

LANCASTER Keeping Current

AN ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE HOURGLASS FOUNDATION

Lancaster County Smart Growth Issues

May 4, 2004

FYI

SMART GROWTH AND SCHOOL REFORM – What if We Talked about Race and Took Community Seriously? - Efforts to rein in sprawl development will not be successful until the twin urban problems of racial segregation and failing schools are addressed, a University of Maryland professor argues in a [paper](#) published in the winter issue of the Journal of the [American Planning Association](#). In the article entitled, “Smart Growth and School Reform: What If We Talked About Race and Took Community Seriously?” and funded in part by the [National Center for Smart Growth, Urban Studies and Planning](#) Professor [Howell S. Baum](#) contends, *“Weak city schools are an engine of sprawl.”*

APRIL 2004 LANCASTER COUNTY MATTERS – A quarterly publication of The Hourglass Foundation. [This edition](#) discusses- the 2020 Vision for Lancaster County contained in the very informative report – “Measure Up Lancaster!” – Yet, Another perspective on the Brookings Report Findings – A background paper of the Brookings Report - “Little Boxes-Limited Horizons” prepared by David Rusk – The Making of A Great Place – Gentrification – The Proposed Route of a Historic Downtown Trolley – And, the exciting improvement project “East King Improvement District”.

SMART GROWTH IS SMART BUSINESS: BOOSTING THE BOTTOM LINE AND COMMUNITY PROSPERITY - In this new [study](#), the [National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals](#) (NALGEP) and the [Smart Growth Leadership Institute](#) sought to determine whether the private sector’s interest in smart growth had increased or whether it was merely a passing fad. They wanted to learn whether business leaders would still promote smart growth during times of economic downturn, declining profits, and downsizing. They sought to identify additional successful and profitable businesses that brought vitality and prosperity to their communities. To accomplish this substantial research was conducted to identify new businesses engaged in smart growth. A broad cross section of business leaders were interviewed, including manufacturers, developers, retailers, real estate professionals, utilities, and financial institutions. *“Reinvestment in Established Communities Makes Business Sense – Businesses are promoting reinvestment in established communities and existing infrastructure over the costly approaches of providing new infrastructure to new growth areas.”*

CONSERVATION THRESHOLDS FOR LAND USE PLANNERS – From [The Environmental Institute](#) a new [publication](#) summarizing what is known within the scientific community about potential land use planning and design thresholds. It offers general guidance on how to transform traditional planning approaches into more ecologically-based conservation tools and provides a platform for identifying gaps in existing knowledge to help guide more in-depth ecological research directly applicable to land use planning. *“A common consequence of land development is the fragmentation of an originally connected natural landscape into a mosaic of disconnected habitat patches.”*

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, May 19, 2004, 8:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m. – The Housing Alliance of PA hosts a statewide conference - **Addressing Community Opposition to Affordable Housing**- Temple University Harrisburg Campus in Strawberry Square. To register or for more information, contact katec@housingalliancepa.org. To [view the agenda or registration form](#).

Sunday, May 23, 2004, 4:00-7:00 p.m. – **20th Anniversary Celebration Gourmet Gala, held by the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County.** This year’s gala is being held in downtown Lancaster. For tickets call (717) 291-5861

June 6-9, 2004 – Live, Work, Shop & Play Downtown – Pennsylvania’s Premiere Downtown Revitalization Conference – Pittsburgh, PA. Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Downtown Center. [For more information](#).

June 19, 2004, Pedal to Preserve – Presented by Lancaster Farmland Trust- Select from 3 rides of varying length- Starts and ends at the Garden Spot high School, 669 East Main Street, New Holland. For more information visit the Trust’s website www.savelancasterfarms.org.

Interesting Websites/Reports:

- [Smart Growth for Clean Water: Helping Communities Address the Water Quality Impacts of Sprawl](#)

- [Profiles of Business Leadership on Smart Growth: New Partnerships Demonstrate the Economic Benefits of Reducing Sprawl](#)

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