

# Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

## Lancaster County Growth Management Issues

November 18, 2008

## FYI

### MAINSTREETSTIMULUS – Main Street America is in economic trouble.

America has lost nearly 800,000 jobs in the last nine months. **Families have lost \$2 trillion (20%) of their savings.** The Commerce Department has just reported that retail sales on Main Street America have dropped 1.2 % in September, foreshadowing a dismal holiday shopping season – which accounts for approximately 25 % of annual sales income for most businesses. In addition, **severe state cutbacks are resulting in a loss of needed services on Main Street.**

Washington bailed out Wall Street to the tune of \$700 billion. **It is now time for Washington to help local governments and the private sector create jobs and economic growth** by passing an immediate [“Main Street Stimulus.”](#) Over the last three months, [U.S. Conference of Mayors](#) President Manuel A. (Manny) Diaz of Miami has led a national tour with *Mayors '08 Action Forums* on 1) **Crime**; 2) **Infrastructure**; 3) **Poverty**; 4) **Environment and Energy**; and 5) **Arts and Tourism**. At each of these forums, mayors and national experts focused on the weakened economy, the immediate needs of working families, and ways to create jobs. In today’s world, **it is Mayors who lead the metro economies that drive the nation.** These metro economies now account for **86% of national employment, 90% of labor income, and 90% of gross domestic product (GDP).** Therefore, if we are going to **reverse the current economic situation and create jobs, the only way to do so is to invest in these Main Street, metro economies.** [Click here to learn more about the “10 Main Street Stimulus”](#) programs that will create jobs now, improve the infrastructure that the private sector needs to succeed, help the small businesses of main street America, and have lasting economic and environmental benefits

**HARNESSING THE POWER OF THE ARTS: CAPITALIZING ON THE ECONOMIC POWER OF THE CREATIVE INDUSTRY** – (Cover story *PM Magazine*, Oct. 2008) Each year, **the president of the United States recognizes the month of October as National Arts and Humanities Month (NAHM).** This is a coast-to-coast collective celebration of culture. Coordinated by Americans for the Arts, it has become the largest annual celebration of the arts and humanities in the nation. From arts center open houses to official proclamations to banners and media coverage, communities across the United States join together to recognize the importance of arts and culture to citizens’ daily lives.

#### The Arts Mean Business -

According to the 2007 Americans for the Arts report *Arts and Economic Prosperity III*,<sup>1</sup> the key lesson learned is that **cities and counties that invest in the arts reap the additional benefits of jobs, economic growth, and a quality of life that positions those areas to compete in our 21st-century creative economy.**

Although NAHM is a wonderful celebration bringing attention to the arts, one needs to look a little closer to see the economic value of the arts. **The economic power of the arts is one of America’s best-kept secrets.** The best part of this economic secret is that at least one, if not several, of the nation’s 100,000 nonprofit arts and culture organizations already call our city or county home. [Click here to read the full article.](#)

CONGRATULATIONS  
TO LANCASTER  
FARMLAND TRUST  
ON PRESERVING  
THEIR 300<sup>TH</sup> FARM.

## INTERESTING REPORTS

**Planning for 2008 Community Stabilization Grants** - By late October, [The Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008](#) will provide **\$3.9 billion to local governments**, which will then have 18 months to make funding commitments to spend the funds on the acquisition, demolition, and rehabilitation of foreclosed and abandoned homes. [The National Vacant Properties Campaign](#) and [KnowledgePlex](#) sponsored an [online chat](#) to help community development and housing agencies and their partners develop effective plans within this tight time frame.

[The Fallacy of Freeways](#) – In the heyday of the ‘50s and ‘60s, low gasoline prices and readily available federal money influenced American urban designers to the point of delusion, causing them to make a regrettable mistake – they fell in love with the freeway.

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

Call our office (717) 295-0755, or visit <http://www.hourglassfoundation.org>

HOURGLASS  
  
FOUNDATION