

# Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

**Lancaster County Growth Management Issues** August 29, 2006

**FYI**

**TRANSPORTATION REPORT REVEALS FUNDING CRISIS** - Governor Rendell's special Transportation Funding and Reform Commission announced in a report last week that public transportation and state highway and bridge systems are in a financial crisis. The nine-member panel issued an interim report that says **the state's roads, highways, bridges, and mass transit need an additional \$866 million a year in new funding just to maintain the status quo** and \$2.2 billion to significantly improve the Commonwealth's transportation network. Commission Chairman, PennDOT Secretary Allen Biehler, said the panel will now seek input from the public as it prepares its final report, due to the governor and the Legislature by November 15. **Public hearings will be held.** Further details of the report including information on exact location and times of public hearings may be found in a complete copy of "[Investing in Our Future: Addressing Pennsylvania's Transportation Funding Crisis](#)"

**BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE ON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX COMMISSIONS** – In enacting the property tax relief legislation earlier this year, the General Assembly approved a provision in the law that establishes "local tax study commissions." **Local school districts must appoint commissions no later than September 14, 2006.** Comprised of five, seven or nine residents from each district, the tax commissions will be **tasked with studying the district's tax base, the amount of tax revenue collected, and the future revenue projections.** After 90 days, the commissions will issue a non-binding recommendation to the school board, which must adopt or reject the recommendation by March 13, 2007. The school board, taking into consideration the commission's recommendations, will then identify the local referendum question that is to be placed on the May 2007 ballot, which will allow voters to decide if they will approve personal or income tax increases in exchange for property tax reductions.

**To ensure for the success of our schools and communities, it is important for local business people to actively participate within their local school district and the tax study commission provides an opportunity to do just that.** School districts are actively accepting applications/letters of intent from interested persons during the next few weeks. **To learn more about the process in your school district, please contact your local school district.**

**FOOD, MARKETS AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES** - This new LISC ([Local Initiatives Support Corporation](#)) [report](#) discusses how food markets can affect low-income neighborhoods and provides several strong case studies that illustrate their significant impact. The presence of a high-quality food market is a **critical component to a community's physical and economic health.** And these food markets have done more than just provide access to better food; they also provide much needed jobs and **spur other forms of economic investment** in surrounding neighborhoods.

## [Hourglass Panel for Community Opinion](#)

**Downtown Lancaster Revitalization Survey Findings**

– [Read the full report](#)

**SAVE THE DATE** – Fall Master Planners Program Begins Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> – For more information contact Liz Smith at the Lancaster County Planning Commission by email [smithe@co.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:smithe@co.lancaster.pa.us) or call 717-299-8333

**Municipal Officials Symposium** – **September 25, 2006, 5:30 to 9 p.m.** – The Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster – **No charge/Elected Officials Only** Sponsored by the [Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry](#) – If you're an elected official, plan to join an informative discussion about important conservation issues that impact and affect your municipality, township and County. Hear from agriculture and conservation professionals and gain a better understanding about the role you play in vital issues, such as storm water runoff control responsibilities. Increase your understanding of the many regulations relating to current conservation practices and policies. [For more information.](#)

**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.

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

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