



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Jill Chiccarino Beck
814/870-1204
Fax: 814/870-1208
jbeck@erie.pa.us

Renovations in Griswold Park to Get Under Way

ERIE, PA – March 31, 2009 Local contractor, Eriez Construction, will soon begin work in Erie's Griswold Park, located in the heart of the Union Square District, between Peach and Sassafras from 13th to 14th Streets. The Griswold Park will undergo much needed restoration and improvements the City believes will breathe new life into the park, while increasing its usefulness to the community. An updated design will add to the enthusiasm the public has shown for the housing initiative planned for Union Square. We expect this will create new opportunities for partnerships in the revitalization of the neighborhood.

Mayor Sinnott spoke to a group at a groundbreaking this morning that included Griswold neighborhood partners and businesses with regard to the significance of this project and how it affects homeowners moving back into Erie's downtown. Public green space raises the quality of life for those living and working in our downtown community. The improvements to Griswold Park will undoubtedly transform the park to a useful, family friendly, well-designed space for residents, workers and downtown homeowners to enjoy. The scope of work for the Griswold Park project includes: lighting enhancements (21 decorative light poles), a water fountain, expansion of the park's green space (including the removal of a row of parking by the post office), decorative fencing and updated electrical service, which will allow for anticipated events such as open air concerts or the farmers' market that was so well received in Griswold Park.

Project funding has been secured from Community Development Block Grant monies in the amount of \$175,000 as well as funding through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources totaling \$450,000. The project is slated to begin on April 1, 2009 and be completed in June of this year.

The Mercantile Building at 14th and State Streets is the first of several planned housing developments offering new home ownership in the mid-town area. The first residents are expected to move into the revitalized Mercantile Building in May of this year. The City anticipates yet another groundbreaking will soon take place, making way for seven new townhomes bordering Griswold Park in Erie's downtown.

For additional information, please contact Kim Green, Director of Economic and Community Development for the City of Erie, at (814) 870-1275 or kgreen@erie.pa.us .

###