

Access to the Internet Matters

The role of internet in our lives is increasing every day. Applying for jobs, completing student's homework assignments, accessing bank accounts and governmental services are all moving online. Not having internet access at home can prevent the use of these necessary online services. Louisville Metro Government and the Louisville Metro Housing Authority recognize this, and are working to improve internet access for all of Louisville's residents. The goal is to ensure access to necessary tools that increase individual's potential.

The Market Street Wifi project, launched in January 2016, is located at the intersections of 25th and 31st at Market St. This Wi-Fi project is currently bringing internet access and providing upwards of 60 gigabits of free data to over 650 residents each month.

Four businesses - Devastating Doos, Kentucky Resource Recovery Center, America's Finest Filters and Dad's Muffler have allowed their building to be used to support the hotspots. Visit MarketStWifi.com to learn more about this unique and special collaborative project!

In July of 2016 a Big Belly trashcan/Wi-Fi hotspot was relocated to Baxter Park. This solar-powered smart waste system compacts trash and provides up to 18 hours a day of free internet to the area. The Big Belly is located on the sidewalk that runs parallel to 11th Street in between the basketball courts and the playground at Baxter Park.



These two projects are just the start. The Vision Russell partnership is continually looking at other ways to bring free or low-cost internet access to residents in conjunction with the extensive redevelopment activities planned for the neighborhood. We look forward to providing more information on the soon to be completed Gigabit Demonstration Center which will be located at the Louisville Central Community Centers Old Walnut Street campus. Updates on this exciting project and other digital inclusion efforts will be featured in future newsletters and on the Vision Russell website.

In the meantime, you can access free internet at:

Baxter Community Center | 1125 Cedar Ct, Louisville, KY 40203
Baxter Park | 301 S 12th St, Louisville, KY 40203
Western Library | 604 S 10th St, Louisville, KY 40203

Louisville Metro Housing Authority
420 S. 8th Street
Louisville, KY 40203
Phone: (502) 569-3400
www.visionrussell.com



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Russell Choice Neighborhood Planning Initiative NEWSLETTER

Beecher Terrace First Phase

Plans for the first phase of Beecher Terrace redevelopment are well underway. This phase will include the construction of a new 120-unit building for residents age 55+ at the corner of 9th and Muhammad Ali on the current site of Old Walnut Park.

To gain insight into the types of features and amenities that residents would like to see in this new senior building, a focus group was held on January 17th at the Baxter Community Center. Participants provided suggestions on building design, unit size/features, amenities/services, as well as the types of activities and programs they would like to see offered at or nearby the senior building. Their feedback and ideas are now being incorporated into the design process which is currently underway. We'll be sharing drawings of the building in future issues of the newsletters.



You may be seeing some large equipment, fencing and digging activities taking place on a portion of Old Walnut Park. These environmental studies may continue over several months, and are in preparation for the construction of the senior building. Actual construction is expected to begin in fall of 2017. Until that time, the park will be open for use in all areas except those that are fenced off for the environmental studies. Please take caution when you are near these work areas.

Beecher Terrace Residents:

Remember, please do NOT move, as moving will jeopardize your relocation benefits. You will soon receive a letter from LMHA with more details about the upcoming relocation process, your relocation options and benefits, and the general timeframe for relocation.

Questions about relocation? Please call Kathy Head at (502) 569-3479.

Introducing the Choice Developer Partners!

**MCCORMACK
BARON
SALAZAR**

**URBAN
STRATEGIES** ENGAGING RESIDENTS. REVITALIZING COMMUNITIES. EMPOWERING POSSIBILITY.

**LOUISVILLE CENTRAL
COMMUNITY CENTERS**

We are very excited to welcome McCormack Baron Salazar (MBS) and their subcontractor Urban Strategies as members of the Vision Russell Implementation Team!

MBS will serve as the master developer and housing lead for the redeveloped Beecher Terrace. MBS built Hampton Place in Russell in the 1990s, and is thrilled to be returning to the neighborhood. Urban Strategies, a national non-profit that implements human capital development plans in public housing sites undergoing redevelopment, will lead the people component of Vision Russell's Transformation Plan.

Another exciting addition to the Implementation Team is the Louisville Central Community Centers (LCCC), who will be working as a co-developer on arts, cultural and retail activities, especially along the Muhammad Ali corridor. LCCC, a community-based non-profit, has served the historic Russell neighborhood and west Louisville for over 65 years. In addition to their programs addressing poverty and improving educational outcomes for children of all ages, LCCC has been a leader in housing and economic development opportunities throughout West Louisville.



Louisville Metro Housing Authority, 420 S. 8th St., Louisville, KY 40203 | 502.569.3400

WWW.VISIONRUSSELL.COM





Resident Spotlight: *Manfred Reid*

economic equality and social justice for African Americans was instilled by his mother.

“My mother taught me to be self-reliant and unafraid to stand up and fight for what I believe in. I also learned how to distance myself from other kids and groups that were headed in a different direction than I was or not committed to doing what’s right,” Reid continued. “She made sure that I was a leader and not a follower who would quit when things got a bit tough.”

These qualities helped him survive when he became an orphan at the age of 10 after both parents passed away. To support himself and his siblings, Reid began working at a local laundrymat and other places that would hire him to perform odd jobs. Throughout his school-aged years and despite the challenges that come from assuming the role of head of the household as a child, he remained committed to education and went on to graduate from Central High School and attend Kentucky State University.

“I never stopped learning and I was an avid reader,” Reid recalls. “I made sure that I had the knowledge I needed to move my life in the direction I wanted to go.”

Reid also drew on these qualities during other periods in his life including when he and several friends were roughed up and mistreated by a police officer. When it was announced that the police officer would not face any

disciplinary action, violence erupted throughout several neighborhoods. While Reid and his friends did not participate in the protest, they were charged with criminal conspiracy. The group became known as the “Black 6” and were later acquitted, but not before Reid lost his home, his successful career as a real estate broker and a relationship with his children.

“I know firsthand what it is like to hit rock bottom and lose everything you’ve worked for and value,” said Reid. “But I also know what it is to get back up and keep pushing forward even when you don’t feel like you can.”

Despite these experiences, Reid says he remained committed to serving and improving the community and helping others be successful. This commitment is reflected in much of the civic work he continues to do today—73 years after he first arrived to Louisville. Whether it is the Meals on Wheels program that he volunteers with twice a week or the leadership role he has and continues to play in helping to engage Russell residents in the Choice Neighborhood Initiative or Vision Russell work, the measure of Reid’s success has and will continue to be what he has done for others.

“For me, success has never been about the wealth I’ve accumulated or the positions I’ve held. I measure my success by the changes I’m able to help bring about for residents and other African Americans,” said Reid with a smile. “At the end of the day, I want my success to have a long-lasting impact that will uplift and bring about changes that will last for generations to come.”

“True transformation of a community comes from activating the moral authority and improving the character of people so that they are willing and able to serve as a positive role model”

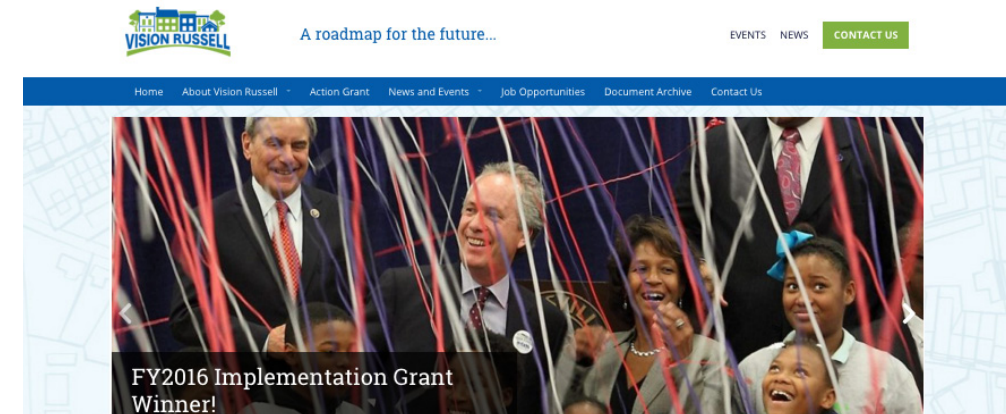
The Fifth Third eBus is coming back!

The Fifth Third Financial Empowerment Mobile (e-Bus) is rolling back to Russell! During its visit in August 2016 over 76 people received a variety of services ranging from personal credit and banking services to employment referrals. It was so well received, the bus is returning and will be stationed outside Baxter Community Center (1125 Cedar St., 40203) on **Wednesday, February 15th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Services will include:

- Assistance with requesting your credit report
- Internet Banking and Bill Payment Demonstrations
- Financial Education
- Homeownership Seminars
- Fraud Awareness and Prevention
- How to Avoid Foreclosure



Vision Russell Website



www.VisionRussell.org

Launched in October 2016, the Vision Russell website was created to provide ongoing updates to residents, partners and neighborhood stakeholders on the exciting transformation taking place in Russell. This website includes a calendar of events happening around the neighborhood, an archive of documents created throughout the Vision Russell planning process, an employment page which will be updated with all CNI job openings, and much more.

We want to hear from you! Have a neighborhood event or an idea of something you would like to see on the Vision Russell website?

Call us at 502-569-3460 or email us at choice@lmha1.org.

Free Tax Preparation

Mayor Greg Fischer, the Louisville Asset Building Coalition and AARP have announced the opening of free tax preparation sites that will provide federal and state income tax assistance to eligible residents.

Louisville Asset Building Coalition’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and AARP Tax Aide programs utilize trained, IRS-certified volunteers who offer free tax services at more than 20 free sites across the city. The free service is available to individuals and families who earned less than \$64,000 in 2016. Appointments are recommended for VITA free tax assistance service and can be made now by calling (502) 305-0005 or scheduling online at <https://louisvillekyvita.cascheduler.com>.

The VITA free tax preparation sites located in or near Russell include:

- Louisville Urban League, 1535 W. Broadway St.
- Portland Promise Center, 1831 Baird St.

For a list of other VITA locations, including mobile sites, as well as hours of operation, visit <http://labcservices.org/> or call Metro United Way’s 211 help referral service.

Are there things you want to know more about? Contact choice@lmha1.org to share your newsletter suggestion.