



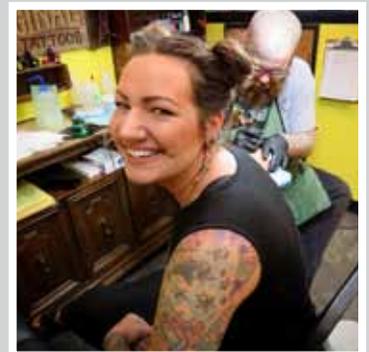
FEDERAL HILL

A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT

Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network

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A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT

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INTRODUCTION

In 2017 the Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network (SSJNN) agreed to work with a group of business and building owners interested in revitalizing the commercial district around the intersection of 26th and Peach Streets.

Once a thriving commercial district, this area has suffered from disinvestment and neglect in recent decades, until recently, when several property and business owners determined this historically independent shopping district was a prime location for eclectic shops, service businesses and residences. After organizing district-wide “shop small” and “shop local” events, the SSJNN was asked to assist in the development of the district.

SSJNN pursued a grant from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (ECGRA) to assist with preparing a strategic plan to help focus the efforts of the interested business and property owners. The grant application was submitted and a grant was awarded to prepare a brief strategic plan that would identify goals and prioritize strategies. A portion of the grant and its matching funds were also to be used to begin implementing safety and security improvements within the commercial district.

Finally, a parallel goal was to utilize the resulting Strategic Plan as a marketing tool to entice additional businesses and property owners to participate in building the district, and to attract funding from agencies with resources available to address revitalization of commercial districts.

OF ERIE'S FEDERAL HILL

PURPOSE

The SSJNN started working in neighborhood development in 1999 in the Little Italy neighborhood on the west side of Erie. Little Italy encompasses the area broadly defined between 16th and 19th Streets and between Plum and Sassafras Streets. Within a few years, SSJNN services expanded westward to Raspberry Street, as well as north to the 14th Street railroad tracks and 26th Street becoming its southern-most border.

In 2014, the SSJNN further expanded its service footprint across the core of Erie to East Avenue, addressing roughly the same north-south boundaries (14th Street to 26th Street), and opened a satellite office on East

26th Street. SSJNN developed a strategic plan for the under-served, eastern-most neighborhood in this new service area, the "Eastside Multicultural Community."

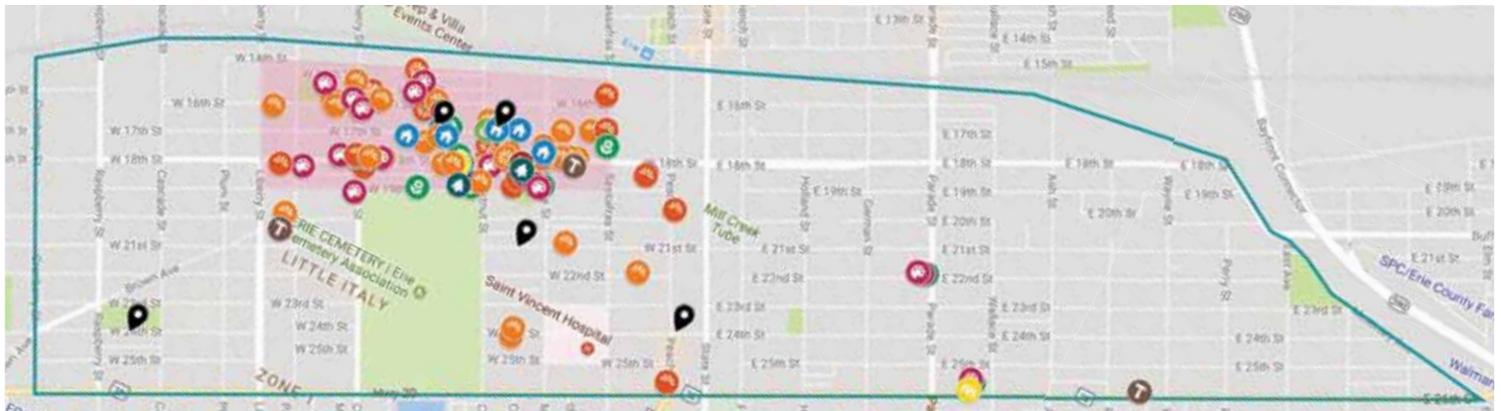
Additionally, supporting partnerships and activities were pursued with existing organizations in neighborhoods within this larger footprint, such as façade grants with business owners in Mid Town, or joint programming with BLOOM Collaborative in Center City.

This new target area at 26th and Peach is adjacent to Little Italy on its north, and lies within the expanded SSJNN service area.

Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network Neighborhood Revitalization Projects

KEY:

-  Gardens
-  Greenspace
-  Public Art
-  Genesis Properties Affordable Rentals
-  Facade Grants
-  Home Repair Grants
-  2018 Projects



MISSION

The Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network (SSJNN) sponsored by the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, provides leadership, advocates for local residents and partners with the broader community to develop opportunities for both personal growth and neighborhood revitalization. As one of the lead non-profit community development organizations in the city of Erie, the SSJNN works to create communities that are economically viable, safe, healthy, and welcoming in the city of Erie.

The SSJNN works to:

- Promote neighborhood pride and a positive image by creating an attractive and aesthetically pleasing place that is safe, friendly, clean, affordable, exciting, and viable.
- Incorporate the various ethnic groups living in the neighborhood into a community that provides needed services, educational opportunities, art classes, self-help programs, farmers market and healthy food options, transportation assistance, and other activities to enable existing residents and immigrants to access opportunities and learn how to succeed within the City.
- Preserve and grow the neighborhood economy by assisting existing businesses, encouraging entrepreneurship, matching entrepreneurship and technology needs of residents with existing resources in the community, assisting economic development partners with recruiting new businesses to the neighborhood, and otherwise serving as a connection between residents and immigrants and opportunities within the greater Erie area.
- Enhance community partnerships by facilitating opportunities for collaboration and coordination among residents, private and public partners, institutions, and civic organizations to best promote the health and vitality of the neighborhood and its residents.
- Serve as the go-to resource for members and prospects by staying abreast of programs and incentives, regulations, available properties, demographic data, and other information needed by residents and businesses.
- Develop and/or coordinate neighborhood revitalization efforts including reduction of crime, development of affordable housing, housing rehabilitation, and streetscape improvements.



DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

Through the region’s history, the neighborhood at the intersection of 26th and Peach Streets has been known as “South Erie,” the “South Hill,” “Federal Hill” and “Eagle Village” (see appendix C). In 2017, the district’s business owners collectively organized the “Independence Hill Collaborative of Erie., LLC, d.b.a. Federal Hill.”

The district is defined as 19th Street on the north to Hill Street (just south of 26th Street) on the south, and from State Street on the east to Myrtle Street on the west. However, the focus for initial improvement is the commercial district on Peach Street, from Hill Street at the south, and to St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, just north of 23rd Street. (See appendix A.)

It should be noted that Peach Street is the major thoroughfare through the district. Peach Street becomes a one-way street at 26th Street and continues as one-way to the north. Major roadway improvements are underway along Peach Street south of the district. This improvement project will install new signalization at the Peach and 26th Street intersection, including new mast arms, pedestrian crossing and traffic

signals, as well as street resurfacing as far north as 24th Street. This project should be completed in 2018.

As a key gateway into Downtown Erie, enhancing this district benefits not only Federal Hill business and property owners, but also visitors, employees, and shoppers heading to Downtown Erie.



PROCESS

Several meetings were held with interested business and property owners beginning early 2018 to determine major concerns and issues of the commercial district. As the success of the Elm Street Neighborhood Revitalization program across the Commonwealth is well noted, the results of these meetings were organized into the same, five, program categories used by the SSJNN for Little Italy and Eastside Multicultural Community neighborhood development:

Clean, Safe and Green • Neighbors and Economy • Design Image & Identity • Sustainable Organization

Meetings were held with various public agencies to provide information on the district for potential funding and to raise awareness of the district revitalization efforts. Representatives from the City's Planning, Economic Development, and Traffic Engineering departments made site visits, as did representatives from ECGRA. These meetings resulted in further communications with officials with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), the Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority (EMTA), the Mayor's office, the Erie Parking Authority, the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Erie, Erie Arts & Culture, and Bridgeway Capital to name a few, regarding specific issues and concerns.

STAKEHOLDER PRIORITIES

The district business and property owners, with the assistance of the SSJNN, identified five short-term priorities to assist with selection of key projects for immediate funding. These five priorities are:

- Priority 1: Adequate Lighting
- Priority 2: Surveillance/Security Coverage
- Priority 3: Parking Demarcation and Traffic Calming
- Priority 4: District Image and Identity; Branding
- Priority 5: Community Involvement

Subsequent meetings and surveys refined and expanded these priorities with more specificity. A name for the organization was established: Independence Hill Collaborative of Erie, d.b.a. 'Federal Hill', and the organization was incorporated as an LLC in early 2018. Officers were designated, a bank account was opened, and strategic planning began in earnest.



STRATEGIC GOALS AND PRIORITIES

This Strategic Plan was completed in August 2018 to help focus the efforts of property and business owners to achieve key goals, and to identify potential funding sources and partners. Funds for the Plan were from ECGRA, SSJNN, a fund raiser, a local event in 2017; the City, and Dufford Terrace. Jeff Kidder, AIA, of Kidder Wachter Architecture and Design, was retained to graphically illustrate the recommended improvements to the district.

Goals and strategies have been divided into the five Elm Street categories as follows:

CLEAN, SAFE & GREEN

“How safe and pleasant people perceive an area to be is arguably the most important factor in the neighborhood’s health. Perception and reality often sometimes differ, and a neighborhood with relatively little crime but an unsafe image will experience problems with attracting new residents and businesses and in motivating current residents and businesses to stay, buy homes, and invest long-term.” - PA Elm Street

Activities that provide for a cleaner, safer, and greener neighborhood are critical to the overall success of the district. Spearheading clean-up programs, recruiting volunteers to spruce up the neighborhood, and educating residents about plantings and gardening, all help keep the district clean, green and safe. Recommendations for IHCE include:

- The cleanliness of the district, especially along Peach Street, is not a huge issue, but one that can easily be addressed with the installation of **decorative trash receptacles** at key locations along Peach Street. A specific design, possibly the IHCE logo, could be added to the trash receptacles to help promote the image of the area.
 - A select number of **recycling receptacles** could also be added, preferably matching and attached to some of the trash receptacles.
- Greening up the district would help add aesthetic appeal, shade during the hot summer months, and opportunities for seasonal decorations.
 - Streetscaping along Peach Street is desirable to help green up the thoroughfare. The Downtown Streetscape Master Plan has many ideas to accomplish this.
 - A **community garden** should be considered, with potential locations in the greenspace at Bay City OrthoCare or at St. John’s Church.



- o Safety is a perceived problem for the district, and sometimes a real problem. To address safety, these issues should be addressed:
 - **Street lighting** is needed to brighten up the area and discourage mischievous behavior. (Reference streetscaping)
 - **Lighting on individual buildings** and in private parking lots is a short-term solution to lighting up the area. Specifications are needed so that electrical companies can bid on installing lighting on select buildings. A family of lighting fixtures needs to be selected. Webber Electric, located within the district, and design firms can help with this effort.
 - **Security cameras** are needed. A security camera assessment is underway to identify the best locations for the cameras, and funds are available to begin purchase and installation. Bay City OrthoCare already has six security cameras on its building.

- o A **Neighborhood Watch** group could be started in the district. The SSJNN has a very successful watch group in Little Italy and could help establish one here.
 - **Slowing down traffic** on Peach Street is critical, as mentioned earlier. Calming efforts should concentrate on environmental and design issues as opposed to relying on traffic signals and stop signs.



NEIGHBORS & ECONOMY

“Underlying economic factors, such as employment rates and homeownership levels, heavily influence neighborhood health. Obviously, low income and high unemployment can lead to lower homeownership rates and to negligible property upkeep. Income levels also have been shown to influence crime rates. U.S. Department of Justice statistics show that as income drops, the likelihood of becoming a victim of personal crime rises. Anecdotally, in the field of community revitalization, stories of the decline of a block or neighborhood in conjunction with an increase in criminal activity are common.” - PA Elm Street

In order to improve the economy of the district, to strengthen the quality of housing and commercial buildings, and to develop a strategy to foster the viability of the area, the following recommendations are made:

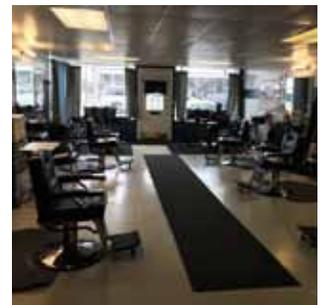
- o The IHCE and its partners should strive to **attract private investors** to the district to own and operate buildings and businesses, as well as residences. There have been a few new investors in the area recently, but more are needed. Success will help attract new investment.

- o This is also one of the City's target areas for economic development assistance.
 - Various City department and authority representatives can **meet with business owners** to discuss a variety of issues including identification of available resources, workforce issues, strategic planning, innovation, capital and finance, land and buildings. The City's new micro grant program could help future businesses. **Formal presentations** can be made to individuals or groups of area businesses.
 - City and other economic development partners should be asked to make presentations to existing businesses regarding programs and efforts to make businesses in the district more successful.



- o Private investment firms should be made aware of the district and its plans for the future. For example, Bridgeway Capital has invested in some district businesses already.
- o IHCE is located in a food desert, as are all of the downtown and adjacent neighborhoods. A farmers' market has been discussed as a possible project and St. Paul's Church is willing to spearhead this type of effort. It is recommended that IHCE coordinate and learn from the SSJNN farmers' market in Little Italy, and complement rather than compete with that market.
 - IHCE should participate with the citywide effort regarding making fresh foods available to the inner city areas of Erie.
 - IHCE should participate in and help organize a City-wide **Coffee Tour**.

- o A **market analysis** should be conducted of the area to determine what types of businesses and services could be successful if located here.
 - Some active businesses in the district include: clothing store, boutique, barber, salon, construction company, TV repair, small grocery store, Bay City OrthoCare, day care, second hand shop, and an apartment complex with 34 units and 100% occupancy. (See Appendix B.)
 - IHCE should identify empty buildings and/or lots, and identify businesses that are desired so that a **recruitment program** can be started.



- o IHCE should identify potential partners in the district, and develop relationships with them. This process has already started with the City, SSJNN, ECGRA, Erie Arts & Culture, and EMTA. IHCE may want to touch base with Erie Downtown Partnership, Braendel's, Erie Redevelopment Authority, St. Vincent's, Sarah Reed, Dufford Place, Northwest Bank, Chamber of Commerce/Growth Partnership, Visit Erie, Scott Funeral Home, and the Blood Bank.



- o Once the district has more to attract others, IHCE should work with local providers to start a **trolley service** for tourists, going from Peach and 26th Streets to the waterfront and back.

DESIGN

“The character and overall feel of a neighborhood and its streets are often what make it special and set it apart. The familiar appearance of its houses (or shops) can signal the unique atmosphere of the community, not only to its own residents but also to citizens in the larger region. This area of the Elm Street Approach includes consideration of the features that are visible when walking or driving through the neighborhood.”

- PA Elm Street

Many of the improvements needed within the IHCE district pertain to design elements, which are critical to creating the image and identity needed to become a special place that will entice visitors and shoppers, as well as new businesses, residents, and investors. Design issues include:

- o Additional public parking is needed, preferably off-street.
 - The lack of **parking demarcation lines** on the street allows people to park anywhere, including in front of drives, fire hydrants, and pedestrian crossings. IHCE has met with the City’s traffic engineer regarding this issue and it was agreed that the situation would be studied and addressed when possible. The two blocks of Peach Street (26th to 24th) are scheduled for resurfacing this year, so no line painting will be done until the resurfacing is completed.
 - Bay City OrthoCare is willing to let the public use its parking lot on weekends when their offices are closed.
 - St. John’s Church can provide public parking, one block away.
 - There are a couple of vacant lots that could be used for public parking, if funding were available for acquisition and construction. Maintenance responsibility and funding would have to be identified, plus current storm water management regulations will substantially increase the cost of any new parking lot.
 - Old parking meters from downtown could be used to help **delineate parking spaces** and to raise funds for the district. The Parking Authority is willing to provide old meters to the district when they become available. These meters could be painted in colorful and whimsical designs for added attractions.
 - IHCE should have conversations with landlords regarding **designating off-street parking** spaces for their tenants and not allowing parking in front of businesses for extended periods of time. This may also become part of the membership agreement.
 - If a new public parking area becomes available, IHCE should consider a permitting process for long-term parking for residents, business owners, and employees.



- Gateway entrances into the district and Downtown Erie are needed.
 - The Peach and 26th Streets intersection improvement project includes new mast arms and signals. These will help create a gateway entrance into the district from the south.
 - A **mural** on Hoffman’s building on the northeast side of the intersection could also help identify the district with artwork. (A grant request is underway.)
 - Signage identifying the district could also be placed on 24th or 19th Streets near Peach Street, to identify the area on the north.



- Delineation of **pedestrian crossing** areas is critical to the safety of people crossing Peach Street, which experiences heavy and fast moving traffic at most times of the day and evening. Curb ramps are located at most intersections; however, the lack of demarcation from those ramps across the street are lacking, and sometimes the curb ramps are not directly across the street from each other.
 - The City is willing to paint the required white lines from curb ramp to curb ramp, once the street is resurfaced.
 - IHCE could then use a variety of colors and designs inside the white lines to add artistic elements and hopefully slow traffic down a bit. A grant request has been submitted for this project.
 - Sherwin Williams has agreed to donate some paint for projects in the district, which could help with this effort.
- A comprehensive signage system is required to address businesses, the district itself, public parking lots, on-street parking (including some 30 minute parking signs), private parking areas, pedestrian crossings, etc. The City traffic engineer is willing to investigate all current signage related to traffic, and to recommend a better system that better addresses traffic needs in the district.
 - **Common street address numbers** on buildings could be used to help unify the area and more clearly identify specific businesses in a uniform manner.
 - Old signs that are not historic or contributing to the area should be removed.



- o Storefront facades need to be addressed to portray a more unified, eclectic, and inviting environment.
 - A **color scheme** for the area should be considered.
 - SSJNN could request grant funds from ECGRA (which would require local matching funds) to assist property owners with **façade renovations**.
 - Funds could also be provided through a grant to retain an architect to assist building and business owners with revisions to their facades to make them more appealing and vibrant.



- o **Window treatments** need to be addressed—both the number of signs in storefront windows and the window treatments, or lack thereof, in upper floor windows. This could be addressed through some educational sessions with business owners and residents.

- o Artistic elements should be added to the district to help create a unique and special place. Several ideas have been discussed, many of which are low cost.

- A mural is being considered for Hoffman’s building on the 26th Street side. SSJNN has extensive experience with murals, having installed several in the Little Italy neighborhood. A **design contest** could be held to arrive at a desired design and cost. Grants could be pursued to help finance the mural and artist.
- The **decorative parking meters** and the artistic painting of the pedestrian crossings mentioned above will add interesting and unique whimsical elements to the district.
- **Banners** (possibly vertical wavy banners hung from buildings), hanging flower baskets, large flower pots, etc. should be added to create a sense of place. Planting and maintenance of **flower baskets and pots** should be addressed up front, and grant funds pursued for watering and maintenance to assure that the plantings last throughout the summer months and remain attractive.



- o **Streetscaping** along Peach Street in the district needs to be upgraded. There are currently no attractive streetscaping elements on any of the streets in the IHCE area.
 - **Curbs** are in need of repair and/or replacement. The lack of curbs (most are there but the pavement now reaches the tops of them) encourages hazardous parking on the sidewalks, in front of businesses and residences, and in front of driveway curb cuts. The street should be milled down and curbs replaced as needed.
 - **Sidewalks** are irregular, broken, filled with weeds, and otherwise dangerous and difficult to maneuver, especially for elderly and handicapped individuals. They should be replaced.
 - When sidewalks are replaced, spaces for trees should be considered where possible. **Trees** could also be planted on select private properties fronting Peach Street, with the permission of the property owners, to add greenery and shade to the area.
 - Plantings including flower pots and hanging baskets should be added as mentioned above.
 - Old wires on buildings and on poles that are not in use should be removed.
 - One telephone pole on the east side that is severely damaged is scheduled to be replaced.
 - Pedestrian scale, **decorative street lighting** would go a long ways in creating a special place for this district. Although expensive, it should be included in any new streetscaping plans.
 - **Benches** and **trash receptacles** unique to this district should be added in appropriate locations to encourage people to visit and relax, and to keep the area clean.
 - If possible, a **bike lane** would be nice, but may not be possible with the existing traffic configuration. Any future changes should consider a bike lane, as well as bike racks.
 - An **EMTA bus stop** should be considered near Learning Ladder Day Care. This would likely require two-way traffic on the street, so it may be a longer-term goal.
- o Traffic volume and speed are huge detriments to conducting successful business on this section of Peach Street. The new mast arms and any design elements that IHCE installs may help slow traffic a bit, but since the traffic turns into one-way at 26th, and is all downhill, the tendency to speed is high.
 - Long term, it would be nice if the City could convert Peach Street back to **two-way traffic**, as many downtowns have done across the country. This could help slow traffic down and make it more amenable for a business district. This would require that Sassafras Street also be returned to two-way traffic. Not an easy solution, but certainly one that is worth talking about with the City.



IMAGE & IDENTITY

“Image focuses upon perceptions of the neighborhood by non-residents: Main Street/downtown business owners, regional citizens, city employees and local officials, and residents of adjacent or nearby neighborhoods. Identity describes how residents view or feel about their own neighborhood; for example, whether they view it as safe, friendly, and attractive. It is not uncommon for the identity of a neighborhood to contradict its image in the region.” - PA Elm Street

- Creating an exciting and attractive image for the district, as well as an identity that is inviting and enticing to customers and new investors, is critical to the overall success of the district. Some steps that the IHCE can take include:
 - Local artists should work on a **logo and tag line** for area. Something similar to Little Italy and the Eastside Multicultural Community logos would unify the three neighborhoods assisted by the SSJNN.
- District events on a regular basis will bring awareness and consumers to the area. Advertising these events and assuring that visitors feel comfortable when they are here is critical to return visits.
 - IHCE is considering a **summer festival**, which could become an annual event.
 - **Flagship Fleas** are planned for every second Saturday of the month from May through September, and are becoming more popular with each event.
 - St. John’s Church is a willing participant for special events. The church can provide meeting space, gym, stage, classrooms, and activity space.
 - The new coffee business will include late night activities on Thursdays through Saturdays to generate positive **evening experiences** in the area.
 - A soup kitchen during holidays is being considered and could be accomplished at the church.
- IHCE should start marketing the area to the outside world.
 - A brochure exclusively for this district, identifying businesses and their services, would be helpful in **marketing the district** to County residents. These should be distributed to visitor centers, welcome centers, restaurants, hotels and other locations that provide spaces for brochures.
 - Cross promotional activities among businesses should be encouraged.
 - A **website** for IHCE should be created.
 - A calendar of events should be developed and posted on IHCE’s website, once it is developed.



SUSTAINABLE ORGANIZATION

“Long-term, effective neighborhood revitalization necessitates knitting together many varied threads of activity. Factors as distinct as safety, building conditions, income levels, public school performance, cleanliness, and residents’ level of engagement play a significant role in neighborhood stability. Coordinating activities and programs that can identify and address problems across this diverse spectrum calls for an organization capable of operating flexibly and efficiently, often through partnering with other groups and public agencies.” - PA Elm Street

As the Federal Hill organization continues to mature, there are several steps that should be taken to assure its success. These include:

- Several partners have been identified to assist with various aspects of implementation, including Erie Arts & Culture, which could fund art-related projects; St. John’s Church, which could provide up front costs for projects funded by reimbursable grants and provide space for meetings, parking, and other activities; the Redevelopment Authority of Erie, which identifies and acquires blighted properties, demolishes abandoned structures, resells property to viable uses, and can provide other technical assistance; and SSJNN, which is a 501c3 non-profit corporation and can provide grant assistance for specific projects, as well as technical expertise with neighborhood revitalization.
 - IHCE is currently working on bylaws for the organization, including a membership agreement. A **membership structure** and fee system is being explored.
 - IHCE will not pursue 501c3 designation at this time, as it can operate under SSJNN’s 501c3 designation when needed.
 - IHCE is in the process of pursuing Liability and Directors and Officers insurance.
 - Efforts are needed to continue to pursue participation by all property and business owners, as well as residents of the district.
 - SSJNN and IHCE will apply for grant funds to assist with implementation of recommendations from this Plan.



ACTIONABLE PROJECTS

SHORT TERM PROJECTS (next 2 years):

- Lighting on buildings
- Security cameras
- Line painting on streets for parking and pedestrian crossings (after resurfacing)
- Flower baskets, trash receptacles, banners
- Community garden at Bay City OrthoCare
- Stakeholder meetings
- Festival
- Maintain current businesses
- Develop brochure of businesses in area and distribute at stores
- Hold business education session with City
- Meet with each business in district
- Complete a comprehensive signage review and recommendations—Lee Ann
- Develop a logo and tag line
- Pursue common street numbers for all buildings
- Start a parking meter project—use old meters for donations and decorate them

MEDIUM-TERM PROJECTS (2-4 years):

- Mural
- Comprehensive stakeholder involvement
- Start a Farmers Market
- Install a coordinated signage system
- Add more festivals and enhance the farmers' market
- Add 2-4 new businesses
- Pursue media advertising for the district
- Hold several business education sessions
- Develop simple design standards for district
- Acquire a façade grant and start a façade improvement program (ECGRA)
- Identify needed businesses for the district and work with the City to recruit them
- Pursue NAP and NPP with SSJNN
- Pursue an EMTA bus shelter for the district

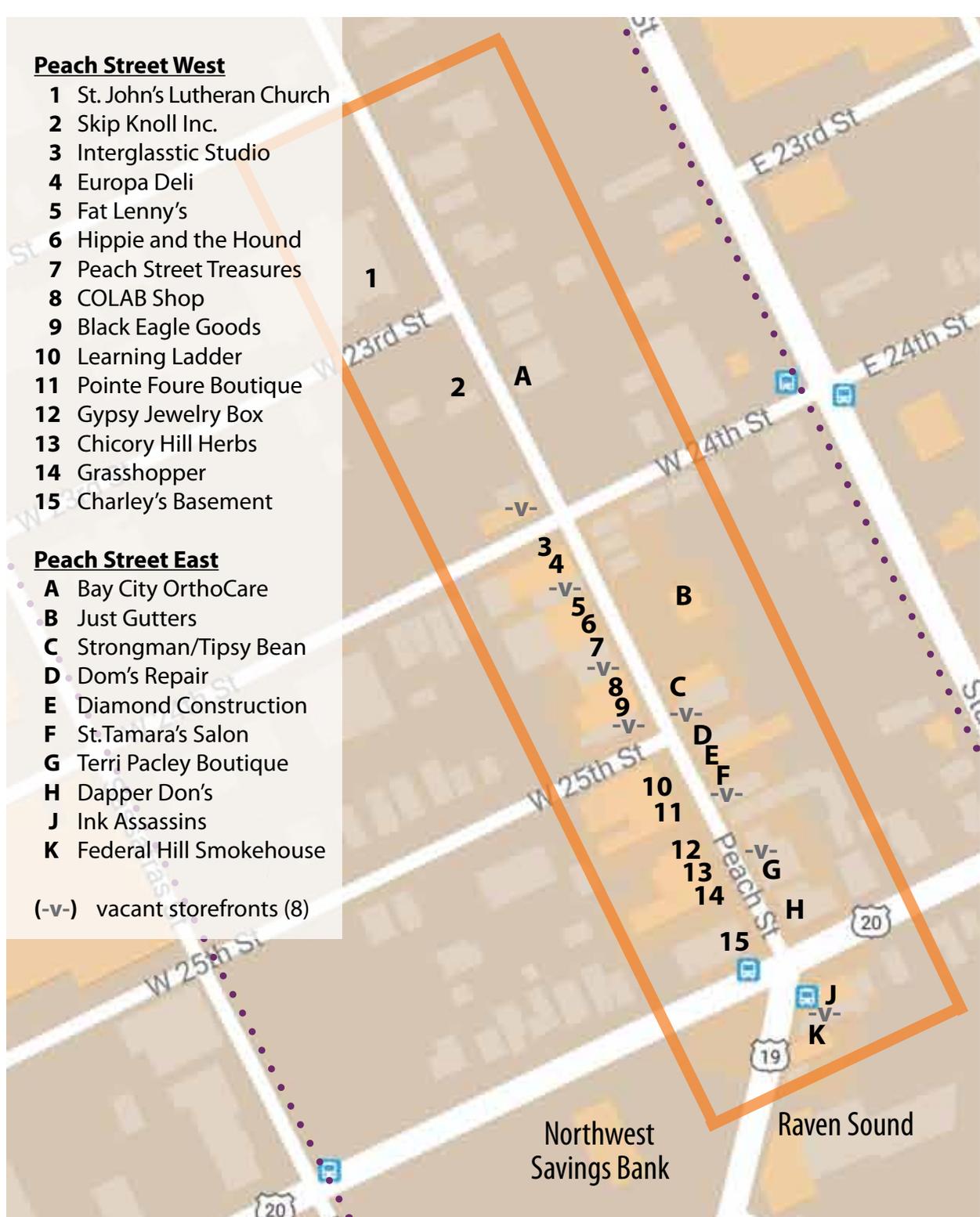
LONGER-TERM PROJECTS (5-10 years):

- Overall streetscaping—pursuing State funding—curbs, sidewalks, trees, line painting, pedestrian crossing signals, signage, etc.
- New parking lot
- Two-way traffic on Peach and Sassafras Streets
- Add more new businesses
- Enhance marketing efforts

APPENDIX A: FEDERAL HILL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT MAP



APPENDIX B: FEDERAL HILL DISTRICT BUSINESSES MAP (August, 2018)



APPENDIX C: HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL HILL DISTRICT



LEFT: "Erie, From Federal Hill"

FROM: *Picturesque America: Or, the Land We Live In. A Delineation by Pen and Pencil of the Mountains, Rivers, Lakes*
Illustration on Steel and Wood, by Eminent American Artist William C. Bryant Appleton, 1872

South Erie began as a small settlement at Peach and 26th Streets in 1812. The settlement was known as "Federal Hill" or "Eagle Village" and was located in Millcreek Township one mile south of the town of Erie. The intersections of the major roadways, the Waterford Turnpike (Peach Street) and Ridge Road (26th Street), was the impetus for settlement and reason for continued growth of Federal Hill and the vicinity.



EXCERPT FROM: HISTORY of ERIE COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA
 By JOHN ELMER REED
 HISTORICAL PUBLISHING COMPANY Topeka — Indianapolis 1925

Federal Hill, sometimes called Eagle Village, was named by George Moore, for the thriving hamlet on the summit of the ridge at Twenty-sixth and Peach streets. Even as early as 1812 a considerable settlement had grown up there. It was noted as having a large number of adherents to the Federal Party living there, called "Federalers." Several stores and public houses were located there from its earliest days, amongst them being a hotel named the "American Eagle," which incited the name "Eagle Village."

It was for years the voting place for Millcreek Township, and many hot political contests occurred there, some of them in the memory of the writer, when the meetings and polls were held in "Schultze's Hall" on the northwest corner of the intersecting streets. In those days Federal Hill was as distinct, and far removed, from the Erie settlement as is now the village of Kearsarge or Belle Valley, and even more so ; for the great forest stretched all the way between with not a break in it. Some of the early residents there were George Moore, Ira Glazier, Dr. P. Faulkner, Captain John Justice, Simeon Dunn, John Sweeney, and Dr. Plara Thayer.

South Erie gradually grew up, partly as the extension of Federal Hill, into a thriving settlement; and when the railroad was built, suddenly found itself physically severed from the community north of that. It quickly developed a character and name of its own, which later ripened into a borough organization in 1866, and when the limits of the City of Erie were extended in 1870, became incorporated in the larger municipality.

Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwest Pennsylvania

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Graphics provided by Federal Hill business owners and staff

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Completed: August 2018

