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City Invests in Infrastructure



Demolition underway at Lancaster Square.

The pace of construction in Downtown Lancaster is expected to get yet another boost as the City of Lancaster advances an aggressive plan to enhance key public spaces and pedestrian areas. While work to demolish the ill-fated Lancaster Square began in October (and is expected to continue through March), two other projects will begin in the first quarter of the year.

First, the City has hired Kinsley Construction to manage the implementation of the first phase of new streetscape requirements. Focused initially on the 00 blocks of North and South Queen and East and West King, the contractor will oversee the replacement of existing sidewalks, with a 4-foot brick band at the curb, new double-headed pedestrian light fixtures, intersection bulb-outs and street furniture. In coordination with the City's project, the Lancaster Parking Authority will replace the standard parking meters with "pay by space" stations that will offer on-street parkers the option to use a credit or debit card. This new technology will result in the removal of 39 single-space meters on these blocks. The first phase of sidewalk construction is expected to be completed by end of April. The second phase, which now includes the 00 blocks of North and South Prince, 00 blocks of East and West Vine and the 00 block of South Duke, will be bid in early 2009.

Second, the City has designed improvements to the Heritage Quadrant, the northeast corner of Penn Square. This important public plaza will be reconstructed with a new plaza surface and a more open design that also showcases the plaza as a gateway

to Central Market. Existing benches and concrete trash receptacles will be removed. The current schedule will have the project out to bid in early 2009, with construction commencing in the spring or early summer.

The City of Lancaster, along with the James Street Improvement District, will coordinate closely with property owners and merchants directly affected by the construction activity. All retailers and businesses will retain access to their properties during the construction.



Rendering of Heritage Quadrant Improvements.

All Images Courtesy of Russell Frost/www.russellfrost.com

Rendering by Thomas Cornitta Associates, Inc.

Special Events

THROUGH MAR 1—ICE SKATING AT CLIPPER MAGAZINE STADIUM
The Barnstormers have once again put away their spikes to get out the ice skates for the third season of the popular Ice Park.
Details: (717) 509-HITS or visit www.LancasterBarnstormers.com

JAN 29-FEB 15—THE FULTON THEATER PRESENTS "THE UNEXPECTED GUEST"
When a stranger crashes his car, he approaches the nearest house looking for help. What he finds is a man shot dead and the victim's wife holding the murder weapon. Open-and-shut case? Not with a play written by Agatha Christie. Details: www.thefulton.org

JAN 30—ARTISTS' CAFE
6pm-8pm // Pennsylvania College of Art and Design, 204 N. Prince Street, Main Gallery. Enjoy the current exhibit, "The City and Other Places: Photos by Lori Nix," without the first Friday crowds. Meet artists and enthusiasts. Free and open to the public.
Details: (717) 396-7833 or visit www.pcad.com

JAN 31-FEB 1—CHOCOLATE MOOSE DAZE
This year at the North Museum, 400 College Avenue, local chocolate aficionados will share their love of chocolate, plus an all-moose scavenger hunt, moose crafts, games, and treats sure to make Chocolate Moose Daze the sweetest event of the year.
Details: (717) 291-3941 or visit www.northmuseum.org

APR 18 & 19—SPRING ARTWALK
Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 12pm-5pm // A free two-day walking tour of Downtown galleries, arts organizations, artists' studios and businesses.
Details: www.lancasterartwalk.com
For more information or to view the full list of events, including **First Fridays and Music Fridays**, please visit www.JSIDLancaster.org.



A Major Boost to the KIZ



In 2004, the Northwest part of Lancaster City was designated as a Keystone Innovation Zone, based then on a new program offered by the Commonwealth geared toward fostering innovation and leveraging

community higher education assets. The JSID was designated the program's manager. Since then, the JSID has made modest progress in advancing the initiative — with some early success in working with a select group of companies meeting the state's criteria and advancing some foundational research to understand Lancaster's potential.

The program is now poised for a major leap forward as the JSID has taken two important actions over the past nine months. First, this fall, the JSID entered into a cooperative agreement with The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry (The Chamber) to ensure that the initiative has the broadest county-wide appeal and opportunities. Second, in October, the JSID and The Chamber hired the first full-time KIZ Coordinator, Ramon Escudero, to run all aspects of the program and to build momentum county wide for innovative entrepreneurship.

Escudero's primary task will be to knit together the impressive collection of tools and resources already in place locally and regionally to support entrepreneurs, and to create an accessible, easy-to-find- and-use system to link these resources to prospective clients and opportunities. Additionally, Escudero is responsible for managing the technical aspects of the KIZ program, including administering the KIZ tax credit and measuring various indicators required by the state.

Escudero and his family are newcomers to Lancaster City, having relocated most recently from Washington, DC. He has extensive experience in program management, having worked for the Brookings Institution, the US Agency for International Development, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Peruvian Government. To contact him, please e-mail rescudero@lcci.com or call 717-397-3531.

Hats Off To...

- Reynolds Middle School (RMS) and the School District of Lancaster, in partnership with the School and Community Network, for initiating greater engagement with neighbors and youth resources surrounding RMS.
- Fulton Youtheatre Program for receiving the prestigious 2008 Coming Up Taller Award at a recent White House ceremony. The Award is an initiative of the President's Committee on Arts and the Humanities.
- Auntie Anne's and the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority for earning the C. Emlen Urban Award by the Historic Preservation Trust.
- The PA Dutch Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Heritage Center for their creative joint venture to host and operate a highly visible new Lancaster Visitors Center at Penn Square; and The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry for its 20 years of commitment and service operating the Visitors Center out of Southern Market Center.
- Businessman and major Downtown property owner Rob Ecklin and First United Methodist Church, led by Sr. Pastor Kent Kroehler, for their investment in implementing streetscape enhancements at their respective properties.
- Owners of The Steakout at Prince and Queen streets for extensive renovations to the facade and other improvements to the prominent property.
- Gallagher Construction and Atomic Design for building and painting Santa's new home in Binns Park.



Santa's new home in Binns Park.

- The Lancaster Barnstormers for their recognition by the Boys & Girls Club of Lancaster at the recent "Breakfast of Champions: A Celebration of our Community Heroes" event.
- Community Homeless Outreach Center, led by Adrian Rodriguez and partners Water Street Rescue Mission, Tabor Community Services and the United Way, for celebrating its first year of operation and clearly demonstrating the need for a daytime resource center connecting individuals in need to a range of services.



Community open house at new JSID offices.

JSID Names New Chair and Board Members

The JSID has in place a dedicated group of committed community volunteers that provide strategic direction, fiscal oversight, and staff guidance while offering important and wide-ranging perspectives. These volunteers comprise the JSID's 21-member Board of Directors, which meets quarterly.

At its November board meeting, the JSID paused to acknowledge and thank five departing members who served on the Board since its inception in Summer 2003:

- Mary Colleen Heil, JSID Resident, PA College of Art & Design
- Tracy Horst, JSID Resident, PPM Real Estate
- Nancy Neff, JSID Resident
- Riess Potterveld, JSID Resident, Lancaster Theological Seminary
- Steve Verkouw, JSID Resident, Grace Lutheran Church

Each of these members helped shape the JSID from its earliest days as a start-up to the much stronger, stable and vital organization that it is today. Their contributions are enormous -- from countless hours of volunteer time to quiet guidance and advice. They are credited with keeping the organization focused on core priorities, particularly ensuring connectivity to key constituencies, including District residents and the faith-based community. Finally, they helped create a strong organizational and Board culture that reflects the JSID's ambitious yet deliberate spirit.

Also, in November, the JSID Board accepted the resignation of John Fry, President of Franklin & Marshall College, from the role of Board Chair and Board

member. As noted then by incoming Chair Bob Macina and President Lisa Riggs, there is no individual who has done more to shape the JSID than John Fry. Having served as the organization's only Chair, Fry guided the JSID through its earliest decisions and navigated several critical growth opportunities. He served as the JSID's chief fundraiser, securing essential operating support as he led by example. He provided an incredible amount of time behind the scenes and at meetings, ensuring the needs of staff were being met. He set the tone for high performance and expectations. Fry also set in motion more than a year ago an orderly transition plan, so that the organization can continue to perform at the highest levels with capable leadership.

The JSID Board approved the nomination of four new Board members:

- Elizabeth Nissley, JSID Resident, James Street Mennonite Church
- Peter Barber, JSID Resident, Two Dudes Painting
- Bruce Evans, JSID Resident, Cox Evans Architects
- Kerry Sherin Wright, JSID Resident, Franklin & Marshall College's Philadelphia Alumni Writers House

The Board also approved the nomination of Jennifer Craighead, Barley Snyder, to serve on the Executive Committee. Incoming officers for the 2009 year include: Bob Macina, Lancaster General, as Chair; Keith Orris, Franklin & Marshall College, as Vice Chair; Craig Roda, Fulton Bank, as Treasurer; and Jim Warner, Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority, as Secretary.

« Celebration!

On December 3rd, the JSID opened its doors to the community to show off its new office space at 354 North Prince Street and to help kick off the holiday season. More than 300 people attended to network, learn about the JSID and, most importantly, to sample offerings from local merchants. The JSID is incredibly grateful to the following local retailers and vendors who contributed goods and services:

- Annie Bailey's Irish Restaurant and Pub
- Auntie Anne's Pretzels
- Belvedere Inn
- Brunswick Café
- Checkers Bistro
- Forever Sweet
- Gusto
- House of Clarendon
- Iron Hill Brewery
- Isaac's Downtown and the Pickle Bar
- Lancaster Brewing Company
- Prince Street Café
- Red Rose Restaurant
- Shumaker PDT
- Space to Grow
- Special Occasions & Queen Street Linens
- Wendy Jo's Homemade

Congratulations also to Jean Henry, resident of Lincoln Street, and winner of the door prize donated by Space to Grow.

What's Up Downtown?

Check out the new Downtown Investment District website at www.DowntownLancaster.com for a complete list of Downtown Special Events and a directory of Downtown and Northwest Lancaster businesses.

What's New in Northwest?

Visit www.jsidlancaster.org for current community news and to register to receive a free copy of JSID's quarterly *Neighborhood Notes*.