

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Andrew Wesley Whalen

Neighbors United

Phone: (717) 598-7441

E-mail: awwhalen@yahoo.com

Neighbors Unite to Make City a Greener Place

Alt Headline: **Neighborhood Greening Efforts Take Root**

Gift of Street Trees Part of Effort to Improve Quality of Life in Lancaster City's NE

Lancaster, PA – On Saturday, October 17th, neighbors in Lancaster City's NE will clean up the community and plant 28 street trees as part of an effort to improve their quality of life. Thanks to the support of UGI, TreeVitalize, the Lancaster Rotary and the Lancaster County Conservancy Urban Greening, these trees will be planted free of charge to residents. This is the first phase of a project that hopes to introduce 160 beautiful street trees to the neighborhood over the next three years.

There are over 160 locations in our neighborhood that would benefit from a tree. Did you know that a single tree can prevent 3440 gallons of water from entering our city's combined sewer system each year? In addition, trees provide shade, reduce heating and cooling costs, improve air quality, reduce noise and increase property values. Imagine what 160 trees could do!

For nearly a year, Neighbors United has worked with Kristen Thomas, a local resident, Pennsylvania Master Naturalist trainee and member of LCC Urban Greening, and others who are interested in making NE Lancaster City a greener place. Her team took an inventory of vacant locations in our neighborhood that at one time had a tree (you can see the stumps or holes) and areas where there was no shade at all. Working with the Lancaster City Arborist, they researched trees that were a good fit for the neighborhood, making recommendations based on proximity to power lines and personal preference. With help from the Lancaster City Alliance, they also discovered funding and secured sponsors for the project. Finally, they went door-to-door informing residents when there were good locations in front of their homes.

Alongside Kristen's efforts, Fritz Schroeder, Director of Urban Greening at the Lancaster County Conservancy, held an informative seminar last spring to educate the community on the benefits of greening the neighborhood to reduce storm water runoff.

Additional Info

VOLUNTEER!

Northeast Lancaster City - Street Tree Planting

Sponsoring organization is the Lancaster County Conservancy working with Pennsylvania Master Naturalists Stewardship Project and Neighbors United

When: **Saturday, October 17**

Location: Ross Street United Methodist Church, 312 East Ross Street, Lancaster City

Time: 8:30 am start / 1:00 pm (approximate finish)

Goal: Plant 28 Street Trees

Tasks: The city will have already removed the concrete and done an initial planting site preparation. The volunteers will be digging out soil, placing the tree, watering, adding mulch and staking the tree.

Additional Volunteers will be needed to pick up litter, weed and mulch existing tree wells.

Links

Website: <http://www.neighborsunitedlancaster.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/neighborsunitedLancaster>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/nu_lancaster

News Articles:

- <http://www.neighborsunitedlancaster.com/news/volunteers-needed-for-shade-tree-planting>
- <http://www.neighborsunitedlancaster.com/news/ugi-partners-with-neighbors-united-to-bring-shade-trees-to-the-city>
- <http://www.neighborsunitedlancaster.com/news/neighbors-united-meeting-hosted-by-fritz-schroeder>

About Neighbors United

Neighbors United is a group of involved citizens in the Northeast section of the City of Lancaster, PA. We try to improve the quality of life in our neighborhood by becoming informed citizens who take an active role in our community.