

Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

Lancaster County Growth Management Issues February 8, 2006

FYI

ENVISION LANCASTER COUNTY – (February 8) The [Lancaster County Planning Commission](#) (LCPC) will rollout the “**Envision Lancaster County**” Comprehensive Plan, with key amendments slated to **guide the County for the next 25 years.**

The amendments as drafted include: [The Growth Management Element Update \(Balance\)](#); the [Housing Element Update \(Choices\)](#); and the new [Cultural Heritage Element \(Heritage\)](#).

These amendments are all important. The Balance; however, sets the land use framework on which the other two are based. This Update to the Growth Management Element of the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan is **designed to help achieve and sustain Lancasterians’ vision of a balanced community where urban centers prosper, natural landscapes flourish, and farming is strengthened** as an integral component of our diverse economy and cultural heritage.

These [drafts](#) are available on LCPC’s website for **public comments through March 29, 2006.**

BREAKING THE CODES – A new [report, Breaking the Codes](#), from [Good Jobs First](#) that documents the ways that states are revising their building codes to encourage more rehabilitation of existing structures, especially in urban areas. The movement toward “**rehab codes**” is an important step in making infill development a viable alternative to sprawl.

The roots of code reform can be found in the **1960s, when the federal government began to explore ways to combat urban blight and create more affordable housing.** Building codes – which spread during the early 20th Century in response to disaster and exposes about the abysmal conditions of tenement housing-were now **seen as an impediment.** Part of the problem was inconsistency in codes, which are generally adopted and enforced by local governments acting independently. But there was also a realization that **codes, by requiring work on existing buildings to meet the same standards as those applied to new construction, were creating unrealistic and unnecessary hurdles for worthy rehab projects.**

Upcoming Events

Pandemic Flu – Business Preparedness Town Meeting
Wednesday, March 8, 2006
7:30 a.m. – Eden Resort Inn
Sponsored by [Lancaster General](#), the [Lancaster County Business Group on Health](#) and the [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#). Pre-registration is required and seating is limited. For more information call 717-544-3148

Eminent Domain in Pennsylvania
March 29, 2006- Holiday Inn – 521 Greenfield Road, Lancaster
[For more information.](#)

Reinventing Older Communities – People, Places, Markets
April 5-7, 2006, Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn’s Landing - [The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia](#) alerts you to an upcoming national conference that will highlight the latest strategies and successes in revitalizing older cities and towns. [For more information](#)

Interesting Articles/Websites

[Civic Tourism – The Poetry and Politics of Place](#)

[Picture This – The Pioneers of Gentrification](#)

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

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