Where Are We in the Envision Lehigh Valley Process?

On March 24th over 100 Lehigh Valley citizens heard an update from ten Envision Lehigh Valley consortium partners at the Veteran’s Sanctuary in Allentown.

Afterward they were invited to participate in a Community Conversation that asked the questions:

1. What have you heard tonight that has inspired or encouraged you?
2. What concerns do you have about what you’ve heard tonight?
3. What might be our next steps together?

Five minute videos of each consortium partner’s presentation can be viewed on YouTube at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8785OG4YSBI

Every Tuesday at 7 p.m. from now until June 24th Virtual Town Halls will be held that will allow citizens of the Lehigh Valley to participate in the future of the Lehigh Valley from the comfort of their living room.

For a full explanation and schedule of the Virtual Town Halls, go to envisionlehighvalley.com/events.

LVPC to Present New Regional Housing Plan

The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission has developed a Regional Housing Analysis of the Lehigh Valley and will be rolling it out on May 15 from 4-6 pm at Allentown Symphony Hall.

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Executive Director, Becky Bradley, says the Envision Lehigh Valley project allowed the planning commission to get new information and bring additional partners to the table. Bradley says the LVPC’s Regional Housing Plan is a "solid look at the housing market" from 2008-2012. From October through February LVPC reached out to residents in numerous public meeting and surveys throughout the Lehigh Valley, asking, “How do you envision home?” The information they gathered has been used to develop the new housing plan and jobs/housing balance reports.

The new plan will update the 2007 document, “An Affordable Housing Assessment of the Lehigh Valley.”

Help Our Region’s Youth

Career Force is an effort of the Lehigh Valley Workforce Investment Board (LV WIB). This program is focused on outreach to youth about career paths and jobs. A critical aspect to the work is creating opportunities for young people to get experience with local businesses. The LV WIB is actively seeking “work sites” for Lehigh Valley students.

If you are interested in providing work experience for youth ages 16-21 at no cost to you just click here to get started:


LVPC Housing Plan Rollout

May 15th 4-6 pm

Allentown Symphony Hall

23 N 6th St.

Allentown

LVPC Climate & Energy Rollout

June 19th, 5-7 pm

Nurture Nature Center

515 Northampton St.

Easton

For an updated list of future events, go to:
envisionlehighvalley.com/events
Equity, Fairness, Common Values and the Future of the Lehigh Valley

The Lehigh Valley has witnessed significant changes since 2000. We’ve become more densely developed, and we’ve also become a significantly more diverse community. In 2000, 579,156 people lived in the Lehigh Valley. By 2010, the population had jumped to 647,232. This represents a growth of 11.8% in ten years. As our population has grown, we have also grown more ethnically diverse as a Valley. In 2000, the Lehigh Valley was 89.0% White, 8.6% Hispanic/Latino and 3.2% Black/African-American. By 2010, the Valley was 82.4% White, 15.0% Hispanic/Latino and 6.1% Black/African-American.

What does this mean for the Lehigh Valley? It means that we will have a more vibrant and healthy region as we establish equity as a central principle to guide our public discourse. There can be no sustainability without equity.

The key to the region being fair to all its residents rests is focusing on common ground and shared values, such as ideals of sustainable growth, healthy neighborhoods and preserved open spaces. Envision Lehigh Valley’s conversations to date have identified fresh food access, economic development, housing affordability, transit options and energy conservation as important themes for in-depth study. Moving forward, our region will be benefitted by continuing the dialogue started with Envision Lehigh Valley and to include as many voices as possible, particularly voices from minority communities, in planning efforts to move the ideas in the Envision Lehigh Valley studies forward. We will then be able to work toward both a sustainable and an equitable Lehigh Valley.
Regional Housing Plan
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

You are cordially invited to an intimate discussion regarding the findings of the regional housing plan.
Thursday May 15th - 4 pm

RSVP by 05/12 to kms@lvpc.org
Miller Symphony Hall - Rodale Room - 23 North 6th Street, Allentown, PA