

Summer 2020

Hourglass Quarterly



CHILD CARE CHALLENGES

SINGLE-FAMILY ZONING

CLEAN WATER EFFORTS

FIRST FRIDAY FORUMS

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Letter from the Executive Director

Hello,

First, let me start by wishing you health and stability as we navigate this pandemic and resulting economic downturn. Hourglass firmly believes that Lancaster will get through this and emerge from it stronger than ever before.



With this landscape at the forefront of our minds, the Hourglass made some substantial changes to position itself for continued success in the future. In July, we moved our physical offices to 922 N Queen Street, Lancaster, PA 17603. We are thrilled with our new space and hope to be here for many years to come. Also, in July, we launched our new website. With a generous sponsorship from Lapp Electric, we were able to give our online presence a much needed refresh so that we can better carry out our mission to “provide local reliable information to Lancaster County leaders, ensuring informed decisions, and making Lancaster a better place to live and work.” When the pandemic started, we retooled our Keeping Lancaster Current virtual newsletter to provide up-to-date information to our mailing list. This newsletter is sent out twice per week and highlights articles of interest to Lancaster’s leaders. We invite you to visit the new website at www.hourglasslancaster.org and to sign up for Keeping Lancaster Current.

I am excited to share with you this Summer 2020 edition of the Hourglass Quarterly. The first article puts a spotlight on the child care challenges facing families in Lancaster County. For the article, we interviewed two child care providers who shared their experiences as they look to reopen in August. The second article explores the critiques of single-family zoning, a much maligned planning designation, and if it should be banned. The next article provides an update on the work undertaken to develop and implement a Countywide Action Plan to clean our waterways. Finally, we include summaries of our First Friday Forums for the first seven months of 2020. Videos of the forums from May, June, and July are available on our website in their entirety.

Happy reading!

Jonathan Russell
Executive Director

CLEAN WATER EFFORTS

Work is underway in Lancaster County

Clean water in Lancaster is essential but has not always been accessible. Since 2018, though, there has been a shift as organizations now operate at unprecedented rates to implement conservation practices as timelines to reduce nutrient and sediment levels entering the Chesapeake Bay watershed grow shorter. Thankfully and not surprisingly, Lancaster's community is prepared and eager to make local watersheds better for Lancasterians, as well as our neighbors downstream.

Half of Lancaster County's 1,400 miles of streams are unhealthy with high levels of phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment. In 2018, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) invited Lancaster, and several other priority counties, to develop a plan to reduce pollutants entering local waterways. The Lancaster Clean Water Partners took the lead role in developing that plan, reflecting local needs. Lancaster's Countywide Action Plan (CAP) outlines the goals, outcomes, and methodology for reducing pollutants to healthy levels.

Implementation of CAP efforts are led by the Partners along with a collaborative team: LandStudies, Lancaster Farmland Trust, and David Miller Associates.

Success depends on all parts of the community coming together for diverse, collaborative work. When the CAP is fully implemented by 2025, approximately 9,197,613 pounds of nitrogen and 500,000 pounds of phosphorus will be removed from Lancaster's waterways.

"Clean water is essential to our region's health, economy, outdoor heritage, and quality of life," says Allyson Gibson, coordinator at the Lancaster Clean Water Partners. "Lancaster is key to the overall Bay restoration work. We have much work yet to do, but our communities have made incredible strides towards reducing water pollution and we're inspired by their enthusiasm and determination. We're thankful for DEP's financial support of projects, as well as federal and private contributions. But we cannot emphasize enough the need for additional resources to support an even faster pace to see clean and clear water in Lancaster."

For more information on the CAP, visit www.LancasterCleanWaterPartners.com.

Article written by Emily Smedley, Communications and Program Manager, Lancaster Clean Water Partners.

