

Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

Lancaster County Growth Management Issues

May 11, 2010

FYI

PARKS ARE SPRAWL PREVENTERS – (The Dirt) [Kathryn Gustafson](#) of the firm [Gustafson Guthrie Nichol](#) says that **urban parks are an antidote to sprawl** because they give city dwellers the room to breathe that often drives them to the suburbs. **One of the reasons people move out to the suburbs is to have some sort of space**, some sort of breathing room. The interior spaces of landscape in the city can replace that. They're there to **enable healthy living**. Urban spaces allow you to take out your children, walk your dog, or exercise. **Parks provide a place to just stop and rest for a moment, stop and think about where you're going and what you're doing.** Those are the roles of urban space in the city. [The American Society of Landscape Architects](#) interviewed Gustafson on a number of subjects, ranging from the idea of a national design policy to the growing role of landscape architects in American cities. [To read the full interview.](#)

THE POWER OF LOCAL – (*Yes Magazine*) [Locally grown food](#) has soared in popularity. **There are now 5,274 active farmers markets in the United States.** Remarkably, almost one of every two of these markets was started within the last decade. **Food co-ops and neighborhood greengrocers are likewise on the rise.** Some 400 new independent bookstores have opened in the last four years. Neighborhood hardware stores are making a comeback in some cities. Most students graduating from pharmacy school report that they would rather open their own drugstore than work for chain. Last April, even as Virgin Megastores prepared to shutter its last U.S. record emporium, more than a thousand independent music stores were mobbed for the second annual Record Store Day, a celebration of independent record stores that drew hundreds of thousands of people into local stores, became one of the top search terms on Google, and triggered a 16-point upswing in album sales. **Driving is down in U.S. over the last two years, while data from a dozen metropolitan regions show that houses located within walking distance of local businesses have held value better than those isolated in the suburbs**, where the nearest gallon of milk is a five-mile drive to a superstore. In city after city, independent businesses are organizing and building an increasingly powerful counterweight to the big business lobby on issues as varied as tax policy and global warming. [Local business alliances](#) have now formed in over 130 cities and collectively count some 30,000 businesses as members. These alliances are calling on people to choose independent businesses and locally produced goods more often, making a compelling case that doing so is critical to rebuilding middle-class prosperity, averting environmental catastrophe, and ensuring that our daily lives are not smothered by corporate uniformity. [To read the full article.](#)

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESSFUL LOCAL GOVERNMENT

COLLABORATION - Top-level buy in and citizen support are two crucial components to ensure success. [Read more.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Role of Public Officials & Citizens in Protecting & Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed – Wednesday, May 26, 2010 Lancaster Marriott - Hosted by the Lancaster Inter-Municipal Committee (LIMC). Annual Dinner Meeting — Representatives of government and organizations, along with their spouses, other guests and area residents, are invited to join the LIMC to **learn about their opportunities and responsibilities relating to the Chesapeake Bay Program.** [For more information.](#)

The Future of the Past – New Economic Realities for Traditional Revitalization – June 13-16, 2010 Downtown Lancaster. [Pennsylvania Downtown Center's](#) 2010 Annual Statewide Conference – Lancaster County Convention Center. [For conference information and registration info.](#)

Building One Pennsylvania – A Statewide Summit on Regional Equity – Friday, July 16, 2010 – 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, Lancaster, PA. Fee \$15.00. The summit will give **visibility during this critical election year to the common challenges faced by our communities, and to launch an organizing structure for advancing the state and federal policy agenda that will revitalize and strengthen Pennsylvania.** For more information contact: Dave Smith dave@goodschoolspa.org or (717) 394-1619

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

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

HOURGLASS

FOUNDATION