

SMART CITY PUBLIC WI-FI UPDATE



After experiencing significant installation and technical delays, the Smart City Public Wi-Fi Initiative is being redesigned to provide more reliable service for the Russell neighborhood. Concentrated, free public Wi-Fi access points will be installed in high traffic public areas in order to provide service to the greatest number of people in Russell, including the neighborhood's parks and near TARC stops. Russell will be Louisville's first neighborhood to get free Public Wi-Fi, and the project will serve as a model for future Wi-Fi installations in other nearby neighborhoods. The initiative is being led by Louisville Metro Government's Office of Civic Innovation and Technology, and is expected to be completed in the Summer of 2022.

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Russell Choice Neighborhood Initiative Newsletter

WELCOME TO THE NEW BEECHER TERRACE

June 9th marked the official grand opening of the first two phases of the new Beecher Terrace community. This mixed-income, energy-efficient development is being funded in part through \$33.5 million in Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Implementation grants, along with \$200 million in additional public and private investment.

Residents, neighborhood stakeholders and project partners including Louisville Metro Housing Authority, Louisville Metro Government, McCormack Baron Salazar and Urban Strategies, welcomed home original residents of Beecher Terrace who were relocated in preparation for the site's redevelopment, as well as new residents to the Beecher Terrace community.

"The new Beecher Terrace is our mission exemplified. LMHA is setting the standard for excellence in high-quality affordable housing for our community, enhancing the quality of life and working to build stronger neighborhoods," LMHA Executive Director, Lisa Osanka said of the milestone. "Having strong partners, committed to improving the affordable housing stock in Louisville, and maintaining a resident-centered approach are the cornerstones of the new Beecher Terrace. Our team is proud of this new beginning and is looking forward to ful-

filling our promise to Russell neighbors in aiding to create sustainable, transformative outcomes for the community.

More than 100 planning meetings were held with neighborhood residents, stakeholders and additional partners, including Russell: Place of Promise, Louisville Urban League, Louisville Central Community Centers, and MOLO Village, to ensure that Beecher Terrace's transformation is truly collaborative, and benefits the broader community.

"The grand opening of the new Beecher Terrace apartments is well worth celebrating," says Richard Baron, Chairman,

McCormack Baron Salazar. "It's been a long year, but through it all, Russell residents have shown resilience and demonstrated their continued dedication to this historic neighborhood. There is great pride and energy in Russell, and we are thrilled that the new Beecher Terrace is a cornerstone of the transformation going on here. We look forward to continuing the work with the community to bridge and erase the '9th Street Divide' with a thriving, vibrant Russell neighborhood."

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Beecher Terrace residents Lamika Jordan and Gina Anderson, LMHA Executive Director Lisa Osanka, LMHA Board Chairman Manfred Reid, Mayor Greg Fischer, State Senator Gerald Neal, Catherine Cawthon – Ohio Capitol Corporation, Tracy Thurston – Kentucky Housing Corporation



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THE VILLAGE @ WEST JEFFERSON – GRAND OPENING



Aaron Wells, LMHA Board Chairman Manfred Reid, Councilman Jacorey Arthur, Rev. Teresa O'Bannon, State Senator Gerald Neal, Lisa Osanka, Thomas Williams, Raymond Smith, Maria Coyne, Rev. Dr. Jamesetta Ferguson, Rev. Dr. Patrick Duggan, Mayor Greg Fischer, Barry Allan, David Wombwell.

MOLO Village CDC (MOLO), along with numerous partners, tenants, and community members, celebrated the grand opening of The Village @ West Jefferson on July 9th. This 30,000 square foot commercial building, located at the corner of West Jefferson and 12th streets, is home to a number of neighborhood-serving businesses and brings much-needed amenities to residents of Beecher Terrace and the broader Russell neighborhood. The nearly \$8 million project was supported in part by LMHA and LMG's Russell Choice Neighborhoods grant, in the form of Critical Community Improvements and other leveraged funds.

Speakers at the grand opening event included Kentucky Senator Gerald Neal, Mayor Greg Fischer, and of course, the Reverend Dr. Jamesetta Ferguson – President & CEO of MOLO, whose vision for a more empowered Russell neighborhood manifested itself in the Village @ West Jefferson.

Senator Neal remarked that The Village “... will enrich our community. Just like the development behind us that’s sprouting. This adds muscle. It adds character. It adds content. It adds capacity to a community. And every time we do something like this, it’s a homerun. It’s not a run to first base. It’s a homerun!”



Tenants on the first floor of The Village include:

Leverage Property Management
The Bridge – Incubator Retail
Tha Drippin Crab Restaurant (under construction)
Park Community Credit Union
Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative – Head Start & Early Head Start
Forty and One Company - Marketing

Second floor tenants include:

MOLO Village Community Development Corporation
Sponsor 4 Success – Economic Development
Louisville Independent Business Alliance
AMPED – Russell Tech Business Incubator
Louisville Metro Housing Authority – Choice Neighborhoods Department
Norton Healthcare – Institute of Health Equity

RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

MIKAEL MAJOR



2021 High School Graduate

To say the 2020-2021 school year was unique would be an understatement, especially when it pertains to high school seniors. The graduating class of 2021 had a sudden shift to non-traditional instruction during their junior year, which continued through a senior year full of rules, restrictions and compromises.

Graduating high school doesn’t just mean receiving a diploma; there are many traditions that seniors take part in before they graduate, such as class trips, proms, and the cap and gown ceremony

itself. High school seniors of the 2021 class were unable to experience these traditions in the same way as previous graduating classes. Seniors still tried to make the most of this year, even if it was under less-than-ideal circumstances. Beecher youth were no exception to this. With this in consideration, Urban Strategies Inc. (USI) wanted to do something to recognize graduating students, and congratulate them on their great achievement. Following suit with the nationwide “Adopt-A-Senior” initiative, USI was able to create care packages to distribute to high school seniors who wished to participate. This year, in addition to our usual gift baskets, the Louisville Metro Housing Authority was able to donate several refurbished Macbook computers for those who are college-bound and/or entering the workforce.

One of these college-bound students is Mikael Major, who graduated early at age 15 from the Penn-Foster Online Academy. Mikael has been accepted to Simmons College, where he plans to study Social Work and play in the band. Ultimately, he hopes to earn his PhD in Psychology.

Whitney Whitehead-Major, Mikael’s mother, had this to say about his accomplishments: “At Mikael’s age my brother was shot and killed. I am so

grateful that Mikael has never been into the streets - that he is determined to make a future for himself and his future family, even at this young age. Like myself, Mikael is the eldest of 7. What a great example he is setting for his siblings. I look forward to everything that the Lord has in store for him.”

As for Mikael, he is grateful for the support he has received along the way, and continues to be steadfast in his path toward his dream career. “First, I would like to start off by giving thanks to Urban Strategies for the “Adopt-A-Senior” package. It has been a great help for my family. They might have thought it was just a small donation, but to me it gave me the push to never go back from where I was in the past. Looking at myself today gives the greatest hope I could ever receive. When I am looking in the mirror, I think to myself, God this is my dream. My family and I had to literally and physically fight the darkness that the world gives out. So, when people come up to me and say they can’t do something in life, it makes me angry. I say to everyone reading this, the only thing that is really stopping you from doing anything is you!”

We are certainly wishing the best of luck to Mikael, as well to the rest of our 2021 graduates. The world is yours!

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Phase I – The 450 Roy Wilkins Building - offers 117 units exclusively for persons aged 55+, while Phase II offers 108 townhome, garden-style and walk-up apartments for families of all ages. When completed, the redeveloped community will be home to 620 mixed-income rental units, as well as 20 homeownership opportunities.

“Today is a great day for residents of Russell and our entire city as we open the first two phases of the newly revitalized Beecher Terrace. The community discussions and planning for this transformational development began shortly after I became Mayor and it has helped spur more than \$1 billion of investment in west Louisville in the years since,” said Mayor Greg Fischer. “Thank you to the people of Russell, our Louisville Metro Housing Authority, the CHOICE team, funders and community leaders. This is what happens when people who share a common goal work together. This work is critical, because it’s not enough to lift up our neighborhoods, we have to lift up our neighbors at the same time.”