

CIMS | City Information Management System | Newsletter Module
MAYOR KICKS OFF 'LOVE YOUR BLOCK' PROGRAM AT SOON-TO-BE
TRANSFORMED

VACANT LOT IN LAWRENCEVILLE

Mayor calls neighborhood revitalization program a key part of Pittsburgh's Third Renaissance

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(PITTSBURGH) July 26, 2011 Mayor Luke Ravenstahl today announced the 10 recipients who will receive the first round of funding for his "Love Your Block" (LYB) grant program. The block revitalization program gives local non-profit organizations \$500 dollars to purchase the supplies and equipment necessary to implement a block improvement project that mobilizes community volunteers. The Mayor made the announcement at a vacant lot next to the McCandless Playground and McLeary Pre-school in the Lawrenceville neighborhood. The local community group, Lawrenceville United, was awarded LYB funding and will be transforming the corner lot into a community garden.

"This program is one of a handful of neighborhood revitalization initiatives my office created to make sure that Pittsburgh's Third Renaissance is reaching all four corners of our City," Ravenstahl said. "This Renaissance isn't just about new skyscrapers downtown and economic development in East Liberty, it's about giving the people of Pittsburgh the tools to improve our neighborhoods block by block, making our streets more livable for residents and more attractive for new residents."

The program is also one of five service initiatives recently launched as part of the Mayor's servePGH plan, which coordinates volunteers to help address the City's greatest challenges. In choosing the

recipients, the City gave special consideration to projects that are close

to schools, address vacant lots, and provide a direct benefit to a neighborhood business district. City departments will meet with the awardees and deploy City services such as trash collection and graffiti removal, as necessary.

The Home Depot Foundation generously donated \$10,000 toward this program in the form of \$500 Home Depot gift cards. For the first of four rounds of grants, the ten selected projects will each receive one gift card. Project implementation will take place this September, and applications for the second round of grants will be available this winter.

"We are extremely grateful to the Home Depot Foundation for their investment in this program and their national commitment to supporting vibrant and sustainable communities," Ravenstahl said.

For more information, visit
www.pittsburghpa.gov/servepgh/loveyourblock/, email
servepgh@city.pittsburgh.pa.us, or call 412-255-4765.

Grant Recipients and Project Summary
Allderdice High School> 9th grade Civics class will
cleanup and improve the
community and school tennis and basketball courts

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation
Clear out overgrown sidewalks that many students use to
walk to

school, and clear out vacant property to transform it into usable
space

Brighton Heights Citizens Federation
Vacant lot remediation through cleanup and planting garden
plots on Antrim Street

Elliot Community Group & West Pittsburgh Partnership for
Regional Development/West End Village
Implement flower garden in empty lot and polish the
Veterans Memorial in time for a Veterans Day celebration

Morningside Area Community Council
Host mock café at highly visible, abandoned storefront
along business district for potential investors to see space and
potential reuse

My Brother's Keeper
Use youth volunteers to cleanup vacant lot through litter
pickup and flower plantings

Oakcliffe Housing Club
Install an aesthetic park entrance made out of recyclable
materials to the Oakcliffe Greenway

Oakland Planning and Development Corporation
Install public art that reflects the community, past and
present, on the exterior wall of Frazier Field House

Pittsburgh Project
Cleanup vacant lot to prepare for spring planting

About Cities of Service
On September 10, 2009, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl pledged that
the City of Pittsburgh would help the country achieve the goals of the
Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act by joining Mayor Bloomberg and
fifteen other Mayors from across our nation to launch the Cities of Service
coalition.
By signing the Declaration of Service, Mayor Ravenstahl committed to

developing a coordinated strategy to utilize impact volunteerism as a significant municipal strategy for addressing local challenges.

The City of Pittsburgh's service blueprint, servePGH, seeks to engage citizens in impacting our City's greatest challenges through five service initiative which focus on securing a brighter future for youths through mentoring and educational opportunities, and revitalizing Pittsburgh's neighborhoods through community renewal projects.

For more info on the Mayor's servePGH plan, visit servepgh.pittsburghpa.gov.

Contact:

Joanna Doven

Press Secretary

Office: 412-255-2694

Cell: 412-475-2387

Email

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