

See Lancaster Begins Façade Improvement Program
By: Nancy B. Howell, Volunteer for See Lancaster

The Façade Improvement Program is just one of the exciting programs the new director of See Lancaster, Frank Keel, has been working on with community leaders. With a strong Design Committee, headed by Kelly Pittman of Olde English Interiors, the guidelines have been written and are being reviewed by the board. Things should be in place shortly for the first applicants. Two businesses have already expressed interest.

The purpose of the program is to provide an economic incentive to renovate building facades in the original historic Main Street areas. It encourages good design projects that capitalize on the rehabilitation of existing properties paired with the introduction of compatible new design. The program assists with the funding of approved designs that follow their guidelines.

See Lancaster follows the four points of the Main Street Program as specified by the National Trust for Historic Preservations Main Street Center: organization, promotion, economic development, and design. Their guidelines state that design is enhancing the visual quality of downtown and that attention must be given to all elements of the historic district: historic buildings, storefronts, public improvements, landscaping, window and merchandise displays as well as the general cleanliness of the area.

Lancaster County is fortunate to have had all three Main Street areas involved in Streetscapes over the past years. Public improvements are certainly an asset, but visually appealing storefronts are also. The City of Lancaster will be the first of the three historic Main Streets to begin the Façade Program. Once Heath Springs and Kershaw have their committees in place, funds will be sought to establish Façade Programs for them also.

For further details about this program contact See Lancaster at 286-1145.

Footnote: "Partners In Promotions" is a new venue of See Lancaster. The first collaboration was with the LCCA Arts Expedition in September. See Lancaster is now assisting with such upcoming events as the City of Lancaster's Halloween Festival, The County Wide Mardi Gras and the City Christmas Parade. For updates check the web site at www.SeeLancaster.org.