

VIEWPOINT

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Community workdays bring people together

June 10 was the second community workday I ever participated in, not only as a new resident of Lancaster County, but also as the community engagement and outreach coordinator for Lancaster Promise Neighborhood.



Ayana Crawford

Prior to accepting this position and doing my research, I saw that the community workdays were an opportunity to show community pride and appreciation for the community and environment around Lancaster. I saw individuals of various ages and ethnic and racial backgrounds coming together with smiles on their faces to fill bags with litter.

This told me two things about Lancaster and Lancaster Promise Neighborhood: They care about serving and they look out for their neighbors — something that is rare to find in days like these, when everything is fast-paced, self-centered and very high-tech. I grew up with the “it takes a village” mindset, but in today’s world, that seems to be a thing of the past.

However, I got to see this in person at Centro Cristiano Luz y Verdad that Saturday morning. Volunteers took time out of their weekend (bright and early, I might add), when they could have slept in, attended yard sales or run errands. Instead, 50 people gathered, again, of various ages, ethnic and racial backgrounds, with smiles on their faces,

food in their bellies and laughter in the air. Pastor Teodoro Robles and his church members were eager to participate. He prayed for us at the start of the day and community leader, Rosa, interpreted for us. It was a sight to see!

My personal mission in life is to bring people together regardless of their differences to collaboratively combat the division created in our current society. These workdays, for me, are a step closer to doing that, while creating community among those who participate.

Is it different from the norm? Of course. Can it be uncomfortable? It can, but that uncomfortability is an opportunity to learn and grow.

I enjoy environments and opportunities to learn from other cultures and individuals who differ from my background. If you’re thinking, “well, that’s everybody,” then you are catching my gist here.

What problems could we solve by working together with those who differ from us and who would be able to give us a new perspective? That’s why I believe the workdays are the starting point to solving real issues here in our community.

On this particular workday, we had groups such as Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce’s Young Professionals, the Arras Foundation and the Call Me Beauty



courtesy of Ayana Crawford

Lancaster Promise Neighborhood community engagement and outreach coordinator Ayana Crawford leads ice-breakers with April community workday attendees.

mentoring program. Organizations like these help bring change and make a difference in our community and in our youth. It takes groups like these and others to join and work together to change lives and the people we serve.

Here, at Lancaster Promise, we would call this “doing whatever it takes.” My role is to connect the community to the work we do to help students and our community thrive.

Like the Earth Day activities we did with the schools in The Zone, workdays aid in community pride and revitalization of our community. It is a chance for people to work together, get to know one another, and learn more about Promise Neighborhood and the community that we are about service. In the future, we hope to continue with litter pickup, among other

services, too.

I encourage any and every one to join us. The next workday is on Saturday, Sept. 16. Together with our volunteers, we will serve in different areas in Lancaster County. If your organization or business has space for us to fellowship and serve, feel free to contact me at acrawford@lpnc.org or call 803-313-4145.

To sign up for a workday or to volunteer with us, you can fill out the volunteer form on our website. In the meantime, you can visit me at our office at 121 S. Wylie St. and get more information about Lancaster Promise Neighborhood. I hope to see you and your family around — doing whatever it takes!

Ayana Crawford is the community engagement and outreach coordinator for Lancaster Promise Neighborhood.

LANCASTER PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD MEET-AND-GREET JULY 25

Lancaster Promise Neighborhood (LPN) invites the community to a meet-and-greet event 6-7:30 p.m. July 25 at the Lancaster County Community Center, 508 E. Meeting St., Lancaster.

This event is an excellent opportunity for members of the community to connect with the LPN team, gain valuable information about our programs and initiatives, and ask any questions they may have about the Promise Neighborhood.

Building on the power and importance of relationships, while fostering open communication, this event will help LPN engage with the community.

Attendees will have the chance to meet the LPN team, including program coordinators, community organizers and volunteers. They will provide insights into the various initiatives offered by LPN, such as extended day and summer programs, service providers and community events.

LPN encourages active participation from the community to provide a deeper understanding of how citizens can get involved and make a positive impact.

Lancaster Promise Neighborhood is a collaborative nonprofit project dedicated to supporting neighborhood revitalization and academic achievement in Lancaster. We believe that every child deserves access to quality education and a nurturing environment to reach their full potential.

For more information about the event, call 803-313-4141 or visit the office at 121 S. Wylie St., Lancaster.

We look forward to welcoming members of the community at this exciting event.

Together, we can create a stronger and more connected community for all!

— Ebony Mitchell

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Domestic Marxists are the enemy

In his recent opinion piece in The Lancaster News, Marshall Benson asked the question, “Who is the enemy we’re all so afraid of?”

Then, he graciously tells us who we are allegedly afraid of in a long, meandering, specious manner that sounds familiar, as this is what we hear daily from the usual media organs of the National Democrat Socialist Party!

Mr. Benson states that “The Constitution allows for the ownership of weapons as part of a ‘well-regulated militia.’” Later, he asserts, “Once the United States raised a standing military, the well-regulated militia of the Second Amendment was no longer needed.”

Since I did not recall that, I pulled out my copy of the Constitution and Bill of Rights to check.

Amendment II: “A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms,

shall not be infringed.”

Mr. Benson seems to have forgotten, “the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed.”

And neither the Constitution nor the Bill of Rights declare that once a standing military exists that the Second Amendment is no longer needed. I searched, but failed to find that the right of the people to keep and bear arms was to cease to exist at any time or for any reason!

There is no enemy that I am afraid of, but I am concerned for the American republic as the domestic Marxists have infiltrated like a cancer throughout our society and institutions — our education system, governmental bureaucracies and political bodies, the mainstream media and elsewhere. Domestic Marxists are the enemy and they must be repelled before they complete their enslavement of your children, grandchildren and America.

Donald H. Adams
Lancaster

COMING EVENTS

Softball fundraiser:

The Lancaster County Sheriff’s Office softball team will take on players from Sun City Carolina Lakes at 10 a.m. July 8 at Water’s Edge Park in Indian Land. Admission is free. Food and T-shirts will be sold and donations will be accepted. All proceeds go to the Special Olympics.

Sweat Series:

Free exercise classes at the Lindsay Pettus Greenway, 453 Colonial Ave., Lancaster -

- July 8, 9 a.m., yoga with Jada Johnson, bring your yoga mat

- July 15, 10:30 a.m., Zumba with Eileen Planer of the Gregory Family YMCA

- July 23, 9 a.m., circuit workout with Mike Duncan of U Speed South Gym

- July 29, 9 a.m., hip-hop aerobics with Tangelia Shannon of Revolution Fitness

OneBlood drives:

- July 8, 10 a.m.-noon, IMT Edgewater, 4104 Flats Main St., Indian Land

- July 8, 1-6 p.m., RedStone 14, 9650 RedStone Drive, Indian Land

- July 11, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., CrossRidge Center/INSP, 2001 Parkway Drive, Indian Land

- July 11, 3-5 p.m., Harris Teeter, 6271 Carolina Commons Drive, Indian Land

- July 16, noon-6 p.m., Lore Brewing Co. 1218 Rosemont Drive, Indian Land

To make an appointment, visit www.oneblood.org or call 888-9-DONATE (936-6283).

LCDP Sunday Walk:

Join the Lancaster Democrats on their monthly First Sunday Walk at 2 p.m. July 9 at the Lindsay Pettus Greenway, 459 Colonial Ave., Lancaster. Park in Lancaster High School’s football visitor parking lot.

Trail workday: Lindsay Pettus Greenway trail stewards will gather at 9 a.m. July 10 at the Lancaster High School football visitor parking lot. Bring your power tool of choice to blow leaves, whack weeds, monitor wildlife cameras and pick up litter.

Liberty Camp: Learn about America’s symbols of freedom, the Bill of

Rights, U.S. Constitution, Declaration of Independence and meet a “son of liberty” at free camp for kids ages 10-13. Camp is 12:30-4:30 p.m. July 10-12, July 17-19 or July 24-26 at the Lancaster Bowling Center, 1352 Reece Road, Lancaster. To register, call 803-320-0268 or email ChristianServices.Lancaster@gmail.com.

Privet Removal Day:

Join volunteers from Katawba Valley Land Trust to help tackle this invasive shrub at 9 a.m. July 11 at the Lindsay Pettus Greenway’s Nature Pavilion at Colonial Avenue. All ability levels are welcome. Wear closed-toed shoes and long sleeves.

Watermedia Exhibition

reception: 3 p.m. July 16 at the Historic Springs House, 201 W. Gay St., Lancaster. The Lancaster County Council of the Arts event will honor the exhibition, and the local artists in it, Gina Noelle Ash and Marcia Pyner. The exhibition is on display through the end of August.

‘Dorothy in Wonderland’: Community Playhouse of Lancaster

County show is 7:30 p.m. July 19-23, with 3 p.m. matinees July 22-23, at Indian Land High School, 6100 Charlotte Highway. Tickets — \$6 for kids under 5, \$11 for students and seniors, and \$16 for adults — available at Lancasterplayhouse.com or at the door. July 20 is pay-what-you-can night.

American Red Cross

blood drives:
• July 20, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m., MUSC Health — Lancaster Medical Center, 800 W. Meeting St., Lancaster

- July 22, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Masonic Lodge of Lancaster, 205 McCardell St., Lancaster

To make an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org or call 800-733-2767.

Lazybirds concert:

The Lazybirds Band will perform its American roots music at 6:30 p.m. July 22 at the Lancaster Cultural Arts Center, 307 W. Gay St., Lancaster. The six-man Appalachian band is a crowd favorite and tickets sell out fast. Buy tickets online at www.lcshp.com for \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door.