



**Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley, Inc.**

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## **STREETSCAPING OF NORTHAMPTON STREET'S 600 BLOCK UNDERWAY**

New decorative streetlights and trash receptacles, crosswalks, sidewalks, curbing, trees and benches will transform the 600 block of Northampton Street in Easton's West Ward over the next several weeks, as work has begun on a long-awaited streetscaping project organized by the West Ward Neighborhood Partnership. Mayor Sal Panto, Jr., will participate in an event taking off the project on Friday, July 31, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. in front of the Partnership's office at 668 Northampton Street as construction vehicles rumble in the background. The mayor will be joined by Partnership Manager Gary Bertsch and other principals involved in the project.

The \$360,000 project, approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation nearly 3 years ago, is funded by the federal government through PennDOT's "Hometown Streets" initiative, as well as Easton Hospital and Lafayette Ambassador Bank.

The West Ward Neighborhood Partnership, operated by the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley, serves the area bounded by Sixth Street to the east, 15<sup>th</sup> Street to the west, Butler Street to the south, and Bushkill Creek to the north. The Partnership's core funding is provided by Easton Hospital and Lafayette Ambassador Bank, which are investing \$1 million each over ten years, for which they are receiving tax credits from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. The West Ward Neighborhood Partnership is also Easton's Elm Street Program. To date, more than 150 new trees have been planted, over 50 residential facades have been improved, and nearly 70 sidewalks have been replaced. Funding was provided to the Boys and Girls Club to start and operate the teen center on Northampton Street. Additionally, commercial signs have been upgraded, porches painted and repaired, and murals and mosaics created. The partnership also received a commitment of more than \$700,000 over five years to fund an urban ecology project.