

# LANCASTER County Matters

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HOURGLASS



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## Thoughts on Problems and Possibilities for the Future of Lancaster County

By Arthur K. Mann, Sr., Chairman

### Introduction

Yes, we have problems in Lancaster County. We also have opportunities to build a better life for ourselves.

For some of us, the inexorable tide of people who settle here represent a threat to the very quality of life that now attracts them. Within the next 100 years we can envision over one million people living in an area where 500,000 of us now reside. We see such an increase as overwhelming the air, water, waste and traffic systems and even our governments; overwhelming some to the point of collapse.

For others, the future holds a vision of technology and invention that will create an ever more friendly, pleasant world in which we humans will enjoy an ever increasing wealth and quality of life.

For many, the vision is a mixture of these two scenarios. But, no matter where your personal views fit on this spectrum, a main issue for most of us is our desire to leave a legacy to our future generations, having improved what was given to us for the benefit of those who follow.

At this point there are many things we do individually and collectively to improve our lives, but many of the public problems and their attendant possibilities are complex and interrelated. We all live amidst a flux of material and energy in an extensive web of interdependent living organisms, which, consume and discharge them in an altered state. Do any of us believe that each of us is independent of each other in this county and that our actions and their consequences do not reverberate throughout our social and ecological system?

So, how do we begin to think and consider the problems that beset us? Further, how do we go about devising effective solutions?

### The Dialogue

If we, as a community, organized as a representative government and as a republic depend exclusively upon our elected officials, with two and four year terms and planning time frames to effectively deal with the long term planning issues, we are doomed to disappointment. If many important decisions are not made and carried out in ten and twenty year projects, we face the danger of applying band aids to a cancer with little curative effect.

It is therefore, important that the general public be involved as much as possible in the debate over options. Without that involvement, it is easy and predictable for our leaders to resort to autocratic decisions. Consequently, problems such as disposing of our ever-increasing flow of solid waste are handled in a series of trust destroying back-room machinations and decisions. Without an

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## Thoughts on Problems and Possibilities for the future of Lancaster County (Cont'd from Page 1)

informed and supportive public sentiment, expensive and long term, future oriented projects are in danger of generating strong and counterproductive opposition within the community. A worthy project is in danger of being halted and a problem not solved and an opportunity potentially lost.

In looking back over my past experience with projects and organizations that have stumbled or failed and those that succeeded, I find they had a common lack and a common asset. That commonality was the absence or presence of dialogue; dialogue defined as the conversation between well-intentioned people with the purpose of reaching a common understanding.

In any human endeavor, where there is no dialogue, problems are not clearly defined nor understood by those affected. A problem poorly defined is seldom well solved. Further, many opportunities remain invisible and lost. Conversely, where there is open and effective dialogue, problems and opportunities are identified and fully understood in common. Thus, is formed a solid foundation throughout a community for the necessary conversations of requests and commitments that precede effective action.

I ask those of you who have read thus far to reflect upon the truth of this postulate in the light of your own experience. When you do, I am certain you will arrive at the same conclusion; effective dialogue is an essential ingredient for any successful enterprise.

Now then, the question becomes how do we create the requisite conditions for dialogue to flourish in our community?

And that brings us to the purpose of our Survey 2000 and the purpose of the Hourglass Foundation: to create the conditions for effective dialogue. Our bi-annual survey is meant to act as a catalyst for Lancaster citizens to engage in informed conversations about the issues facing Lancaster County. Our forums are another strategy to bring new thinking and to stimulate talk. The survey is also designed to confirm public opinion and potential support on key issues as an aid to our elected leaders who are responsible for making and carrying out decisions in the public domain.

It is our hope that those conversations will eventually shape public sentiment and that sentiment will guide and foster better decisions that we would otherwise suffer or enjoy.

### Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. Forum

Sponsored by the Hourglass Foundation, Joseph P. Riley, Jr., Mayor of Charleston, South Carolina spoke to a standing-room-only crowd on Tuesday, March 20th in the Woods Room at Franklin & Marshall College's Alumni Sports & Fitness Center.

During his presentation, Mayor Riley showed before and after slides of Charleston demonstrating how blighted buildings can be saved and rejuvenated. His message throughout the presentation was, "there's no reason to ever build anything that doesn't add to the city" and "we must see our cities as a valuable family heirloom that we inherited, and an extraordinary responsibility to care for it properly and pass it on to future generations".

Inspired by his message, numerous editorials and letters from concerned citizens have been published in the local newspapers. Discussions throughout the community reference his comments and ask, "What would Mayor Riley do?" By providing the community with such an inspiring speaker, the Hourglass Foundation continues on its mission.

***For more on this forum, please see Page 4 of this newsletter. If you were unable to attend the forum and would like to receive a transcript of Mayor Riley's presentation, please contact our office for more information.***

## Lancaster Among Worst in Smog

In the May 2nd edition of the Intelligencer Journal it was reported that the quality of our air has gotten worse. The American Lung Association has released their "State of Air 2001" report which shows that Lancaster County has moved up from notch 22 to notch 20. Ground-level ozone is the chief component of the smog which is created when heat and energy are applied to other by-products. Petroleum-based product emissions react with other pollutants such as nitrogen oxides. When the sun's heat and light are introduced to that reaction, ozone is produced. Making Lancaster's problems worse is polluted ozone drifting from the Baltimore Washington area.



When ozone enters the lungs, it causes abrasions, much like a sunburn does to the skin. The abrasions can last from three to five days and during that time the lungs ooze fluid. If the ozone problem is not taken care of, it will continue to cause abrasions in the lungs and they will continue to ooze. A person growing up in an area of high ozone levels will have approximately 80% of the lung capacity as a dweller in a non-ozone area. Ozone exposure may lead to shortness of breath, chest pain, wheezing and coughing. Those most at risk are children, the elderly and others with respiratory problems.

This news of "bad air" should not come as a surprise to anyone living in Lancaster County. The County continues to grow in an alarming pace. This over-development—"sprawl" is the fastest growing threat to our local environment and quality of life. The consequences of this low density, automobile dependent growth will continue to impact the quality of our lives in many ways. Some of the consequences of sprawl are: traffic congestion, causing longer commutes that steal time from family and work; worsening air and water pollution; loss of farmland, open fields and wetlands; increased flooding and increased taxes to pay for such services as police and fire departments. Also increased demands on our infrastructure of schools, roads, water supplies and sewer systems.

In June, 1998 the Hourglass Foundation sponsored a forum entitled, "Ozone and Air Quality in Lancaster Pennsylvania". At that forum Jim Salvaggio, director of the Bureau of Air Quality, of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection stated, "What we need is to convince people in the area to recognize that they really have a problem. We must recognize that we receive pollution here, we produce pollution here and we pass it on to others." At the time of the forum, Jim Salvaggio stated that the air quality is improving but the problem is far from solved. As a result of the most recent report it is apparent we need to do more.



What can you do voluntarily? People should walk, utilize public transportation or car pool when at all possible; refuel vehicles in the evening; and consider using an electric mower for your lawn. (One gas mower operated for one hour has the same impact of driving a car 300 miles.)



We all must begin to take responsibility for the decisions that are effecting the quality of our life in Lancaster County. The Hourglass Foundation will continue to provide our readers with information concerning issues that must be addressed to sustain the quality of our lives here in Lancaster County.

***It's about time and time is running out!***

## Can Lancaster Learn to Charleston?

by James L. Corrigan, Director

Recently, the Hourglass Foundation asked Joe Riley, the Mayor of Charleston, South Carolina, to come to Lancaster and speak about city revitalization. Mayor Riley reminded us that Lancaster, like Charleston, is a historic city, developed before the elevator and the automobile. Its buildings are built on a human scale, the sizes that we can all relate to. With buildings that address the sidewalk, creating places where people feel at ease and in control. Charleston, like Lancaster, was in need of revitalization because of suburbanization, which happened rapidly.



*Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr.*

And after a tour of Lancaster, Mayor Riley said “the building style you have in Lancaster is remarkable, and the degree to which it is intact is a national treasure and the opportunities it presents to you is beyond anything you can understand because you are too close to it. It’s the fabric that any city in America would give its eye tooth for.”

The following is inspired by what Mayor Riley said that evening. Think of it as a roadmap for success or simple rules to follow.

### **1. Begin with a Vision**

Bring people together to create a vision for what our city can be. Define its greatest resources and its unique character. Involve everyone and be sensitive to their needs. Build buy-in and public trust. Create a short and long range strategic plan, and update it periodically.

### **2. Plan for the Interrelationships**

A downtown is a delicate, complicated ecosystem. Everything we do affects something else. There are lots of unintended consequences of well-meaning actions when decisions are made in isolation. Successfully orchestrating all the interrelations is critical to the pursuit of excellence.

### **3. Don’t Take Easy Solutions**

Don’t be lazy looking for shortcuts. Always do the right thing and doing it right. Reject ideas and plans that aren’t the best they can be, that don’t advance the vision and make the city better than it was. Attention to beauty, quality, details, smart urban design, sensitivity to interrelationships and focus on the vision are critical at every step.

### **4. Make a Passionate Commitment**

Creating a truly great city isn’t easy and doesn’t happen quickly. If we have a passionate commitment to the vision and a smart strategic plan we can make it happen, piece by piece. Start in the residential areas to strengthen the city. Create affordable housing that is beautiful and desirable. Scatter it throughout the city. Understand the high purpose of the city and work knowledgeably and passionately to achieve the vision.

## Can Lancaster Learn to Charleston (Cont'd. from Page 4)

### 5. Create Beauty as the Standard

Cities must be places where every citizen's heart can sing. All human beings understand and appreciate beauty. People's lives are enhanced when their city is made more beautiful. If we do good stuff in the city, good things will happen and people will learn to expect it. Utilize a design review board, to assure every project meets established design and vision guidelines.

### 6. Honor the Street

The corner store concept of successful urban design is to honor the street. How buildings meet the sidewalk determines whether people will want to walk through the city. The sidewalk is for everyone, the stage where everything happens. People will not be comfortable walking past a blank wall, a vacant lot, or an ugly space. The more storefronts the better to move people along.

### 7. Preserve Building and Memories

We have a responsibility to save historic buildings. Every time we lazily tear down a building we forever take away the memory of a city that can never be put back. Historic buildings have a unique character, charm and beauty that are the essence of the city and the reason people want to be there.

### 8. Focus on Public Spaces

We save downtowns, not just because of the tax base or the jobs. But, because a city is a public realm. We can not sentence future generations to the private zones. People need to gather in public zones they own for eye contact, and elbow contact, for feeling good and for re-energizing the soul. If we build something for the public, we must give them the best, build pride and remind them of their citizenship. The sidewalk is where buildings and people meet. Everything we do must energize the street and lift people's spirits as they walk along.

## Joan Henderson Named to the Board of Directors



Joan Henderson of J.R. Henderson & Associates, Inc. located in Lancaster has been named to the Board of Directors of the Hourglass Foundation. Joan brings to the Foundation a wealth of experience in working with non-profit organizations in strategic planning, resource development and communications.

She holds a BS in Education from the University of Florida and currently is a member of the Board of Directors of the Sterling Financial Corporation and the Bank of Lancaster County, N.A. and is the Immediate Past Chair of the Small Business and Agriculture Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve Bank Philadelphia.

### **“Looking into the Future” Program**

The fourth annual Looking into the Future program concluded on April 10, 2001. The three days of seminars and field trips covered a variety of topics, including land planning, the quality of local waterways and waste disposal. An awards dinner was held at the Pressroom and was attended by all participants, including 15 Hourglass Scholars and the Lancaster County Commissioners. Certificates of Participation and group photographs were provided to each participant.

Funding for the program was provided by Lancaster Newspapers, Inc., Engle-Hambright & Davies, Inc., Lancaster County and Lebanon County’s Planning Commission, Lancaster-Lebanon I.U. 13, Citizens for Responsible Growth, the Historic Preservation Trust, and the Hourglass Foundation through a grant from the Department of Environmental Protection.



**Hourglass Foundation Scholars**



**Jim Biddle of Lancaster I.U. 13 and John Jarvis of the Hourglass Foundation**



**County Commissioner Paul Thibault and John Jarvis**



### Be a Lancaster County Champion

*We need your financial assistance. The Hourglass Foundation is a non-profit organization formed to provide information, facilitate discussion and champion the intelligent management of Lancaster County resources. It is our hope to make local citizens, organizations and governments more aware and better informed. And, to help them find solutions to the immediate and long-term, growth-related problems impacting our quality of life.*

*Yes, I/we want to be a **Lancaster County Champion**, and will be pleased to support the Hourglass Foundation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make check payable to the Hourglass Foundation. Your contribution is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. If you have any questions, call the Hourglass Foundation at (717) 295-0755.*

### County Adopts Long-Range Transportation Plan

On April 23, 2001 The County of Lancaster adopted a Long-Range Transportation Plan for 2001-2025. The Plan is a look into the future of Lancaster County to anticipate transportation needs over the next 25 years. It contains goals and objectives for Lancaster County’s transportation system and identifies the improvements, studies and strategies that must be implemented to reach those goals and objectives. The Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) was developed in the context of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAAA), the Pennsylvania Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan (PennPlan), and the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan. The plan satisfies the requirements of these documents.

- The Plan carefully considers the seven TEA-21 planning factors.
- The Plan is financially constrained.
- The public has been involved in the creation and adoption of the plan.
- The plan conforms to requirements in the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.
- The Plan is consistent with the policies, goals, and objectives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan (PennPlan).
- The Plan is consistent with the policies, goals, and objectives of the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan.

***If you would like to receive a copy of the Long-Range Transportation Plan or a copy of the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan, please contact our office for more information.***

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## Our Mission

*Articulate and champion a shared vision for the smart growth and sustainable development of Lancaster County into the 21st Century.*

*Provide ideas that will enable Lancaster County's decision makers to choose wisely and do the right thing on issues—whether they are economic, environmental, societal, or cultural—that affect us all.*

*Bring together local citizens, organizations, communities, and governments to discuss common issues and to solve growth-related problems.*

*Protect the distinct character of Lancaster County and ensure its proud legacy for future generations.*

*The Hourglass Foundation is a non-profit organization. There is much work to be done. Please help us continue our efforts to make a difference in impacting the quality of life for future generations in Lancaster County by becoming a "Lancaster County Champion".*

**Lancaster County Matters** is published bi-monthly by the Hourglass Foundation. We welcome comments and ideas for future issues. Please notify our office of a change of address. Please contact Jennifer Mundy at (717)295-0755 or e-mail [hourglass@supernet.com](mailto:hourglass@supernet.com)