

# Keeping LANCASTER Current

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FYI

**TWO STEPS BACK: CITY AND SUBURBAN POVERTY TRENDS 1999-2005** - During the first half of the current decade, the proportion of the U.S. population living below the poverty line rose, albeit with key differences across metropolitan areas. Notably, this new [Brookings Institution report](#)—which includes additional analysis on child and first suburban poverty—finds that **for the first time in 2005 there are more poor residents of suburbs overall than in central cities.**

**RURAL-URBAN INCOME GAP GROWS** – There is an \$8,637 per capita income gap between rural and urban Pennsylvania, according to research recently released by the [Center for Rural Pennsylvania](#). The research, conducted by Drs. C.A. Christofides and Pats Neelakantan and Todd Behr of [East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania](#), found that, since the 1980s, **the income gap between rural and urban Pennsylvania has been growing** and that the high-paced total income growth in urban counties and the population growth in rural counties have contributed to the gap. [Read the report.](#)

**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 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.

**OPEN SPACE** – (12/4/06) Governor Rendell signed legislation, [HB 183 \(PN 4383\)](#), which amends Act 442 of 1968 by permitting local governments to use revenue from taxes levied under the Local Tax Enabling Act in addition to real property acquisitions for open space preservation, for transactional fees which are incidental to such acquisitions. The bill adds provisions which will **allow local governments to appropriate money to a land trust or local land trust for the acquisition of, or conservation and preservation of, interests in real property for the purpose of achieving open space benefits.** The bill also permits local governments to **transfer open space property interests to a land trust or local land trust and elect to accept any nominal consideration for the transfer it deems appropriate.** It expressly prohibits either a land trust or a local land trust from acquiring an interest in real property through eminent domain.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual New Partners for Smart Growth: Building Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities, February 8-10, 2007, Los Angeles** – [For more information.](#)

## INTERESTING ARTICLES

[Effort to protect York's most beautiful land](#)

[A New Strategy for Helping Cities Pay for the Poor](#)

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

[Great Plains Urbanism](#)

[Reviving Cities: Think Metropolitan](#)

[The Curious Case Of The Condo Parking Waiver](#)

[How Design Competitions Can Reinvent Downtown](#)

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

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decision-making for Lancaster County*  
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