

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](http://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

## CHILD CARE CHALLENGES

### Families have tough decisions to make

Millions of families across the country are having the same discussion right now – how and where their child care needs will be met in the fall. Most working families need care for at least 40 hours per week, much of which was provided by public schools. Because of the Coronavirus, however, schools are no longer providing guaranteed child care.



Care for children under five is also in crisis. Many child care centers are estimated to close due to the pandemic, putting a price premium on the remaining slots. This increase in price will push child care out of reach for many families, leaving them with few options. For parents working at home, juggling child care and work responsibilities can be quite challenging.

In “The Coming Child Care Crisis” Axios reports, “On top of that, this new normal could set parents back in the workplace — especially mothers, who tend to bear much of the child care

and homeschooling burden. There's the isolation that comes from missing happy hours or team lunches and — even worse — the possibility of being passed over for promotions or raises.”

In Lancaster County, six of the 16 public school districts (and the one charter school) have submitted the required Health and Safety Plans to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. These plans will serve as the local guideline for schools' reopening process. These plans run the gamut from full in-person education to a combination of in-person and virtual learning. Even as school districts developed these plans, guidelines from the state government on managing the coronavirus and public places, changed. Due to the unpredictable nature of the pandemic, it is likely that school districts will need to adapt their reopening plans in the future.

This uncertainty also is felt in the many child care centers throughout the County. The Lancaster Recreation Commission provides a variety of child care services to families in Lancaster City and Lancaster Township, including full-day infant and toddler care, full-day preschool care, Pre-K Counts, and before and after school care. These services assist approximately



450 families. Currently, Lancaster Rec plans on resuming these services in August with new safety protocols in place such as daily temperature checks, frequent hand washing, requiring masks or face shields (children under the age of 2 are not required to wear masks), and conducting child drop-off and pick-up outside so that parents/caregivers do not enter the building. "These precautions are worth it", says Lancaster Rec Executive Director Heather Dighe. In addition to providing much needed child care, Dighe says, "Social and emotional development is so important at this age. Thankfully our staff is up to the challenge of providing meaningful instruction and interaction".



The Lancaster Early Education Center will face similar challenges when it reopens on August 31. The Center provides child care for 140 families with children that range from infants to five year-olds. From following state guidelines to reassuring "petrified" staff, CEO Nina Moragne says, "ensuring the safety of everyone at the center is our top priority." Despite


the uncertainty the pandemic has brought, the demand for services provided by the Lancaster Early Education Center is at an all time high. "We are at capacity and our waiting list is growing like crazy," says Moragne.



**Pictured:** Nina Moragne, CEO Lancaster Early Education Center.

(Photo Credit: LancasterOnline)

Without adequate child care, many families are going to be forced to make hard choices. Employers concerned about the well-being of their employees and their families can consider options such as creating more flexible work schedules and changing the way an employee is measured. As the pandemic holds a cloud over all future plans, it is important that families with children do not get lost in the fog.

Article summarized from "The Coming Child Care Crisis" by Erica Pandey from Axios. June 30, 2020. Thanks to Heather Dighe and Nina Moragne for their contributions to this article. 

# END OF SINGLE-FAMILY ZONING?

## Increased density is preferred

The embrace of Single-family zoning is widespread among local governments and homeowners.

However, a reckoning with single-family zoning has come to the forefront due to a mounting crises over housing affordability, racial inequality, and climate change in American cities.

So what is single-family zoning? Single-family zoning is a code designation that means that a single family will be expected to live in the home, and it's not zoned as a duplex, triplex, or other multi-family option where there will be more than one unit. 75% of residential land in American cities is designated as single-family zoning.



Despite its seemingly innocuous definition, single-family zoning has a dark underbelly. Zoning laws create separation between different socio-economic groups by ensuring that renters would be less likely to live among homeowners, or working-class families among affluent ones, or minority children near high-quality schools. This further ex-

acerbates racial and ethnic divides in our communities.

Single-family zoning reflects the belief that denser housing can be a nuisance to single-family neighborhoods. Born out of an idea that density brings noise, traffic, and crime, affluent areas of the city sought to protect their idyllic house with a yard. In 1926, even the US Supreme Court came down against high density development saying they detrimentally impact the existing neighborhood "until, finally, the residential character of the neighborhood and its desirability as a place of detached residences are utterly destroyed."

Today environmentalists, planners, and economists view this very density as the savior of American cities. Density is an antidote to sprawling development patterns that feed gridlock and auto emissions, it helps to support public transit, and is the best means of making high-cost cities more affordable.

It may be time to reevaluate our local communities' reliance on single-family zoning.

*Article summarized from "Cities Start to Question an American Ideal: A House With a Yard on Every Lot" by Emily Badger and Quoc Trung Bui of the New York Times. June 18, 2019.*





# 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](http://www.LancasterCleanWaterPartners.com).

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



# HOURGLASS FIRST FRIDAY FORUMS

## Highlights from recent forums

### January 10, 2020 - Lancaster Recreation Commission

**Presenter:** Heather Dighe, Executive Director

At the January First Friday Forum, Heather Dighe, Executive Director of the Lancaster Recreation Commission, presented her organization's work in the community. The Lancaster Recreation Commission (Lancaster Rec) was established in 1909 as the Lancaster Playground Association. Today Lancaster Rec is supported by three governmental units, the City of Lancaster, Lancaster Township, and the School District of Lancaster, who contribute funds to Lancaster Rec. Currently Lancaster Rec operates: twelve Before and After School Child Care sites; two Early Childhood Education program locations with eight classrooms including McCaskey Early Learning Center; three Senior Centers; four Full Day Summer Camps; Summer Playground Programs that see more than 3,500 children every summer; more than 50 youth sports programs and clinics; the largest adult softball league in the state of PA; free meal programs for children and seniors that provide thousands of meals each year; and special family events, including Open Streets Lancaster, Daddy-Daughter Dance and Mom-Son Fall Ball. Due to its rich history and demonstrated success in providing community based recreation services, the Lancaster Rec is uniquely positioned to serve the recreation, education and community needs in Lancaster.



### February 7, 2020 - City of Lancaster

**Presenter:** Mayor Danene Sorace

Lancaster City Mayor Danene Sorace's annual presentation to the Hourglass First Friday Forum was on February 7, 2020. She engaged in a discussion about the City's successes and challenges of the last year and what her administration plans




to accomplish going forward. During the last year the City of Lancaster was awarded an \$11.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to combat lead hazards in the City. This HUD funding will be deployed to four high priority census tracts south of King Street and will be



## FIRST FRIDAY FORUM SPONSOR



used to abate both renter and owner occupied housing. Lead poisoning affects the central nervous system and brain, especially in fetuses and young children, and hinders their development and ability to learn and regulate behavior. During this last year Lancaster was also certified a Welcoming City. This certification indicates the City's commitment to welcoming newcomers from both outside the United States and within.

Mayor Sorace also discussed one of the biggest challenges facing the City, financial sustainability. Annually, the City has a structural deficit. There is a bi-partisan effort in Harrisburg to help give Lancaster, and other similar cities in PA, the tools they need to remain fiscally secure. Mayor Sorace is working with many in the Lancaster delegation to implement a solution. She asked that those in attendance speak with their State House and Senate Elected Official and let them know that the financial health of the City of Lancaster is important to them. 

### **March 6, 2020 - Center for Regional Analysis**


**Presenter:** Naomi Young, Director

Naomi Young, the Director of the Center for Regional Analysis at the Economic Development Company of Lancaster County, presented on the work the Center has been undertaking and shared some initial research findings. The Center for Regional Analysis (CRA) was formed in 2018 with substantial financial support from the Steinman Foundation and the BB&T Economic Growth Fund at the Lancaster County Community Foundation. CRA is a nonpartisan research center dedicated to enhancing the wellbeing and vitality of local and regional economies through independent economic insight and data-driven analysis. Some of CRA's early work has been to dispel a few of the preconceived notions held by many about Lancaster's economy. One of the most widely held beliefs is that Lancaster County weathered the recession better than the state and the rest of the country. However, this is not accurate. Lancaster actually entered the recession prior to Pennsylvania and the rest of the country and took longer for its GDP growth rate to reach pre-recession levels. Some other interesting findings are that: Lancaster's



# HOURGLASS FIRST FRIDAY FORUMS

## Highlights from recent forums - Cont.

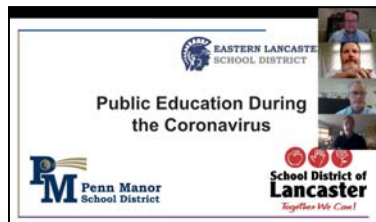
GDP is quite large and ranks just outside of the top quarter of the largest MSAs in the U.S.; 60% of our land is used for agriculture; and the manufacturing sector is the largest source of GDP in the County (21%) and is the second largest employment sector in the County (17%) behind Education and Healthcare (19%). 


### April 2020 First Friday Forum - Canceled

*The following forums took place virtually using the Zoom Webinar function. This not only allowed us to continue to host First Friday Forums during the pandemic, it also enabled us to record the presentations. We invite you to watch the videos of the forums in their entirety by visiting the Hourglass website at [www.HourglassLancaster.org](http://www.HourglassLancaster.org) or the Hourglass YouTube page.*

### May 1, 2020 - Public Education During the Coronavirus

**Presenters:** Matthew Przywara (Chief of Finance and Operations, School District of Lancaster), Dr. Mike Leichliter (Superintendent, Penn Manor School District), and Dr. Robert Hollister (Superintendent, Eastern Lancaster County School District)




As our community continued to grapple with the new realities of the COVID-19 pandemic, the future of Lancaster's public schools became a topic of much discussion. Matthew Przywara, Dr. Mike Leichliter, and Dr. Robert Hollister joined the Hourglass to share how they have met the challenge of public education during a pandemic. They also shared how their budgets have been affected by the pandemic and the recession it caused. Penn Manor anticipates a \$500,000 gap in the school district's budget for this fiscal year and a \$2.7million deficit in the 2020-2021 budget. The School District of Lancaster also faces a potential \$12.3million budget deficit next fiscal year. Additionally, the presenters shared their thoughts on how school might be taught in the fall. 

## FIRST FRIDAY FORUM SPONSOR



### June 5, 2020 - The Coronavirus in Lancaster County

**Presenter:** Dr. Michael Ripchinski, Chief Clinical Officer at Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health


The Coronavirus, and the COVID-19 disease it causes, has profoundly disrupted our lives. Dr. Michael Ripchinski joined Hourglass at the June First Friday Forum to provide a comprehensive overview of the Coronavirus and COVID-19. Dr. Ripchinski shared up-to-date data on the number of those infected, where those infected came from, general demographics of those infected, and the number of those who have died from the disease. He discussed possible treatments for those who are sick with COVID-19 as well as the prognosis for a vaccine in the future. He also discussed how Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health has responded to the crisis and the hospital system's current capacity to care for those with the disease. 



### July 3, 2020 - Higher Education in Lancaster County

**Presenters:** Dr. Barbara Altmann (President, Franklin & Marshall College) and Dr. Daniel Wubah (President, Millersville University)



The winding down of summer means that students will be returning to colleges and universities soon... or will they? Dr. Altmann and Dr. Wubah joined the Hourglass at the July First Friday Forum for a conversation on the effect of the Coronavirus on higher education. The presenters provided an overview of how each of their institutions has responded to the Coronavirus crisis. Both Franklin & Marshall College and Millersville University transitioned to some form of online education for the remainder of the Spring 2020 semester and they each plan to incorporate both online and in-person education for the Fall 2020 semester. Additionally, Dr. Altmann and Dr. Wubah shared their reflections on the future of higher education both during and after the Coronavirus. 

*To attend forums like these, become an Hourglass member.*



**HOURLASS**  
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