

News from Virginia LISC

Helping Neighbors Build Strong Communities

Launching Efforts with Northside Residents

Virginia LISC's intensive focus on neighborhood engagement has shifted to the Northside.

In 2009, Virginia LISC identified five neighborhoods in Petersburg and Richmond as the focus of our revitalization work. One of those neighborhoods was the Northside. Now in 2013, Virginia LISC will work with residents on the Northside to implement projects prioritized by residents in a 2011 Quality of Life Plan developed by VCU urban planning students.

"Virginia LISC wants to build on the energy and commitment of area residents and help them achieve their vision of a more vibrant Northside community," said Candice Streett, Virginia LISC's Executive Director.

The Northside is a large community comprised of several neighborhoods such as Bellevue, Barton Heights, Ginter Park and Highland Park, to name a few.

"I am most excited to see LISC in the Northside and working in Highland Park because LISC has the ability to impact community development from the ground up," said Ryan Rinn, a Richmond City Human Services employee who works a lot in the Northside.



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Thank you to the Cameron Foundation for your support of our Petersburg work.

Virginia LISC Welcomes Two New LAC Members

Virginia LISC is excited to announce that two new community leaders recently joined the Local Advisory Committee.

Oliver Way, Central Virginia President of Fulton Bank, and Greg Wingfield, Founding President of Greater Richmond Partnership, Inc., both attended their first LAC meeting in March.



Oliver Way has been in the banking industry since 1980 and became Central Virginia Division President of Fulton Bank in 2005. At the beginning of 2013 Way

became Northern Virginia Division President.

Greg Wingfield helped launch the Greater Richmond Partnership, Inc. in 1994. He was elected President and CEO that same year. Wingfield was with the Greater Richmond Partnership for 18 years.

"I wanted to use my 35 plus years of economic development experience



to help Richmond turn distressed neighborhoods into healthy vibrant ones," said Wingfield.

The Ukrop's Scholarships

In honor of the longtime service of Jim Ukrop to Richmond's community development nonprofits, Virginia LISC and the Virginia Housing Development Authority have committed to providing funds for a scholarship participant in the Leadership Metro Richmond program as well as the Emerging Leaders Nonprofit Program. The funds cover a 10-year period and are designated to support next-generation leaders from the housing and community development field. The participant's tuition will be covered by the scholarships.

LISC identifies and encourages community members to apply through the regular ENPL or LMR selection process and indicate that they work or are involved in neighborhood-based community and housing development.

Selected participants also engage in 40 additional hours of learning activities specific to the housing and community development industry.

Recent Ukrop's Scholars include Heather Crislip, Executive Director of Greater Housing Opportunities Made Equal.

Applications are now being accepted at **Leadership Metro Richmond [website](#)**. Applications will be available through ENPL by the summer of 2013.

The Northside Continued

The Northside is known for the beautiful, immense houses that line shady streets. However in recent years, many of these big homes have become run down or have been abandoned because people just don't have the time or money to put into big, old homes.

But the houses are not the only buildings that have gone abandoned in a once thriving area. There are a lot of empty storefronts on the commercial corridor of Brooklyn Park Boulevard and other streets too.



Virginia LISC wants to work with business and community partners to fix up some of these dilapidated houses and storefronts.



But there are other plans as well. Virginia LISC also wants to join residents already engaged in a community safety initiative in the area and explore the development of a Financial Opportunity Center. The idea behind the FOC is that it bundles financial services in one location. People can get all the financial help they need in one place, as opposed to going to different locations for each service.

LISC is really excited to ramp up community development and neighborhood work and engagement on the Northside.

Neighborhood Updates, Fulton and Petersburg

Fulton Financial Opportunity Center

The Fulton Financial Opportunity Center (FOC) is open and holds orientations once a month. Twenty people signed up for the April orientation. The FOC, named NRC Works, also holds financial workshops. The next one will be Thursday, April 25.

"So far everyone has been very responsive," said Penny Ferris, the Programs Director for the Neighborhood Resource Center, which houses the FOC.

"I think the fastest way we will attract people to the FOC is through word-of-mouth," she said.

The FOC is located in Fulton but is open to anyone in the Richmond area who is interested.

For more information about the FOC or the Neighborhood Resource Center, contact the NRC at 804.864.5797, or check out their website at www.nrccafe.org.



Construction of Petersburg Library

Virginia LISC closed on a \$2 million bridge loan and \$2.8 million in New Market Tax Credit equity financing on Thursday, April 11, making it possible for Petersburg to build a new state-of-the-art library.

LISC's New Market Support Company used the tax credits to obtain the \$2.8 million equity investment from Wells Fargo Bank. LISC's loan will help to bridge the Petersburg Library Foundation's capital campaign for the project.

"It's no question that LISC and Wells Fargo came to our rescue and stuck with us to make sure this New Market Tax deal came to a close," said Bob Walker, Chairman of the Petersburg Library Foundation. "It means that the city will have a library and facility that we can all be proud of."

LISC's New Market Tax Credits were allocated through National LISC, which



Greater Fulton's Neighborhood Resource Center houses the FOC, named NRC Works. The building also is home to a Montessori Preschool and a daycare center. Photo Credit/ Killeen King, VA LISC



The new Petersburg Library will have learning programs targeted at adults as well as children. Photo Credit/ Killeen King, VA LISC.

selected the Petersburg Library Project from among dozens of other projects around the country.

"Without the tax credits, this project would not have been able to move forward," said Candice Streett, Executive Director of Virginia LISC.

The development consists of the construction of a new 45,000 square-foot library to replace the existing library that is housed in a home built in 1859. The library, which will serve 30,000 patrons each month, is a great step in the revitalization of Petersburg, a community that faced tremendous disinvestment during the past two decades.

"We expect this new facility to draw more than 10,000 visits a year from children and adults," said Wayne Crocker, Director of the Petersburg Library.

Greater Fulton's Memorial Park

The Greater Fulton's Future Initiative has been raising money to build a Fulton Memorial Park.

The park, which will honor the history and recognize the revival of the neighborhood, will be located at the bottom of Powhatan Hill in Fulton.

"The park will celebrate the history of the area that goes all the way back to Chief Powhatan meeting the colonists," said Jason Sawyer, the Coordinator of the Greater Fulton's Future Initiative.

On April 15, the City Planning Commission approved the transfer of the land to City Parks. The next step is for Greater Fulton's Urban Design Committee to look at the conceptualized plans and present them to residents at their May meeting.

Many people have been active in the development of this memorial park. Community partners from Storefront for Community Design, the Neighborhood Resource Center, Virginia LISC and the community-led Legacy Work Team of the Greater Fulton's Future Initiative put themselves to work to make the park a reality. Richmond City recently came aboard, and the firm RK&K was hired to work with the community based on the conceptual designs created by the Urban Design Committee.

One local musician even got involved and held a benefit concert for the park. Local blues artist, Corey Harris, played at the historic Byrd Theater on Feb. 11, 2013. His new collection of music he titled *Fulton Blues*, and he played some of the songs from this collection at the concert.

Around 150 people came to watch the concert and support the Fulton Memorial Park.



Corey Harris played blues music that reflected the lives of African Americans growing up in the American South. Photo Credit/ Killeen King, VA LISC.

Local Advisory Committee

Chair: Michael Mulvihill, President, CRT/Tanaka

Vice Chair: Susan F. Dewey, Executive Director, Virginia Housing Development Authority

John Benesole, Enterprise Chief Architect, Capital One Bank

P. Rodney Blevins, Vice President, Dominion Virginia Power

Regina Chaney, Housing Education Specialist, H.O.M.E., Inc.

Lucie Ferguson, Administrative Director, Bon Secours Richmond Health System

E. Louis Freeman, VP Community Development Dept., BB&T

J. Conrad Garcia, Partner, Williams Mullen

Adrienne Goolsby, CEO, Richmond Redevelopment & Housing Authority

Laura Lafayette, Chief Executive Officer, Richmond Association of Realtors

Penny J. McPherson, Vice President & Senior Community Development Officer, Wells Fargo Bank

Brent Smith, Associate Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University

S. Mark Strickler, Director of Community Revitalization, Henrico County

Oliver Way, Central Virginia President, Fulton Bank

Greg Wingfield, Founding President, Greater Richmond Partnership

Edward Winks, President, Winks & Snowa Architects

C.F. Younger, Jr., Distribution Channel Marketing Specialist—Mid Atlantic Region, Nationwide

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LISC
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*Helping neighbors
build strong communities*

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