Have you heard of Nextdoor? It’s a free social network that helps people connect with their neighbors. With Nextdoor, neighborhoods can create their own private websites where they can share information with neighbors about safety issues, community events and activities, yard sales, services, and even lost pets. The Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) is also able to post information on a neighborhood’s website, such as emergency notifications, alerts about vandalism and criminal activity, and news about programs and events.

Nextdoor’s popularity has grown quickly in Louisville with over 300 neighborhoods now participating, including Russell. “Having the ability to easily communicate with residents is extremely vital to increasing safety and reducing crime within our communities,” said LMPD Chief Steve Conrad, who is encouraging even more residents to sign on. “With Nextdoor, neighbors are empowered to keep their communities safe and collaborate on neighborhood watch efforts.” Each participating neighborhood manages its own private Nextdoor website, which is accessible to the residents of that neighborhood. Some neighborhoods also make their information available to nearby neighborhoods. All members must verify that they live within the neighborhood before joining. Information shared on Nextdoor is password protected and cannot be accessed by Google or other search engines.

To join Russell’s Nextdoor website go to www.nextdoor.com and enter your address. Additional information about Nextdoor can be found at nextdoor.com.
Resident Spotlight: Nannie Bibbs

Nannie enjoys serving her community in a variety of ways. She is an Associate Minister at the Baptized Pentecostal Church, and recently became a board member of the Kentucky Alliance for Racism and Repression and One Voice Prayer Movement – a group that prays for our community, city, nation and world leaders.

It would bring Nannie great joy to see her neighbors come together and form committees to serve the Russell community. Improving safety and security is part of her vision for the neighborhood, and she sees zoning changes on the horizon. “We need city planners to listen”, says Nannie of the wonderful ideas coming from friends and neighbors during Russell’s planning process. “We can’t just leave change up to our political officials. As residents, we have to do our part.”

Nannie loves living in Russell and the accessibility of having everything she needs within her community. “My church, Kroger, the park, post office, laundromat, bank, the Nia Center, the plaza that contains City Trends, Family Dollar, and the Lyles Mall are all are located close by - everything is in walking distance if a person doesn’t have transportation.”

New Choice Implementation Grant Opportunity

The Department of Housing and Urban Development recently announced it is accepting applications for Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Implementation grants. This highly competitive grant program can provide up to $30 million to communities who have developed comprehensive transformation plans and committed additional funding to a neighborhood revitalization effort.

The Louisville Metro Housing Authority and Louisville Metro Government are now putting together a CNI grant application to help implement Russell’s transformation plan. If awarded, these funds will be used to rebuild Beecher Terrace with high-quality, mixed-income housing and to make other improvements throughout the neighborhood that are important to Russell families. Applications are due on 6/28/16 and approximately four grants are expected to be awarded. You can learn more about this exciting opportunity at the upcoming community meeting at the Baxter Community Center on June 6th (see Upcoming Events).

Calling All Artists

The Fran Huettig Public Art Project series, presented by the Fund for the Arts in partnership with Louisville Metro Government and the Commission on Public Art, invites artists to submit a plan to develop and implement a community-engaged public art project in the Russell neighborhood to begin in the fall of 2016. A total of $20,000 has been budgeted for the project. Submissions are due by June 9th.

Some Reasons to call 2-1-1
• To find qualified child care
• Help with utilities and rent payments
• Assistance preparing taxes
• To address a potential foreclosure
• To find affordable food, clothing or shelter for you or someone you know
• To locate job training services

Community Resources
101 (and 2-1-1 and 3-1-1)

Attending Vision Russell meetings is a great way to learn about the many resources that are available to community members. But you can also call the following numbers to connect to a variety of helpful community and city services:

2-1-1 Metro United Way’s 2-1-1 help referral service directs people looking for resources to the appropriate service provider. If 2-1-1 doesn’t work from your phone, an alternative number to call is 1-877-566-4968.

3-1-1 MetroCalls 3-1-1 connects you to city services. If 3-1-1 doesn’t work from your phone, you can reach MetroCall at (502) 574-5000.

Some Reasons to call 3-1-1
Issues related to:
• Animals or Insects
• Building & Construction
• Business Concerns
• Drainage and Flooding Issues
• Garbage and Recycling
• Parks and Trails
• Property Maintenance
• Sewers, Streets and Sidewalks
• Other Non-Emergency Issues

Meet Nannie Bibbs – the mother of four children, grandmother of two grandchildren, and a resident of the Russell neighborhood for 50 years. She grew up in Louisville attending Booker T. Washington Elementary, Jackson Junior High and Russell’s own Central High School. After earning an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education from Jefferson Community College, she took a position in Russell neighborhood for 50 years.

Chef Space opened in November 2015 with six members, and has since grown to 10 members, and has since grown to 18% compared to 62% city-wide). Builders will be able to select which floor plan they would like, and will also take part in homeownership training.

Community Ventures values the shared vision for Russell, and is excited to contribute to the neighborhood revitalization while creating a sense of place for area residents.

To learn more about Community Ventures’ projects in the Russell neighborhood, visit: cvky.org/cedar-street. Read more about Chef Space at chefspace.org.

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Residents
A number of residents, particularly Nannie Bibbs, are excited about the opportunities at Cedar Street Development Project, where Community Ventures is building 25 new, market-rate homes.

Additional homeownership opportunities, like Cedar Street, are critical to the successful transformation of Russell. The 25 new homes in the Cedar Street development will help reduce the number of vacant lots in Russell while increasing its homeownership rate, (currently at 18% compared to 62% city-wide). Buyers will be able to select which floor plan they would like, and will also take part in homeownership training.

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Are there things about Russell you want to know more about? Contact lhill@lmha1.org to share your suggestions.