



Louisville Metro Housing Authority
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Issue 07 | SUMMER 2016



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

August 16th, 2016

Baxter Community Fest

Time

4:00 - 8:00 PM

Location

Baxter Square Park
301 S. 12th St.

August 26th, 2016

Opening Ceremony African Heritage Festival

Time

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Location

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

August 27th, 2016

African Heritage Festival

Time

8:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Location

Muhammad Ali Blvd. to Cedar St. Between 17th and 18th St. (parade between 9th and 17th St.)

Russell Choice Neighborhood Planning Initiative NEWSLETTER



Boxing Glove sculpture by Ed Hamilton to honor Muhammad Ali in Smoketown



Louisville Metro Housing Authority Executive Director with Muhammad Ali

If my mind can conceive it, and my heart can believe it - then I can achieve it.

- Muhammad Ali

Only a few short weeks ago, Louisville, Kentucky was the focus of the eyes of the world as we celebrated the life of the Greatest of All Time, The Louisville Lip, The Champ – Muhammad Ali. Thousands of mourners lined the boulevard that bears his name as Ali's funeral procession passed through Russell, a neighborhood near and dear to his heart from his days as a Central High School student.

News crews that typically capture Russell's crimes and shootings, were focused instead on the outpourings of admiration for a man who became a human symbol of tolerance and peace to the world. The strength that Ali gained from growing up in Louisville's struggling communities formed the foundation of his core principles of Confidence, Conviction, Dedication, Giving, Respect and Spirituality – the same principles we invoke as we embark upon our bold vision for a transformed Russell.

We recently submitted a draft of Russell's Transformation Plan to HUD (see pg 5) a plan that has continued to evolve over

our 18 month planning process. We'll be putting the finishing touches on the plan over the next few months.

During the planning process, we have taken a hard look within and acknowledged the old policies that engendered years' worth of disinvestment and hopelessness. But in looking forward, we also acknowledge our shared investment in this community – we are all connected, we are all human and we are all in this together. We must devote all of our energies, efforts and abilities to the work ahead, and honor the hard work and resilience of those who came before us.

While visionary, the Vision Russell Transformation Plan charts a realistic path with the audacity and boldness that Muhammad Ali's hometown most assuredly possesses. We hope that the eyes of the world remain on us, as we move forward to achieve what our collective hearts and minds have conceived.





Resident Spotlight: *Troy Lemore*

There are few people who possess the maturity needed to go from the gentleness and patience required to grow a garden, to the hard hitting and athletic prowess needed to pursue a professional boxing career. But for Troy Lemore, an 18- year old senior at Liberty High School who has lived in Beecher Terrace for the past nine years, the transition between the two worlds comes naturally. In fact, going between the two worlds allows him to enjoy his two favorite past times that have helped to change his life.

“I’ve always been interested in growing my own food and learning more about gardening,” said Lemore who has interned with the Food Literacy Project at Oxmoor Farms for the past several summers. “I’ve learned a lot and it has helped me to make healthier food choices.”

His improved health has also allowed Lemore to take up boxing at one of the area’s premier boxing gyms—Louisville TKO Boxing/Top Notch Boxing. The sports facility is a non-profit with a dual mission: to help kids train and compete nationally against some of the country’s top boxers and to keep them off the streets by providing structure and academic support that will allow them to succeed in the classroom. The boxing,

coupled with a greater focus on healthier food options, has produced some significant changes in Lemore’s life. “When I first started at TKO, I weighed 270 lbs. Since that time, I’ve lost about 85 lbs. and I am more focused on what I want to do after I graduate,” said Lemore who is considering going to technical school to become an auto technician. “Boxing keeps me grounded.”

Lemore’s transformation began several years ago when he joined Right Turn—an organization that is focused on getting young men who have been involved with the criminal justice system for minor offenses on a different path. Administered through Kentuckiana Works, the program pairs participants with a mentor, provides classes and training and helps them to develop a plan for moving forward. Lemore credits his mentor, Kentuckiana Works executive director Michael Gritton, with much of the progress he has made.

“When I was growing up, I remember wondering why change and improvements weren’t being made in my neighborhood,” he said. “But lately it does seem like things are getting better. Hopefully, one day, this neighborhood can become a safe place that people want to move to and are proud to call home.”

“Mr. Gritton has become family for me and I feel like I’m a part of his family,” said Lemore. “He has exposed me to new opportunities and helped me to develop a plan for my life and to be a better role model for my sisters and family.” As Lemore prepares to graduate from high school and take the next steps towards his goals, he says that he has been following many of the changes that are being proposed to the Beecher Terrace community and the Russell Neighborhood. He believes that the focus on changing the area is long overdue and hopes that it will help to improve the community.

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the Neighborhood

Russell Walks

Russell Walks is a walking club started by Russell Neighborhood Institute members Ebonique Burns, Jackie Floyd and Julia Robinson. The group created the club to promote healthy lifestyles, encourage community engagement and to provide residents with a safe activity that allows them to meet their neighbors and enjoy their neighborhood.

Join us as we walk the perimeter of the Russell Apartments complex

(former James Madison Jr. High School).

The walking club meets Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. and Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. at 18th St. and Muhammad Ali Blvd.

Depending on interest and participation, the number of walking days per week may increase.

Water bottles, pedometers and whistles are available for those who participate (limited supply). Julia, Jackie and Ebonique would like to issue a special thanks to the Louisville Water Company, Louisville Metro Department of Public Health

& Wellness and Louisville Metro Police Department First Division for their time and donations.

Everyone is welcome to come out and participate. *If you’re interested in creating a walking club for your block or street or to learn more about Russell Walks please contact Julia Robinson at 502-930-6264.*



African American Heritage Festival



The African American Heritage Festival is a celebration of unity, culture, art and history across the African Diaspora. It is a joyous two-day event for the whole family with great food, music, dance, sports, fashion, cultural demonstrations, children’s activities, resources for healthy living and so much more. Join us for this exciting celebration of African, African-American, and Caribbean cultures!

For information on the African Heritage Festival email stacy@bridge-kids.org or call (502) 457-1910

Opening Ceremony

Friday August 26th, 7-8pm
Located at Kentucky Center for African American Heritage
Reception, Live Entertainment, Arts & Culture

African Heritage Festival

Saturday August 27th, 11am-7pm
Located outside of Kentucky Center for African American Heritage on Muhammad Ali Blvd between 17th St. & 18th St.
Street Festival, Parade, How-to Fair, Live Entertainment, Food Vendors, Inflatables, Fashion Show, and more!

African Heritage Festival Parade

Saturday August 27th, 10am
The parade will begin at Muhammad Ali Blvd. & 9th St. and will run down Muhammad Ali Blvd. to 18th St.

African Heritage Festival Sports

August 27th, 8am-5pm
Soccer Tournament will be held at the Old Walnut Park at 10th & Muhammad Ali Blvd. Basketball Tournament will be held at Cedar Street between 17th St. & 18th St.

Opportunities Around

Fresh Stop

Hello Veggie Loving Friends from the Russell Neighborhood and beyond!

We have the opportunity to participate in a very special New Roots community initiative called Fresh Stop Markets. The main goal of the New Roots Fresh Stop Markets is to give everyone the opportunity—regardless of race, income, zip code or age—to gain access to the farm fresh food we all need to be happy and healthy.

Fresh Stop Markets are volunteer driven markets that pop up bi-weekly at local churches, housing authorities and community centers in neighborhoods that lack access



to fresh food. The food has been paid for in advance so that farmers don't face the same degree of risk as they do with a standard farmers' market.

Families pay on a sliding scale—\$6 for families receiving WIC, \$12 for families with limited resources, \$25 for all others—so there is enough money and SNAP Benefits to purchase wholesale quantities of ten varieties of organically certified seasonal produce from a network of 50 Kentuckiana farmers for each family, every Market event.

Each family receives the same “share”



of affordable, delicious produce, regardless of what they paid. Everyone wins: farmers, eaters, and the broader community from having something positive, beautiful AND healthy in the neighborhood and the opportunity to meet new people. People in the community describe Fresh Stop Markets as welcoming and happy—like a family reunion where all five senses are engaged and there is lots of laughter, food and fun! There is “positive peer pressure” from veggie cheerleaders, urging shareholders to try something new. There is a chef at each Market with recipes and a taste of something delicious cooked from your share.

If you would like more information or wish to purchase a share order, please call New Roots Director Karyn Moskowitz at 502.475.8979.

You can also go to www.newroots.org for more information on the dates and times of other Markets. All orders must be placed in advance so please call Karyn soon!



Neighborhood Summit Overview

On Saturday, June 4th the Center for Neighborhoods, along with over 30 partner organizations, welcomed nearly 300 attendees to the 2016 Neighborhood Summit and Awards Luncheon. The summit had 25 supporting sponsors, including Vision Russell.

The awards luncheon opened with a moment of silence honoring the life of Muhammad Ali and remarks from Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer recognizing the strength of Ali and all Louisville heroes who continue to work to strengthen Louisville as a place for all people.

This one-day education and networking conference held at the Kentucky Expo Center brought together community leaders from across Metro Louisville to learn, network, celebrate and be inspired. Morning keynote speaker Attica Scott shared her work as a Community Coach with County Health Rankings and Roadmaps.

Following the opening morning session, attendees participated in 13 different workshops on topics including community design, homeowner association and condo association FAQs, social media & communications, community safety & security, working with elected officials, neighborhood planning, and more.

The keynote speaker Jason Roberts of the Better Block Foundation inspired the gathering to start small, think creatively and work collaboratively with neighbors. “If you are passionate about something, you have everything it takes to be a leader,” said Roberts. Following his address sharing examples of creative solutions, the crowd received Roberts’ remarks with a standing ovation.

The 2016 Summit Awards recognized local leaders and organizations for the strong work they are doing in the

community. The Grady Clay Award, given in recognition of an individual's lifetime achievement in their public work and life, was presented to David Karem of Waterfront Development Corporation.

Other awards included The Jack Trawick Neighborhood Association of the Year to Portland Now, Inc. and the Shelby Park Neighborhood Association; the Neighborhood Leadership Award to Lisa Santos of the Irish Hill Neighborhood Association; the Collaborative Community Partner Award to the West Jefferson County Community Task Force; and the Local Government/Public Official Award to Mayor Bill Dieruf of the City of Jeffersontown.

For more information on the annual Neighborhood Summit, the Neighborhood Institute, upcoming Green Institute or other programs, contact CFN at 502-589-0343 or info@centerforneighborhoods.org.



Attica Scott addresses attendees of 2016 Neighborhood Summit



Highlights from the 2016 Neighborhood Summit



Louisville Urban League Employment Opportunities

Looking for Employment?

If you are looking for a new employment opportunity then look no further than the Louisville Urban League (LUL). LUL is currently working with a number of area employers to fill positions in the areas of customer service, healthcare, clerical, manufacturing and many other industries.

In addition, LUL is recruiting people looking to advance or start their careers in the construction industry. If you would like to

work on some of Russell's large construction projects that will soon be underway, now is the time to prepare.

The Urban League can also assist with expungements. This service is provided on Tuesdays and Thursday by appointment only.

To connect with these and many other opportunities, please contact or visit LUL's Center for Workforce Development at (502) 566-3371. You may also visit their office located at 1535 W. Broadway.

PLANNING GRANT

ACTION GRANT

IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

PURPOSE	To develop a community-endorsed, implementable, and financially feasible Transformation Plan for Russell.	To fund physical improvements, community development, or economic development projects in the Russell neighborhood.	To further the goals of Russell's Transformation Plan in accordance with the Choice Neighborhoods program.
GRANT PERIOD	January 16, 2015 - January 17, 2017	June 28, 2016 - approximately December 28, 2017	Estimated January 2017 - September 30, 2023
HUD FUNDING	\$425,000	\$1,000,000	Potential \$29,575,000
LOUISVILLE METRO GOV. CASH CONTRIBUTIONS	\$600,000	\$375,000	If Awarded, \$17,721,000
ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting a needs assessment with Beecher Terrace households and a survey of neighborhood residents Holding task force and community meetings, design workshops, and special focus groups Offering training sessions where community members can learn more about the planning process and to build capacity among residents and stakeholders Organizing youth engagement activities Working with Roosevelt-Perry Elementary School to improve student outcomes Planning to make Beecher Terrace a sustainable, mixed-income community Working with other housing providers in the neighborhood to improve their properties Conducting a market assessment of the Russell Neighborhood Completing environmental assessments Compiling a comprehensive Transformation Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reclaiming and recycling vacant property into community gardens, pocket parks, farmers markets, or land banking (with maintenance) Beautification, placemaking, and community arts projects, such as creative signage to enhance neighborhood branding, murals and sculptures, specialty streetscaping, or garden tool loan programs Homeowner and business façade improvement programs Neighborhood broadband/Wi-Fi Fresh food initiatives, such as farmers markets and mobile fresh food vendors Gap financing for economic development projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction, acquisition or rehabilitation of public, assisted, and affordable housing Acquisition, demolition or disposition of properties Providing supportive services for residents, primarily focused on case management and service coordination for Beecher Terrace households Partnering with employers and for-profit and nonprofit organizations to create jobs and job training opportunities for Beecher residents Relocation assistance, including Section 8 vouchers Activities that promote sustainability Critical community improvements Endowments for the long-term sustainability of supportive services provide through the CNI grant Conversion of vacant or foreclosed properties to affordable housing Architectural and engineering work Administrative costs Legal fees
CURRENT STATUS UPDATE	A draft of the Vision Russell Transformation Plan (VRTP) was submitted to HUD on July 15th, 2016. The final VRTP will be submitted in January 2017.	The Action Grant was awarded on June 28th, 2016. A community meeting will be scheduled soon to begin the Action Activities process.	On June 28th, 2016 the Vision Russell Core Team submitted an Implementation Grant application. Final awards are expected in January 2017.



Beecher Terrace Master Site Plan submitted with CNI Implementation grant application



Proposed mixed-use development along 9th St.



A new half acre park will be at the center of the neighborhood for residents and the broader community to enjoy