

The DID Dispatch

Letter from Executive Director, David Aichele

ON MAY 1, 2023, the boundaries of the Downtown Investment District were expanded to include areas around S. Prince and W. Vine Streets and the 200 Block of W. King Street. Business owners and residents in these new sections will now benefit from our supplemental cleaning services, weeding, and mulching of tree wells. Ambassadors will now also patrol the areas, providing an extra set of eyes and ears to help improve quality of life.

We are also proud to share that our Downtown Investment District Outreach Specialist has been hard at work connecting with vulnerable individuals on the street. Her work to build relationships and be a trusted resource may take days, weeks, or even months, but since January 2023, she has interacted with over 500 individuals. In the past 18 months, almost 60 individuals have accepted some level of shelter or housing and another 30 individuals have accepted help into a rehabilitation facility to deal with an addiction issue.

We are committed to maintaining a clean and safe environment for our businesses, residents, and visitors. To respond to the changing needs within the downtown, and in partnership with the City of Lancaster and Lancaster County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, we are implementing a holistic approach to address the community's concerns for anyone enjoying the City's public spaces. This approach will focus on four pillars that contribute to successful public spaces. They are: Security, Services, Programming, and Communications. Our work in these areas will be demonstrated throughout this newsletter, and we encourage our readers to use and enjoy the City's public spaces.

In closing, summer is an exciting time in the City, and I hope you take advantage of the opportunities to celebrate. Check out our list of new businesses in the DID on page 5 and be sure to take the opportunity to support them. If you haven't already, I also encourage you to download the City's Visit Lancaster City app for a list of City events, business directory, and other resources that you may find helpful.



Before and after photos of the new DID expansion area on the 200 Block of W. King Street.



Sincerely,

David Aichele
Executive Director,
Lancaster Downtown Investment District

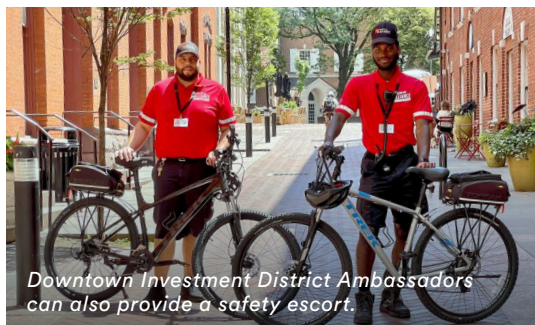
Lancaster City Police Officers Now Assigned to DID

THE CITY OF LANCASTER has dedicated two police officers to provide regular patrols within the Downtown Investment District. Don't forget that when you see an issue that requires police attention, you can call the Police Department non-emergency number at 717.664.1180 and an officer will be there to assist. As always, if it is life threatening, call 911.

Clean Team working collaboratively with City on Fix It! App

THE FIX IT! LANCASTER APP has been a great new tool for the Downtown Investment District Clean Team and Ambassadors. The squad has access to the app, and seven days a week, the team can report issues directly to the City. This new tool is available for anyone to use but has been an asset for the DID, streamlining our work and enhancing our communication with the City. You can help too by downloading the

Fix It! Lancaster App on your phone.



Downtown Investment District Ambassadors can also provide a safety escort.

Ambassador Safety Escort

YOU CAN NOW ARRANGE for an Ambassador Safety Escort where an ambassador will walk you to your vehicle or nearby destination. Call 484.724.1517 between the hours of 10AM and 10PM. Please allow 10 to 15 minutes for us to meet you at your location.

Binns Park/Ewell Plaza

THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT to refresh Binns Park continues. The metal façade around the stage area will be scrapped and repainted, cement work will repair the area around the fountain, electrical work will be completed, and new lighting will be installed. Binns Park should be reopening mid-September for everyone to use.

Here is what is happening around Binns Park and Ewell Plaza to assist both the vulnerable individuals residing in this area as well as supporting the businesses owners, residents, property owners, and others in close proximity to the park and plaza.

Downtown Investment District Ambassadors continue to increase patrols in Ewell Plaza. Their work supports individuals in need, ensures a clean space for the public, and provides an extra set of eyes and ears to enhance safety in the plaza.

- **Clean Team Ambassadors (blue shirt) patrols Ewell Plaza from 9AM to 8PM, seven days a week.**

The team wipes down tables and chairs, picks up litter, cleans and monitors the public bathrooms, empties trash cans, and reports suspicious behavior.

- **Downtown Investment District Homeless Outreach Specialist spends a minimum of six hours in the plaza, interacting with individuals in need of social services and housing.**

Since January 2023, our outreach specialist has connected with 522 individuals and worked with 52 individuals by the month of May. Examples of referrals include homeless outreach, persons with disabilities, substance abuse services, employment, health services, rent relief, food access, laundry connection, shower access, clothing, and transportation.

- **During the evening hours, a red shirt ambassador spends two to three hours on and off patrolling the plaza. Additionally, stakeholders in the area are meeting regularly to enhance communications so the DID, police, property owners, service providers, and merchants can address issues together.**

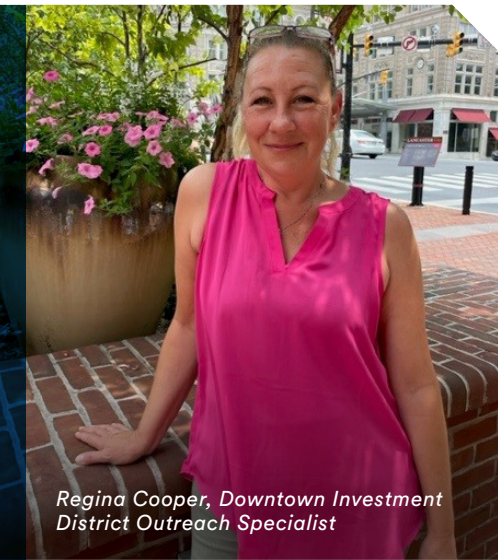
IT'S OKAY TO SAY "NO" TO PANHANDLING

AGGRESSIVE PANHANDLING

or begging is illegal and carries a fine of up to \$600. A better way to help is by contributing to or volunteering for charities and organizations with outreach programs qualified to help those in need.

The following organizations connect vulnerable individuals with essential services like food, clothing, and shelter. Supporting them is a more effective way to help those in need.

- Tenfold: wearetenfold.org
- Water Street Mission: wsm.org
- Lancaster County Homelessness Coalition: lchra.com
- The United Way of Lancaster County: uwlanc.org
- Lancaster County Food Hub: lancasterfoodhub.org
- Community Action Partnership of Lancaster County: caplanc.org



Regina Cooper, Downtown Investment District Outreach Specialist

Homelessness Outreach in Downtown Helps Our Most Vulnerable Communities

THE DOWNTOWN INVESTMENT DISTRICT OUTREACH SPECIALIST has made great progress referring unsheltered community members to shelter and rehabilitative services, reporting nearly 500 unique interactions with individuals since January 2023. In the past 18 months, almost 60 individuals have accepted some level of shelter or housing and another 30 individuals have accepted help into a rehabilitation facility for addiction treatment.

The work of the Outreach Specialist is critical to improving the quality of life for our most

vulnerable population while also improving conditions for our downtown businesses and residents. In our survey last year of DID property owners, we learned that stakeholders wanted to expand the coverage of the Outreach Specialists from the current five days a week to seven. Because of this, we are exploring grant opportunities for the role's expansion to provide for additional homeless outreach in the DID.

PROGRAMMING

Lancaster County Convention Center Summer Event Attendance Soars

THE LANCASTER COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER hosted several significant events in June and July, attracting thousands of visitors to Downtown Lancaster. These events help drive customers to downtown restaurants, retail businesses, and hospitality services. Some events to highlight include:

- **June 17**
Lancaster Pride Festival
5,000 guests
200+ vendors
- **June 29–July 2**
Pentecostal Conference of North American Keralites (PCNAK) Convention
4,500 guests per day
- **July 19–23**
2023 Historicon Convention
3,000 guests per day

The Downtown Investment District provides monthly Convention Center updates to our merchant community help businesses prepare for the influx of visitors.

Celebrate Lancaster Rescheduled for August 18

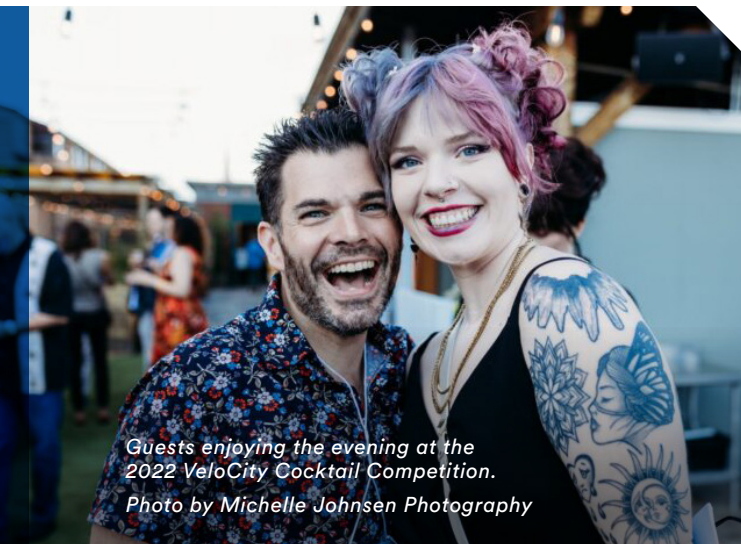
AFTER POSTPONING due to inclement weather, The City of Lancaster has rescheduled Celebrate Lancaster for Friday, August 18. The theme of this year's celebrating is HONORING UMOJA. Umoja, meaning unity is Swahili, is the spirit of community. The City of Lancaster and Crispus Attucks are working together to make this year's Celebrate Lancaster an even bigger celebration of Lancaster City's residents and their cultures by celebrating the feeling of Umoja and its connection to African American culture.

Special Event Programming in the DID Parks

TO HELP ENSURE THE PARKS in the DID remain a valuable amenity for all, consider ways that you can use the park for your next special event or activity. Special events and programming bring people together and make Lancaster a vibrant place for residents, visitors, and businesses. The Lancaster Office of Promotion has recently streamlined their permit application process to make it as easy as possible to host an event or activity with public benefit on City property. Explore how you can reserve a space at cityoflanasterpa.com/loop and be a part of the solution to a thriving and vibrant park system.

Fall 2023 Restaurant Week is Back

LANCASTER CITY RESTAURANT WEEK returns. Mark your calendars for October 9–October 15, 2023 for the City's celebration of our restaurants and eateries. Participating restaurants will offer special deals or menu items to encourage dining in Lancaster City.



Guests enjoying the evening at the 2022 VeloCity Cocktail Competition.
Photo by Michelle Johnsen Photography



Sponsor **VeloCity** and help move our City forward

VELOCITY IS SEPTEMBER 28 5PM AT TELLUS 360 and tickets go on sale August 1. The Cocktail Competition and Fashion Show return to headline the event. New this year is a silent auction. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Visit lanastercityalliance.org to become a sponsor, purchase a ticket, or donate a Lancaster City themed auction item for the event.

COMMUNICATIONS

Make Sure You're in the Know

THE DOWNTOWN INVESTMENT DISTRICT is committed to providing you with relevant information and updates regarding event programming, public safety, and outreach efforts downtown. To stay informed, please sign up for our email alerts by emailing info@teamlanc.org.

Summer Merchant Meetings **Celebrate** and Inform



The June Merchant Meeting honored Lancaster City businesses with milestone anniversaries spanning one to 50 years of doing business in the City of Lancaster.

OUR JULY MERCHANT MEETINGS FEATURED

a discussion on how small businesses can optimize the economic impact of the thousands of convention-goers at the Lancaster County Convention Center. Panelists from the Convention Center and two City restaurants shared their tips to plan and prepare for visitors. At our June meeting, we honored several Lancaster City businesses for meeting business milestones from one to 50 years of doing business in the City. Congratulations to these Lancaster City businesses!

01 YEAR

"X" Marks the Spot
4E's Latin Cuisine
Akhi Sushi
Bar 1888
Butter & Bean
Flavors of Morocco
J. Hilburn
Let's Roll
Pizzeria 211
Pocket Books Shop
Proof of Lancaster
Savoy Truffle
Truth & Style

05 YEARS

Cabalar Meat Co.
Chellas Arepa Kitchen
Deli Grassi
Farbo Co.
Farm2Table Creations
National Barbershop
Oola Bowls
Redeux Vintage
Shot and Bottle
The Common Wheel
Bike Shop
The Green Room
Organic Salon

10 YEARS

Buona Tavola
Modern Art
Petals with Style
Pureblend Tea
Salon 717
Subway
The Black Comb
Trust Performing Arts Center

15 YEARS

Lancaster Science Factory
Launch Music Conference
Dreams Collide Tattoo
La Costena Restaurant
PA Guild of Craftsmen

20 YEARS

Green Circle Organics
Shumaker PTD

50 YEARS

The Goodie Shoppe
The H&H Group

Exciting New Businesses in the Downtown Investment District

January to July 2023

Help us welcome these exciting new businesses to the Downtown Investment District. We hope you agree, the DID is the place to be.



Owners of Babylon Kebab Grill with Jeremy Young, Director of Community and Economic Development at Lancaster City Alliance.

- **Sacred Yes Tattoo**
45 North Market Street
(The Shops at Reilly Bros. & Raub)
- **EsoArts Lancaster**
317 North Queen Street
- **Mekatos Eatery**
100 South Queen Street
(Southern Market)
- **Two Poodles Bagels**
228 North Prince Street
- **Babylon Kebab Grill**
52 North Queen Street, Suite 7A
(Place Marie Mall)
- **Passerine**
114 North Prince Street
- **Lancaster Pie and Coffee**
136 North Prince Street
- **Bench Mark Program**
102 South Prince Street
- **La Estrella Restaurante**
126 North Prince Street
- **RichStitch Embroidery**
44 West King Street
- **Hamilton Watch Co.**
147 North Duke Street

Key Development Activity in the DID since January 2023

PROJECT	LOCATION	STATUS
New Lancaster Public Library	151 North Queen Street	Completed
The Intel (Mixed-Use; Adaptive Reuse: Ground Floor Retail, 45 Market-Rate Apartments)	8 West King Street	Completed
Landis Place on King (Mixed-Use; New Construction: Ground-Floor Restaurant, 82 Affordable Market-Rate Apartments)	239 West King Street	Completed
202 North Queen (Mixed-Use; New Construction: Ground-Floor Retail, 142 Market-Rate Apartments)	202 North Queen Street	Under Construction
Binns Park Renovations/Upgrades	100 Block of North Queen Street (West Side)	Under Construction
347 North Queen (Mixed-Use: Ground-Floor Retail, 72 Market-Rate Apartments)	347 North Queen Street	Under Construction

Did you know?

THE DOWNTOWN INVESTMENT DISTRICT is overseen by an 11-member Board of Directors. There is an Executive Director to manage the DID plan, finances, budget, and collection of the DID financial assessment from property owners. The DID and the Executive Director is overseen by the Lancaster City Alliance, a non-profit organization based in the City. To learn more, visit lancastercityalliance.org.

2022-2023 DOWNTOWN INVESTMENT DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS:

Crystal Weaver, Chair

Teddy Boucard,
Vice Chair

James J. Wagner,
Treasurer

Nancy Neff, Secretary

Alicia Byler

Christopher Delfs

Joseph M. Donaldson

Jami Rhynes

Mark Stoner

Bernard Truong

Sara Tuscher

Downtown Dollars

HELP KEEP THE SPENDING POWER IN THE CITY, Downtown Dollars make great gifts. Go to visitlancastercity.square.site to purchase.



LIKE WHAT YOU SEE? Visit lancastercityalliance.com to donate, volunteer, or join our mailing list.

LANCASTER
**DOWNTOWN
INVESTMENT**
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