Our year in review

Thank you for being a member of Lawrenceville United. As we look forward to our annual membership meeting on June 5th, we look back to some of our big accomplishments in 2017. We could not do this without your support. If you would like to make a contribution, visit www.lunited.org, stop by our office, or reach us by mail at 118 52nd Street, Suite 2026, Pittsburgh, PA 15201.

Big changes have happened at Duncan Park with a newly painted deck hockey and four square court, a new sensory garden, an educational series for local youth, and fundraising secured to install a rain garden and playscape this summer!

11 new development projects and liquor licenses came through our community process co-facilitated with Lawrenceville Corporation in 2017, making sure growth is occurring responsibly and residents have access to information to understand and weigh in on change in the neighborhood.

Enrollment at Woolslair Elementary has continued its steady increase since adopting a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) program, with its highest number of students since 2011.

We helped connect 10 older adults in Lawrenceville to home repair programs, and were able to replace one resident’s leaky roof with the help of Sipes and Co. Construction.

Our neighborhood middle school ranked top in the state for student growth for the 4th year in a row and was selected to be one of the district’s first Community Schools, showing a commitment to providing comprehensive supports for students, families and the community as a whole.

This year was the biggest yet for the Lawrenceville Farmers’ Market - we saw over 10,000 customers at market this year to shop at 28 full and part-time vendors. The Somali Bantu Community Association joined us as a vendor to sell delicious sambusa and mandazi.

With both Part 1 and Part 2 crimes continuing to fall in Lawrenceville, we now have the lowest total crime rate per 1,000 residents in Zone 2. LU continues monthly block watches, our Public Safety Action Team, as well as new attention to the effects of opioid addiction in the community through community meetings and resource fairs.

Funding was secured for the design and construction documents for the first phase of the Arsenal Park master plan, in partnership with Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, Lawrenceville Corporation, the Office of Councilwoman Deb Gross, Mayor Peduto, Friends of Arsenal Park, State Reps. Dom Costa and Adam Ravenstahl, and State Senator Wayne Fontana.
LU hired Just Collaboration to help us develop goals and hold us accountable to our goals of diversity, inclusion, and equity, and to understand how to make the neighborhood a more inclusive and welcoming place for all.

The Lawrenceville Fireworks Committee prepares for another great year. Save the date for the 74th Annual Independence Day Celebration in Arsenal Park on June 30th, 2018.

Even the little things matter - we received and helped resolve over 100 crime tips and quality of life issues in the past year, leading to successful drug busts, more walkable pathways, better treated streets, and a cleaner and less blighted neighborhood.

LU joined other community organizations in calling for full funding of the Affordable Housing Opportunity Fund, which was passed by City Council at the end of 2017.

Through our community process with the Mews on Butler project, LU’s advocacy led to the creation of a separate fund for affordable housing in Upper Lawrenceville specifically, forecasted to receive over $1 million over the next 10 years to preserve housing for all in the 10th Ward.

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