

# Keeping LANCASTER Current

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Lancaster County Growth Management Issues October 31, 2006

FYI

## IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION – WHAT’S THE FORMULA FOR SUCCESS?

Evidence of efforts to improve the quality of public education in Pennsylvania is everywhere these days – in the state budget, the work being done by the State Board of Education and the Department of Education, and ongoing plans and spending priorities within individual school districts statewide. Polls reveal the quality of education is one of the more important education concerns of Pennsylvanians. In this [report](#) by [IssuesPA](#), of the [Pennsylvania Economy League](#) examines the different approaches – involving “carrots and sticks” – to improve education quality.

## REPORT CALLS FOR MULTI-PRONGED APPROACH TO STATE’S TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT WOES

A non-partisan [study](#) commissioned by a diverse group of Pennsylvania business, industry, environmental, cultural and community groups has concluded that the Commonwealth has a rare opportunity in the coming weeks and months to fix the way transportation investments are made in Pennsylvania. [The Pennsylvania Economy League](#) (PEL), commissioned by the [Associated Pennsylvania Constructors](#); [10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania](#); the [CEO Council for Growth](#), an affiliate of the [Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce](#); the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#); the [Allegheny Conference on Community Development](#); and the [William Penn Foundation](#), benchmarked Pennsylvania transportation conditions and programs against similar industrialized states. The study, “[Investing in Transportation: A Benchmarking Study of Transportation Funding and Policy](#)”, comes at a time when an [IssuesPA](#) poll shows **transportation-related infrastructure to be the biggest infrastructure problem**, according to Pennsylvanians.

*"Working families are increasingly moving further from their jobs to find affordable housing. Yet, we found that many of these families end up spending more on transportation costs than they save on housing."*

[Center for Housing Policy](#)

## A HEAVY LOAD: THE COMBINED HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION BURDENS OF WORKING FAMILIES

Low- to moderate-income working families are finding that as they move further from work to afford housing they end up spending as much, or more, on transportation costs than they are saving on housing, according to a new [study](#) of 28 major Metropolitan areas nationwide entitled [A Heavy Load: The Combined Housing and Transportation Burdens of Working Families](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**State of the County – Monday, November 20, 2006 – 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.** – Willow Valley Resort, sponsored by [The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry](#). This event is the only local events of its kind that brings together area business and community leaders for a look at the components of a strong community and provides a venue for dialogue on the ways to best approach the challenges and opportunities facing Lancaster County. Cost \$25 for Chamber members; \$50 for non-members and includes lunch. [To register](#).

## INTERESTING ARTICLES

[PA House Crafts Legislative Plan To Make PA Safer](#)

[Great Plains Urbanism](#)

[Reviving Cities: Think Metropolitan](#)

[Suburbs Without The Sprawl](#)

[From Dumps to Destinations: Converting Landfills to Parks](#)

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

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