

MANCHESTER DAILY EXPRESS

Today's news in 20 minutes.

Neighborhood plans bolstered by big bucks

Bank makes \$12 million available to West Side

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Plans to revitalize the Kelley Street neighborhood got a financial shot in the arm last night when St. Mary's Bank pledged \$11.5 million in loans for business and residential improvements and purchase.

St. Mary's president and CEO Ronald Rioux said when he first heard about plans to re-

vitalize the diverse West Side, it immediately brought to mind original neighborhoods of Franco-Americans that the credit union was formed to help.

"For us to participate in revitalizing this neighborhood with today's residents is our mission coming full circle," Rioux said.

Also coming full circle was Amoskeag Industries, inheritor of the Amoskeag Mills legacy, which pledged an additional \$500,000 to St. Mary's effort

bringing the total amount available to \$12 million.

Loans are expected to be offered at about two points below the prime rate of interest, a significant discount.

The announcement was a smaller part of a larger unveiling of the city's plan that took place at America's Credit Union Museum on Notre Dame Avenue, where more than 30 people gathered to listen to the future of their part of the city.

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Neighborhood

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The museum is housed in the home where St. Mary's opened its first office, and one in the Rimmon Heights neighborhood, which includes Kelley Street.

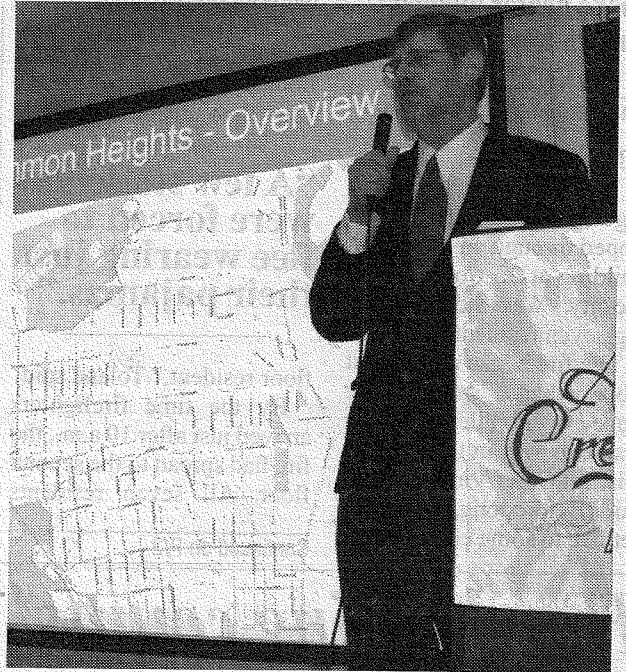
Planning Department executive director Bob MacKenzie said the Kelley Street area is the kickoff point for

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a citywide neighborhood development plan that aims to improve the city parcel by parcel.

Among the points looked at for Rimmon Heights and Kelley Street would be street improvements to slow traffic and make it easier for walkers to take to the streets.

Those improvements would also include walking paths and bike trails to take resi-



Manchester Planning Department director Bob MacKenzie met with West Side residents last night to go over planned improvements to the neighborhood. The meeting also saw the announcement of \$12 million in money available for loans to people and businesses in that area. (Express Photo/Eric Baxter)

dents to new and improved areas, like Martineau Park in McGregorville.

The loans would help build a stock of mixed use businesses and housing, as well a city effort to beautify the streets. There would also be banners and arches delineating the

neighborhood and speaking to its history.

"The idea is we want people to grow up here, live here with their families, and maybe someday retire here," MacKenzie said. "We want to create a healthy and vibrant neighborhood."