

# Keeping LANCASTER Current

AN HOURGLASS PUBLICATION

## Lancaster County Growth Management Issues

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## FYI

### GOING TO EXTREMES AS THE DOWNTURN WEARS ON – (NY Times)

State and municipal governments across the United States are facing an **unprecedented financial crisis**, prompting many of them to cut back drastically on public services in order to reduce costs. The [New York Times](#) provides three major examples of how governments are coping with budget shortfalls - with education, public transit and public safety taking significant hits: "Faced with the steepest and longest decline in tax collections on record, state, county and city governments have resorted to major life-changing cuts in core services like education, transportation and public safety that, not too long ago, would have been unthinkable. And **services in many areas could get worse before they get better**. Around the country, there have already been drastic cuts in core services like education, transportation and public safety, and there are likely to be more before the downturn ends. [To read the full article](#).

"The needs of our citizens are evolving, and the way we plan for the future must evolve as well. This legislation is a significant step in that evolution."

Senator Chris Dodd,  
Chairman

### SENATE BANKING COMMITTEE PASSES

**LIVABLE COMMUNITIES ACT** - The [Senate Banking Committee](#) on August 3 passed Chairman Chris Dodd's (D-CT) [Livable Communities Act \(S. 1619\)](#) to **improve the coordination between our housing, community development, transportation, energy, and environmental policies to help create better places to live, work and raise families**. The bill will promote sustainable development and enable communities to cut traffic congestion; reduce greenhouse gas emissions and oil consumption; protect farmland and green spaces; revitalize existing Main Streets and urban centers; spur economic development; and create more affordable housing.

### PLACEMAKING AND PRESERVATION -

The [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#) and [Project for Public Spaces](#) (PPS) announced that Tupelo, Mississippi, has been selected as the **pilot site for a demonstration project that will tap into the power of Placemaking** to revitalize this National Main Street community. Best known as the birthplace of Elvis Presley, the "King of Rock and Roll," Tupelo will engage a wide range of community stakeholders and the Mississippi Department of Transportation to invigorate the city's Main Street corridor, a state highway that links downtown to Presley's birthplace and other public spaces and local attractions. [To read the full article](#).

### FIVE KEYS TO POSITIONING FOR ECONOMIC SUCCESS

(ICMA) - The current fiscal crisis has many communities focused on maintaining current programs with shrinking budgets. But **recovering from the economy also requires strategic planning** to position your community for economic growth in the future. [To read the full article](#).

## OTHER INTERESTING INFORMATION

### [Lancaster City's New Urban Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan](#)

The following information is now available on the Philadelphia Fed's website: [Update to Lancaster MSA Community Profile](#) - The Community Affairs Department of the [Philadelphia Federal Reserve](#) periodically produces community profiles of regions in the Third Federal Reserve District. The [report](#) for the Lancaster, PA MSA has been updated and is now available.

### [Innovative stormwater grant for Lancaster](#) (Penn Future)

The [City of Lancaster](#) has [received](#) a \$400,000 grant from the [Chesapeake Bay Program](#) and the [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#) through the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) to reduce stormwater that flows into sewers and the Chesapeake Bay. The pilot project will include the use of porous pavement, planting additional trees and other cost-effective alternatives to separating the city's sewer system from its stormwater system. [LIVE Green](#), a Lancaster non-profit working on environmental sustainability issues in the city, is a key partner in the grant.

Enabling Informed Growth Management  
Decision Making for Lancaster County

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