

Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

Lancaster County Growth Management Issues

October 26, 2004

FYI

ARE STATE AND LOCAL REVENUE SYSTEMS BECOMING OBSOLETE?

State revenues across this country have been declining or stagnant with resultant spending cuts jeopardizing state and local programs and increasing local taxes. Although cyclical factors and the bursting of the stock market bubble may be mostly responsible, this [paper](#)—jointly published by [The Metropolitan Policy Program of the Brookings Institution](#) and [The National League of Cities](#)—makes the case that long-term economic and technological developments also are partly to blame and will continue to constrain state and local revenue growth well into the foreseeable future. *“Since the property tax remains the backbone of local revenue systems, forces eroding its long-term revenue productivity continue to worry local policymakers.”*

DUE FOR AN OVERHAUL? PENNSYLVANIA’S STATE AND LOCAL TAX SYSTEMS - Pennsylvania’s state and local tax structures have roots in the 1940s, when manufacturing dominated the economy, banking was local rather than global, and no one had ever dreamed of the Internet. Over the years, there have been incremental changes, but the system remains largely based on an economy that doesn’t exist today. Is it time for an overhaul? What is needed for PA’s tax system to keep pace with a changing economy and to be competitive with other states? [IssuesPA](#), a publication of [The Pennsylvania Economy League](#) takes a closer look. *“Serious tax system restructuring takes time and effort. A new system must be equitable, efficient in application and collection, competitive in its burden, productive and reliable, understandable, and accountable to taxpayers.”*

THE FUTURE VITALITY OF LANCASTER COUNTY – Are you wondering what Lancaster County will be like five or ten years from now? What kind of changes will be seen in transportation, land use, government services, and workforce development? The Pennsylvania Economy League’s Lancaster County Committee has scheduled an Issues Forum for Wednesday, November 10th, 7:15 a.m.-9:00 a.m. at the Eden Resort. A panel of experts and visionaries will convene to discuss the challenges that Lancaster County must confront today if the County is to have a positive impact on tomorrow. The cost is \$15 per person. For more information or to register call (570) 824-3559.

ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS COMMISSION – [House Resolution 735](#) is currently under consideration by the Senate Committee on Community and Economic Development. The resolution establishes a commission to recommend guidance for administrative and legislative changes to improve the economic competitiveness of the Commonwealth’s cities and towns – rural, suburban and urban. The commission of 22 participants would be bi-partisan and inter-governmental and include private sector members. The commission would promptly respond to reports and studies that demonstrate Pennsylvania’s economic disadvantages. [10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania](#) has requested positive consideration by the Senate Committee.

Upcoming Events

Public Meetings – Housing Element of the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan

Tuesday, November 9, 2004

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Bright Side Opportunities Center
515 Hershey Avenue, Lancaster

Wednesday, November 10, 2004

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Solanco High School
585 Solanco Road, Quarryville

Thursday, November 11, 2004

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Centerville Middle School
865 Centerville Road, Lancaster

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Elizabethtown Area High School
600 East High Street, Elizabethtown

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Manheim Township High School
School Road, Lancaster

Thursday, November 18, 2004

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Ephrata Senior High School
803 Oak Boulevard, Ephrata

The Community Benefits of a County-wide Public Health Department in Lancaster County

a Community Forum sponsored by the Untied Way and the Lancaster County Medical Society, **Friday, November 12, 2004**, 8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Lehr Room, Gordinier Hall, Millersville University. To register call Pixie Berman (717) 394-0734 or email pixie@uwlanc.org.

Planning for the future of Central Market Community Workshops

– **Tuesday, November 16, 2004**, 11 a.m.-1p.m. Southern Market Center, 100 South Queen Street and **Wednesday, November 17, 2004**, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Southern Market Center.

*Enabling informed growth management
decision-making for Lancaster County*

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