

Community Focus Statement A: Maintain the rural character of the community

Action Statement A.5: Establish a welcome program to greet new residents, educate them on the unique desert experience, and offer them information regarding the community.

A5

Benchmark: All new residents and businesses in Lucerne Valley are greeted with information and education regarding the community, and introduced to long-term residents who can serve as resources.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: variable, depending on programs offered

The Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association welcomes new residents who attend a meeting and seeks out those that might be productive members.

To maintain the rural character of the community, Lucerne Valley residents can develop a welcome program for newcomers to provide helpful information and properly greet new residents. Depending on where new residents are from, they could have little to no knowledge about rural, desert living in unincorporated communities. Current residents could share practical information with newcomers, aid the transition from their previous home, and properly acclimate new residents to Lucerne Valley.

Lucerne Valley is particularly unique, given the desert environment. The rural characteristics, including natural environmental landscape, openness, and dark skies, are community assets to preserve and maintain for future generations. The welcome program should introduce new residents to the character and core values of Lucerne Valley, and help foster an appreciation for the desert environment and the community. This process will help new residents learn and honor the values of Lucerne Valley and integrate into the community.

A welcome program could be hosted in a variety of ways. It could be a formal program with regularly scheduled meetings for newcomers to learn more about Lucerne Valley and create relationships with other community members. It could include providing a standardized packet of information including helpful community resources to the homes of all new residents. The welcome program could be as informal as having long-term residents reach out to newcomers to introduce themselves as a community resource, if newcomers should have any questions about life in Lucerne Valley. The program should be flexible to meet the needs of Lucerne Valley as the number of new community members fluctuates.



| Action | Action Leader | Timeline | Resources |
|--|--|------------------|--|
| 1. Contact residents and organize volunteers to serve on a welcome committee | Champion with Lucerne Valley Chamber of Commerce and LVEDA | Year 1 to Year 3 | Lucerne Valley Chamber of Commerce |
| 2. Select a leader to serve as chair of the welcome committee. | Lucerne Valley welcome committee | Year 1 to Year 3 | Perkasie Borough Welcome Packet http://perkasieborough.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/2014_12_29_Welcome_Packet.pdf |
| 3. Revisit community core values identified in CP workshops to convey to new residents. | Lucerne Valley welcome committee | Year 1 to Year 3 | |
| 4. Develop a welcome program promoting the community's core values. | Lucerne Valley welcome committee | Year 1 to Year 3 | Riverton City Welcome Packet http://www.rivertoncity.com/community/welcome_packet_2012.pdf |
| 5. Engage new residents and businesses as they move to Lucerne Valley in the welcome program with a focus of communicating Lucerne Valley's core values. | Lucerne Valley welcome committee | Ongoing | Article on How to Welcome New Neighbors http://www.wikihow.com/Welcome-New-Neighbors |
| 6. Seek feedback from new residents on the welcome program. | Lucerne Valley welcome committee | Annually | |
| 7. Revisit the welcome program to refresh and update it with relevant information and feedback from new residents who participated in the program. | Lucerne Valley welcome committee | Annually | |