



Harrison Common, Summer 2011

LEARN MORE ABOUT WICK NEIGHBORS

What is Wick Neighbors?

Wick Neighbors, Inc. is an independent, non-profit community development corporation charged with spearheading the Wick District-Smoky Hollow mixed-use urban neighborhood development (WD-SH). A private-sector initiative, WD-SH is a long-term project guided by a 40-member Board of Directors.

How did Wick Neighbors begin?

In 2001, leadership from Wick Avenue religious and cultural institutions, Youngstown State University and Andrews Avenue businesses recognized the potential for reinvestment in Smoky Hollow. By 2002, the Wick Neighbors planning group was created with a common goal to make the Wick District a cornerstone of community revitalization efforts in Youngstown and the greater Mahoning Valley.

What is meant by the term “Wick District”?

The Wick District is a business, cultural, educational, religious and residential district that borders downtown Youngstown to the south and YSU to the west. The district’s recently expanded technical boundaries are: North Heights Blvd. on the north; Belmont Avenue to the west; Andrews Avenue to the east and Wood Street on the south.

How is Wick Neighbors funded?

Wick Neighbors, Inc. is funded primarily by membership contributions, major donors, foundations and grants. To date, the organization has received support from more than 300 individuals, major donors and foundations.

Why should I become a member?

Being a member of Wick Neighbors, Inc. is an investment in community and neighborhood revitalization. By supporting WNI, you are participating in bringing together our larger community to express a common voice in building healthier and more competitive neighborhoods in greater Youngstown. By joining, you will help shape the larger economic and civic agenda for neighborhood reinvestment throughout the city. Members receive regular newsletters, web access to the latest information and activities in the Wick District, invitations to special events and are provided with the opportunity to serve on special committees that will directly impact the direction of the organization.

One component is making sure that we have urban housing so you can live in the city, you can access the arts and sports within the city, but yet easily access some of the other big cities in the region and some of the research and development that’s going on all over the region. When people see what’s happening at Smoky Hollow, I think they begin to see the concept that this is all tying together and urban housing is a big part of it.

Congressman Tim Ryan

Who might want to live in the redeveloped Smoky Hollow?

Living in the Wick District appeals to a wide range of individuals, from young adults to empty-nesters—all those who see the benefits of living in an authentic and walkable urban setting. Residents will benefit from a myriad of education, cultural and entertainment opportunities available within walking distance. Close proximity to Wick Avenue, YSU and downtown Youngstown provides residents with access to music and theater productions, art and history museums, library programs and services, continuing education, church services and events, public lectures, restaurants and sporting events.

Will the Wick District be safe?

In addition to Youngstown police and fire protection, the Wick District benefits from its proximity to YSU, which annually ranks as among the safest college campuses in Ohio. Courtyard Apartments, YSU’s student housing complex, is located in the Smoky Hollow neighborhood. The YSU police department, which has the same authority as Youngstown police, regularly patrols the area.

When will construction begin?

Urban neighborhood redevelopment is more complex than new residential development in suburban communities and involves many layers of collaboration and cooperation. Construction is the final step in an extensive process. Community development corporations must complete numerous tasks including engineering, design, infrastructure studies, public approvals, land acquisition, financing and predevelopment work before construction can begin. In Smoky Hollow, infrastructure engineering and design are complete with final plans ready to present to the city for approval. Once we get city approval the area is ready for development. Continued member and donor support ensures that the community will realize its vision of resurrecting a safe, attractive neighborhood for living, working, learning and worshipping in the heart of the city.