

Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

Lancaster County Growth Management Issues July 11, 2006

FYI

GOVERNOR RENDELL AWARDS \$23 MILLION FOR RECREATION AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA - Pennsylvania residents in most of the state will benefit from a more than \$23 million investment in conservation and recreation projects designed to help revitalize communities and protect natural resources. **“This money will fund 242 projects to help us preserve and enhance the tremendous opportunities we have in Pennsylvania to connect with the great outdoors,”** Governor Rendell said. “Across the state, we are investing in local parks and greenways, trails, rivers and open space conservation because we know these assets are what help keep families healthy, and make our communities economically vibrant and great places to live, work and play.” Funding for the grants comes from Growing Greener II, a voter-approved \$625 million bond issue, and Keystone '93, a DCNR fund generated from a portion of the realty transfer tax. [For more information.](#)

LANCASTER COUNTY CITIZENS FOR GOVERNMENT STUDY - The [Lancaster County Citizens for Government Study](#) are advocating the creation of an elected Government Study Commission that would be **charged with studying our current structure of County Government** (as mandated by the state to be three county commissioners and eleven row officers) and, if deemed appropriate, recommend changes. **Any proposed changes would require voter-approval before being enacted.** The Study Commission would be made up of eleven elected individuals that would be guided by the Home Rule process, as set forth in state law. You can read more about the process in the [Home Rule Handbook](#), provided by the [Governor's Center for Local Government Services](#). The entire process is designed to be non-partisan.

HOURLASS PANEL ASKS COMMUNITY OPINIONS -

The Hourglass Foundation is creating a [Community Opinion Panel](#) to give **Lancaster County Residents a voice in local decision making.** Please consider becoming an online panelist. **The more people that share their views and opinions, the more impact the findings will be.** It doesn't require much time and its fun to speak your mind on issues affecting our quality of life in Lancaster County. Simply go to <http://www.hourglassfoundation.org/issuespanel> to sign up and complete your first survey. **If you have already registered – please consider forwarding this message to a friend. Thank you.**

THE STATE BUDGET: Pennsylvania's new budget features a larger-than-average and higher-than-inflation increase in spending. [IssuesPA](#), an initiative of the [Pennsylvania Economy League](#), takes a closer look at the budget, with a focus on education spending. Not only does the [Department of Education](#) (and, therefore, local school districts and higher education institutions) benefit from the largest dollar increase of any major department, it also received a larger-than-average percentage increase. **The budget for the Department of Education devotes the bulk of the overall \$736.8 million increase to supporting public schools.** The \$574 million or 7.4% increase will be used to support a variety of ongoing and new education initiatives.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2006 Environmental Summit for Local Governments – Wednesday, July 26, 2006 in Washington, DC – Sponsored by The National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals ([NALGEP](#)) [For more information.](#)

SAVE THE DATE - Lancaster County Housing Summit – Thursday, October 5, 2006, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. - Eden Resort Inn & Suites – Sponsored by the [Lancaster County Housing and Redevelopment Authorities](#), the [Board of Commissioners](#) and the [Lancaster County Planning Commission](#). More information will be provided when available.

National Preservation Conference 2006 – Pittsburgh, PA – October 31 – November 5, 2006. Sponsored by the [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#). [For more information.](#)

Interesting Reports/Articles

[Migration to City Centers Intensifying, Say Real Estate Brokers](#)

[Federal Policy Ideas for Community Revitalization](#)

The [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) has produced the [Excessive Heat Events Guidebook](#). The Guidebook is designed to help officials plan for and respond to excessive heat events. Heat is the #1 weather-related killer in the United States.

*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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