesses and to homeowners’ properties; and
- Neighborhood broadband/Wi-Fi.

Russell residents will select the action activities they would like funded through a community-wide voting process, which will then go into an Action Plan that is submitted to HUD for final approval.

HUD also recently announced that a CNI Implementation Grant notice may be released in late April. These highly competitive grants can provide up to $30 million in federal funds to communities who have undergone a comprehensive local planning process and are ready to implement their Transformation Plan to redevelop the neighborhood.
Located in the very heart of Russell at the corner 18th and Muhammad Ali is Sweet Peaches - a deli-type restaurant where family and friends come together to share special moments, talk politics or just enjoy each other's company while eating a down home meal or mouth-watering dessert (especially the brownies!). Sweet Peaches owner, Pamela Haines, always greets her customers with a smile and a kind word.

One day, Haines, or “Peaches” as she is sometimes called by her customers, was curious about several young men who came to her restaurant on a regular basis. She asked them if they had children and all replied they did but don’t get to see them much because of “drama” with their children’s mothers. Knowing how important it is for fathers to have an active presence in their daughters’ lives, and how that relationship affects how their daughters perceive and interact with men, Haines told the young men she was going to throw a Father/Daughter Valentine’s Day Dance.

“Everyone was dressed up and looking good - I’ve never been in a room with so many beautiful and happy princesses,” beamed Haines, as she described the happiness on the faces of the 120 fathers and daughters on that snowy Valentine’s Day as they danced and celebrated their love.

Thank you Peaches for going the extra mile for the families in the community. We appreciate you.

Help Green Russell

Louisville Grows will be providing 160 FREE TREES to Russell residents, churches, community organizations and businesses for yard and easement plantings at an upcoming neighborhood planting event.

This special event will be held Saturday April 9th from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

To sign up for a tree, go to http://goo.gl/forms/aQe7DkGGZC.

If you would like to help plant trees with your neighbors at the event, go to www.louisvillegrows.org/get-involved/volunteer/.

Training, supplies and lunch will be provided for volunteers.

For more information contact: trees@louisvillegrows.org or (502) 724-4683

Vision Russell Events at Old Walnut Street

Come join us for one or both exciting Vision Russell events hosted by the CNI Neighborhood Task Force and Louisville Central Community Centers at Old Walnut Street, 1300 W. Muhammad Ali Boulevard on Saturday, April 16th.

Community Conversation on Crime & Safety:
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
A panel discussion with Louisville Metro Police and key neighborhood stakeholders on the crime and safety challenges facing the Russell neighborhood.

Design Workshop 2:
1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
A presentation and break-out group discussions on emerging designs to improve housing and amenities in the Russell neighborhood.

Both events are open to the community including anyone who lives, works or worships in Russell. Lunch, transportation and childcare will be provided.

For more information contact: (502) 569-3420 or TTY/TDD (502) 587-0831

Cultivating Food Justice

New Roots, an organization that works with fresh food insecure communities to create sustainable systems for accessing farm-fresh food, is hosting a West Louisville Food Justice Class.

This is an opportunity to share food stories and discuss the connection between race, food insecurity and zip code. Come learn how communities are working together to increase access to affordable, farm-fresh food! Refreshments will be provided.

For additional information contact New Roots at (502) 509-6770 or amber.burns@newroots.org

Get ready. get fresh. (Stop Markets)

West Louisville Food Justice Class
THURSDAY, 03.31.2016 @ 6:00pm
Redeemer Lutheran Church
3640 River Park Dr. Louisville, KY 40211
JOIN THE MOVEMENT
Learn ways of accessing affordable, farm-fresh food.
Share your food stories and discuss the connection between food insecurity, race and zip code.
Refreshments will be provided.

#NotAFarmerMarket

Contact us: newroots@louisvillegrows.org | 502.509.6770 | amber.burns@newroots.org

This special event will be held Saturday April 9th from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

To sign up for a tree, go to http://goo.gl/forms/aQe7DkGGZC.

If you would like to help plant trees with your neighbors at the event, go to www.louisvillegrows.org/get-involved/volunteer/.

Training, supplies and lunch will be provided for volunteers.

For more information contact: trees@louisvillegrows.org or (502) 724-4683

Thank you Peaches for going the extra mile for the families in the community. We appreciate you.

Are there things you want to know more about? Contact Lhill@lmha1.org for newsletter suggestions. Great things happening in the neighborhood you want to share? Let us know!