



The Joy of Working Together

Judy Zimmerman Herr, Board President



Have you ever heard of the term “collective effervescence?” I recently learned that it is the technical term for the joy we feel doing something together in a group. It could be described as “social happiness” – and it’s what we have been missing during the time we needed to stay apart to protect ourselves and others from COVID-19.

Collective effervescence is what we felt when the Downtowners Board spent several hours together in Long’s Park on Saturday, June 12. For the first time in 13 months, we were actually in the same space together. And we spent that day coming up with a set of strategic directions to guide the Downtowners for the next five years.

Before our workday together, various Board members did research and provided reports that summarized the context in which we live. John Mullineaux pulled together statistical demographic trends in Lancaster City. Ken Nissley brought us a summary of who we are as Downtowners, based on information in the Club Express database members’ profiles. Kathy O’Kane summarized the wider context of the Villages network through looking at the VtV website. Bill Parson did some asset mapping, listing peer organizations and possible partners in the Lancaster area. And Henry Bierdzycki pulled together results from the member survey many of you had responded to.

With all of that as background, the Board spent some time doing a “SWOT” analysis together. This has us looking first internally at our organization, listing Strengths and Weaknesses (or challenges), and then externally at our context, listing Opportunities and Threats. Then, taking all of this into account, we divided into smaller groups to list up to four strategic directions. When we presented these to the group, we discovered that there was almost complete congruence between the different groups! This made our final job of coming up with a single list quite easy.

It was good to spend time together, and to work on a common task. We continue to fine-tune and flesh out the strategic directions we arrived at, and will be sharing those with all of you in the next few months. But meanwhile, know that we were energized and encouraged by our time together – and ended the day with a feeling of collective effervescence, and of optimism about the future of Lancaster Downtowners!

Program Highlights



Wednesday is market day at the newly opened Columbia Market House. Use your RRTA bus pass (available at the Queen Street Bus Station) and take the 10:20 or 10:45 bus from Queen Street station or join a carpool.

At noon we will pick up boxed lunches prepared by Chef Ed Diller of Gypsy Kitchen, anchor restaurant in the Market House, and walk down to Columbia Crossings, the beautiful new information center along the Susquehanna River.

Lunch (\$20) includes:

Your choice of:

- **Chicken Salad Bowl**
- **GK South Philly Style Sub (Meat, Cheese & Veggies)**
- **Veggie Pasta Salad Bowl**

A cup of cold tomato soup Arlesienne *

Dessert

After lunch you'll have options for ice cream at Coffee and Cream, a newly opened coffee and ice cream shop, antiquing or simply walking this up-and-coming river town. Join your carpool or take the bus back to Lancaster as you are ready to return. Registration, lunch choice and pre-payment is required. Register on Downtowner online event calendar.

NOTE: If using RRTA is a new experience for you we will find a "Bus Buddie" for you. Buddies are also available simply for companionship as well.

Bottle of water

[Register Here for A Day in Columbia on Wednesday, July 28th.](#)

Summer Picnic (photos to the right)

Downtowners gathered in County Park in June for the annual summer picnic. Forest bathing, board games, and great food were featured.

Be sure to visit the [Event Calendar](#) on our website to register for more in-person events.

Walking Group is Ongoing : Monday, Wednesday, Saturday 8 am. UU Church corner of West Chestnut and Pine St. Morning Walk Downtowners practice appropriate social distancing for morning walks. Contact Kathleen Ramey, (484) 886-6086 or rameykathleen@gmail.com for up to date information before joining the group.





Landis Place on King is an innovative housing approach for adults 55 and over. Designed to be a contributing neighbor in an already thriving West King Street block that boasts successful businesses and family homes, this nearly \$28 million investment in the city will provide housing with services for older adults from a wide range of demographics. This seven-story building will be home to about 100 residents.

These homes will be accessible to a wide range of income levels, with rents starting at about \$800 per month. Once the project is approved, a capital campaign will be conducted with funds used to secure 10% of the apartments at affordable rates. This new seven-story building will include retail space that is intended to provide a café or bistro to serve residents as well as the broader community.

Unique features of the project include green space and common areas to encourage relationships, natural support systems and places to conduct learning opportunities for residents. A care navigator in the building will connect residents to community services including Landis at Home, in-home care. Landis Communities is committed to listening to those already living and working in the neighborhood. The first steps to this have included connecting with local leaders from SoWe, SACA, The Coalition for Sustainable Housing, Lancaster City, ASSETS and various faith communities as well as business and rental property owners in the area. The goal is to have staff who represent the neighborhood and residents.

July 7 supporters, business partners and others gathered for a Blessing the Ground ceremony. The time was highlighted by prayers from local faith leaders and comments from a range of persons involved with the project.

As the Lancaster Downtowners know, living in the heart of Lancaster offers endless opportunities for residents to expand their community engagement and immerse themselves in the energy of the city. Landis Communities has positioned Steeple View Lofts, another Landis affiliate on North Water Street, and Landis Place on King, to be more than places to live. Both are intentional efforts to create communities of engaged older adults who are active and involved in downtown life, and who feel safe and supported in their homes as they age.

Construction on the 28 million-dollar apartments will begin shortly with an estimated occupancy in late summer of 2022. You can keep up with the project by visiting the web site <https://landisplace.org/>. There are drawings and rendering of the coming space as well as a link to a 24/7 construction camera.

Presented by Landis Communities, a Platinum Sponsor of Lancaster Downtowners

Foodie Report ...A Trifecta of Disappointing Restaurant Experiences

I've always looked forward to going around to our local, and sometimes not so local, food and beverage establishments to be supportive, especially if a place is new to the local foodie scene.

I have an open mind when I try a new place, but I come to expect a certain consistent standard for places on my personal go-to list. Unfortunately that way of thinking needs to be set aside in our post (I'm being optimistic) pandemic foodie world.

Walking around our downtown streets recently, I couldn't help noticing the abbreviated hours for doing business, and the often pared down menus of food and beverage establishments as they adapt to this new way of hosting customers and guests. I would like to share three instances when my disappointment lead to the reality of needing to lower expectations for dining out, hopefully just until everyone figures out what works for them to do the best possible job serving the consuming public.

1st: We went for dinner and drinks at a local restaurant recently and were able to secure an outdoor table. Given the fact it was a beautiful evening, and the excitement of Pandemic restrictions being lifted with everyone having the desire to get back to some kind of normal, that table made the experience so much better.

All of the other outdoor seats were occupied, and it appeared evident by the traffic going in and out of the restaurant indoors, that it was a very busy evening. I paid close attention to what was happening around us and it didn't take long to make an assessment of the situation, and what kind of experience we had to look forward to for dinner. That was because there was only one wait staff working all of the outdoor tables, confirming what we have been hearing and reading about the restaurant and hospitality industry lately.

It appears no one wants to accept jobs, and all of the service oriented businesses are having trouble finding good help, or for that matter, just anyone willing to perform even mediocre service.

I will not name the restaurant where we experienced this reality because they are a very popular local establishment with a great following and reputation. I would never want to give them negative feedback, given the food is always good and the current situation is really out of their control. Our food and drink finally did arrive after about 45 minutes from a very apologetic young lady who was obviously frustrated and doing the best she could.

2nd: I find myself at a coffee cafe in an old building of a growing area and it seemed like the right place to go for a breakfast one morning. I always look forward to supporting creative places, often times owned and operated by younger generations who are eager to share their culinary skills to carve there niche in a very competitive industry.

As I entered, I observed people seated in various locations around the large room. In the center was a very long table of at least 20 people, all actively engaged in spirited conversations for whatever kind of gathering it was. As I approached the counter, I ordered a cup of coffee and glanced down at the paper menu in front of me to quickly pick something that looked simple to prepare given the busyness of the moment. "I'll have the bacon, egg and cheese on a biscuit, please." As one person placed my to-go container of coffee in front of me, the one taking my order asked if I was having it there or taking it out. I quickly scanned the room for a place to sit, and when I spotted it I replied "I'll have it here." The server suddenly gets this look in her eyes above her masked face, and says, "I just have to check

(Foodie Report, continued)

something in the kitchen.” Moments later she returned and said “it will take about 30 to 40 minutes to make your breakfast sandwich.” I left hungry, leaving that to-go cup of coffee behind.

3rd: A seemingly great place to have a good old fashioned breakfast is at a local breakfast joint where all of the old timers and regulars in the neighborhood go, exchanging conversations of sports and local politics with an order of eggs over easy and a cup of watered down, mediocre coffee. I found myself at one of those places recently and ordered what turned out to be one of the worst cheese omelettes I have ever eaten. To be clear, it wasn't spoiled food or anything like that. It was simply prepared with no attention to taste or concern for presentation of the end result on the plate.

The accompanying potatoes looked really good, but they were flavorless and unseasoned. The omelette, obviously prepared on a flat commercial griddle, was folded into a big thin square, browned on one side, with a pile of cheese dead center, meaning that you never really got to enjoy the full cheese omelette experience with every bite. Also, I was never offered the customary second pour of the mediocre lukewarm coffee by the waitstaff either, making this my third disappointing restaurant experience in one week.

Am I complaining? Perhaps, but I am also saddened by the fact an industry to which I have had ties both currently and in the past is really struggling to maintain it's individual standards of service and quality as we all get back to as close to normal as possible.

See you around town.: Andy Berfond

Resource Directory

Visit the [Resource Directory](#) to find a driver to the Philadelphia airport, a handyperson for the odd jobs around your house, and plumbers for work small and large. Downtowners have recently recommended Donald Frey Plumbing, Ken Shertzer, Lancaster Plumbing & Heating, John Miller Computer Services, and Zeigler Plumbing.

If you have a review or recommendation, let us [know by completing the form here!](#)

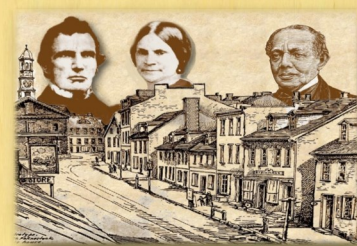
AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE



Walking Tours Return to Historic City of Lancaster 2021 Season

Saturday, June 5, 2021

Learn about the life & times
of courageous Abolitionists,
Underground Railroad Agents,
Religious Leaders &
Black Entrepreneurs



West King Street, Lancaster, circa 1850. View east., with Abolitionist Congressman Thaddeus Stevens and entrepreneurs Lydia Hamilton Smith and William Whipper.

Walking tours of historic Downtown Lancaster with a focus on African American heritage will resume in June, sponsored by the African American Historical Society of South Central Pennsylvania. Tour dates for the season are:

June 5 * July 10 * August 7 * September 4 * October 2 * November 6

Conductors lead guests to 12 historic sites, including 4 with authentic connections to the Underground Railroad. Groups depart from Lancaster City Visitor Center, 38 Penn Square, Lancaster, PA 17603, beginning at 11 AM and 2 PM. The tours last approximately two-hours. No reservations are necessary. Please arrive 30 to 15 minutes before departure times.

Tour proceeds fund African American Historical Society programs and expenses. Fares:

Adults \$15 * Seniors (62 & older) \$ 10 * Students (6-18) \$5 * Children under 6 free

This tour series began in 2016 and is a collaborative effort with the City of Lancaster Office of Promotion and in partnership with Historic Lancaster Walking Tour, which has been conducting history tours of Downtown Lancaster since 1976. Other community group in partnership are LancasterHistory, Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society and Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology. For a tour preview, visit - <https://www.aahsscpa.org/walking-tours>

The More You Know

Tech Enhanced Life is a detailed website that focuses on technology for a long life.

[Here is an article on Aging In Place: Why Technology and Gadgets Matter](#) (Who knew someone had rated jar openers!)

[Generations Online](#) — John Kanagy shares this helpful website and app. “Here is a wonderful, simple, guide from a Phila. tech group that is very easy to follow for tech-hesitant folks to learn to use their computers, tablets and smartphones. This is more clear and simple than a user manual.” [Click this link, which directs you to the app store for tutorials.](#)

No Longer Alone Family Support Group (FSG) session will be held via Zoom from 3-5pm on **Sunday, July 25**. Register at JAlbright@landis.org

- **Topic:** “Sharing Programs and Services for Persons with Mental Illness
- **Presenters:** Susanne Materia, Director of Development at Arch Street Center

Intergenerational Community Engagement & Planning presented by PSU Ext.

As individuals grow apart in today's society, communities need to come together. Communities not only provide a geographic location to where people live, they also offer social interaction and common ties that bind their people together. Ideally, these community features and related opportunities should be available to benefit all within a community, including the very young as well as elderly residents. Many communities would like to engage citizens in an all-age inclusive planning process, but do not have the knowledge, staffing, or experience to develop such assessments and strategies to capture information for use in a decision-making process.

The webinar will highlight One Community - Many Generations, an inter-generational community engagement guide and online community assessment tool developed by Penn State Extension through a community challenge grant funded by AARP. A One Community - Many Generations pilot program conducted in rural Susquehanna Depot, Susquehanna County during 2020 resulted in an action plan that addressed priorities of concern identified by the community and resulted in quick implementation steps that community leaders and volunteers have already begun implementing.

Presenters: Neal Fogle, Extension Educator, Penn State Extension; John Turack, Extension Assistant, Penn State Extension; Moderator Peter Wulforth, Extension Educator, Penn State Extension

Event to be held at the following time, date, and location:

Wednesday, July 21, 2021 from 12:00 PM to 1:15 PM (EDT)

Conference Room 102

Lancaster County Government Center

150 North Queen Street

Lancaster, PA 17603

[Register Here](#)

**Happy Birthday to these
Downtowners in July
and August!**

July:

Harvey Asher

Nancy Borremans

Michael Eby-Good

Eileen Gregg

Wayne Parsil

William Puffer

Kathleen Ramey

Robert M. Smith

Ruth Umble

Holly Williams

August:

Frank Byrne

Clair Fey

Mary Lou Weaver
Houser

Mary Kelly

Nancy Landis

Susan Leinberger

Joe Neidig

Duncan Osborn

Gail Shane

Laurie Truluck

Nancy Wolfgang

Are you interested in improving your technology skills and earning supplemental income? Employers are focusing on Upskilling workers to make sure they have the training needed to support a shifting workforce. Fellow Downtowner Martha Harris is conducting an Upskilling training as part of her innovative business Fizika. If you are interested in the intersection of health and technology, this opportunity may be for you. Your training will include onboarding in the use of Fizikaflex as a means of enabling older adults to become advocates for their own healthcare.

Contact Martha for more information!

Martha Lester Harris, MPA, M.Div., CAS

717-575-7465 (c)

martha@fizikagroup.com

**The Just One Call Committee would like
to remind members to take advantage
of the JOC vacation services: rides to
the train station or nearby airports, pet
care, plant care, house checks.
Help with yard cleanups is availa-
ble. Have a great summer!**

Resource Committee Corner

Summer time is great for fishing, but when phishing makes an appearance all of the fun is gone.

Phishing is a type of internet based scam when the perpetrator tries to elicit personal information and/or money from unsuspecting consumers.

One way this happens is a scammer hacks into your email account, sends a message to all of your contacts, and then the responses from your contacts get sent to a new, similar email address. The scammer then continues conversation from the new account, pretending to be you, and may ask your friends, family, and acquaintances for giftcards, wire transfers, or other instant money transfers.

Recently, a phishing email made it through the Lancaster Downtowners listserv.

The listserv is one way Downtowners communication with one another. When you have a question, invitation, or other info to share any member (and only members) can email dtcommunity@lancasterdowntowners.org and get the word out.

Listsers emails only get sent when they originate from an email address in our member database. However, when someone else infiltrates your email inbox, they can send out a message to all Downtowners too.

Those emails used to go out immediately. However, as of July 8, 2021 they will now require moderator approval. As phishers get more adept, we must become more adept as well!

As such, there may be a delay when using dtcommunity now, and we will continue to evaluate the best ways for Downtowners to be in touch and to be safe.

If you receive an email from a friend, family member, or acquaintance asking for a "Quick Favor" or "Urgent Request", call that person before responding or acting upon their request. If you do not have their phone number, ignore the email and request. If you can't be in touch with them via phone, you should not feel obligated to buy an iTunes giftcard for their grandchild. This goes against our kind and helpful natures, which is why phishing in this way has become so prevalent.

You should always report phishing emails to the person it came from (via phone) and at www.ftc.gov. If you gave money to a phisher you can file a police report, and many banks, credit card companies, and some retailers will work with you to refund the money lost.

To help prevent phishing from your email account, make sure you use strong, unique passwords for the various websites you visit.

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