



Easton Breaks Ground on Arts Trail

On April 7, officials from the City of Easton gathered with project partners and community members to celebrate the start of construction on the Karl Stirner Arts Trail (KSAT), one of the primary initiatives of the Bushkill Creek Corridor Project, for which Taggart Associates serves as Project Manager.

The event marked the culmination of several years of planning, land acquisitions, and engineering for the approximately 2.5-mile trail being built along the Bushkill Creek in Easton. Construction will last several months and the City hopes to be able to open the trail for public use in the fall of 2011.

As he outlined the scope of the project, Mayor Salvatore J. Panto Jr. noted that the KSAT will create much more than just a recreational hiking/biking trail. The project will also improve the pedestrian friendliness of downtown Easton, create Easton's first dog park, celebrate the region's rich colonial and industrial heritage through over a dozen



interpretive displays, and serve as a canvas for a series of world-class public sculptures and other works of art.

The highlight of the event was a ceremonial ground breaking during which renowned sculptor, Easton arts pioneer, and trail namesake Karl Stirner received the honor of tossing the first shovel of dirt. Karl has been instrumental in recruiting other artists and creative professionals to the area over the past 30 years and is considered the father of Easton's modern arts movement.

Sands Continues Community Outreach



Napoleon McCallum, Director of Community Development for the Las Vegas Sands Corporation, shares lunch and conversation with the 5th grade Leadership Team at Donegan Elementary School during his recent visit to Bethlehem.

Taggart Associates continues to coordinate the Responsible Gaming Treatment Training for the Sands Casino Resort Bethlehem through its partnership with the PA Council on Compulsive Gaming. Beginning in March, 2011, a two-level, four-part training series was offered once again to local professionals such as social workers, licensed psychologists and family counselors so they can learn more about problem gambling. Due to the interest in the subject, this is the fifth time this professional series has been offered. All costs associated with the trainings are underwritten by the Sands.

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From the President May 2011

It's been a few months since our last TaggLine, and a lot has changed during that time. One monumental change is that Taggart Associates Founder, Glenn Taggart, passed away in April after a heroic battle with cancer.

Glenn founded Taggart Associates in 1997 with the goal of advancing transportation projects quickly through the environmental review process with proven management tools and process expertise.

Beyond his professional management of transportation design and construction projects aimed at supporting desired land use patterns and economic development objectives, Glenn's talent for assisting our clients with public involvement and consensus building made him an essential member of many project teams. Glenn created the needed facilitation structure, populated steering committees, facilitated meetings, moderated public meetings and hearings, and analyzed feedback from the community for many visible transportation projects in our community throughout his career.

Glenn's vision was that Taggart Associates would not only understand the dynamics of urban redevelopment, but would be committed to helping create vibrant, healthy downtowns and neighborhoods. Our mission is as relevant as the day we were founded: we continue to help build unique urban environments that encourage growth and community spirit. Glenn's legacy is not only found on the roadways and in the

buildings he helped construct – it's also in the individuals he listened to carefully, and the communities that are better served by the projects he touched.



From the beginning, Taggart Associates has strived to set itself apart by taking a personal approach to community and economic development,

environmental planning, transportation planning, nonprofit services, and project management. It is because of this approach that many of you feel like extended members of the Taggart Associates family. We appreciate your support, patience and encouragement during this difficult time.

Taggart Associates continues its work on behalf of clients throughout the region; many new clients and partners are revving up new and important projects of which we are proud to be a part. The Glenn M. Taggart Family Foundation will continue the charitable work that Glenn envisioned in our own backyard. If you would like to make a contribution, checks may be made payable to "The Glenn M. Taggart Family Foundation" and may be mailed c/o the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, 961 Marcon Boulevard, Suite 300, Allentown, PA 18103.

Taggart Associates to help develop LANTA's Rapid Transit Plan

The Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority (LANTA) is embarking on an ambitious project that will lay the foundation for greatly improved public transit service in the Lehigh Valley.

Building on the recently completed Moving LANTA Forward study, a team comprised of AECOM Technical Services, HDR Engineering, and Taggart Associates will be working with LANTA to develop a service plan for enhanced bus or Bus Rapid Transit services, and doing so in a manner that satisfies the Federal Transit Administration's requirements for an Alternatives Analysis under the Very Small Starts Program.

Taggart Associates will be coordinating the public outreach and public involvement portion of the study to ensure that the Plan is responsive to the needs of riders, LANTA's public transportation partners and stakeholders, and the general public.



Easton Seeks Input on Neighborhood Improvement District Plan

Taggart Associates (through its subsidiary New City America East) has been working with the Greater Easton Development Partnership (GEDP) since late 2009 to analyze the feasibility of implementing a Neighborhood Improvement District (NID) in Downtown Easton. GEDP’s goal is to develop an independent reliable funding source to help fund its extremely successful Main Street Initiative and Easton Ambassadors program.

After months of Steering Committee work, property owner surveys, and meetings with property and business owners, GEDP determined that there was enough community support to move forward with the development of a Draft NID Plan. As part of the public review process, the Draft NID Plan was mailed to over 1,000 property owners, business owners, and lessees in May and a public hearing on the Draft NID Plan is scheduled for June 8.



If public support continues to be high, the NID Plan could be approved later this summer or fall and the NID could begin operations in 2012.

Allentown Prepares to Celebrate its 250th Birthday

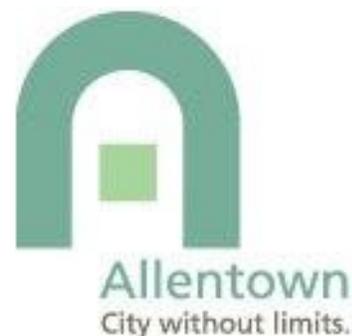
Plans are underway for the City of Allentown’s Semiquincentennial – its 250th Anniversary celebration – in 2012. With a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the City hired a consulting team led by Taggart Associates. The team of consultants also includes the event planning expertise of Haggerty Services and the graphic design services of Ann Schauer Design.

In celebrating the anniversary, the City strives “to shape a celebration that commemorates and celebrates our rich history, the revitalization of present day and an ever more promising future. This effort must remain one that is for the community and therefore shaped by the community. This effort should be one that makes a lasting impact not just for Allentown but for the region.”

Several committees have been established to help guide this year-long celebration in the areas of Finance, Fundraising, Programming & Events, Publicity & Marketing, Operations & Logistics and Leadership & Volunteers. More than 60 local business and community leaders attended a kick-off event led by Mayor Ed

Pawlowski earlier this month to begin formulating a plan for next year’s celebration.

Taggart Associates will be responsible for facilitating volunteer committees and grant writing to support the fundraising. We look forward to forming community partnerships, developing meaningful programming and helping Allentown to create a memorable and special milestone celebration.



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TA to Analyze Feasibility of Old Allentown NID

Earlier this year, Taggart Associates was engaged by the Old Allentown Preservation Association (OAPA) to conduct a preliminary feasibility analysis of creating a Neighborhood Improvement District (NID) as a means to continue funding various downtown improvements in Old Allentown.

The group's mission is to preserve and foster pride in the Old Allentown neighborhood through communication, education, and social interaction, with the goal of promoting urban living, diversity, and Allentown's architectural legacy and heritage. To those ends, OAPA has been working to preserve historic architecture and to complete projects that foster a sense of community in the Old Allentown Historic District for 35 years.

For the past several years, OAPA has implemented various community development and improvement projects through funding made available through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's Elm Street Program. Using Elm Street's "five points approach" of Clean, Safe & Green, Neighbors & Economy, Design, Promotion, and Organizational Sustainability, OAPA has worked to improve its neighborhood through efforts such as its annual House Tour, Façade Program, and various other community events.

While funding through Elm Street (and its sister program Main Street) can assist community groups such as OAPA, these programs are intended to seed longer term efforts and local organizations eventually need to develop alternative funding sources.

Our analysis is just getting underway and will take place over the course of 2011. We are very excited for the opportunity to work with OAPA and look forward to speaking with residents, business owners, and community stakeholders about the future of Old Allentown.

