

## Save the Date: Russell Spring Festival

The Russell Neighborhood Association will hold its first ever Russell Spring Festival. This event will be held on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> and will include activities, information and games for the entire family. Watch out for additional details in the upcoming Vision Russell newsletter or visit [www.visionrussell.org](http://www.visionrussell.org).

## Services for Residents Highlighted at Provider Connections Event

Come connect with Urban Strategies and other Vision Russell partners to find out what programs and services are available to Beecher Terrace and Russell residents through the Choice Neighborhood Initiative. The event will take place Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. at the Baxter Community Center, 1125 Cedar Court. For more information, please contact Ebonique Burns at (502) 384-0786 or via email at [Ebonique.Burns@urbanstrategiesinc.org](mailto:Ebonique.Burns@urbanstrategiesinc.org).

## Opportunity for Seniors

Are you 55 or older and looking for employment? Then the Louisville Urban League (LUL) might be able to help. Through LUL's Urban Senior Program qualified participants could be eligible for PAID training at local government and non-profit agencies. There are also paid opportunities for those receiving Social Security, disability, public assistance and other benefits.

**For more information, please call the LUL at (502) 566-3371.**



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420 S. 8th Street  
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# Russell Choice Neighborhood Initiative Newsletter



*Left: Mayor Fischer addresses the crowd gathered at Sheppard Park to celebrate the start of construction on the sprayground and other improvements that will be made there by late spring 2018!*

## Russell Residents Help to Break Ground on New Sheppard Park Sprayground

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, Russell residents celebrated the groundbreaking for a new sprayground at Sheppard Park. The sprayground is part of several improvements being made to the park including the addition of restrooms, an outdoor drum playing area, walking path markers and additional picnic tables.

The improvements, which are being funded by a Choice Neighborhood grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Louisville Metro Government, are expected to be complete by late spring this year.

The larger loop on the

walking track and all of the playground equipment, except for the swings on the north end of the park, will remain open for use during construction.

Sheppard Park's improvements are in response to feedback from Russell residents who identified access to more recreational activities as a need within the neighborhood.

*Right: Mayor Fischer and Louisville Metro Housing Authority Board Chair, Manfred Reid, receive assistance from a Roosevelt Perry student in breaking ground at the site.*



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## Russell Resident Spotlight: Jackie Floyd

If you've spent any time in the Russell Neighborhood, you've probably met Jackie Floyd. A lifelong resident of West Louisville, Floyd has called the Russell neighborhood home for more than 27 years. And during this period, she's spent quite a bit of time advocating for many of the changes that are currently underway.

"It's important that Russell residents have a say in what happens in our neighborhood and that we have an opportunity to advocate for the changes we want," said Floyd. "I know that residents in other parts of the city have been able to shape the development of their neighborhood, so I knew that we could do the same in Russell."

Floyd's commitment to be an advocate for change can be traced back to her childhood and growing up in the Parkland neighborhood near Victory Park. Community pride, a willingness to look after fellow neighbors and a strong family unit are some of the characteristics that come to mind when she reflects on her younger days in this historic area. Now, as a neighborhood liaison for the Center for Neighborhoods who is charged with working with local leaders across the community, Floyd sees the same characteristics in the areas where residents are actively engaged in improving their neighborhoods. That is one of the reasons why as an organizer in the newly created Russell Neighborhood Association, Floyd has worked to include time for networking during the group's monthly meetings.

"Communities are about relationships and being connected to your neighbors" said Floyd. "One of the things I noticed early on is that while there are many Russell residents who have lived in the neighborhood for years, we really don't know each other."

In addition to time for networking, Floyd has also pushed for other activities and events that bring Russell residents together—a need she first identified when she served as an outreach worker during the initial planning phase of the Choice Neighborhood Initiative, now known as Vision Russell. Whether it is the recent neighborhood "Christmas Caroling in Russell" event she helped to organize during the holidays or soliciting feedback from fellow residents on the revitalization efforts taking place throughout Russell, Floyd says she is motivated by one simple goal.

"I want to have a positive impact on at least one person each day," said Floyd. "The work that we are doing in Russell is going to make a difference for so many people and I'm excited and thrilled to be a part of it."

Contact Jackie at [Jackief@centerforneighborhoods.org](mailto:Jackief@centerforneighborhoods.org) for more information about the Russell Neighborhood Association and other work she does in the community.



**Join your Russell neighbors at the next Russell Neighborhood Association meeting Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Oak and Acorn Intergenerational Center, 631 S. 28<sup>th</sup> Street.**

## Artists Sought to Develop Murals in Emerging Arts and Cultural District

Louisville Visual Art, in partnership with New Directions Housing Corporation, seeks artists interested in creating an outdoor mural in the Russell neighborhood. All interested artists are encouraged to attend a community meeting to learn more about this project on Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 a.m. at the Russell Idea Center located in the Russell Apartments, 515 South 18<sup>th</sup> Street (entrance is on 17<sup>th</sup> Street near Madison Street). The selected artist will develop the mural design with input from neighbors and other community stakeholders. The mural must be completed by August 2018.

This artwork will have high visibility in the emerging Russell Arts and Cultural District. This opportunity is open to all artists, but those from, residing in, or who have strong connections to the Russell neighborhood will be given priority. There is no application fee to enter.

For more information contact [ehren@louisvillevisualart.org](mailto:ehren@louisvillevisualart.org).



Above: Mural found at Barret Ave. & Kentucky St. by artist Carlos Gamez de Francisco, a Louisville Visual Art project.

## Low-Cost Internet Plans

The world is going digital. That is why Louisville Metro Government and the Louisville Metro Housing Authority are working together to grow awareness about the low-cost Internet programs available to eligible residents in our City. Get home Internet connection so that you and your family can enjoy:

- Email,
- Homework,
- Job searches,
- Paying bills online,
- Accessing governmental information,
- Sharing photos, and
- So much more!

**access** from AT&T **\$10/month**

### Requirements:

- SNAP card or Food Stamps for at least one member of the household.

**\$10/month or \$5/month depending on the available speeds. Installation included and WiFi included on request.**

- Call 855-220-5211 for more information or
- Submit an online application by visiting [ATT.com/Access](http://ATT.com/Access)

**Spectrum** **\$20/month**

### Requirements:

- National School Lunch Program (NSLP); free or reduced-cost lunch
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) age 65+ for at least one member of the household

**\$14.99/month + WiFi for \$5.00/month = \$19.99/month. High-speed 30 Mbps Internet with no data caps.**

- Visit [Spectruminternetassist.com](http://Spectruminternetassist.com) for more information or
- Call 844-525-1574 to apply.