

# Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

## Lancaster County Growth Management Issues February 15, 2005

## FYI

**"GROWTH AND WATER RESOURCES"** - A new online, distance-learning training module called "[Growth and Water Resources](#)" has recently been posted on the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's](#) (EPA's) Watershed Academy Web. This training module explains how changes in land use affect water resources, and presents national data on trends in development patterns and activities on land that have become increasingly significant challenges for achieving water quality standards. The module describes a combination of approaches to accommodate future growth in a way that benefits the economy and the environment and will help us meet our water resource goals.

**HEALTHY COMMUNITY DESIGN: SUCCESS STORIES FROM STATE AND LOCAL LEADERS** - This new [report](#) published by the [Active Living Leadership](#), a project supported by the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) (RWJF), profiles the notable efforts of elected and appointed government leaders who are supporting healthy community design across the nation. Some of these efforts stem from a desire to support economic development, others to decrease environmental degradation or improve residents' quality of life. But all of the policy changes and programming efforts have a positive effect on health because they support community design that provides more opportunities for people to engage in routine physical activity. *"It's nearly impossible for people to walk to do errands or go out to dinner because everyday destinations such as grocery stores, banks, dry cleaners and restaurants are clustered in groups, separated from the road by acres of parking lots."*

**COALITION FORMED TO OPPOSE REALTY TRANSFER TAX INCREASE TO FUND MASS TRANSIT** - Several state and national organizations have united to oppose legislation that would increase the state's realty transfer tax by 50 percent to fund mass transit throughout Pennsylvania. [The Pennsylvania Association of REALTORS®](#) (PAR), the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Land Title Association (PLTA), the Pennsylvania Builder's Association (PBA), the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, the Pennsylvania Association of Mortgage Brokers (PAMB) and the National Federation of Independent Business have formed a coalition to defeat an initiative that would significantly raise the cost to purchase real estate in Pennsylvania. The state's realty transfer tax is currently 1 percent of the sale price of a home, but would increase to 1.5 percent. Read the full [press release](#). *"Pennsylvania already has one of the highest realty transfer taxes in the nation," Melissa Sieg, 2005 PAR President, said. "Much of our growth in home sales has been related to the low interest rates and the growth in the economy. What happens as those rates increase? We will have created a system of taxation with a chilling effect on one of the most effective economic drivers in the state. For that reason, we oppose all attempts to increase the realty transfer tax to fund state programs."*

### Upcoming Events

#### Lancaster Inter-municipal Committee (LIMC)

Thursday, March 3, 2005  
7:00 p.m. Maple Grove Community Building – Lancaster Township

[This Land Is Your Land – Three-Part Public Meeting Series – Growth Management Update Plan](#) – The following is the schedule for the next series:

**Strategies for Balancing Growth and Preservation**  
Monday, March 14, 2005  
7-9 p.m. Willow Valley Resort

**Strategies for Balancing Growth and Preservation**  
Tuesday, March 15, 2005  
7-9 p.m. Elizabethtown College

**Strategies for Balancing Growth and Preservation**  
Thursday, March 17, 2005  
7-9 p.m. Yoder's Restaurant and Buffet, New Holland

**Consider this** - In Pennsylvania, there are 2,567 municipal governments. This means there are 2,567 separate governing boards or councils with authority to enact ordinances and regulations, and several thousand zoning hearing boards, zoning enforcement officers and zoning ordinances. In Lancaster County alone, there are 535 separate zoning districts that are contained in 59 individual ordinances.

*Ron Bailey – Pennsylvania versus Prosperity, Business 2 Business*

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

Call our office (717) 295-0755, or visit <http://www.hourglassfoundation.org>

HOURGLASS  
  
FOUNDATION