

# Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

Lancaster County Growth Management Issues

February 4, 2010

FYI

## Urbanism

represents a return to the way neighborhoods grew before development shifted from towns and cities.

**A NEW KIND OF ZONING – Communities of all sizes are adopting form-based codes –** (*On Common Ground*) Rather than regulating development by focusing primarily on land use, **form-based codes focus primarily on physical form**, describing in great detail what is desired in the built environment rather than what is prohibited. Form-based codes were **conceived to regulate the details** – everything from smaller blocks to buildings sitting closer to the street – **that are most important to urbanism.** [To read the full article.](#)

**AMERICANS MOVING LESS – GETTING ROOTED –** (*NY Times*) **In the 1950s, nearly 1/5 of Americans moved each year.** That trend is quickly reversing. Americans are now staying put in greater numbers than at any time since World War II, and experts have plenty of opinions on why that is. From the **recession and lack of jobs to a new sense of community ties** and rootedness, Americans are choosing to stay put and delay moving for a wide variety of reasons. A panel of experts including urbanist Richard Florida, economist Lawrence Katz, sociologist Katherine Newman, and demographer Peter Fracesse weighs in on what's tying Americans down, whether or not it will last, and what it all means for communities. [To read the full article.](#)

**CROPS IN THE CITY - Is gardening the new golf?** Urbanist Andrés Duany thinks so and made this remark recently while discussing the renewed interest in how we grow our food. Whether it's the recession or a renewed interest in food issues, **community gardens are popping up in abandoned lots, throngs are driving out to U-Pick farms, municipalities are incorporating edible landscapes into city parks, and developers are incorporating working farms into housing developments.** Last year in Denver, Colorado, a family-run farm invited the public to collect the remaining crops from their fields and to their surprise 40,000 people arrived to collect left-over potatoes, beets, and carrots! And the number of farmers' markets has tripled in the last decade from 1,750 in 1994 to 4,400 today. What does all this mean? The first program in the spring 2010 [For the Greener Good: Conversations that Will Change the World](#) series investigates the issue of urban agriculture. [Read the full article](#)

## 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

Thursday, March 18, 2010 **Susquehanna Greenway Symposium –** Keynote Speaker – Dan Shilling, Author of: *Civic Tourism – The Poetry and Politics of Place.* For more information <http://www.susquehannagreenway.org>.

## SAVE THIS DATE

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

## INTERESTING ARTICLES ■ REPORTS WEBSITES

**Study Says Poverty Increasing in Suburbs -** A new study by the [Brookings Institute](#) concludes that **America's suburbs have become home to the largest and fastest-growing poor population in the country.** Between 2000 and 2008, poor populations increased in the suburbs by 25 percent, five times that seen in the inner city and smaller towns. [To read the full report.](#)

Enabling Informed Growth Management  
Decision Making for Lancaster County

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

HOURGLASS



FOUNDATION