

# LANCASTER Keeping Current

AN ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE HOURGLASS FOUNDATION

## Lancaster County Smart Growth Issues April 13, 2004

## FYI

**TECH AND SCIENCE INDEX: HOW DOES OUR STATE RANK?** - Massachusetts, California and Colorado are in the best position to take advantage of the knowledge-based economy, according to the [Milken Institute's 2004 State Technology & Science Index](#). It finds that regional economic prosperity is based upon how successful places are in attracting and expanding science and technology assets and leveraging them for economic development. The 2004 State Technology and Science Index encapsulates each state's comprehensive inventory of technology and science assets that can be leveraged to promote economic development. The Index provides states with a benchmark, monitors their technology progress and can be leveraged to promote economic growth. It provides a valuable framework of measures to guide state policy makers and the public on the realities of their performance in the knowledge-based economy of today.

**SPRING 2004 MASTER PLANNER PROGRAM** – The [Lancaster County Planning Commission](#) has announced the Master Planner Program will begin on May 6<sup>th</sup> and will run for eight (8) consecutive weeks thru June 25<sup>th</sup>. The sessions for this program are held on Thursday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This Program provides access to experts in the planning field and hands-on practice putting ideas into action. Seating is limited. For more information or to register, contact Gael Rapp at the Lancaster County Planning Commission (717) 299-8333.

**NATIONAL AWARD FOR SMART GROWTH ACHIEVEMENT** - The U.S. [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) is pleased to announce that [applications](#) are now being accepted for the third annual National Award for Smart Growth Achievement. This competition is open to local or state governments and other public sector entities that have successfully created smart growth. Non-profit or private organizations or individuals are not eligible for the award. However, if a superior project is developed through a public-private or a public-non-profit partnership, EPA will make the award to the public sector entity while noting the private firm, non-profit organization or individual involved with the project. *Smart growth is development that serves the economy, the community, public health, and the environment. Smart growth development approaches have clear environmental benefits including improved air and water quality, greater preservation of critical habitat and open space, and more clean up and re-use of brownfield sites.*

This year, [applications](#) will be accepted in five categories: 1) Built projects 2) Policies and regulations, 3) Community outreach and education, 4) Small communities, and 5) Overall excellence in smart growth. Applications are due on June 1, 2004. Up to five winners will be recognized at a ceremony in Washington, DC in November 2004.

**TRANSIT REVITALIZATION INVESTMENT DISTRICTS (TRID)** – [House Bill 994](#) will allow Transit Revitalization Investment Districts to be established to promote transit-oriented economic development around rail transit stations and along public transportation corridors, and increase overall ridership on public transportation systems. The bill passed unanimously in the House in March and has moved to the Senate Transportation Committee for review.

### Upcoming Events

**Thursday, April 15, 2004**  
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. – **Lancaster's Multi-Purpose Stadium: A Neighborhood Question & Answer Session** – Lancaster YMCA, 572 North Queen Street

**Thursday, April 29, 2004**  
8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. – **Regional Economics: Planning for Community and Economic Development** – This course will provide the participant with an understanding of the increasingly important relationship between regional economic development and local community revitalization. It will also explore why, in the age of the knowledge-based economy, both community and economic development must be addressed for a town or a region to be competitive. *Sponsored by the Lancaster County Planning Commission and the Workforce Investment Board of Lancaster County.* Four Seasons Golf Course. For more information contact Toby Vargas, Lancaster County Planning Commission (717) 299-8333.

**Friday, April 30, 2004**  
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – **Planning Beyond Boundaries II, Capital Improvements Planning** – This Envision workshop will examine policies, approaches and practices for effective planning and financing of capital projects in smaller communities. Ephrata Public Library, 550 South Reading Road, Ephrata. Sponsored by the Lancaster County Planning Commission in conjunction with ICMA. For more information, contact Gael Rapp (717)299-8333 or [rappg@co.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:rappg@co.lancaster.pa.us)

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