

In Memory of Woody Porter

This edition of the Vision Russell newsletter is dedicated to Woodford R. "Woody" Porter, Jr. Mr. Porter was the long-time operator and owner of AD Porter & Sons Funeral Home located at 1300 W. Chestnut Street. Over the years, Mr. Porter served and supported thousands of families as they planned services and grieved the loss of loved ones.

Mr. Porter was extremely dedicated to increasing economic development activities throughout the community, in particular west Louisville, and served on a number of boards that supported this goal. This includes One West, Louisville Urban League, and several other organizations.

"Woody helped countless people through their most difficult times and led civically with love for all of his city and west Louisville in particular," said Mayor Greg Fischer. "He led with love, conviction and caring for all. His last chapter of work with OneWest will positively shape his beloved Louisville for decades to come."

Louisville Metro Housing Authority board member Reverend Geoff Ellis agrees. "I think the main issue for me is that Woody Porter was so much into his work that he was a friend of every church that he had a funeral in," said Ellis. "Everybody loved him. So we're going to miss him. I hope that we can do something to extend his legacy because I know he's got one in this community."



Hundreds of Louisvillians from across the community joined to recognize and pay tribute to business and civic leader, Woodford Porter, Jr. during a memorial service in July.

Mr. Porter passed away in early July. He is survived by his wife Suzanne and a host of family and friends.

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Russell

Choice Neighborhood Initiative

Newsletter

Russell Neighborhood Health Center Now Open!

The Russell Neighborhood Health Center, located at the corner of 15th Street and Broadway, is now open for business and helping to increase the number of Russell residents with a medical home. This \$3 million health care facility has the capacity to more than double the number of Russell residents receiving quality health care. Patients throughout the community can access services, regardless of whether they have insurance, live in the neighborhood, or are undocumented. Services are offered on a sliding scale fee for the under-insured and uninsured, and most public or private insurance plans are also accepted.

The Russell Neighborhood Health Center will continue to offer adult medicine and dental services that were offered at its old location at City View. Patients will also have access to new services including pediatric

medicine, women's health, and behavioral health using telehealth technologies. Transportation to and from appointments is also available for eligible participants.

Funded in part through a \$1 million grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, the new 11,000 square-foot, state-of-

the-art Russell Neighborhood Health Center replaces the smaller Park DuValle Community Health Center that was located at City View Apartments. Visit www.pdchc.org or call (502) 774-4401 for more information or to make an appointment.



Russell Neighborhood Health Center Staff celebrates grand opening



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Neighborhood Spotlight: Fresh Southern Fare Comes to Russell

One quick look at the menu from Dasha Barbour's Southern Bistro and it is pretty clear that it will take more than one visit to sample all of the tempting dishes being offered. From the popular sweet potato casserole that is capped with a pecan streusel topping and marshmallows, to the catfish dinner that features three lean fillets that are made to order, this Southern bistro has quickly become a Russell neighborhood favorite.

"Our restaurant is really for people who love and appreciate good food," said Tumeka "Dasha" and Aaron Barbour, owners of this new Russell restaurant. "Because we make everything to order and place an emphasis on using fresh vegetables, we encourage customers to visit when they have time and aren't rushed."

Housed at Louisville Central Community Center (LCCC) on 13th Street and Muhammad Ali Boulevard, the Bistro opened in early June and builds on the success of the Barbours' other restaurant in the Buechel area. The Barbours decided to open their first location a little more than six years ago using a mix of new and old recipes, many of which have been perfected and passed on for generations.

Aaron and Tumeka "Dasha" Barbour pose at their newest restaurant—Dasha Barbour's Southern Bistro. Located in the lobby of the Louisville Central Community Center, this is the couple's second restaurant. The restaurant specializes in providing customers with fresh Southern food that is made to order.

"Since we couldn't get a loan, we had to empty our retirement and savings accounts," said Dasha. "But we stepped out on faith and with the support of family and friends, we were able to keep going."

The idea for the Russell location came after a staff member of LCCC approached the Barbours about opening a restaurant in the building. After several months of preparation, the restaurant opened and



offers many of the items featured at the other location. Since the opening, the Barbours have made some minor tweaks including adjusting its hours to offer lunch and dinner and determining which menu items can easily and quickly be prepared in the smaller space.

The Barbours said that so far, the reaction has been positive.

"The lunch crowd has been really good, and we are starting to do more corporate events," said the Barbours. "We don't have an advertising budget, so all our growth has really been through word of mouth and social media."

When they reflect on the redevelopment activities underway through-

out the Russell neighborhood, they said they are excited to be a part of the changes taking place. Many of their employees at both restaurants are from the area, and, as they continue to grow, they hope they can be a resource for the neighborhood.

"Many of our employees would love the opportunity to work at this location and remain close to home," said the Barbours. "As business at this location continues to grow, we are hoping to employ more people and perhaps offer more menu items."

For now, the Barbours remain focused on ensuring that each customer has the opportunity to enjoy the quality and tastiness that has propelled their business forward.

"The restaurant business has allowed us to share our passion for good food with the community," said Dasha. "It is also a testament to what can happen when you step out on faith."

Dasha Barbour's Southern Bistro is located at the Louisville Central Community Center, 1300 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd. The restaurant is open Wednesday and Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Friday 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:30 to 7:00 p.m. For more information on menu items or catering, please call (502) 749-0094.

Cast Your Vote to Name the New Community!

After two months of community input, Vision Russell is pleased to announce the three finalists for the contest to name the redeveloped Beecher Terrace site. During the first phase of the contest, 74 entries from 56 community members were submitted as part of a public nomination process. These entries were narrowed down to twenty semi-finalists by a Naming Selection Committee comprised of individuals from Beecher Terrace and the larger Russell neighborhood. After careful deliberation, the committee chose the following three finalists:

- **Beecher Terrace** (the original site name)
- **Beecher Terrace Place**
- **The Terraces of Beecher**

Vision Russell is asking YOU to vote for your favorite of these three names. You can vote online at visionrussell.org, by phone/text at (502) 276-6366, or in person at ballot boxes within the Russell neighborhood. Ballot boxes are located throughout the Russell area including the Beecher Terrace Management Office in Baxter Community Center, the Western Branch Library, Chestnut Street YMCA and Parkway Place Management Office. Voting is open through August 26. Additional voting locations and complete contest rules are available at www.visionrussell.org.