

Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

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FYI

ONE YEAR LATER CHANGE IS HAPPENING IN PENNSYLVANIA -

From the Brookings Institution - Pennsylvanians "don't do reform," was the conventional wisdom when Brookings began working on its big report "[Back to Prosperity: A Competitive Agenda for Renewing Pennsylvania.](#)" **One year after the report's release, it seems they *do* change.** People are still talking about the study. The Rendell administration is acting to focus the state's investments. And most importantly rural and urban leaders in a dozen regions are holding optimistic conversations about how to link their particular interests to a sustained campaign to boost the fortunes of the Commonwealth's cities, towns, and rural centers. Bruce Katz and Mark Muro comment in the Sunday [Patriot-News](#) (Harrisburg, PA).

BUSINESS IN OUR SITES – The [Business in Our Sites](#) program was created to provide funding to communities for the development of ready-to-build sites for new and expanding businesses. A \$300 million funding pool of grants and loans is available to municipalities and redevelopment authorities for the acquisition, and development of these sites. The program puts special emphasis on communities that lack the resources necessary to invest in site preparation and on renovating brownfield sites in order to prevent urban sprawl. Business in Our Sites is a vital component of Governor Rendell's economic stimulus package. Funds may be used to acquire land, conduct environmental assessment and remediation, and perform demolition. The funds may also be used for site preparation activities and installation of infrastructure, including but not limited to, sewer, water, storm water, utilities and telecommunications, both on site and as needed to bring service to the site. They may also be used for access roads or other necessary on-site and off-site transportation improvements. These include rail, costs associated with engineering, legal and other professional services; and any other activities necessary to make a specific site ready for reuse.

POPULATION GROWS – BARELY – The Central Penn Business Journal reports that Pennsylvania's population increased by 0.3 percent between 2003 and 2004, according to U.S. Census Bureau population estimates. The population of Pennsylvania is 12,406,292, up from 12,370,761. The growth rate trailed the national growth rate of 1 percent. Only five states -- Massachusetts (-0.1), New York (0.1), North Dakota (0.2), Ohio (0.2) and West Virginia (0.2). -- and the District of Columbia (-0.7) posted slower growth rates.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, January 6, 2005
“Growing Together” Steering Committee Meeting of the Lancaster Inter-Municipal Committee (LIMC) 7:00 p.m. at the Maple Grove Community Building in Lancaster Township. For more information contact limc@verizon.net

Monday, January 7, 2005 - 1:00 PM at the Community Action Program (CAP) Office, 601 South Queen Street, Lancaster, PA 17603. Feedback from various task forces indicates that housing is one of the very top issues that must be addressed in order to increase opportunities for seniors and people with disabilities to live and participate in the home and community setting of their choice.

Accordingly Envision Lancaster County wants to make you aware that National Visitation Teleconference Training is available free of charge. Nationally known housing advocates Becca Vaughn and Eleanor Smith will share information and ideas around real choice in accessible and affordable housing. The program is being sponsored by Topeka Independent Living, Resource Center, through the Real Choice Systems Change a project funded by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. To RSVP for this conference, please contact Gael Rapp at 717.299.8333 or rappg@co.lancaster.pa.us

Interesting Websites/Reports
[Regional Highlights Special Issue 2004](#) - Was Job Quality “Job One” in the Tri-State Region's Economic Recovery?

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