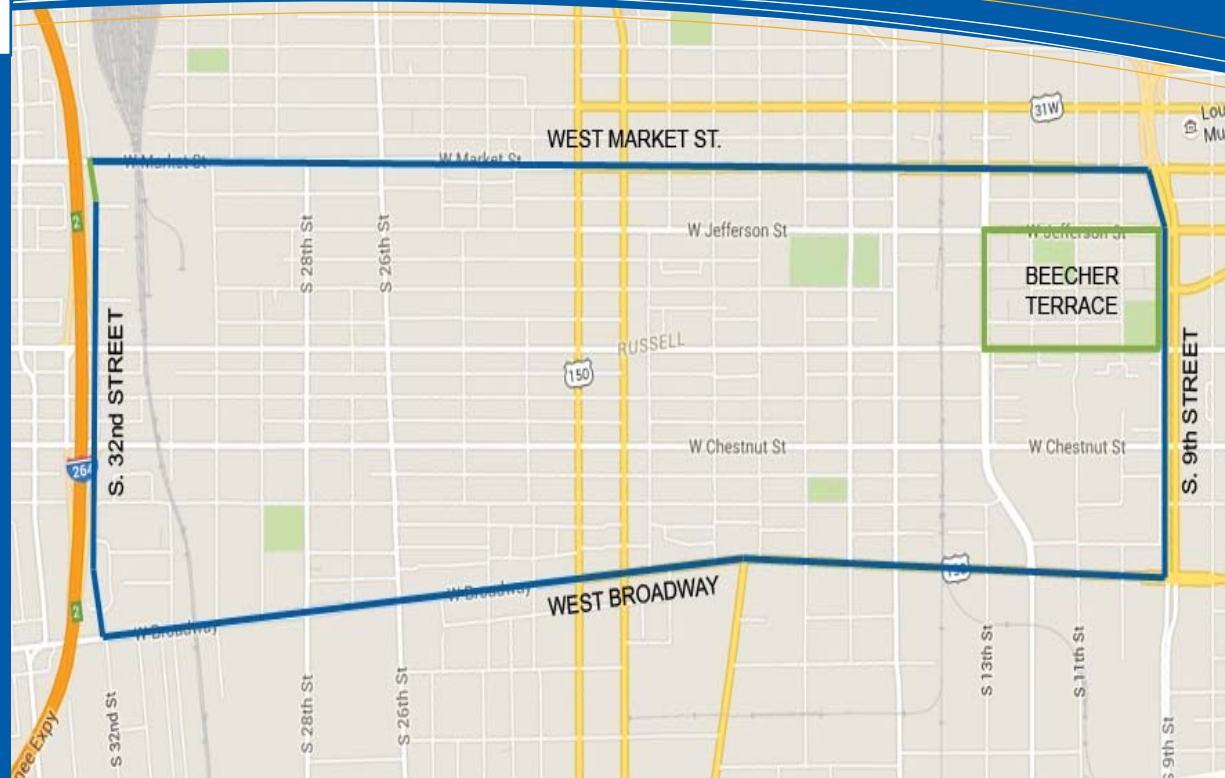




## Community Questions: Am I a Russell Resident?



As the Vision Russell Neighborhood Outreach Workers have been canvassing Russell, they have been told by many residents that they don't know if they're a Russell resident, or if Vision Russell applies to them. Please look over the map to the right to see if you live within the official neighborhood boundaries. If you do, *Vision Russell is for YOU!*

Russell Choice Neighborhood Planning Initiative Newsletter Issue 02 OCTOBER 2015 WWW.VISIONRUSSELL.COM



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420 S. 8th Street  
Louisville, KY 40203  
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ISSUE  
**02**  
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2015

# RUSSELL CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OCTOBER 13, 2015

**Event:** Education Task Force Meeting – Morning Session  
**Time:** 10:00 – 11:30 am

**Event:** Education Task Force Meeting – Evening Session  
**Time:** 6:30 – 7:45 pm

**Location for both meetings (tentative):** Western Branch Library— 604 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St.

**Event:** Neighborhood Task Force – Full Task Force Meeting  
**Time:** 6:30 – 8:00 pm

**Location:** Old Walnut Street (LCCC) —1300 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd.

### October 26, 2015

**Event:** People Task Force Meeting  
**Time:** 11:30 am – 1:30 pm (lunch served)

**Location:** St. Peter's United Church of Christ — Russell Plaza, 1407 W. Jefferson Street, Suite 120

### October 27, 2015

**Event:** Housing Task Force Meeting  
**Time:** 10:00 am– 12:00 pm

**Location:** Russell Apartments— 1718 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd.

**Event:** Neighborhood Task Force – Economic Development and Aspirational Development Sub-Task Force Meetings  
**Time:** 6:30 – 8:00 pm

**Location:** Old Walnut Street (LCCC) —1300 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd.



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## Russell Community Design Workshop:

### HELP CREATE A NEW VISION FOR RUSSELL

**WHEN:**  
**Saturday, October 10th, 2015, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**WHERE:**  
**Baxter Community Center  
1125 Cedar Court,  
Louisville, KY 40203**

will help shape a plan for transforming the Russell Neighborhood. This meeting is open to all Louisville community members including Beecher Terrace residents, community interest groups, and anyone who lives or works in the Russell area.

What kind of housing, stores, services, parks and recreational spaces would you like to see in the Russell Neighborhood and at Beecher Terrace? Please join your neighbors, business owners, and other community stakeholders in this fun, interactive workshop. Your ideas

There will also be a Kids Zone with activities to get your children involved in the design process. Lunch will provided. Maay Maay/Somali interpretation will be offered.

For further information or to arrange transportation, call **(502) 569-3420** or TTY/TDD **(502)587-0831**.



Louisville Metro Housing Authority, 420 S. 8th St., Louisville, KY 40202 Tel 502.569.3400

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**Come Be a Part of the Russell Neighborhood Institute!**

**When:** Every Monday, Oct. 26th to Nov. 30th

**Where:** Oak and Acorn Intergenerational Center 631 S. 28th St.

Center for Neighborhoods is happy to announce a seven-week program developed to specifically address the needs and concerns of Community.

Each week a new topic will be discussed. Attendance is free, but limited to a total of 25 Russell residents and stakeholders. Dinner will be provided.

To register, contact John Hawkins at [502-589-0343](tel:502-589-0343) or [johnh@centerforneighborhoods.org](mailto:johnh@centerforneighborhoods.org)



## Resident Spotlight: Mechele Turner

*We asked a local Beecher Terrace resident how she felt about her neighborhood and Vision Russell*

Mechele Turner loves living in Beecher Terrace. She realizes this might sound strange to many in the community whose opinion of this 76-year old housing complex is shaped solely by media reports. But for Turner, there's no better place to call home. Yet, despite her love for this historic area, she readily admits there are many things that "must change" to help transform this development into the neighborhood residents want and deserve. That is why she has taken great interest in the Russell Choice Neighborhood Initiative and hopes that action on some of the key issues the group is tackling can move forward quickly.

"The violence that's in this area and the conditions of some of the existing apartments are things that need to be addressed immediately," said Turner. "Those items need to be worked on now."

Turner, who has lived in Beecher Terrace for almost 15 years, says she is pleased to see the Louisville Metro Housing Authority and members of the task forces working to receive feedback from the Beecher Terrace and Russell communities, and hopes the groups will continue to work to keep residents engaged in the planning process. This includes door to door canvassing, having more community events and meetings and providing written communication that helps answer questions and dispel many of the "untruths" that are beginning to circulate.

"Anytime you are proposing change, there's certain amounts of fear people have," said Turner. "A lot of people in this community don't have access to e-mail or the internet to get information and they are afraid of being pushed out of their home

and moved to an area that is unfamiliar. Helping people understand what is being planned is the responsibility of the task forces." As work continues on developing a transformation plan, Turner hopes the many good qualities that currently exist within Beecher Terrace and Russell won't be overlooked. Whether it is the beau-

**"I love Beecher Terrace and this is where I want to live."**

ful trees or the way residents rally to help a neighbor or child in need, Turner believes there is much to be proud of in her home. "Beecher Terrace is about families working together and supporting each other. I hope that whatever the group comes up with will enhance what is working and fix what is broken," she added. "I love Beecher Terrace and this is where I want to live. I just want the violence and other things that make this an unsafe place to stop."

## In The Neighborhood: A Tour through Russell

Nearly thirty Russell residents joined the Vision Russell planning team on September 12<sup>th</sup> for a bus and walking tour of the neighborhood. The event was part of the African Heritage Festival at the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage. Everyone on board learned more about the neighborhood's rich history from tour guides Marshall Abstain and Jack Morris, while Jeana Dunlap, Director of the City's Office of Vacant and Public Properties, highlighted many of the development efforts currently underway in the neighborhood.

"There used to be a convent

right here, on the left side of the Roosevelt—Perry Elementary School" recalled Pamela Mask, a long-time Russell resident who came on the tour with her husband William. The convent was purchased by the school, which is a focus of the Vision Russell Transformation Plan, when it expanded several years ago.

Everyone on the tour was given single-use cameras to take photos of Russell's greatest assets or challenges. An exhibit of these photos will be displayed at the Community Design Workshop on October 10<sup>th</sup> (see cover story).



## IN THE NEWS: Free Internet Coming to Parts of Russell!

On September 8th, Mayor Greg Fischer announced exciting news for Louisville: Phase I has begun for the West Louisville Neighborhood Wi-Fi Project!

Free internet service has been purchased by Louisville Metro Government to cover a 12-month period through August 2016. This program is starting in Russell and will grow to cover more of West Louisville.

This first phase includes free hotspot internet access in a 200 foot radius around three Russell Neighborhood locations:

- America's Finest Filters, 2910 W. Jefferson St.
- 2927 W. Market St.
- Kentucky Recovery Resource Center, 2501 W. Market St.