

Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

Lancaster County Growth Management Issues April 11, 2006

FYI

CHAMBER TO LEAD EFFORT TO ENACT COUNTY GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION PROCESS – (4/10/06) Study to assess our current form of County government as first step in home rule process.

The Government Study Commission would be the **first step toward a possible home rule form of government for Lancaster County**. If approved, the Commission would be charged with assessing county operations and structure and, if necessary, advocating an alternative form of government structure in the form of a new County charter. Voters would then have to approve the new charter before any changes would occur.

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For more information on Home Rule, [Click Here](#) and select "Home Rule in Pennsylvania."

WHAT IS THE REAL FISCAL HEALTH OF OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS? – The [Central Division of the Pennsylvania Economy League](#) presented their findings to local municipal officials, business and community leaders on Friday, March 10th – There were some surprises. The League examined **how Lancaster County local governments' fiscal conditions have changed since 1970**. [View the presentation](#).

DEP ISSUES DROUGHT WATCH FOR ENTIRE STATE- (4/11/06) Lack of rainfall leads to call for voluntary water use reduction. Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty today put **all 67 Pennsylvania counties under a drought watch** and called on **residents to voluntarily reduce water use by 5%**.

Two-thirds of the commonwealth's counties are **50 % or more below** their normal precipitation levels. The remaining counties are reporting a deficit of at least 25 %. The **Susquehanna River is 65% below** its normal flow.

A **drought watch is the lowest of three levels** of drought status. The next stage, a **drought warning, calls for a voluntary reduction of 10-15 %**. A **drought emergency**, the final state, includes **mandatory water use reductions of at least 15%**. Pennsylvania's last declared drought emergency was in 2002.

Upcoming Events

Route 23 Public Meetings
April 18th and 19th, 2006, Worship Center – 2384 New Holland Pike, Lancaster 6-9 p.m. Informal information sessions including map displays and the opportunity to discuss plans with [PennDOT](#) planning staff. Attendees can weigh in on the alternatives presented by taking a survey which will be considered in PennDOT's planning.

Community Meeting – Mount Joy/Donnegal Region UGA Smart Growth Master Plan
April 18th, 2006 – 7 to 9 p.m.
A Master Plan is being developed focused on shaping how new development and redevelopment happen in the region. For more information contact Jennifer Luciani at [Mount Joy Borough](#) (717)653-2300.

Density is the Key to Balance
May 31st, 2006 – Full Day Summit, Lancaster County Emergency Training Center in Landisville – Sponsored by the [Coalition for Smart Growth](#) to discuss improved efficiency in the use of land within Designated Growth Areas as identified as an essential component to growth management, during the [Update of the Lancaster County Growth Management Element, "Balance"](#)

Interesting Articles/Websites

[Protecting America's Historic Neighborhoods: Taming the Teardown Trend](#)

[Shaping a City – Working Toward a New Understanding of Zoning](#)

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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