

**South End Neighborhood Visioning Workshop –
Main/Morris/Central Street Project**
February 11, 2003

Table 1

What are the neighborhood's core values?

- Safety
- Small Shops
- Convenient Stores
- Ethnic/Italian Flair
- Open Space but Downtown

How would you describe the neighborhood's desired quality of life?

- Some connectivity to the Basketball Hall of Fame
- Respect the quality of life re: late night activities (bars, etc.)

What features within the neighborhood provide community identity?

- Grapevines
- Gardens
- Homes – Single Family – Garages
- Duplexes or Multi-family homes *not* single family homes
- Frigo's, Mom & Rico's, Red Rose
- 2-story (or more) buildings with apartments above

What attributes of the neighborhood should be preserved?

- Historic integrity of our buildings (no single family capes or ranches)
- Italian markets and restaurants
- No high-rise buildings

What should the project area look like in the next 1-5 years?

- Demolish the remaining factory and plant grass (like the Steiger's lot)
 - Begin with developing the factory lot *then* the lots across Morris Street because the use of the factory lot will dictate the use of the smaller lots
 - Krispy Kreme
 - Morris Street – pedestrian mall (similar to the 'Market Place' behind Johnson's)
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- Small shops with apartments above
 - New site for the South End Community Center and open space and Italian Cultural Center
 - Maybe a medical center above
 - Artist framing studio w/ artists living above
 - Postal substation
 - Pharmacy
 - Connectivity to the Basketball Hall of Fame and the bike path

What ten things would bring about the biggest improvements for the project area?

Vision Statement

Our neighborhood will:

- *Preserve* the historic flavor or our Italian roots by offering convenience, variety of business & residential opportunities with small individual businesses; no large businesses or strip mall type of businesses
- *Enhance* the side streets with window boxes and tree plantings
- *Emphasize & Capitalize* on the Italian ethnicity of our neighborhood and make it a destination
- *Preserve* the desirable existing businesses
- *Promote & Encourage* our young people as well as our elderly residents to partake in intergenerational activities

Table 2

What are the neighborhood's core values?

- Long history of immigrants
- Family type
- Side street – residential, Main Street – businesses

How would you describe the neighborhood's desired quality of life?

- Needs identity
- Drug free
- Better lighting
- Reduction of crime

What features within the neighborhood provide community identity?

- Restaurants
- Bakeries
- Mt. Carmel Society
- Parks
- Unique signage

What attributes of the neighborhood should be preserved?

- Parks
- Statue of Columbus
- Architecture
- Cleanliness
- Accountability for exterior of sites

What should the project area look like in the next 1-5 years?

- Cleaner exteriors
- Better investment in streets and sidewalks
- Renaming of streets to identify neighborhood
- Tie in with the Basketball Hall of Fame

What ten things would bring about the biggest improvements for the project area?

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1. Better use of Emerson Wight Park (on Marble St.)
 2. Local grocery store
 3. Better lighting
 4. Foot patrols by the police
 5. More signage for identity
 6. More investment in streets (asphalt, sidewalks)
 7. Local businesses
 8. All generation community center
 9. Better accountability by business owners (e.g. snow, trash removal)

Vision Statement

The neighborhood would like to be known as a safe ethnically diverse community with an identity that promotes, with an Italian emphasis, fine dining, safe family-oriented housing, and easily accessible through public transportation. The neighborhood would also like to be known as the supporting neighborhood for the Basketball Hall of Fame, and the restaurants, hotels, and banquet facilities that are associated with the Hall. The South End would like to become a premier destination for residential and commercial investors who are interested in bettering and investing in the local area.

Table 3

What are the neighborhood's core values?

- Children and family
- Ethnic character
- Pride, civic-pride –History

How would you describe the neighborhood's desired quality of life?

- Pedestrian access
- Family friendly
- Safe and secure
- Cops walking the street
- Neighborhood voice – strong voice in city government

What features within the neighborhood provide community identity?

- Walking neighborhood
- Maintaining public transportation
- Frigo's, La Fiorentina, Mt. Carmel Church, Zanetti School, Springfield Day Nursery

What attributes of the neighborhood should be preserved?

- Mixed-use commercial and residential buildings
- No absentee owners
- Built out to the sidewalk – businesses and residential properties
- Defined streetscape
- Parks – family focused (but park has problems that need to be fixed)

What should the project area look like in the next 1-5 years?

- Demolition
 - Infrastructure – curbs – lighting – sidewalks
 - Lighting
 - Elderly and school partnerships
 - Sports complex
 - Center for children and families; Planning, educational uses, youth centers, after school programs
 - Park
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- Professional services; dental, doctor, other medical services
 - One stop services
 - Food service, supermarket
 - Owner occupancy
 - Owner-occupied condominiums

What ten things would bring about the biggest improvements for the project area?

1. Increased police protection
2. Increase homeownership
3. Improved infrastructure, lighting
4. Code enforcement improvements
5. Enforce parking regulations, snow removal, bus stops
6. Strong neighborhood support
7. Demolition
8. Clean up properties
9. Police sub-station
10. Family activities

Vision Statement

Develop a neighborhood vision that is encouraging and inviting to families and family oriented businesses. To encourage homeownership and responsible multi-family management. A neighborhood where services for families are accessible affordable and available and that they promote family growth. To make better connections to the riverfront and the numerous South End businesses from not only within the neighborhood but also from the surrounding region.

Table 4

What are the neighborhood's core values?

- Food establishments
- Destination
- Food – quality and local
- Clean appearance
- Historic appearance – Historic character of Main Street
- Community center – senior center
- Safe & secure (perception of)
- Zoning for uses that support the neighborhood
- Cultural centers

How would you describe the neighborhood's desired quality of life?

- Safe neighborhood
- Clean
- Family-owned property (more)
- Cultural diversity – cultural cooperation and respect
- Quality
- Walkability
- Variety of stores

What features within the neighborhood provide community identity?

- Frigo's
- Maintenance of properties
- Owner-occupied units – locally owned businesses
- Bakeries
- Family-owned, small businesses
- Business and residents who are invested in the neighborhood

What attributes of the neighborhood should be preserved?

- Schools – Mt. Carmel Zanetti
- Church
- Restaurants
- Bakeries

What should the project area look like in the next 1-5 years?

- Better lighting
- Spas – health center – “Italian Riviera Spa”
- Bring the crosswalks back
- Ethnic/cultural club for neighborhoods (neighborhood residents) use
- Fewer people loitering
- Fewer package stores and bars
- Better management of patrons from bars and package stores
- Movie theater; more arts and entertainment
- Better sidewalks and pedestrian amenities, especially for children who are walking to/from school
- Demo and clean the Gemini site completely
- Health/medical/tech-industry use – investment in the area
- Outdoor recreation, e.g. skating rink
- High-end owner occupied condominiums (like Stockbridge Court)
- Fire station

What ten things would bring about the biggest improvements for the project area?

1. Change the image of the South End
2. Design uniform lighting
3. Increasing the number of owner-occupied units
4. Increase the green – trees, foliage, etc.
5. Return of community policing (police sub station)
6. A friendlier and welcoming appearance
7. Better sidewalks
8. Increased lighting
9. Make the south End a ‘Gateway”

Vision Statement

We want to go back to the old neighborhood. We want to offer all that the neighborhood needs – food of all kinds, clothes and shoes, hardware. We want more events. We want people to know they are in the South End & that they are safe and welcome. The South End is a destination for our history, our culture and our creativity. We want people to come to the South End and stay. We are the gateway to Springfield.

Table 5

What are the neighborhood's core values?

- Ethnic culture
- Family development
- Keep stores on Main street
- Green space

How would you describe the neighborhood's desired quality of life?

- Less crime – Neighborhood Watch
- Drug free
- Infrastructure renewal: lights, streets (repaving), signs

What features within the neighborhood provide community identity?

What attributes of the neighborhood should be preserved?

What should the project area look like in the next 1-5 years?

- Commercial spaces, office buildings, lawyers, insurance companies
- Health club
- Tennis court
- Italian cultural center
- Neighborhood theater
- Facility for youth activities: bowling alley, skating rink, skate boarding
- Neighborhood drug store, CVS, Walgreens
- Police substation
- Complex with offices, restaurants, Italian cultural center, open space, park, gathering space for neighborhood people, coffee shop, events center, ice cream shop, clothing stores, Italian merchandise store (shoes, handbags, etc.) florist entertainment, bank – a mini-mall

What ten things would bring about the biggest improvements for the project area?

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1. Emerson Wight improvements
 2. Grocery Store
 3. Community policing
 4. Street lighting

Vision Statement

A true neighborhood that offers all (most of them) services that a person living in the South End needs. People get to know the merchants and the merchants get to know the people. This is a true neighborhood.

Generation after generation, residents and businesses alike continue to enjoy the unique integrity that exists in the South End.

This is how it was and this is how should be in the future

Table 6

What are the neighborhood's core values?

- Community
- Integrity
- Ethnicity
- Diversity
- Safety

How would you describe the neighborhood's desired quality of life?

- Safety
- Stores that serve the residents
- Variety of stores
- Forward thinking
- Storefronts 1st level, apartments above (owner-occupied)
- Places for the family and seniors

What features within the neighborhood provide community identity?

- A place for activities
- Decorative lighting
- Residential opportunities for seniors – 2 story, low level buildings
- Restore historic buildings

What attributes of the neighborhood should be preserved?

- Homes
- Family business
- Community pride
- Owner occupied businesses

What should the project area look like in the next 1-5 years?

- Housing for elderly (low level)
 - Adequate parking
 - Common open space
 - New Zanetti school
 - Single family homes on ¼ acre lots
 - Well lit (historic lighting)
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What ten things would bring about the biggest improvements for the project area?

1. Clean up area and plant grass
2. City Hall and City Council support
3. Community policing
4. Private ownership of sites with revenue going back to the City
5. Maintain site until it is developed
6. Parking
7. Police presence at night
8. Survey business owners that aren't present

Vision Statement

The South End will reflect the ethnic diversity of the neighborhood as it is now while incorporating its rich history. This would include owner-occupied housing options for residents (e.g. families seniors, young professionals, etc.) and space for large cultural events and community groups.