

LAWRENCEVILLE



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LU FALL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 15, 2013

6:30 pm

Happenings Block Watch/ St. Mary's
Lyceum

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ABOUT LAWRENCEVILLE :

- One of the largest neighborhoods in the City
- Almost 5,000 residences, approx. 9,500 people
 - 29% BELOW poverty line in Lawrenceville on a whole
 - 29% of the population is 60 years of age and older
 - 74% white/ 20 % black/ 6% other
 - Median Income: \$29,539
 - 16 % housing stock is vacant
 - 53 % rental units/ 47 % homeownership
- Crime has decreased almost 60% since 2001
- Real estate appreciation values rising
- 35 new businesses opened over last 18 months



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ABOUT LAWRENCEVILLE UNITED:

Mission: To improve the overall quality of life for all Lawrenceville residents and stakeholders through community engagement and advocacy, community beautification and restoration, and community planning and development

- An inclusive, non-profit, resident-driven, community-based organization
- Formed in 2001
- Over 900 members
- Full-time staff, extensive volunteer base, strong collaborative partnerships
- Board of Directors – all residents
- NEW OFFICE! 4839 Butler St.

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- Quality of Life Surveys

Over 100 residents interviewed

- Block Watches/Community Meetings

Over 50 meetings a year

Your Needs = Our Work Plan

Strengths:

- Sense of community - *A strong sense of community, a "small town homey feel".*
- Commercial district - *Connectivity throughout the neighborhood, small businesses, walkable*
- Community Organizations - *Many resources for residents including LU, LC, Goodwill, Boys & Girls Club.*

Weaknesses:

- Not enough neighborhood-serving businesses - *lack of basic amenities, such as a grocery, drycleaner, movie theater, and bookstore.*
- Lack of safety - *concerns about drug activity, armed muggings, theft, and youth violence*

Opportunities:

- Greening - *Many opportunities for additional greening: community gardens, street trees, parklets, tree parks, dog parks, vacant lot reuse and urban farms*
- Riverfront - *Untapped potential with master planning efforts focused on creating usable green space; transportation connections; and providing access to the water*

Threats:

- Lack of safety - *Better street lights, beat cops, or bike patrol could help enforcement*
- Decreasing affordability - *Housing has become too expensive, both for purchase and for rent. Too much focus on the high end of the market.*
- Irresponsible landlords - *Slumlords and absentee landlords are a major concern, as well as, a lack of landlord regulation and enforcement*

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Community Engagement/ Advocacy

LU has created:

- A community process around new development projects, significant changes in zoning, land use that both residents and developers support and participate in.
- Engaged more than 2,000 residents through more than 40 community meetings
- Stewarded more than \$30 million in development through facilitated community process to build consensus and support.



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Community Engagement/ Advocacy

LU Programs and Projects:

- Community Events:
 - Independence Day Celebration
 - National Night Out
 - PARK(ing) Day
 - Halloween Party - October 26th!
 - Light Up Lawrenceville - December 7th !
 - Supported Partner Events:
 - Rock All Night- RANT
 - Bernard Dog Run Spaghetti Dinner
 - LOCG Harvest Party
- Youth Programming:
 - Summer Celebration Day Camp
 - PEP Rally !
- Senior AdvantAGE Program
 - Connecting seniors to services and resources, to other seniors, to new residents, and to new businesses throughout the Lawrenceville area.

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Community Engagement/ Advocacy

LU Programs and Projects continued:

- Block Watch Network
- LU's Public Safety Action Team (collaborative group of public safety and quality of life agencies and authorities charged with eliminating blight and crime) target crimes, and created and implemented a series of Landlord Training Programs
 - Landlord Training Program:
 - 25 landlords, representing more than 250 Lawrenceville rental properties participated
 - Code violations are decreasing, as well as criminal activity
 - Hundreds of thousands of dollars in increased investment from investment property owners and tenants are connected with resources



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Community Restoration and Beautification

• Community Clean Ups:

- Engaged more than 700 volunteers in community restoration and clean up activities in 2013 - 2014 = \$10,000 value
- Collected 265 bags of trash and debris, shopping carts, tires, and more
- Park Clean Ups, Riverfront Clean Ups, Community Clean Ups



• Trees and Streetscape Greening:

- Planted 150 trees throughout Lawrenceville
- Maintained 500 + trees
- Installed 65 window-boxes as an alternative greenscape strategy through Love Your Block Program

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Community Restoration and Beautification

Lawrenceville Tree Park

- Established the Lawrenceville Tree Park by planting 33 trees

Lawrenceville Dog Park : Bernard Dog Run

- Raised funds and identified sponsors and partners to build the City's first independently created dog park
- \$70,000 project - leveraged all resources with staff and volunteer time

Lawrenceville Sideyard Program

- Disposition of 10 vacant lots as sideyards for adjacent property owners.

Neighborhood Maintenance Manager

- Regular Sidewalk sweeping, graffiti removal, neighborhood maintenance



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Community Restoration and Beautification

Community Gardens

- Stewarded 6 community gardens with partners
- Lawrenceville Organic Community Garden
 - Former blighted houses, now open community vegetable garden
 - Grow Pittsburgh City Grower garden
 - Transforming McCandless Corridor and is first implemented project from Upper Lawrenceville Plan
- Paper Street Place: Blighted, illegal dumping area that is a resident-serving passive garden space
- 2 Western Pennsylvania Conservancy Gardens
- 2 Gateway Gardens (51ST/ Butler - Doughboy Square)



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Community Planning and Development

- Responsible Hospitality Plan:
 - Coordinates the Responsible Hospitality Committee, community process, and planning efforts.
 - Established 10 Conditional Licenses with new or expanding liquor-licensed establishments to help mitigate their negative impact on the existing and adjacent community.
 - Identify new businesses moving in or expanding and coordinate community process
 - Data collection/ Zoning Overlay Creation
 - Working to launch Responsible Hospitality Campaign for district.
 - Created a "How to" Guide for businesses (URA loans, programs)

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Community Planning and Development

- Upper Lawrenceville Plan:
 - Completed Upper Lawrenceville Plan!
 - Engaged 75 Upper Lawrenceville residents
 - Identified 3 actions to complete in 2013-2014
- Parking Plan:
 - Identified and raised funds to complete a parking study for the Lawrenceville business corridor.
 - LC has convened a parking committee, and identified short-term and long-term improvements
 - Working with residents to help them with RPP applications and re-certifications



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Community Planning and Development

- Allegheny Riverfront Vision/ Green Boulevard Plan:
 - Completed Green Boulevard Plan with Steering Committee.
 - Served as the Lawrenceville community representative
 - Identified actions for moving forward to implement bike/ ped path.
 - Initiated dog park, tree plantings as part of plan
 - Helped to build community consensus
- Iron City Master-Planning
- Thunderbird
- Holy Family
- Heartland Homes
- Hatfield + Home
- Doughboy Square
- McCleary School
- St. Kieran's

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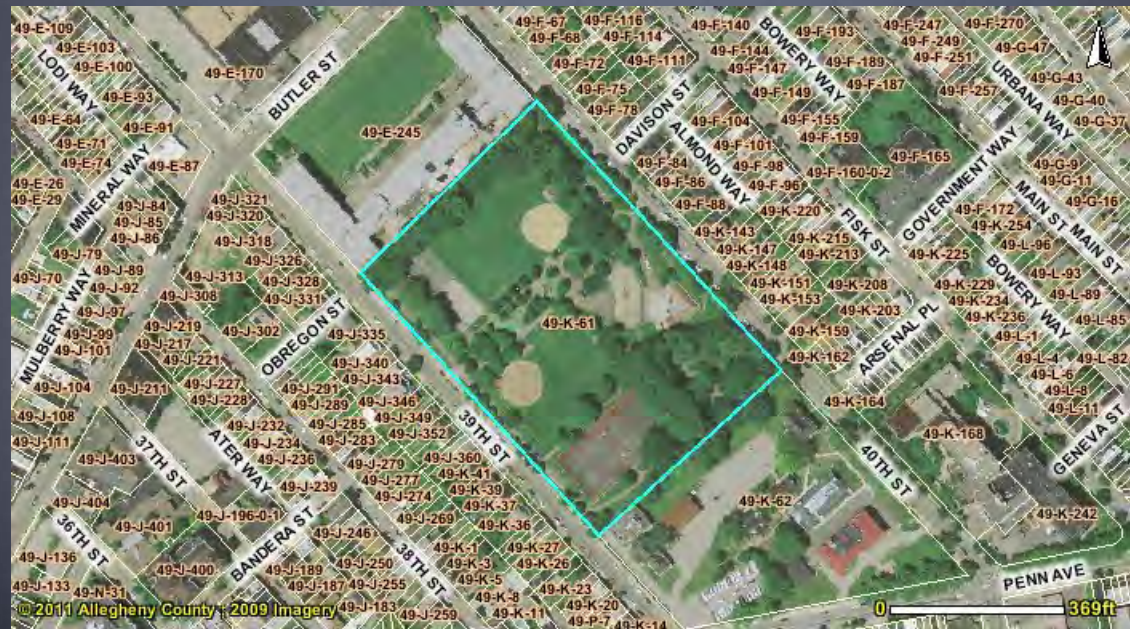
Community Planning and Development

- Farmer's Market:
 - Continue to build Farmer's Market with local vendors and increased participation.
 - 11 vendors
 - Incorporating cooking demonstrations and community events
- Lawrenceville Works!:
 - Connect new businesses and development projects with local employment base through a coordinated program with Goodwill.
 - Lawrenceville Case Manager!



Community Planning and Development

- Arsenal Park Planning with FAP:
 - Identify funding to support a master plan for Arsenal Park.
 - Coordinate Advisory Committee and community outreach for plan.
 - Continue volunteer-driven improvements within the park
 - Complete Master-plan
 - Meeting in November!



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PARTNERS

Given today's economic climate, limited funding, and through thoughtful collaboration- LU partners with public and private organizations and agencies to ensure duplication of efforts is avoided and time, money, and energy utilized efficiently and effectively.

Allegheny Cleanways	Lawrenceville Organic Community Garden
Allegheny County: Department of Human Services	Lawrenceville Stakeholders
Allegheny Courts - CSP Program	Lawrenceville Tree Tenders
Allegheny Valley Bank	Local Lawrenceville Businesses
Boys and Girls Club	Mayor Luke Ravensathl
Career Connections Charter High School	Nuisance Bar Task Force
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Lawrenceville	Office of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl
Center for Victims of Violent Crime	PA Connecting Communities
City of Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, BBI, Public Works, Planning, Parks, Real Estate, URA, PWSA, Housing Authority	PCRG
Councilman Patrick Dowd	Pittsburgh Arsenal 6-8
Design Center	Pittsburgh Arsenal preK - 5
East End Neighborhood Employment Center	Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development
East End Partnership Organizations	Pittsburgh Soccer in the Communities
Free Ride	PNC Bank
Friends of Arsenal Park	Senator James Ferlo
Friends of the Library	Senior Center
Girl Scouts	Shop n' Save
Goodwill of Southwestern PA	Somali-Bantu Organization
Green Lawrenceville	Southwestern Family Services
Grow Pittsburgh	Three Rivers Rowing
GTech	Urban Redevelopment Authority
Lawrenceville Corporation	Tree Pittsburgh
	Verizon Foundation
	Weed and Seed Steering Committee
	Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

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Updates:

Public Safety Update:
Zone 2 Police

Senior AdvantAGE Update:
Becky Thatcher, LU

PEP Rally Update:
Dave Breingan, LU

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Senior AdvantAGE Program

The program aims to effectively connect seniors to services and resources, to other seniors, to new residents, and to new businesses throughout the Lawrenceville area.

- What does it offer?

- Senior AdvantAGE Guide
- Mini-Grants in order for seniors to be able to participate in fun activities
- Senior AdvantAGE Discount Card
- Workshops and Trainings Targeted to Specific Needs

This program is also free and for any residents of Lawrenceville age 60 and over.



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PEP Rally Program

- Parent
- Engagement
- Program



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**QUESTIONS/
FEEDBACK:**