

# Keeping LANCASTER Current

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Lancaster County Growth Management Issues June 7, 2005

FYI

**IS GENTRIFICATION REALLY A THREAT?** - John Norquist, CEO of the [Congress for the New Urbanism](#), examines the viability of inner-city development trends in this [PLANETIZEN Op-Ed](#)- Cities in America have always had an image problem, mostly because they're continuously associated with problems. If it's not one thing it's another.

**Architect and planner Andres Duany, co-founder of the New Urbanism movement, had this to say about development in America today:**

“Americans, bless us, don’t like bad news. They get exhausted by the ‘Chicken Little the sky is falling’ rhetoric. Also I find that no sooner do you actually make a proposition that is cataclysmic that somebody else wheels up statistics that prove just the opposite. If I say, petroleum is going to run out in ten years, someone proves it’s going to last 110 years. So the statistical presentation is not one that I think can be sustained.

“So what I’ve been presenting increasingly is a vision of **simply living better**. This is not only **good for you**, it’s **more pleasant**, it’s **more intelligent**, it gives you **more choices**. For example, **if you can walk to your daily needs, you can retire in the house that you love**. You don’t have to leave your suburban house and go to a retirement community just because you can’t drive anymore. You can **grow old in your own place amidst your friends and neighbors**. So the presentation I make is one about the increase in choice. It is one in which I describe a vision of a more intelligent way to live that happens to be ecological. It’s simply nicer.”

“We build 1.5 million houses a year, and the vast majority actually degrade the landscape. The place was better when it was open space, and that need not be the case.

“You look at many cities in the U.S. – the **older, marvelous cities** we used to build, the Boston’s, the Charleston’s, the Nantucket’s, the Savannah’s – and you say, this is beautiful enough that I actually prefer it to an open field. Sure we lost an open field, but look what we gained.

“It’s all about the trade. It’s about what society gets and what society loses. What’s happening now is that every time society gets a new subdivision or a new strip shopping center or a new office park, it is a downward trade.

“As long as the trades are downward trades, society will become progressively disenchanted with development.”

## Upcoming Events

### **LANCASTER COUNTY STRATEGIC TOURISM DEVELOPMENT –**

We reported in our May 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Keeping Lancaster Current that the Lancaster County Planning Commission had released a draft of the [Lancaster County Strategic Tourism Development Plan](#). The Plan was developed over the last 18 months by the Lancaster County Planning Commission’s twelve member Tourism Task Force.

The Plan is **proposed to be adopted** as an element of the [Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan](#). **After a 45-day review period** is completed, which began on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005, the [Lancaster County Planning Commission](#) will review the Plan, along with public comments, and forward it to the Lancaster County Board of **Commissioners for their potential adoption on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005**, at their regularly scheduled meeting.

Please **read the plan** and forward any comments you may have about the Plan to Scott Standish, Director, [Heritage Planning](#), either by phone at 717-299-8333 or by e-mail at [Standish@co.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:Standish@co.lancaster.pa.us). **Your input is important! Please participate in the process.**

## **Interesting Articles/Websites**

[A Bane Amid The Housing Boom: Rising Foreclosures](#)

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decision-making for Lancaster County*  
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