

# Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

**Lancaster County Growth Management Issues**

February 22, 2010

**FYI**

**Mixed-use Development** – Can produce diverse and convenient communities with the added benefit of reducing traffic. By integrating different uses such as residences, offices and shopping, many daily vehicle trips can be eliminated or reduced in length.

**DRIVING AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT – The Effects of Compact Development on Motorized Travel, Energy Use, and CO2 Emissions** - Requested by Congress and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, [Special Report 298](#) examines the relationship between land development patterns, often referred to as the built environment, and motor vehicle travel in the United States. The [study](#), which was conducted jointly by the Transportation Research Board and by the Board on Energy and Environmental Systems of the Division on Engineering and Physical Sciences, assesses **whether petroleum use, and by extension carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, could be reduced by more compact, mixed-use development**, the term used in the [report](#) to describe development at higher densities with mixing of land uses.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) OPENS SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OFFICE, ISSUES REQUEST FOR COMMENTS** – The [Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania](#) reports that earlier this month, HUD formally announced the launch of its new Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities (OSHC). As part of the launch, HUD has issued an Advance Notice and Request for Comments on the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program, and **comments are due by March 12**. OSHC is designed to help build stronger, more sustainable communities by connecting housing to jobs, fostering local innovation and building a clean energy economy. The purpose of the advance notice is to get feedback regarding how the “Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program” should be structured before HUD issues a NOFA pertaining to this \$100 million program. (The “Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program” is the lion share of the \$150 million Sustainable Communities Initiative that we have been hearing about since the FY10 Budget came out last year.) The **Program’s goal is to support multi-jurisdictional regional planning efforts that integrate housing, transportation, environmental impact, and economic development decision-making**. [For more details](#).

**LAND VOTE 2009-** [The Trust for Public Land and the Land Trust Alliance](#) partnered in 2000 to begin production and distribution of the LandVote® publications. **These publications provide an overview of the year's voting trends, at-a-glance overviews of regional voting activities through illustrated maps, profiles of conservation finance mechanisms and case studies of transformational conservation programs**. The newly released 2009 report demonstrates the voters commitment across the U.S. to supporting public investments in parks and natural areas. Despite some of the worst economic circumstances in years, voters in 13 states approved conservation finance ballot measures that will generate more than \$600 million to protect open space. Of the 40 measures on the ballot, nearly two out of every three were successful. Because of the decline in the real estate market, conversation has become a more attractive alternative to development for some landowners. [To read the full report](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, March 6, 2010 – Keep Farming First** – Presented by [Chester County 2020](#) – Octorara Area High School – The keynote speaker, Dr. Tim Kelsey, professor and State Program Leader for Economic and Community Development, with Penn State Cooperative Extension **will talk about Agriculture in the Community: Its Value to the Local Economy**. Dr. Kelsey will then moderate a panel with Mike Brown, Honey Brook Township, who will discuss the local impact of agriculture from the municipal perspective re taxes, lower cost of community services; Glenn Cote, Laurel Valley Farms, the economic history of Chester County re mushroom growing and its supply chain; and Lowell Fry, Fulton Bank, re the relationship of agriculture with the service and supply infrastructure.

**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>.

## INTERESTING ARTICLES ■ REPORTS WEBSITES

[State of Well-Being – Pennsylvania 2009 City, State & Congressional District Well-Being Report](#) – provides the only measurement today for total well-being. Beyond medical condition and access to healthcare coverage and services, the Index also covers questions respondents about economic, professional, emotional and social circumstances.

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

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