

Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

Lancaster County Growth Management Issues August 23, 2005

FYI

Upcoming Events

LCCI WAKE UP TO THE ISSUES BREAKFAST –City Quality of Life Survey Results – Tuesday, August 30th - 7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. – Hotel Brunswick, 151 North Queen St. Sponsored by the [Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry](#). Click here [to register](#).

FALL MASTER PLANNER PROGRAM BEGINS SEPT. 8 - The Master Planner Program assists municipal officials, planning commissions, zoning hearing boards, business leaders and others enhance their knowledge of good planning principles, techniques and "best practices." The goal of the nine-week, evening program is to encourage students to **apply this knowledge to promote and sustain "smart growth" communities**. The program is open to nonresidents. [For more information](#) or call Liz Smith, Senior Planner, at (717) 299-8333.

Interesting Articles/Websites

[Are State and Local revenue Systems Becoming Obsolete?](#)

[Finding A Place for Parking](#)

[Public Markets as a Vehicle for Social Integration and Upward Mobility](#)

[Public Markets & Community-Based Food Systems](#)

BUDGETING FOR BASICS: THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF CITY FINANCES - In a [new paper](#), prepared for the [Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program](#), Bruce Wallin, an associate professor of political science at [Northeastern University](#), examines the finances of 162 cities from 1977 to 2004. Among the findings is that though **direct federal aid to cities has dropped precipitously since 1978**, those monies have been largely replaced with state aid. But that aid has increasingly been targeted for K-12 education spending, requiring financial innovations for other local priorities while still balancing budgets. By 2004, cities had reduced overall spending over previous years, diversifying their revenue bases, and relying less on the property tax. However, **as different cities become increasingly dependent on diverse revenue sources, they must be aware of how shifts in state aid and the economy reverberate.**

“When a rock is tossed into the ocean, it rarely makes waves. But when dropped into a small pond, the ripples it creates are obvious.”

THE RIPPLE EFFECT - To create neighborhoods of choice and opportunity, **many American cities today struggle with using limited resources for maximum results.** With a targeted strategy premised on process, political will, and partnerships, Richmond, Virginia **has been able to transform some of its most disinvested neighborhoods.** Only five years after the Neighborhoods in Bloom program was initiated, a Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond study reports some of the economic impacts of

policy, including **increased home values.** By targeting public and foundation resources to specific distressed neighborhoods, Richmond was able to attract the much-needed market – private capital. In each neighborhood, **increased police patrols** were followed by **aggressive code enforcement**, setting the stage for block-by-block rebuilding, including **existing owner improvements, rehabilitation of blighted properties, and new housing** construction to create mixed-income homeownership possibilities. The study methodology and findings are summarized in a new Richmond LISC report: "[The Ripple Effect: Economic Impacts of Targeted Community Investments.](#)"

City Council provided leadership as it set aside the desires, and sometimes needs, of individual districts for the good of the city overall via an open community rebuilding process.

Enabling informed growth management decision-making for Lancaster County

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

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