



Group dedicates day to improving 'face' of Lancaster

BY MICHELLE GEORGE • The Eagle-Gazette Staff • May 9, 2010

LANCASTER -- It took nothing more than some Windex, a roll of paper towels and a little bit of elbow grease for Karyl Holt to make a big difference to the Columbian building on W. Main Street in Lancaster.

The building was one of several Holt and her fellow group of volunteers scrubbed clean Saturday as part of Main Street Lancaster's first Downtown Clean-Up Day. More than 50 volunteers spent about three hours wiping down windows, pulling weeds and picking up trash along East Main, Wheeling, Chestnut and Walnut streets.

Their reward at the end of a hard day's work was the satisfaction of knowing they had helped to make downtown look a little bit brighter.

"It's important for people in the community to take pride in their downtown," said Holt, whose task Saturday mostly was washing windows.

"I hope more people get involved so our community can grow and we can get more businesses down here," Holt said.

Main Street Lancaster Board Chairman David Scheffler said he was pleased by the number of people who came out at 8 a.m. Saturday and volunteered to participate in the clean-up.

"Up until last night I had pulling calling me, asking if I still needed volunteers," Scheffler said. "I said, 'sure, come on out, we'll find something for you to do.'"

Scheffler said he thinks anything one can do to help beautify Lancaster's downtown, whether it be pulling weeds or wiping windows, ultimately makes a difference, especially in the eyes of prospective business owners.

"Our downtown is the face of the entire city," Scheffler said. "If the downtown isn't great, people are going to assume the community is the same way."

Volunteer Ryan Burgoon, who helped trim trees, clean alleyways and pull weeds Saturday, agreed that any clean-up effort, big or small, can make a difference.

"People notice when it's messy and they also notice when something has been done to clean it up," he said.

Michelle George can be reached at (740) 681-4342 or mgeorge@nncogannett.com.