

Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

Lancaster County Growth Management Issues

October 05, 2009

FYI

FOR THE LOVE OF FOOD, BASEBALL AND ART – (by Jim Corrigan, Hourglass board member) **Why do so many people enjoy going to Central Market, Clipper Stadium, and Prince Street on First Fridays?** It's not just for the love of food, baseball and art. **It's the place and the experience.** And just maybe, these places have more in common than meets the eye.

Each is a fun, authentic place, full of happy and interesting people; a lively place where you can bump into old friends and watch people of all ages and backgrounds having a good time. And where you can enjoy the moment, forgetting the problems of the world, surrounded by all sorts of interesting things to see and do.

While successful destinations may look very different, the ways they attract people and provide memorable experiences are very similar. They are attractive and authentic, with a unique character. They are full of people of all ages enjoying being there. And food always manages to enhance their experience. Being there is special; it energizes the soul, brightens your day, and makes you feel good.

Fun, active destinations like our examples oftentimes have a specific purpose or theme. They **provide a variety of things to see and do.** Much like an event; you go, you do what you went to do, and you leave. But you don't stop to relax or stay beyond the purpose. These are fun places, but they are not true public spaces where people can go any time just to meet, gather and enjoy being there. Places where the activities are more basic: resting, people watching, having conversations, and enjoying the surroundings. **So, how do you create a great public space that isn't based on the love of food, baseball or art, rather on the love of something larger and more abstract, like Downtown Lancaster?**

Many people agree that Downtown Lancaster is unique place, a great destination, but there is simply nowhere people can stop and enjoy being there. **If we are to create such a place, where visitors and local people want to go, linger, and enjoy the Lancaster experience, we need to better understand what makes some public spaces great and some not so great.** [To read the full article.](#)

LANCASTER PRAISED AT SMART GROWTH SUMMIT – [Central Penn Business Journal](#) reports that **Lancaster County got a thumbs-up** on Tuesday, September 29th from a state official for its efforts to control sprawl. Joanne Denworth, Senior Policy Manager for the Governor's office, **praised the county as being "one of the most progressive counties in the state for planning for growth."** She made her remarks as part of a keynote speech at the [Coalition for Smart Growth's](#) annual summit, held at Lancaster County's Farm and Home Center. The Manheim Township-based nonprofit advocates for "a sustainable and balanced future for Lancaster County. Denworth used her talk at the daylong event to examine some of the causes, effects and remedies for sprawl. [To read the full article.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

How to Turn a PLACE Around - October 15-16, 2009 – A two-day Project for Public Spaces training course that introduces new ways of thinking about public spaces and how Placemaking can be used to bring communities together and revitalize underperforming spaces. [For more information.](#)

INTERESTING ARTICLES / REPORTS

Eight Smart City Innovations - This series of infographics and posts from [Good](#) looks at innovations within a variety of world cities that improve city organization and operation -- from traffic to energy production to water conservation.

Moving Beyond the "Smackdown" Towards Architecture of Place –The recent [debate](#) with architectural giant Frank Gehry by *Fred Kent, President of Project for Public Spaces* shows the public's desire for design that fosters great places. Nearly every city today can brag about at least one success story where determined citizens, guided by the idea we call Placemaking, made a difference in the place they call home. [To read the full article.](#)

Growing Smarter Living Healthier – A Guide to Smart Growth and Active Aging – A guidebook from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) intended for older adults who are interested in how our communities work and how we might help them become more "age-friendly". [To access the guidebook.](#)

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

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