



# LAWRENCEVILLE UNITED'S PUBLIC SAFETY NEWSLETTER



Volume 2, Issue 3

## Use Your Voice! Learn about *Your* Neighborhood! Come to a Block Watch Meeting:

- **6th Ward** (28th-40th Street)- Meets every last Monday at St. Augustine's Auditorium, 37th & Butler at 7:00pm
- **9th Ward People's** (41st-49th Sts below Butler)- Meets every 2nd Wednesday at 4825 Butler St at 7:00pm
- **9th Ward Happenings** (44th-46th Sts above Butler)- Meets every 3rd Tuesday at St. Mary's Lyceum, 46th Street at 7:00pm
- **9th Ward 40th/Fisk/Main** (40th, Fisk, Main Sts. Above Butler)- Meets every 4th Tuesday at Stephen Foster Center, Main St. at 7:00pm
- **10th Ward** (Stanton Ave. to 62nd St)- Meets every 2nd Tuesday at St. Matthews Hall, 53rd & Carnegie, at 6:30pm

Lawrenceville United's Public Safety Newsletter is published with funds from Weed and Seed and PPND. We are grateful for all of their support.



Last summer neighbors along upper 38<sup>th</sup> Street began to report illegal activity that was taking place in several properties along Woolslayer Way. Lawrenceville United teamed with landlords to install security cameras in an effort to calm the anti-social behavior. In addition to the cameras, residents cleaned the area during clean-up days and spoke to the children about their responsibility in keeping public spaces clean. While these efforts were mildly successful the problems persisted.

One particularly troublesome family was responsible for the majority of the problems. The family had caused problems in other parts of our community in the past. The final straw was when members of this household were involved in a shooting that took place last summer on Woolslayer Way. The security cameras caught one of the individuals entering into the home with a shotgun shortly after shots were fired at 39<sup>th</sup> and Woolslayer Way. The following day SWAT officers converged on the house and made several arrests, soon after the incident an eviction took place and the area calmed down significantly.

Now it seems a series of new problems have emerged just a block away on 39<sup>th</sup> Street.

Late in April a drug-related shooting occurred at 313 39<sup>th</sup> Street. The police swarmed the area and entered a home at 320 39<sup>th</sup> Street where they suspected the shooter to be hiding. While no arrests were made, many officers and significant city resources were brought to 39<sup>th</sup> Street in an attempt to apprehend the suspect. For its part, Lawrenceville United contacted the US Attorney's office and requested that the incident be prosecuted under federal guidelines due to the fact that the shooting occurred in a federal Weed and Seed site.

## 39<sup>th</sup> Street Residents Fight Back

On the heels of the shooting many outraged neighbors came out into the streets and literally pointed to the apartments where suspected drug activity was taking place. Many neighbors also gave police detailed information including descriptions of people, makes and models of cars, and dates and times when drug activity was taking



320 39th Street

place. The shooting served a purpose as the incident energized the residents and generated numerous reports of drug activity. Narcotics officers are now working in the area to make arrests. In fact there has been one arrest and a warrant issued in connection with the shooting.

As a result of this credible information the police have been cracking down on all illegal activity in the area. Commander Trosky has told all of his supervisors that 39<sup>th</sup> Street is a "ZERO TOLERANCE" area, and that citations will be written and arrests made when warranted.

In the mean time, neighbors held the first of what they say will be many cookouts on Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The event was well attended and included neighbors, landlords, and members of Lawrenceville United. The group was edu-

cated on reporting practices, how to identify and report suspicious activity, and how to do all of these things anonymously. Instead of being afraid and not saying anything, this group of engaged residents came together and are working to protect their quality of life.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Ward Block Watch serves as the watch group for this area. If you are interested in attending future meetings, they are held the last Monday of every month at 7pm at St Augustine's Auditorium 205 37<sup>th</sup> Street.

## Advertise in the Lawrenceville United Public Safety Newsletter!

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## Parking Permits, Broken Mirrors, Tickets, and Misplaced Signs.



Cars parked legally on Main Street

A wide array of traffic related problems have surfaced recently, some of those being old problems, and others new. First, some of our neighbors have received tickets for abuse of the visitors pass in permitted parking areas. While the old permit states that you can use the visitors pass for a period of (FIVE) consecutive days, the new rules state that the consecutive days use is (THREE). The reason for this is to prevent people from selling their passes to employees who work a five day work week.

Secondly, permit parking signs have been posted along 39<sup>th</sup> Street on the same side as Arsenal Park. It was our understanding that permit parking would only apply to the residential side of the street. We have

been receiving complaints from coaches and others using the park asking for clarification on this issue. We have made Councilman Dowd's office aware of the situation and they are working to make any needed adjustments.

Last and surely not least are the unresolved issues around the traffic situation affecting our neighbors on Main and

Fisk Streets. For many years Fisk and Main Street residents have faced a tough question, either park on the curb and risk damaging the concrete and receiving a ticket, or park correctly and lose a mirror, or a whole side of a car for that matter. Now that some forty tickets have been written to our neighbors for illegal parking the questions of improper parking and speeding on Fisk and Main must be addressed.

Mark Lewandowski, facilitator of the Fisk/Main Block Watch, scheduled a meeting to deal with these tough issues. Mark invited representatives from City Planning, Councilman Dowd's office, Law Enforcement, and Traffic Engineering to answer questions and provide possible solutions to our

problems at the regularly scheduled Fisk / Main Block Watch meeting.

After some debate it was noted by Commander Trosky that parking on the sidewalk is in fact illegal and that if someone were to call in to 311 or some other law enforcement agency to complain that tickets would be written for the offense. If you received a ticket and would like to fight it in court please follow the instructions on the reverse side of the ticket.

**From here on out, targeted enforcement will take place on Main and Fisk Streets. When coming to a stop sign a good rule of thumb is to stop your car and spell S-T-O-P before accelerating. Please be courteous and do not drive recklessly in our neighborhood. Tickets will be issued.**

**CONSIDER THIS TO BE YOUR FINAL WARNING!!! (REALLY)**

If you require special consideration for contractors working on your property, elderly care, parties, or other frequent occurrences that require special use of the visitors pass, Please contact Flo DeGregorio via fax at (412) 560-7204. Should you have any other permit parking related problems you can call the Parking Authority at (412) 560-2500 or Elaine Zelmanov at Councilman Dowd's office at (412) 255-2140.

### 10<sup>th</sup> Ward Residents can expect more demolitions this summer

As the Elm Street project enters into its 4<sup>th</sup> year, Lawrenceville United is working to eliminate more of the dilapidated alleyway housing that we purchased as part of the upper Lawrenceville blight reduction strategy. Just 3 short years ago LU took on the role of site acquisition and holding company to reduce blight and lessen density in some of our most problematic alleyways in upper Lawrenceville. This strategy has proven to be very successful in reducing crime and recidivism in Natrona Way and Dresden Way.

Due to the fact that LU has to carry these problem properties on our books, it is imperative that we work to raze the structures and sell the vacant lots to owners that will reuse the property to make our neighborhood a better place to live. We are also working to bring down two structures in the 5200 block of Natrona Way to make way for possible market-rate housing that will front McCandless Avenue.

Please be aware that the demolition will be done over the course of several weeks and that some alleyway closures can be expected. If you live next to one of the condemned structures and are interested in purchasing the vacant lot for use as side yard, please contact Lawrenceville United at (412) 802-7220.

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Houses on Dresden Way slated for demolition



**THREE RIVERS ROWING!**

Have you ever wanted to learn how to row? Have you rowed in the past and want to get back into the sport? Opportunity awaits right across the Allegheny River with the Three Rivers Rowing Association. The organization, which has a boathouse right across the 40<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge in Millvale and one on Washington's Landing offers an array of rowing and paddling programs. Whether you're looking to row one day a week or many, TRRA has opportunities for you!

Three Rivers Rowing Association offers introductory programs for adults and youth that are beginning this spring for rowing newcomers:

**Beginning Masters Team**

A team that rows two days a week, once in the evening and once on Saturday. This is a GREAT opportunity for adults to learn rowing or improve as a rower as well as be on a team that helps with motivation and provides great coaching. No experience necessary. Everyone will be allowed three to four practices before they have to commit with any memberships. The team will be moving off of the ergs and onto the water soon, so if you are interested now is the time to check it out.

**Summer Corporate Rowing League**

The Thirteenth Annual Pittsburgh Summer Corporate Rowing League starts May 25<sup>th</sup>. As a member of the Corporate Rowing League you will be part of a program in which you receive coaching, dinner, the opportunity to network and most importantly exercise and fun. The teams meet once a week for practice and post practice BBQ.

We encourage people to come to the program with a group, but we do allow unaffiliated rowers. All experience levels are welcome but no experience is necessary - novice rowers will receive instruction.

**Summer Learn to Row Camps:**

The Summer Learn to Row Camps are for boys and girls between the ages of 13-18 who want to learn how to row. Emphasis is on technique refinement, exercise, and the joy of summer rowing. The first of three sessions starts June 15<sup>th</sup>. Enrollment is limited so make sure to sign up soon.

If rowing on a team is just not your thing, you can always learn how to row (scull) a single, double or quad. Once you acquire the skills necessary to scull you can take a boat out on the river at your convenience. TRRA offers group and individual sculling lessons. Prices are listed on our website [www.threeriversrowing.org](http://www.threeriversrowing.org).

Three Rivers Rowing Association also offers a General Boathouse membership at a great price. This yearly membership includes: Access to all TRRA ergs (rowing machines) weight room, cardio equipment, showers and locker rooms, as well as access to our kayaks and program discounts. It is a great opportunity to have the freedom to get out on the water in a kayak at your leisure and spend time on the water and enjoy our beautiful city.

*If any of the above teams or program sparks your interest, you can call the boathouse at 412-231-TRRA or visit our website for membership more information at [www.threeriversrowing.org](http://www.threeriversrowing.org). Look for TRRA at the Summer Celebration!*



**Boys and Girls Club Break Ground on Old Dasta's Site**

After years of hard work to clear many hurdles, both financial and physical, the Boys and Girls Club has broken ground on the site of their new facility at the corner of 52<sup>nd</sup> and Butler Streets. The new center will serve as a youth enterprise zone and entrepreneurial training facility for youth. The building will house a mini-mall that will employ young men and women interested in becoming business owners themselves.

The area between 52<sup>nd</sup> and McCandless has sat as a vacant lot since the fire that claimed the buildings many years ago. Because the footprint of the site included many different owners, it was difficult to secure the property needed to complete the project. With the help of Senator Jim Ferlo and many others, upper Lawrenceville will now be home to a state of the art, esthetically pleasing structure that will increase pedestrian traffic and add much needed activity to a once barren stretch of Butler Street.

Boys and Girls Club CEO Mike Hepler said in his comments that he hoped that one day those young men and women trained at the facility would open and operate businesses along the Butler Street corridor.



Breaking Ground on New Site at 57th and Butler Street

**LAWRENCEVILLE**



**UNITED**

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15201 E info@lunited.org

Lawrenceville United (LU) is a non-profit, resident-driven, community-based organization, which was established in May of 2001. We have over 500 members from the 6th, 9th, and 10th wards. LU works with residents and community leaders to give voice to quality of life and public safety concerns. LU works with city council representatives, law enforcement, building inspectors and others to solve problems and sustain the safety and beauty of our neighborhood. Membership is open to and encouraged for all residents of Lawrenceville.

### Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC

Seeking volunteers willing to make a commitment, to interact with families and patients. Weekday, evening and weekend assignments available.

Free parking, meal tickets, complimentary flu shot, reimbursement for required clearances

For more information, visit [www.chp.edu](http://www.chp.edu), call 412-692-5185 or email [chpvolunteer@chp.edu](mailto:chpvolunteer@chp.edu)



**Children's**  
Hospital of Pittsburgh  

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of UPMC

## JUST A REMINDER:

Community Clean-Up – June 20th, 9AM– 1PM @ LU

*Community Clean-Ups will be held every 3rd Saturday of every month.*

Lawrenceville Summer Celebration begins June 15th at Arco Park, 57th & Butler! Call LU or refer to the insert for more information and the schedule of events on any of these activities!