

# Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

## Lancaster County Growth Management Issues

May 12, 2008

FYI

**HOME RULE CHARTER FOR LANCASTER COUNTY** – the [Final Report and Proposed Home Rule Charter for County Government](#) has been **completed** by the [Lancaster County Government Study Commission](#). During the course of its work, the Commission has **conducted over 50 public meetings**, traveled throughout Lancaster County to enhance citizen's access, education, and input. During the course of its work, the Commission **identified six major areas of weakness**. A full discussion of these may be found in the Commission's [Interim Report](#). The Lancaster County Home Rule Charter seeks to address these weaknesses and to achieve basic improvements in County government.

**HOUSE SENDS KEYSTONE OPPORTUNITY ZONE EXPANSION BILL TO SENATE** – (*Captiol Wire*) The state House approved [legislation](#) last week, by a vote of 126-72, **to continue and expand the state's Keystone Opportunity Zone program**. The KOZ program, created in 1999, **gives businesses breaks from certain state and local taxes to develop old industrial sites and other underused areas**. Twenty-six Republicans joined 100 Democrats to support the legislation, which would allow local municipalities and school district to extend the Dec. 31, 2008 expiration date on existing undeveloped land within designated KOZ zones by seven to 10 years, depending on how the tax breaks are given. The measure is part of Gov. Ed Rendell's economic stimulus package, which he rolled out around the same time as his budget proposal in February.

**GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON PA'S WATER INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS; ANNOUNCES DATES OF 8 PUBLIC MEETINGS** - With **aging and deteriorating water systems** across Pennsylvania in need of critical investments, members of Governor Edward G. Rendell's [Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) are **setting out to gather the public's ideas on how to address the challenge**. The 30-member task force, made up of business leaders, legislators, government officials and industry experts, will host eight public meetings during May, the first kicking off today in Harrisburg.

The other meetings will take place in Allegheny, Clearfield, Luzerne, Montgomery, Northampton, Venango and York counties. **Members want to hear recommendations from the public** about what issues the task force should consider; what existing statutory, regulatory or public policy barriers prevent the long-term sustainability of Pennsylvania's water infrastructure; and possible new revenue streams that could help meet the state's infrastructure needs. [For more information.](#)

### NOW SHOWING

The March 6<sup>th</sup> [City Revitalization forum](#) presented by the Hourglass featuring the Honorable Joseph P. Riley, Jr. Mayor of Charleston, South Carolina is now available for your viewing pleasure on the [Hourglass website.](#)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Smart Growth Conference – Friday, May 16, 2008 – Omni William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh.** – Keynote Speaker: Christopher Leinberger, a metropolitan land use strategist, developer, teacher, consultant and author helping to make progressive development profitable. *Sponsored by Sustainable Pittsburg, PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development.* [For more information.](#)

**Public Art & The City of Lancaster** - A special presentation with Renee Piechocki **Tuesday, June 3 at 5 pm** **Pennsylvania College of Art & Design Atrium** - Find out how Public Art can play a key role in creating a vibrant community. Hear from expert Renee Piechocki, Artist and Public Art Consultant; Founding Director, Office of Public Art, Pittsburgh. [Pennsylvania College of Art & Design's](#) Public Art Resource Project will host this community event that is made possible by a grant from the Lancaster County Community Foundation. For more information contact PCAD by calling 717-396-7833.

**Pennsylvania Downtown Center's Annual Conference - Bringing the Future into Focus – June 8-11, 2008** Gettysburg, PA. [For more information.](#)

### INTERESTING REPORTS

[Growing Deficits Threaten Pensions – Accounting Tactics Conceal a Crisis for Public Workers](#)

**Enabling Informed Growth Management  
Decision Making for Lancaster County**

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