



Neighborhood Notes

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Volume 4 Issue 1

Community News for the Neighborhoods in Northwest Lancaster, PA

Winter 2007

Armstrong Redevelopment Advances on Schedule



Demolition contractor Brandenburg makes progress at the site.

The most visible components of the Armstrong redevelopment project, the demolition of more than 200 buildings on the site, is well underway with two sections of the 47-acre area now complete. The demolition of the largest structures, a 6-story and 10-story building, is expected to be

completed by April.

Part of the redevelopment site is the block bounded by Lincoln, Charlotte, Stevens and Water Streets, which primarily contains surface parking lots. This site has now been fenced off to ensure the safety of residents and individuals visiting the site to watch the demolition. Residents of the area adjacent to the site were notified by mail of these changes in early February.

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Updates on Local Area Public Schools

The annual Wharton Elementary School Spring Festival, one of the PTO's primary fundraisers, is set for Friday, March 30th from 5:00—8:00 p.m. at Franklin & Marshall College's Mayser Gymnasium. This is a terrific community-wide event, particularly for children age 2-12. The Festival includes affordable games, inflatables for children, a bake sale, dinner items, prizes and a raffle.

The Lancaster Bureau of Police recently assigned Officer Dorsey Sumrall to serve as a School Resource Officer (SRO) at Reynolds Middle School. SROs already have been assigned to several other Lancaster City Schools with good success. Officer Sumrall typically will be on the school grounds from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. The goals of the SRO program include establishing a good relationship between the officer and students and responding to any issues on campus or within the neighborhood relating to students. Officer Sumrall is a 3-year veteran of the Bureau of Police and coaches youth football when not on duty. Officer Sumrall can be reached at the school by calling 291-6257.

Reynolds Middle School is also gearing up for its National Honor Society induction, set for Wednesday, March 28th at 7pm in the Reynolds Middle School Auditorium. Franklin & Marshall College President John A. Fry will present the keynote speech.

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Pedestrian Light Project Underway

Portions of North Prince and North Queen Streets and one block of West James Street are benefiting from special grant funds from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. As part of the North-Central Elm Street program, the James Street Improvement District partnered with PPL Electric Utilities and the City of Lancaster to install 89 new decorative pedestrian light fixtures along the corridors.

Designed to enhance lighting on the sidewalks, the goal of this project is both to improve safety in the community, which is home to a solid base of residents and a diverse mix of businesses, and to improve the aesthetics of the corridors which are primary gateways into and out of the City.

Construction has already begun in the 500 block of North Prince Street. PPL crews are coordinating with the City on temporary sidewalk and parking lane closures as the construction progresses.

All work is expected to be completed by late Spring, with Prince Street done well in advance for the start of the 2007 Lancaster Barnstormers season.

Special thanks to PPL Electric Utilities and the City of Lancaster for their quick response and hard work on this project.



Example of a pedestrian light fixture

YMCA Lands on Harrisburg Avenue



CEO Jeff Kenderdine announces the YMCA's new home.

On the very snowy morning of February 13th, the Lancaster Family YMCA announced the much anticipated decision to build a new anchor facility at 265 Harrisburg Avenue. The site is in an area seeing considerable investment, including the recent opening of the Lancaster Arts Hotel and the shops at the Champion Center. Also, the north side of the property ad-

joins Clipper Magazine Stadium. The YMCA announced a sales agreement to purchase the site from Shippen North America Insurance Ltd., a subsidiary of Lancaster-based Irex Corporation.

The YMCA will spend the next 8-10 months designing and engineering the site, raising additional funds for it and other YMCA programs and coordinating with City and other officials to make sure it conforms to existing municipal plans and regulations. Construction of the new facility, which will serve as the YMCA's county-wide hub, is anticipated to begin in early 2008.

Armstrong Redevelopment

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The demolition process has resulted in some impressive statistics already, even before the majority of major buildings on the site have been torn down. The partnership overseeing the project, comprised of Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster General Hospital and



Aerial photo shows progress on Armstrong site demolition.

EDC Finance Corporation, took deliberate steps to reduce the amount of tractor trailer traffic through the neighborhood. As of the end of January, 3,000 tons of scrap steel had been removed via rail car destined for recyclers in the mid-Atlantic. The steel filled 41 railcars instead of sending 300 tractor trailers along City streets. Additionally, contractor Brandenburg will be crushing and re-using massive quantities of brick and concrete as clean fill on the site.

Current plans call for the demolition to be complete by the end of 2007. Other components of this phase of the project include environmental remediation and the installation of new infrastructure, including new utilities and the creation of new public streets.

Busy Times at Clipper Magazine Stadium

The 2006 Atlantic League Champion Lancaster Barnstormers are gearing up for the start of the 2007 season, which officially begins on Friday, May 4th against the Road Warriors. Mark your calendar for Friday, May 18th when the Barnstormers host for the first time their newest rivals, the York Revolution.



The team also officially welcomed new General Manager Kevin Cummings, who replaces Joe Pinto. Cummings is a 17 year minor league sports veteran with experience in both baseball and hockey. Among Cummings's responsibilities will be helping to coordinate this year's All-Star Game, which will be hosted in Lancaster on Wednesday, July 11th.

Clipper Magazine Stadium also recently wrapped up its successful first season of the Ice Park. More than 15,000 children, parents and grandparents used the rink in December, January and February. December 30th was the busiest day with 853 skaters taking to the ice.

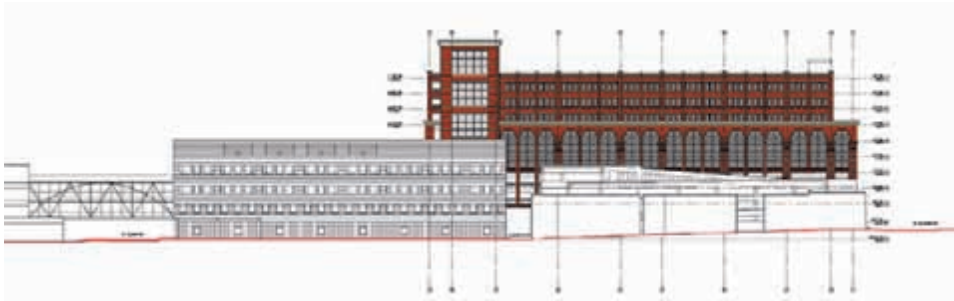
Reynolds Update

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To be a member of the National Honor Society, students must maintain an 85% or better grade point average as well as participate in community service projects throughout the year. Examples of community service initiatives that NHS students have participated in this year include holding a canned food drive that collected 15 boxes of food for the Water Street Rescue Mission, "anchoring" the morning announcements on WRMS (the Reynolds television station) and currently, NHS students are in the process of creating a 9/11 memorial garden behind the school.

New Medical Office Building and Expanded Garage for Lancaster General

Lancaster General is making another major investment in its Lancaster City facilities anchored at James and Duke streets. The early phases of construction are now underway for a three part development which includes a 4-story medical office building in the 500 block of North Duke Street directly across from the hospital, a 7-story parking garage on North Queen Street that will be used for employees, patients and physicians, and a glass-enclosed, two-level footbridge from the new office building to the hospital.



Rendering depicting the expanded garage and new building as seen looking north.

To accommodate the parking, Lancaster General is demolishing the southern half of its existing garage on N. Queen St. and building a new structure that will increase the total number of spaces by 1,000. The façade of the garage has been designed to resemble the historic nature of the adjoining neighborhoods. The office building will add 80,000 s.f. of much needed space, with tenants and users to be announced in the future.

These improvements follow the Hospital's recent investments in a new Emergency Room, Orthopedics Center and main entrance.

Lancaster General's investment is estimated between \$35 and \$45 million and will provide considerable taxes to the City and School District of Lancaster. The project is expected to be complete by Summer 2008.

JSID Bike Squad Expands Hours of Operation



Beginning on January 1st, the JSID Bike Squad expanded its hours to provide more coverage in the late evenings and on weekends. (See next page for specific times.) The squad continues to log impressive numbers to quantify its role

in responding to quality of life concerns in the community. For the seven months from July 2006—January 2007, the squad recorded 30 abandoned vehicles removed, 110 properties having excessive trash and 109 incidences of City equipment, such as traffic lights, needing repair. Additionally, this year the squad already has provided directions to visitors and area residents more than 500 times.

For more information on the bike squad, please contact JSID Operations Manager David Aichele at 394-0783 or at dtaichele@comcast.net.

Video Cameras Planned Near Clipper Magazine Stadium

Last fall, residents living in the North-Central Elm Street area (bounded roughly by Prince St., Lemon St., Clay St., and Christian St.) participated in a safety audit of the neighborhood, organized jointly by the James Street Improvement District (JSID), the Lancaster Community Safety Coalition (LCSC) and the North-Central Neighbors Alliance, the local neighborhood organization. The audit required residents to evaluate the neighborhood after dark to assess conditions such as lighting, overgrown shrubbery and other elements that contribute to the perceptions or realities of unsafe conditions.

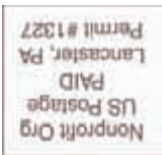
One of the outcomes of the audit was a recommendation by the LCSC for the use of surveillance cameras, in conjunction with other planned improvements such as pedestrian lighting (see page 1.) Funding for the installation of the cameras is an eligible Elm Street expense through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. At the JSID's request, the LCSC has developed a 13-camera system that will provide coverage of sidewalks and other public areas in the neighborhood. Following a community meeting scheduled for early March, the LCSC and the JSID hope to begin installation of the cameras by mid-April. For more information about the Elm Street program or the video camera project, contact Shelby Nauman at 394-0783.

JSID Welcomes Campus Central

Campus Central, the two-year old marketing initiative linking ten County higher education institutions, relocated in early December to the JSID offices at 206 West James Street.



The program recently co-sponsored a successful First Friday's event with the PA College of Art & Design and Clipper Magazine Stadium, with more than 400 college students visiting Downtown Lancaster, and a 3-on-3 basketball tournament at Stevens College. For more information on College activities and events, visit www.campuscentral.org.



The JSID area is generally defined as Race Avenue on the west, Chestnut Street on the south, Lime Street on the east and the Amtrak train/transit station and railroad tracks on the north.

Mission Statement

The James Street Improvement District builds effective partnerships to maintain a clean and safe environment and to promote, plan and advocate for a growing, diverse, urban community in Northwest Lancaster.

Contact Information

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Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 8 am– 5 pm

Bike Patrol Hours:

Monday—Wednesday 10 am-12 am
Thursday—Saturday 10 am-3 am
Sunday 4 pm-12 am

To receive the JSID newsletter and periodic updates please call or e-mail Toby Vargas with your name, company name, address, phone, fax, and e-mail address.