

# Keeping LANCASTER Current

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Lancaster County Growth Management Issues

October 19, 2009

FYI

**CITY, PARTNERS PLAN TO REHAB BLIGHTED HOMES** – (10/19/09 Central Penn Business Journal) **A blighted property can be more than just an eyesore.** Or at least that's the hope behind a new partnership among [Lancaster City](#), the [Lancaster County Workforce Investment Board](#) (WIB) and [Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology](#). The groups plan to pool resources and some of their federal economic-stimulus money to transform blighted city properties into affordable housing, starting next month. **The initiative would streamline the process the city already has in place for dealing with blighted properties,** said Randy Patterson, the city's director of economic development and neighborhood revitalization. The city's goal is always to work with property owners to bring their buildings up to code, Patterson said, but the city takes some properties by eminent domain as a last resort. [To read the full article.](#)

**THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME** – By [Joel Kotkin](#) | NEWSWEEK (9/09/09) American families are moving at the lowest rate since the 1940s. **Fewer Americans are relocating than at any time since 1962.** That's good news for families, communities ... and even the environment. The majority of Americans still live in a patchwork of smaller towns and cities, including many suburban towns within large metropolitan regions. **There are well over 65,000 general-purpose governments,** and with so many "small towns," the **average local jurisdiction population in the United States is 6,200,** small enough to allow nonprofessional politicians to have a serious impact. After decades of frantic mobility and homogenization, **we are seeing a return to placeness, along with more choices for individuals, families, and communities.** [To read the full article.](#)

**ESSENTIAL SMART GROWTH FIXES FOR URBAN AND SUBURBAN ZONING CODES** - Across the country, **local governments are searching for ways to create vibrant communities that attract jobs, foster economic development, and are attractive places for people to live, work, and play.** But many are discovering that their own land development codes and ordinances often get in the way of achieving these goals, and they may not have the resources or expertise to make the specific regulatory changes that will create more sustainable communities. To respond to this need, the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Smart Growth Program](#) convened a panel of national smart growth code experts to identify the topics in local zoning codes that are essential to creating the building blocks of smart growth. This [document, Essential Smart Growth Fixes for Urban and Suburban Zoning Codes,](#) presents the panel's initial work. It is an evolving document, one that will be regularly revised, added to, and updated, and is **intended to spark a larger conversation about the tools and information local governments need to revise their land development regulations.**

INTERESTING  
ARTICLES / REPORTS

[Fixing Broken Cities: The Implementation Of Urban Development Strategies](#) - the new book by John Kromer, Senior Consultant at the [Fels Institute of Government](#). Based in large part on John's firsthand experience, [Fixing Broken Cities](#) describes a variety of urban investment strategies, examines institutional investment in off-campus neighborhoods, the organization and performance of downtown management organizations, and the revitalization of deteriorating neighborhood retail districts.

[The Option of Urbanism – Investing in a New American Dream](#) – New book by visionary developer and strategist [Christopher B. Leinberger](#) explains why government policies have tilted the playing field toward one form of development over the last sixty years: the drivable suburb. He believes **the Dream is shifting to include cities as well as suburbs and how the financial and real estate communities need to respond to build communities that are more environmentally, socially and financially sustainable.**

[The World's Ugliest Buildings](#) – Travel & Leisure magazine picks their worst buildings ever.

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