

Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

Lancaster County Growth Management Issues

November 5, 2009

FYI

REVITALIZING FORECLOSED PROPERTIES WITH LAND BANKS -

The nation's foreclosure crisis has resulted in a large number of vacant and abandoned properties in many communities. Left unattended, **these properties present a safety hazard and can lower property values in surrounding areas.** In worst-case scenarios, the number of abandoned homes reaches a "tipping point," resulting in widespread dereliction and blight. Faced with daunting budget challenges, **many local governments are adopting land bank ordinances** to help facilitate the redevelopment and revitalization of affected neighborhoods.

A [new report](#) from the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Policy Development and Research](#), [Revitalizing Foreclosed Properties with Land Banks](#), looks at the structure and function of land banking and **discusses barriers and solutions to its successful implementation.**

Land Banks – are governmental or nonprofit entities that acquire, hold, and manage foreclosed or abandoned properties.

ULI EXPERTS AIDING MUNICIPALITIES AND NON-PROFITS – The District Council for the [Urban Land Institute – Philadelphia](#) is now accepting applications from municipalities and non-profits who would like to receive ULI expertise through their Technical Assistance Program (TAP). The TAP initiative enables ULI member volunteers **to provide an objective review and develop recommendations for a specific parcel of land which faces development challenges.** Both one and two-day TAPs are being offered. Consulting team members are selected from the membership based on their professional qualifications and experience with similar projects.

Priority is given to "smart growth" projects that contribute to sustainable, high-quality development with long-term value to the community. **Projects which support economic development, have local sponsorship, include a developer or development entity, and which could benefit from an "over-the-shoulder" view by seasoned professionals are encouraged.** Those involving collaborations between the public and private sectors which can be implemented given the right set of circumstances are ideal candidates. If you can help identify a potential site that would benefit from a TAP analysis, visit and learn more at [http://philadelphia.uli.org/Community%20Outreach/ Technical%20Assistance%20Program.aspx](http://philadelphia.uli.org/Community%20Outreach/Technical%20Assistance%20Program.aspx), or contact Craig Schelter, cschelter@msn.com.

TRANSPORTATION FOR A NEW ERA – Growing More Sustainable Communities – Transportation in America is at a pivot point. With the upcoming authorization of the next federal surface transportation bill we face a **historic opportunity to fundamentally rethink how we plan, fund, and build our transportation networks.** These choices matter; the country's economic vitality, environmental and energy sustainability, and quality of life depend heavily on the choices made about transportation. This new [report](#) from the [Urban Land Institute](#) explores the connections between land use, infrastructure and sustainability.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DESIGN MATTERS - Envision Lancaster County Speaker Series – Thursday, December 10, 2009, 6:30 p.m. – 150 N. Queen St. - Binns Park Annex - First Floor, Lancaster County Planning Commission Meeting Room – Hear [Alan Greenberger, FAIA](#) nationally renowned architect, leading designer and newly appointed Executive Director of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission explain the benefits of **making good design an important part of building, housing and land plans.** To reserve a seat call Donna Hahn (717)299-8333 or Email: hahn@co.lancaster.pa.us

SAVE THIS DATE
Reinventing Older Communities –
May 12 – May 14, 2009,
Hyatt Regency Philadelphia
at Penn's Landing

INTERESTING ARTICLES / REPORTS

[The Public Process: How NIMBYs Encourage Suburban Sprawl](#) - Most zoning codes simply perpetuate suburban sprawl and make development that is not dependent on automobiles impossible. The combination of public awareness about climate change, peak oil (the theory that oil production is on an inexorable downward trend) and the housing market bust has opened a window of opportunity to reconsider land use planning

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

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

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