

Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

Lancaster County Growth Management Issues January 16, 2007

FYI

PENNSYLVANIANS ON PENNSYLVANIA: OPINIONS ON COMMUNITY VITALITY – Over the past four years, [IssuesPA](#), an initiative of the [Pennsylvania Economy League](#), has asked Pennsylvanians what’s on their minds. If there was one overall message, it was this: **improve Pennsylvania’s overall economic competitiveness**. In the recent July 2006 IssuesPA/Pew Poll, participants said local governments should work together, not separately. Specifically, there was consensus that **local governments should work together more and have common regional plans for land use and development**. Nearly 70 percent surveyed said local governments should work together, rather than independently, on land use and development issues. But the consensus broke down on whether local infrastructure project funding should be contingent on having a common regional plan. [To read more.](#)

LANGUAGE MATTERS: HOUSING THAT PEOPLE CAN AFFORD VS. AFFORDABLE HOUSING – [The Campaign for Affordable Housing](#) reports that language can be extraordinarily powerful. Today, **many middle-class, two-income earning families are being locked out of the housing market** – including teachers, social workers, public service employees, police officers, service- retail industry employees, health care workers (including nurses), and others who provide indispensable services to our community. They are in search of “affordable housing”, which often seems to automatically trigger community resistance, at least in some influential corners of the community. [To read the full article.](#)

SMART MARKET LAUNCHES WEBSITE – (CPBJ 01/15/07) Smart Market, the region’s eight-county economic development marketing corporation, now has its own Web site, www.smartmarket.org. The **site focuses on supporting community and economic development in the eight-county region**, which includes Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and York counties. Business owners from within and outside the Smart Market region can access information and tools through the site aimed at helping businesses relocate or expand in south-central Pennsylvania.

REPORT REVEALS 2.2 MILLION BORROWERS FACE FORECLOSURE ON SUB-PRIME HOME LOANS - A new [Center for Responsible Lending study](#) reveals that millions of American households will lose their homes and as much as \$164 billion due to foreclosures in the sub- prime mortgage market. The [“Losing Ground” study](#) is the first comprehensive, nationwide review of millions of sub-prime mortgages originated from 1998 through the third quarter of 2006. CRL finds that despite low interest rates and a favorable economic environment during the past several years, the sub-prime market has experienced high foreclosure rates, and it is **projected that one out of five (19.4%) sub-prime loans issued during 2005-2006 will fail**. The report discusses a number of factors that drive sub-prime foreclosures—these include adjustable rate mortgages with steep built-in rate and payment increases, prepayment penalties, limited income documentation, and no escrow for taxes and insurance.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Myron Orfield Community Dialogue Event- January 24, 2007, 7:00PM Location: York College of PA, Evelyn and Earle Wolf Hall - Nationally recognized law professor and former Minnesota legislator [Myron Orfield](#) will be engaging in a dialogue with the citizens of York County about the issues of racial segregation and poverty, and the adverse impact they are having on the schools in Metropolitan York. For More Info: ph: 717-815-6436 email: jdebord@ycp.edu

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

15th Annual Congress for the New Urbanism -- May 17-20, 2007 - In the lively neighborhoods, walkable streets, and centuries-old architecture of Old City Philadelphia, the 15th Annual Congress for the New Urbanism will convene to discuss topics such as New Urbanism and the Old City, Landscape and the Environment, Design and Development, Infrastructure and Transportation, Codes and Public Policy, and Global New Urbanism. ... [For more information.](#)

INTERESTING ARTICLES

[The Changing Shape of the City - Robert Puentes](#), of the [Brookings Institution](#) discusses the latest demographic trends that are affecting the health and vitality of cities and first suburbs.

[PA Transportation Funding and Reform Commission Report](#)

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