

LANCASTER CITY ALLIANCE

Strong Community. Strong Economy. Vibrant City.

NEWS for immediate release

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Neighborhood Leaders and Local Church Partner to Raise Funds to Revitalize City Neighborhood

Lancaster, Pa. (February 25, 2015) – This Saturday, February 28th members of the Ross Street Methodist Church, 312 East Ross Street, in Lancaster and neighbors will host a spaghetti dinner to raise funds for Neighbors United as they seek to revitalize their neighborhood in partnership with the Lancaster City Alliance by bringing bike ambassadors, trash cans, trees and other improvements to a 20-block area in their neighborhood. The organizer of the event is Susan Grimm McCoy who is active with Neighbors United and attends Ross Street Methodist Church. The dinner runs from 4 pm – 7 pm and tickets are \$7 in advance or \$8 at the door; children 10 and under \$5 and children three and under are free. To purchase advance tickets call 575-6414.

Neighbors United is a group of involved citizens in the Northeast section of the City of Lancaster striving to improve the quality of life in their neighborhood by becoming informed citizens who take an active role in their community. The group has been meeting for over 60 years, according to Noah Miller who co-chairs the group with Andrew Whalen.

The 20-block area is mixed use and adjacent to the Lancaster City Alliance's current boundary at Lime Street and just north of the Downtown Investment District, both areas are currently patrolled by the LCA bike ambassadors. The residential portion of the target area is highly dense and is about 46% owner occupied and mirrors the overall demographics of the City in terms of age, race and income.

Representatives from the neighborhood and Lancaster City Alliance are speaking with local businesses about this effort and to date have secured initial pledges for support from several businesses and service providers including Select Security, Paul Davis Restoration, Murray Securus and UGI. The program costs are about \$65,000 per year to have bike squad coverage and installation of trees and trash cans and focused attention on quality of life issues like vacant properties, assisting new and existing businesses and helping to promote the neighborhood as a great place to invest.

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Northeast Neighborhoods Revitalization Partnership

Neighbors United, a grassroots neighborhood group in existence for almost 65 years, is partnering with the Lancaster City Alliance (LCA) to implement programs and initiatives to recreate this urban neighborhood – making it safer, cleaner, friendlier and ultimately a place primed for investment and sustainable revitalization. Leveraging Lancaster City Alliance’s positive momentum which started in our Downtown, neighborhoods are strengthened and beginning to advance long time goals.

The LCA partnership with our community will bring positive change to our twenty- block neighborhood. You do not have to travel far beyond our neighborhood to notice the difference similar programs have made in the City’s Northwest and in the Downtown area. Specifically, we want to add the Bike Ambassador program, install trash receptacles, trees and lighting and connect and empower neighbors to work together to increase neighborhood vitality and quality of life.

Our neighborhood represents a quarter of the Northeast Quadrant in population and is a dense residential area with almost 5,000 residents. It borders Lancaster General Hospital, with 3,400 employees on North Duke Street, the McCaskey Campus and Urban Place, a hip 300,000 square foot community made for living, learning, shopping, working and dining. Our neighborhood houses numerous restaurants and bars, three churches and is within walking distance of the Lancaster Train Station and Downtown Lancaster. It also has quick access to the Route 30 bypass. The average list price for a single family home is \$120,000 and the area is about 50- percent owner-occupied.

While not a blighted area, this neighborhood is positioned to be enhanced through greater homeownership, increased neighborhood communication and advocacy and opportunities for commercial growth and beautification as the core Downtown expands and the demand for authentic urban living is increasing.

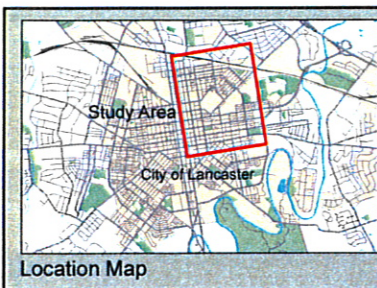
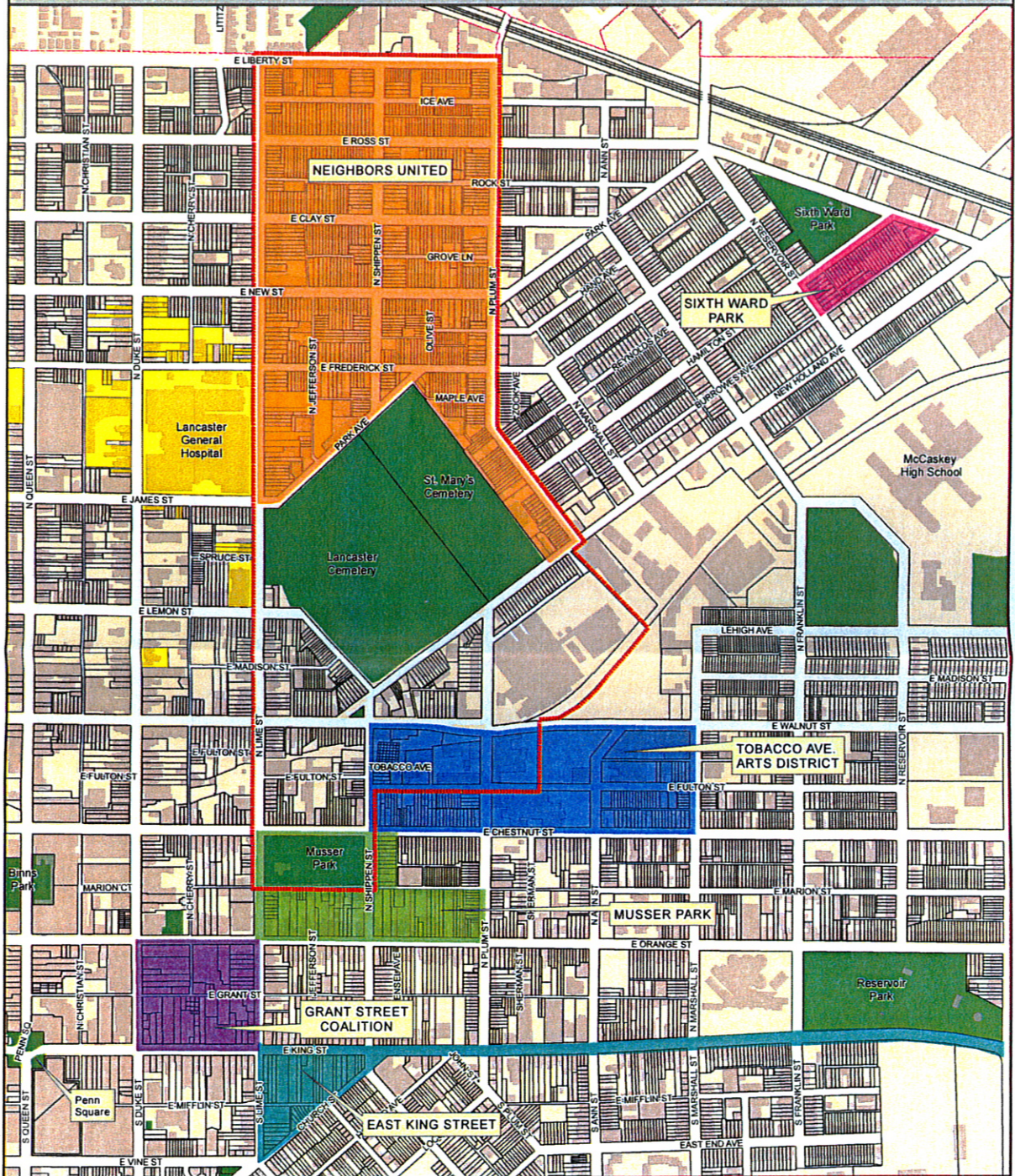
Through Neighbors United, we have a well established core group of neighbors who meet regularly to tackle community issues. As an example George Ross Elementary School and the PTO work hard for the well-being of our children and we’ve already begun the process of educating neighbors and small business owners on the impact we could have if we pull our resources together and focus our energy on creating a friendly and welcoming neighborhood.

We need the support of major stakeholders to accumulate \$65,000 in investment to launch Year 1 of a two-year program to make neighborhood, cleaner, greener, safer and friendlier which will positively impact property values, homeownership and neighborhood image. We are specifically looking for two-year commitment to bring more structure to the initiative, allowing this focused initiative to be established.

Mayor Gray has pledged that the City will contribute the final \$10,000 for Year 1 if we can raise the first \$30,000.



Northeast Lancaster Northeast Revitalization Partnership



- Legend**
- Project Boundary
 - Neighbors United
 - Grant Street Coalition
 - East King Street
 - Tobacco Ave Arts District
 - Musser Park
 - Sixth Ward Park
 - LGH Parcels
 - Municipal Boundary
 - Parcels
 - Buildings
 - Railroads
 - Park/Recreation/Cemetery

Neighborhood Groups

Prepared By: Lancaster County Planning Commission, 2014
Source: Lancaster County GIS

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