

Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

Lancaster County Growth Management Issues October 18, 2005

FYI

Upcoming Events

Sewage Facilities and Land Use: Collaborating for a Sustainable Future – Monday, October 24, 2005 - [10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania](#), the [Environmental Law Institute](#), and the Environment and Natural Resources Institute at Penn State University are hosting a conference and inviting all sectors to discuss Pennsylvania sewer and land use policies with expert panelists, and help identify strategies to support sound land use, development, and economic practices in Pennsylvania. [For more information.](#)

The State of the County Monday – November 7, 2005 [The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry](#) invites you to join fellow business leaders and colleagues for the first local event to examine all of the issues shaping Lancaster County's business climate and quality of life. [For more information.](#)

Interesting Articles/Websites

[Big Box Stores Adopting Unusual Urban Formats – Targeting Changes in Big Box Stores](#)

MUNICIPALITIES CAN NOW FUND WATERSHED ASSOCIATIONS –

Three bills signed into law on July 5, and effective September 5, make it possible for municipalities to appropriate funds to watershed associations. [Acts 11, 13, 14](#) of 2005 amend the 2nd class township, borough and 1st class township codes respectively to make the funding possible. The only restriction on the funding is that it cannot be used to litigate against the municipality.

*The League of Women Voters
PA-CEF Water Resources
Education Network Project*

LATEST ISSUESPA/PEW POLL SHOWS CONFIDENCE IN STATE GOVERNMENT AT LOWEST POINT IN TWO YEARS - The [latest IssuesPA/Pew poll](#) shows that confidence in state government is at its lowest point since the IssuesPA/Pew poll first asked the question in September 2003. Nearly half (49%) **rate the job state government is doing dealing with important issues as 'only fair'** – while another 28% **give state government a poor rating.** Only 20% **give the state a positive rating of 'excellent' or 'good.'** The IssuesPA/Pew Poll is a core component of the [Pennsylvania Economy League's IssuesPA](#) initiative. [Princeton Survey Research Associates International](#) (PSRAI) conducted the poll for IssuesPA. Funding for the IssuesPA/Pew Poll was provided by [The Pew Charitable Trusts.](#)

NEW REPORT HIGHLIGHTS AFFORDABLE HOUSING AS SMART GROWTH TOOL - **Affordable housing is an important aspect of smart growth development.** Housing is a critical part of the way communities grow, as it constitutes a significant share of new construction and development. More importantly, however, is also a key factor in determining households' access to transportation, commuting patterns, access to services and education, and consumption of energy and other natural resources. By using smart growth approaches to create a wider range of housing choices, communities can mitigate the environmental costs of auto-dependent development, use their infrastructure resources more efficiently, ensure a better jobs-housing balance, and generate a strong foundation of support for neighborhood transit stops, commercial centers, and other services. The [National Association of Counties](#) (NACO), through its Center for Sustainable Communities, **surveyed nearly 800 county officials** to learn firsthand the challenges they face in creating affordable housing in their communities and what steps need to be taken to assist them in doing so. The resulting [report, *Opportunities for County Government and the Affordable Housing Challenge*](#) is based on their responses and insights.

FREE LAND CONSERVATION AND WATER PROTECTION CD-ROM AVAILABLE – As federal and state funding for land conservation becomes scarcer, local governments are turning towards the ballot box to create reliable long-term funding sources. These dedicated pools enable a local government to plan for land protection strategies that are aligned with public priorities. Local funding can also be used to leverage state and federal matching grants, extending the impact of conservation expenditures. [The International City/County Management Association](#) (ICMA) and [the Trust for Public Land](#) (TPL), in cooperation with the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA), hosted a webcast in June 2005 called **"Protecting Water Resources through Land Conservation: Funding Options for Local Governments."** The webcast provided context for the role of conservation finance in land conservation and water protection, describe critical components for creating a successful funding effort, and showcased local government success stories. A multimedia CD-ROM recording of that webcast is now available for free from the [Local Government Environmental Assistance Network](#) (LGEAN). [For more information](#)

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

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