

## Greetings from RWCI!

Renaissance West Community Initiative [info@rwci.org]

**Sent:** Friday, July 08, 2016 7:02 AM

**To:** [Steve Johnston](#)



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**Dear Steve,**

Can you believe it's already mid-summer? Time has flown at RWCI and many new and exciting things are happening!

- We hired a principal for the new pre-K - 8th grade school and construction has begun!
- We received a \$500,000 grant from The Leon Levine Foundation
- The Hornets partnered with Bank of America and Lowe's to build a 1,500-book library at Renaissance
- The YMCA is providing free water safety classes for residents
- A host of other programs and activities are underway (links to videos below)!

We hope you enjoy the rest of your summer, and thank you for your continued support and interest in RWCI!

**Principal hired, school construction underway**



Design for the CMS pre-K - 8 school at Renaissance, to be completed in summer 2017. Construction began earlier this year.

RWCI and CMS have hired Erin Barksdale as Founding Principal of the new pre-K-8th grade school at Renaissance. She is a Charlotte native and we could not be more excited to have her as part of our team. Over the next year, she will participate in a fellowship at the Drew School in Atlanta as we prepare to open the new school at Renaissance next summer. [Read more about our new principal here.](#)

### **The Leon Levine Foundation grants \$500,000 to RWCI**

We are so grateful for the partnership of The Leon Levine Foundation. Their support will ensure that families have access to the programs they need to meet their educational, financial, and health goals. Through a holistic approach, RWCI aims to break the cycle of poverty and improve economic mobility for residents of the West Boulevard corridor. [See the full article.](#)

### **Hornets #SwarmToServe at RWCI**



Volunteers sort and label 1,500 books for a new children's library at RWCI.

The Charlotte Hornets partnered with Bank of America and Lowe's to build and stock children's libraries across the city last month. RWCI was lucky enough to receive a 1,500-book library in our community center for children and families to use. [Visit our website to learn more about the event.](#)

### **YMCA provides free water safety classes at RWCI**

The YMCA of Greater Charlotte provides water safety classes at apartments across the city to help keep swimmers safe throughout the summer. Here at RWCI, three sessions a day for two weeks were full of children eager to learn to swim and excited to spend some time in the water. [Click here for more!](#)



Water safety class participants have fun while learning to swim.

### Out-of-school time and Summer programs

[Visit our website](#) to view videos made by summer campers - They wrote letters to the future president and created videos to accompany them. They also interviewed seniors living at The Residences at Renaissance to compile an oral history of the neighborhood - some of them are former Boulevard Homes residents with fascinating perspectives! There is also a video overview of various programs that we've held at RWCI over the last year. [Happy viewing!](#)



Students at the UNC Charlotte Writing Camp at RWCI listen actively to their teacher.

### Use AMAZON SMILE to support RWCI while you shop!



We all order from Amazon.com. Make your orders count by shopping through **Amazon Smile for RWCI**. Simply bookmark [this link](#) and start from there when you shop at Amazon.com. When you check out, a portion of proceeds will be donated to RWCI. How

easy is that?

**As always, we welcome you to visit The Renaissance and see for yourself the amazing transformation taking place on West Boulevard. [Donate today.](#)**

Sincerely,  
**Renaissance West Community Initiative**  
[Email Us](#) | [Visit Our Website](#)  
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Charlotte, NC 28208

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