

LANCASTER Keeping Current

AN ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE HOURGLASS FOUNDATION

Lancaster County Smart Growth Issues

May 11, 2004

FYI

RURAL, URBAN COMMON CAUSE IN FIGHT TO RENEW

PENNSYLVANIA - This [commentary](#) by Mark Muro and Amy Liu in the (Harrisburg, PA) Patriot-News argues that rural leaders should join urban ones in pressing for the sort of reforms advocated in last year's Brookings report, "[Back to Prosperity: A Competitive Agenda for Renewing Pennsylvania.](#)" According to the op-ed, *town centers in rural Pennsylvania are actually experiencing more severe patterns of sprawl and abandonment than metropolitan ones*, and would clearly benefit from efforts to better channel state investment toward established communities and sharpen the state's economic development programs.

BUILD SMART - This article from [The American School Board Journal](#) challenges the notion that bigger schools are better, a trend that has dominated the education landscape for decades. But the trend is now shifting, and parents, schools, and communities are coming to value the benefits of small, community-oriented schools. The [article](#) looks at the community benefits of small schools, and how the school can function as a center of a healthy community. "*Many school districts have reinforced this country's randomly scattered, sprawling land-use patterns by building huge facilities on complexes so large they can only be accommodated on sites on the edge of the community or outside. But, the bigger-is-better trend is subsiding.*"

GROWTH BY CHOICE OR CHANCE- State Strategies for Quality Growth in South Carolina – Charleston Mayor, Joseph P. Riley helped lead this study urging mixed-use projects, careful planning. The [report](#) includes a number of suggestions. They range from a public "visioning" process to create a consensus on growth, to a greater role for state government in dealing with growth issues and encouraging cooperation among local governments. Some specific ideas include creating a local option sales tax on real estate to pay for the preservation of open space and creating a state planning office that reports directly to the governor. *The idea is not to create blame for past decisions that led to current sprawl. We can't use ignorance any longer as an excuse. It really becomes negligence." It is important to think about what kind of places are left behind for future generations.*

ECONOMY, HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION TOP PRIORITY LIST

IN PENNSYLVANIA - The latest polling [data](#) from [IssuesPA](#) show that the economy remains Pennsylvanians' top priority, but that *healthcare concerns – particularly its affordability – are increasingly top-of-mind for residents* of the Commonwealth.

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:

- [Natl. Center for Bicycling & Walking](#)

- [Mixed Income Housing – Myth & Fact](#)

- [Harvard University – Joint Center for Housing Studies](#)

Enabling informed decision-making for Lancaster County

Call our office at (717) 295-0755 or write to hourglass.foundation@verizon.net

Or visit our website www.hourglassfoundation.org

HOURGLASS

FOUNDATION