

LANCASTER Keeping Current

AN ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE HOURGLASS FOUNDATION

Lancaster County Smart Growth Issues **January 6, 2004**

FYI

GROWING TOGETHER – HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF CENTRAL

LANCASTER COUNTY – *Growing Together* will create a common vision and a multi-municipal comprehensive plan for Central Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The project was initiated by the Lancaster Inter-Municipal Committee, a council of governments that encourages inter-municipal cooperation. The plan will address land use, housing, transportation, community facilities, parks and open space, natural and historic resources, and other issues in our community.

Please participate by attending one of the Growing Together Meetings. Public involvement is an integral part of creating this plan. As a participant at one of the four public meetings you have an opportunity to share your ideas about the future. You can help create a framework for future development that preserves and enhances the area's unique qualities. Make your voice heard. Don't miss out on this opportunity to set the agenda for the future of Central Lancaster County. For more information visit:
www.co.lancaster.pa.us/planning/growingtogether.

SUPREME COURT DECISION UPHOLDS JOINT PLANNING – (1/5/04) The Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision upholds an agreement that directs development to more densely populated municipalities while protecting neighboring agricultural land. The court voted 7-0 to uphold the three-municipality zoning pact limiting development in Bucks County. Janet Milkman of 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania stated, "The message is very strong that the courts support multi-municipal planning as a legal means of meeting environmental, development and agricultural-preservation goals."

ELM STREET PROGRAM – A \$5 million grant package to revive neighborhoods surrounding downtowns wound up a state budget casualty in December. There are more than 1,100 cities, boroughs and inner-ring townships that make up Pennsylvania's inventory of older communities. Given the enormity of their burdens – Elm Street represented a positive step forward in revitalization of these towns but only a drop in the revitalization bucket.

VACANT PROPERTY INITIATIVES LAUNCHED - Pennsylvania community developers and a wide coalition of smart growth, environmental, and housing providers are advancing a significant package of vacant property initiatives through the Pennsylvania legislature. The coalition, headed by the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania, 10000 Friends of Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia CDC Association, and others is soliciting support for bills that enable a more effective transfer of abandoned or vacant properties back into active use. Included are measures that would enable the appointment of a receiver to make improvements to blighted residential property; require municipalities to report tax liens to credit reporting agencies; allow private persons to institute action against serious violations of building, property maintenance, or fire safety code ordinances; and act to prohibit an insurance company from refusing to renew policies on the basis of adjacent property abandonment. LISC and other members of the coalition will continue to work on this package into the 2004 legislative session. For more information, contact Julia Seward at <mailto:jseward@liscnet.org>.

Read the Brookings Institution Report - [Back to Prosperity: A Competitive Agenda for Renewing Pennsylvania](#)

Upcoming Events

January 13, 2004 – 5:30 p.m.
Measure Up Lancaster 2003
Presented by the Lancaster Community Indicators Project – Southern Market Center

Growing Together Public Meetings Schedule -
- **Monday, Jan. 26, 2004 7-9 p.m.** - Manheim Township High School School Road, Neffsville
- **Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2004 7-9 p.m.** - Conestoga Valley Middle School 500 Mount Sidney Road, Lanc.
- **Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2004 7-9 p.m.** - Penn Manor High School East Cottage Avenue, Millersville
- **Thursday, Jan. 29, 2004 5:30-7:30 p.m.** - Southern Market Center, South Queen & West Vine Streets – Lancaster

Tuesday, February 3, 2004 8:00 p.m. – **Dreams of a Livable Future** – Barshinger Center at Franklin & Marshall College.

Interesting Websites:
[Community Connections](#) - the Information Center for the Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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