West Louisville FoodPort Project: **Economic Inclusion Outreach Session**

Messer Construction Co., Seed Capital Kentucky, TKT & Associates, Inc. and the Louisville Urban League are pleased to invite you to attend our Economic Location Inclusion Outreach Session for the Seed Capital Kentucky West Louisville FoodPort Project.

All attendees should meet the below criteria:

- Prime Bidders
- Minority / Women owned Business Enterprises and Disabled subcontractors/ suppliers
- Community Partners
- Construction Job Seekers (must be 18+, strongly *encouraged to bring resume)*

Tuesday | April 26, 2016

Time 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

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Kentucky International Convention Center 221 South Fourth Street (Room 101) Louisville, KY 40202

Due to limited seating, registration for this event is mandatory. Please register by Thursday | April 21, 2016:

Online: *http://tinyurl.com/nbbjr7r* By Phone: 513-482-5362 By Email: nmoffitt@messer.com



Issue **05** | APRIL 2016

VISION RUSSEI

Russell Choice Neighborhood Planning Initiative NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday | April 20, 2016

A Joint Meeting of All CNI Task Forces (see inside for *more details*)

Time 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location Kentucky Center for African American Heritage 1701 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd.

Saturday | April 23, 2016

Russell Cleanup Day

Louisville Forward and Louisville Metro Housing Authority have teamed up for a Russell Neighborhood Cleanup Day on Saturday April 23rd.

Interested in joining? Call 502-569-6459



NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION **STRATEGY AREA**

Russell is on the fast track to becoming a certified Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) thanks to the efforts underway through Russell's Choice Neighborhood Initiative planning process.

Once that certification is in place, the Russell neighborhood will receive several benefits including targeted Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and more flexibility with how funding can be used in the neighborhood. These funds will be programmed for needs prioritized through the Choice planning process, including efforts to spur economic development and improve housing. This in turn could help stimulate more investment in the neighborhood.

The NRSA plan was developed through the Choice planning process, which has provided neighborhood stakeholders, including residents, businesses,

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



A roof repair program is a part of the NRSA plan

and faith-based organizations, with the opportunity to learn more about each other's aspirations for Russell and how their individual interests often complement one another or can be combined to achieve greater results within the community. Momentum is definitely continuing to build toward a shared vision for Russell.

To learn more about Russell's pending NRSA certification, you can review a draft of the plan online at the following link: https:// louisvilleky.gov/government/ housing-community-development/ public-notices-federal-plans-andproject-compliance. A public hearing is scheduled for **May 3rd at 6:00** p.m. at Western Library, 604 S. . 10th Street, 40203.

For more information about Russell's draft NRSA plan and the public hearing, go to https:// louisvilleky.gov/government/housingcommunity-development/publicnotices-federal-plans-and-projectcompliance





Ebonique Burns, a mother of three and a long-time resident of the Russell and Shawnee neighborhoods, is always looking for ways to be involved in the community and to improve the Russell neighborhood. So it comes as no surprise that when there was an opportunity to participate in the Russell Neighborhood Institute, she jumped at the chance.

"I loved learning more about the resources that exist within the city and neighborhood that can help to bring about the type of changes we want to make this a better place for all of us" said Burns who completed the program in January. "Change won't happen if we just turn the other way. We all have to be actively involved and committed to working together."

The Russell Neighborhood Institute, a seven week program designed to connect

Resident Spotlight: Ebonique Burns

participants with resources and partners who could assist in moving participants' ideas into action. Class members met once a week and worked on a number of short and long-term projects to help improve their community.

Burns says that she was motivated to participate in the training after she

returned to Louisville and saw the decline that was taking place throughout the area. Because she comes from a close-knit family and many of her relatives live within walking distance, she

decided to become involved in activities

that are improving Russell and helping children succeed, rather than moving to another neighborhood.

From serving on the Site Based Decision Making Council and Parent Teacher Association at Roosevelt Perry Elementary, to volunteering for the Louisville Urban League's Chess program, Burns says her passion is working on initiatives that are focused on the performing arts and that help youth within the neighborhood.

"Change won't happen if we just turn the other way. We all have to be actively involved and committed to working together."

"There really are a lot of programs that are available to children in this community and can make a difference and have a positive impact. Getting more kids involved and connected to these activities is the challenge."

Burns hopes that she'll learn new ways to tackle these challenges

through another program she is now participating in at the Center for Neighborhoods. Simply called the Neighborhood *Institute*, this 13-week leadership program is allowing Burns and other participants to deepen their understanding of the needs within the area and develop projects that are providing needed

resources to Russell residents. "The projects we are working on range from improving the health and wellness of neighborhood residents to developing visual and performing arts programs for youth," said Burns. "It's these types of changes that will help more people connect and become vested in what happens within our neighborhood."

A Joint **Meeting of All CNI** Task **Forces**

Please join us on April 20th from 10 a.m. to noon at the **Kentucky Center for African** American Heritage, 1701 W. Muhammad Ali Boulevard for a joint meeting of all CNI Task Forces. Russell residents are also encouraged to attend this event, as well as the general public. The group will be prioritizing goals and strategies to be included in the draft **Russell Transformation Plan** that will be submitted to HUD on July 15th. Throughout the planning process community residents and our partners have come up with many wonderful ideas that help capture Russell's rich past, while cultivating its future and strengthening its nearly 3,800 families. Now is the time to come help us select the ideas that will have the most impact and best benefit the Russell

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Ease Into Your Weekend with Free Yoga at the Baxter Community Center

Interested in stretching out tired or tense muscles, improving your brain function, strengthening your bones, relieving chronic pain and/or increasing your ability to cope with stress – then check out the new yoga classes in Russell. Classes are taught by Kentucky Yoga Initiative (KYI), a local nonprofit working to make yoga accessible to people throughout the city. These free classes are open to the public and are designed to accommodate all skill levels, whether this is your first time attending a class or you are a seasoned yoga student. Yoga classes are held at the Baxter Community Center, 1125 Cedar Street every Friday evening from 5:30-6:30pm. Mats are available for your use and participants should wear comfortable clothing.

KYI also holds free yoga classes at Shelby, Shawnee and Portland Community Centers. Russell is the newest neighborhood that KYI has expanded classes to because of the strong voices and active leaders in Russell who are seeking ways to improve the lives of community members.

Repair Affair

community.

Repair Affair is seeking volunteer teams to help elderly and disabled homeowners with repairs. Repair Affair jobs range from simple yard work and exterior painting, to more complicated carpentry, plumbing and electrical. Repair Affair can match any team with a homeowner in need. Find out how you can help change a homeowner's life in just one day by contacting Jacie Morgan at jaciem@ndhc.org or 502-719-7153.

A Conversation with **Russell's Youth**



Twelve energetic teens gathered together on March 31st at Central High School to talk about their vision for the Russell Neighborhood. They enjoyed pizza with Neighborhood Outreach Workers while discussing their favorite types of programs and summer activities, and the efforts underway to help transform their neighborhood. "Reuse, Recycle, ReRussell" is one of the many branding ideas that the group developed to help promote their neighborhood's unique features. The teens' branding ideas, along with other improvements they'd like to see in the Russell community, were put together in a Word Cloud featured above.

