

Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

Lancaster County Growth Management Issues

April 20, 2009

FYI

RENDELL ADMINISTRATION HAILS INNOVATIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR COLLABORATION, LEADERSHIP - Local

governments that have partnered with their communities and have used forward-thinking approaches to revitalize towns, create jobs and improve the quality of life for residents were honored on April 15th by the Rendell administration for their excellence. [The Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence](#) is presented annually to communities and individuals by the [Governor's Center for Local Government Services](#), an office within the [Department of Community and Economic Development](#) that serves the needs of the states' 2,562 local governments. **Two municipalities in Lancaster County** received awards – **Elizabethtown Borough** received an award for promoting community and economic revitalization. **Mount Joy Borough** received an award for innovative planning and sound land use practices. ***Congratulations!***

ENVISION SMART GROWTH TOOLBOX GOES LIVE ON LCPC'S WEBSITE

– a new online planning resource for communities that want to translate smart growth principles into action went live recently on the [Lancaster County Planning Commission's](#) (LCPC) website. The [Toolbox](#) provides "How to" resources to improve the quality of life in Lancaster County's 60 municipalities through better planning. The [Toolbox](#) contains a wide variety of strategies, ordinances, programs and best management practices that can be applied by communities to implement the goals and objectives of [Envision Lancaster County](#), the County's Comprehensive Plan, as well as regional and local comprehensive plans.

RENTAL HOMES REMAIN "OUT OF REACH" FOR MANY

PENNSYLVANIANS - According to a new national [report](#) on rental costs for every county, metropolitan area and state in the nation, **the Housing Wage for Pennsylvania is \$15.37**. The Housing Wage is the hourly wage a family must earn – working 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year – to be able to afford rent and utilities in the private housing market. This represents an increase of 40.2% since 2000.

The [report, Out of Reach 2009](#), was jointly released by the [National Low Income Housing Coalition](#) (NLIHC), a Washington, DC-based housing advocacy group, and the [Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania](#). The report provides the Housing Wage and other data for every state, metropolitan area and county in the country. **Working at the minimum wage, a family must have 2.1 wage earners working full-time – or one full-time earner working 86 hours/week – to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment.** The typical renter in Pennsylvania earns \$13.40/hour, which is about \$2/hr less than the hourly wage needed to afford a modest unit. [Click here for the breakdown by selected Pennsylvania counties or metropolitan statistical areas for rental affordability](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 4, 2009- Hourglass Forum – PLACEMAKING LANCASTER - Fred Kent, President of Project for Public Spaces – 6:30 p.m. Marriott Lancaster at Penn Square. Mr. Kent is a leading authority on revitalizing city spaces and one of the foremost thinkers in livability, smart growth and the future of the city. [For more information.](#)

June 7-10, 2009 – Pennsylvania Downtown Center's Annual Conference – Community Marketing: Plotting a Course to Your Town's Tomorrow – Johnstown, PA. [For more information.](#)

INTERESTING ARTICLES / REPORTS

[Creating Livable Communities: Housing and Transit Policy in the 21st Century](#) – Congressional Testimony of Robert Puentes, Senior Fellow and Director, Metropolitan Infrastructure Initiative – Brookings Institution.

[Local Government's Vital Role in National Economic Recovery](#) - This position paper was presented to the Obama Presidential Transition Team on 12/15/2008 and explains the vital role that local governments can play in implementing an Obama Administration economic stimulus plan.

[Navigating the Fiscal Crisis: Tested Strategies for Local Leaders](#) – The developing fiscal crisis that city and county governments face calls for extraordinary action by local officials at all levels of government.

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

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