

# Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

## Lancaster County Growth Management Issues

December 29, 2009

## FYI

**ECONOMIC CRISIS NECESSITATES NEW WAY OF DOING BUSINESS FOR CITY, TOWN AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS** - Many local governments have established new “normals” that will remain in place after the U.S. economy rebounds, according to the results of a new survey released by [International City/County Management Association](#) (ICMA). More than 80 percent of the 2,200 local governments that responded to ICMA’s “State of the Profession” survey report that they have been “moderately” to “severely” affected by the financial crisis and **experienced an average budget shortfall of more than eight percent for 2010**. The survey results reflect the print and online responses of **2,214 local government respondents from across the nation**. [To read more on the survey](#).

**In Pennsylvania, 11.8 million people live in 4.8 million households.** Of the 4.8 million households statewide, **1.4 million, or approximately 29 percent, are renter households.** The renter households include 2.9 million people, or **24 percent of the state’s total population** residing in housing units.

**AFFORDABILITY AND AVAILABILITY OF RENTAL HOUSING IN PENNSYLVANIA** - [The Community Affairs Department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia](#) undertook this study, *Affordability and Availability of Rental Housing in Pennsylvania*, to assess the housing needs of Pennsylvania’s lower-income renter households and to better understand how their needs vary across the state.

The study looks at the incidence of housing problems among this group at both the beginning and the middle of the current decade. It also considers the extent to which there were shortages in the number of rental units that were both affordable and available to lower-income renters at these two points in time. **The findings strongly suggest that conditions faced by the lowest income renters in Pennsylvania deteriorated from the beginning to the middle of the decade.** [To read the full report](#).

**THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF LANCASTER COUNTY – A Local Guide to Visualizing Residential Densities** – The neighborhoods of Lancaster County display a wide variety of style, density, vintage and history. While planners and community leaders have techniques to measure density numerically, they **have few tools to convey what density numbers look like** as they are translated into real living spaces. In the summer of 2008 Ryan Grube, a fourth year geography major at Penn State, volunteered for an internship in urban planning. Under the guidance of Principal Planner, Danny Whittle, of the [Lancaster County Planning Commission](#), Ryan **visited and photographed nearly fifty neighborhoods throughout Lancaster County**. Site and neighborhood characteristics were evaluated using a consistent methodology with comparable data sources. **The neighborhoods contained within the report show that well-designed higher-density development, properly integrated into an existing community have and will continue to serve as significant community assets.** [To read the full report](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, March 17, 2010 – **BREAKING GROUND – Building Livable Communities in Greater Philadelphia** – [The Union League of Philadelphia](#). **One day workshop** sponsored by [The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission](#) designed for local planning partners, practitioners, developers and decision-makers on **creating livable communities**. For more information, please contact Karen P Cilurso, [kpcilurso@dvrpc.org](mailto:kpcilurso@dvrpc.org) or 215-238-2876

## SAVE THIS DATE

**Reinventing Older Communities** – May 12 – May 14, 2010, Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn’s Landing

## INTERESTING ARTICLES ■ REPORTS WEBSITES

**Rail Stimulus Funds to Bypass Northeast** - The Northeast corridor has effectively been shut out from receiving any federal high speed rail stimulus dollars due to tight environmental review policies. [Read the full article](#).

**Sustain Magazine, Fall/Winter 2010** - reflects current thinking in the area of green urbanism and urban sustainability in our cities. The issue features seven perspectives on the ideal city in terms of policy and planning. To read the [Fall/Winter 2010 edition](#).

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

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