



# the official newsletter of the Lancaster County Planning Commission

## Ronald Bailey, You will be missed...

*Bailey is a leading force in the County for Smart Growth, historical preservation and maintenance of farmland and open space. Now he will use his expertise on behalf of the State.*

Ronald Bailey, known throughout the County for molding the LCPC into a dynamic, innovative and results-oriented agency, has resigned his 16-year position as Executive Director. Bailey, 54, accepted a position as Executive Director of the Campaign to Renew Pennsylvania effective January 2005.



Ronald Bailey

Photo by Deb Grove

County, it will be on all of Pennsylvania. In his new position, Bailey will lead the Campaign to Renew Pennsylvania toward a Pennsylvania whose children want to stay and work here; a Pennsylvania that protects and invests in our assets – natural, built and human; a Pennsylvania that places a priority on economic growth and good jobs where people live.

Bailey served as Executive Director of the LCPC since 1988. His contributions extend from managing

sprawl and enhancing transportation planning and coordination to preserving heritage and maintaining farmland. He brought his city and

Please see **Bailey** on page 7.

Bailey will still have a positive influence on improving Lancaster County, but this time his focus will be on more than Lancaster

## A Salute to the Winners 2004 Envision Lancaster County Leadership Awards

If the winners of the 2004 Envision Lancaster County Leadership Awards are indicative of Smart Growth in our area, Lancaster County is indeed a key leader in Smart Growth.

“I am excited about the 10 award-winning Smart Growth initiatives we had the privilege of celebrating in 2004,” said Commissioner Pete Shaub. “People from the private and nonprofit sectors worked together to accomplish some incredible feats,” said the Commissioner. “The winners share our vision to make Lancaster County the most desirable place to live, learn, work and play, and their initiatives are proof of their commitment.

Please see **Winners** on page 3.



**Betti Bell, Stephanie Harley, and Brenda Schillaci (center) accept a 2004 Smart Growth Achievement Award for the Ephrata Playhouse in the Park from (left to right) Logan Myers, Commissioners Peter Shaub and Molly Henderson, and George Rettew.**

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# Congratulations Fall 2004 Master Planner Graduates!

“One of the true pleasures of my job is congratulating and thanking the new graduates of the Lancaster County Master Planner Course,” said Commissioner Pete Shaub. “The Board of Commissioners and the Lancaster County Planning Commission appreciate all the good work these outstanding people have already done on behalf of this County, their communities and their neighborhoods. With their enhanced knowledge of municipal planning as 2004 Master Planner graduates, I know that all of us will continue to hear remarkable things about their successes in the years ahead.”

More than 200 people have already earned the designation of Master Planner through the certification program. “The effectiveness of this course can be measured by the many outstanding independent study projects produced by the students of the Master Planner Course,” said Lois Herr, 2003/2004 Chair of the Lancaster County Planning Commission. “The independent study projects contain valuable information that can be a beneficial source for many municipalities throughout the County.”

A winner of the Pennsylvania Planning Association’s Public Education Award,

the eight-consecutive-week course has continued to evolve since its inception in 1995. Classes meet once weekly for six evenings and for a full-day excursion to a smart growth community. The eighth meeting features a graduation dinner. The course is open to Lancaster residents and those who live outside the County.

“The Master Planner Course addresses the full range of planning possibilities and their impact in municipal, county, and state governments,” said Charlie Douts, 2004 Secretary of the Lancaster County Planning Commission. “It is a quality educational opportunity for municipal officials, realtors, builders and developers, bankers, business leaders, and the general public.”

The program is well organized with manuals, illustrated materials, guest speakers, group assignments, and an independent study. The framework of the course encourages sharing experiences, recognition of problems and solutions, and discussions about the value others have gained from smart county, regional and municipal planning. The fee for the class is \$250.

The Lancaster County Master Planner Course is offered twice each year during

the spring and fall. The spring 2005 course will begin on Thursday, April 7 and end with graduation on Thursday, May 26. Classes meet weekly. Please check [www.co.lancaster.pa.us](http://www.co.lancaster.pa.us) keyword: education for a registration form or call 717-299-8333. ●

## Fall 2004 Graduates

Edward M. Bailey, Pastor  
Bethel A.M.E. Church

Phoebe M. Bailey  
Executive Director  
Bethel Harambee Historical Services, Inc.

Matt Kofroth, Watershed Specialist  
Lancaster County Conservation District

John M. Memmi, Ph.D., GISP  
Chairman, Derry Township,  
Dauphin County

C. Stuart Nelson  
Support Staff, Volunteer  
State Representative Gib Armstrong

Patricia Schoor  
Community Development Coordinator  
Lancaster County Housing &  
Redevelopment Authorities

Sam Wilsker  
Development Assistant  
Meeder Development

*“The Master Planner’s Course will now allow me to work more closely with local municipalities on planning related topics. The course opened my eyes to many aspects that are involved with planning and how they are all interrelated in the grand scheme of things.”*

Matt Kofroth, Fall 2004 Graduate



**Fall 2004 Master Planner Graduating Class, from left to right, John Memmi, Patricia Schoor, C. Stuart Nelson, Samuel Wilsker, Matthew Kofroth, and Phoebe M. Bailey. Not Pictured: Reverend Edward M. Bailey.**

## Winners

Continued from page 1.

Established in 2003, the awards competition is an outgrowth of Envision Lancaster County, a collaborative effort established in 2003 by public, private and nonprofit entities to facilitate the implementation of the *Update* to the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan and Smart Growth principles, which are the foundation of the Plan.

“In this second year of the awards competition, it is evident that positive changes are happening throughout the County,” said 2003/2004 Lois Herr, Chair of the Lancaster County Planning Commission. “The winners applied Smart Growth principles in both the planning and implementation of their projects. Their innovative projects show what can be realized if you think comprehensively and long-term.”

Three levels of awards were presented at the reception: leadership, achievement and certificate of merit. The Coalition for Smart Growth sponsored the Achievement Awards. “The County and the Coalition both advocate for the preservation of farmland and strengthening of urban centers,” said Peggie Stauffer, Partner with Trout, Ebersole & Groff, LLP and President of the Coalition for Smart Growth. “On behalf of the Coalition, I thank the award winners for their excellent work and for their commitment to Smart Growth.”

Commissioner Shaub thanked the Coalition, municipalities and general public for their active support of Smart Growth. He also personally thanked Reverend Louis Butcher, Sr. and Executive Director Andrew Marshall and his staff for hosting the Smart Growth awards celebration at the new Bright Side Opportunities Center, which they envisioned and worked with hundreds of others to make a reality. Commissioners Shellenberger and Henderson presented the awards.

Application forms for next year’s Smart Growth awards will be available in the spring of 2005. Please refer to [www.envisionlanastercounty.com](http://www.envisionlanastercounty.com) or call 717-299-8333.

## Leadership Awards



**Prototype**

**Rapho Township** received a leadership award for its **Village Overlay Zone**, which provides a set of design standards that promote a village-setting characteristic of the County’s heritage.



**Newport Square**

**Newport Square Associates and RGS Associates** received a leadership award for the **Newport Square** development in Warwick Township. The development provides a range of housing types, including rental property, for a variety of income groups. A wetlands tract in the development was protected and enhanced, and a trail system was built for recreation.



**Lititz Elementary School**

**RLPS Architects and Warwick School District** won a leadership award for design of the new **Lititz Elementary School** on the same site as the old school in downtown Lititz. The new school design preserves the historical attributes of the downtown and incorporates modern amenities.

## Achievement Awards

**Ephrata Borough and Ephrata Performing Arts Center** won an achievement award for the \$2.4 million renovation that added 9,000 square feet to **Ephrata Playhouse in the Park**.

**East Hempfield Township and Charter Homes** won an achievement award for the township’s adoption of the **Neighborhood Design Option and Neighborhood Design Standards Ordinances** which enhance opportunities for creative neighborhood design and development. The ordinances allow higher density for housing while providing for appealing open space.

**Strasburg Borough and Strasburg Community Parks Foundation** won an achievement award for development of 12 acres of borough-owned land into **Strasburg Community Park** complete with walking trails, an open-air amphitheater, wildflower meadows and a wetland area.

**Manheim Borough; Reifen Rubber Company, Inc.; Restore ‘N More; and SLiP Industries** won an achievement award for their collaborative work in acquiring and renovating the deteriorated former **Agway Mill Property** for reuse.

**Community Basics, Inc. and EGStoltzfus Construction** won an achievement award for the adaptive reuse of the former New Holland Machine Company plant and headquarters into 56 units of affordable workforce housing now known as **New Holland Apartments**.

**Manheim Township** won an achievement award for additions to its **Historic Overlay District** to promote the adaptive reuse of historic buildings to meet the needs of today’s residents, while also preserving these structures for future generations.

## Certificate of Merit

**Lancaster Farmland Trust and Lancaster Regional Medical Center** won a certificate of merit for their collaborative effort to build the **Heart of Lancaster Regional Medical Center** in Warwick Township, while preserving 100 acres of prime farmland. ●

## Lancaster Planners Prominent at Successful 2004 PPA Conference

LCPC staff played a prominent role in the planning and execution of the 2004 Pennsylvania Planning Association (PPA) Annual Conference, which broke attendance records.

“So many meetings were going on simultaneously that the sessions spilled over from the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers to Temple University’s Harrisburg Campus,” said Community Planner Mark Stivers. Along with fellow Community Planners Julia Goodman and Frank Behlau, Stivers attended a meeting back in the fall of 2003 to begin plans for the 2004 conference.

LCPC staff was visible throughout the three-day conference attended by 549, which was the largest congregation ever of planners at a PPA Conference. Stivers became a major player on the program committee, helping with the actual development and organizing of the conference in addition to registration on Sunday, November 7th.

As participants entered the Exhibit Hall they were greeted by an innovative display showcasing the Lancaster Community Indicators Project, which was developed by Indicators Project Representatives Diane Tannehill and Karen Weibel along with Senior Planner Pat Kadel. The display featured the “*Measure Up Lancaster 2003 Report*,” which can also be found on the Planning Commission’s web site at [www.co.lancaster.pa.us/planning](http://www.co.lancaster.pa.us/planning). Simply click on Reports and Publications.

The mobile tours were a popular part of the conference. Community Planner Danny Whittle served as a mobile tour guide and led a discussion entitled “*Downtown Redevelopment Without a Wrecking Ball*.” LCPC Economic Development Specialist Cindy Hampton helped answer questions and provided insights. The intriguing discussion covered improvements to Lancaster City and surrounding municipalities, which have gone through many phases of growth.



**PPA participants participate in a tour of Harrisburg’s Greenway.**

Whittle said that in an effort to revitalize the downtown area, there is an ongoing trend to remove buildings only when it is absolutely necessary.

“It is important to ensure that the character and sense of place are preserved,” said Whittle. Sites visited included the Clipper Stadium, now under construction; projects in the James Street Improvement District; the former Watt and Shand Building on Lancaster Square under consideration for the proposed new convention center; the new Red Rose Transit Authority bus terminal; the new police station; and many others.

“The tour focused on projects that preserve the character of the community and benefit the local economy through adaptive reuse of existing buildings and context sensitive new construction,” said Whittle. Thanks to Toby Vargas of the Economic Development Division each participant received a packet with project photos along with maps of the area.

On Monday afternoon, Long Range Planners Glenn Mohler and Mary Frey led a session entitled “*Tracking Growth & Change in Lancaster County: Evolution of a GIS Based System to Monitor Land Development Trends & Patterns*.” The session covered the growth tracking sys-

tem design, process and tools. It also included a discussion on plans for the future of the Growth Tracking System, including program additions and refinements.

“Lancaster County’s Growth Tracking System is an innovative GIS-based tool which is used to monitor land conversion and land development trends and patterns,” said GIS Specialist Mohler. The Growth Tracking System evaluates the effectiveness of planning policies in guiding and accommodating growth within Growth Areas to meet the mutual goals of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code and the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan.

LCPC’s role didn’t stop there. An interesting and challenging session entitled “*Pennsylvania Heritage Regions as Local Partners*” was hosted by President of the Lancaster-York Heritage Region Mark Platts and LCPC’s Heritage Division Director Scott Standish.

Platts discussed the overall vision and concept behind the Heritage Program and ways in which Heritage Parks can help local planning organizations develop their goals and implementation strategies.

Standish discussed ways in which Lancaster County’s Heritage Program achieves successful heritage planning and development at the local and regional levels. For more information, visit our web site at [www.co.lancaster.pa.us/planning](http://www.co.lancaster.pa.us/planning) and click on Heritage Planning.

As the conference came to an end and the banners started coming down, planners from across Pennsylvania began preparing for the 2005 PPA Annual Conference, scheduled for October in Bethlehem, PA.

We know this year’s PPA Conference will be hard to top, but knowing this group of planners the bets are already on that the 2005 meeting will be even better. ●

# Progress Continues on 2030 Housing Element Update

## Steering Committee Conducts Extensive Public Outreach Effort

How would you go about developing a plan to identify the housing needs of all current and future Lancaster County residents through the year 2030?

It is an enormous undertaking, and the Housing Steering Committee which has been led by Allan Granger has been charged with this very important job that will have an impact on all Lancaster County residents. The Housing Steering Committee has been hard at work researching and compiling information for an *Update* to the housing element of the County's Comprehensive Plan.

Since September of 2003, the Steering Committee, composed of 24 representatives appointed by the LCPC, representing a broad range of stakeholder groups, has been meeting monthly to discuss housing-related matters.

To help lead the Steering Committee through completion of the final *Update* by June 2005, the County Board of Commissioners contracted with a consultant team last summer. All three firms on the team have extensive experience in planning and housing, and all three have experience working in Lancaster County. This team, led by ACP Visioning and Planning, Ltd. of New York, New York, also includes Thomas Comitta Associates of West Chester, Pa and Zimmerman/Volk Associates of Clinton, New Jersey.

On July 28, 2004, Steering Committee and Consultant Team members were led by LCPC staff on the first of two tours of housing-related sites throughout Lancaster County.

The first tour began with breakfast and presentations on the James Street Improvement District and City Life, which is the Franklin and Marshall College Employer Assisted Housing Program. After breakfast, the group boarded a bus and visited

20 sites in Lancaster City and surrounding communities. They then stopped at Brethren Village Retirement Community in Lititz, where they heard informative presentations on Brethren Village; the Lititz community; and Newport Square, a mixed-use development with a variety of house types.



**The Housing Steering Committee and staff made a special effort to reach those who sometimes have difficulty attending public meetings by going directly to them. Pictured above, senior citizen representatives at one of several small focus groups held in November 2004 to discuss current and future housing needs.**

After enjoying lunch provided by Brethren Village, the tour continued through the Lititz area and into northern Lancaster County. More housing developments and related sites were viewed before the tour concluded at Denver Borough Hall, where local officials discussed housing-related matters of importance to their region.

On September 9, Manager Terry Kauffman gave a presentation on several housing initiatives underway in Mount Joy Borough then, once again, Committee members boarded the bus. This time the tour's focus was on the western, southern, and eastern areas of the County. The Committee visited sites in Mountville, Columbia, Washington Boro, Millersville, and Providence Township.

During lunch at the Quarryville Library, the Committee heard presentations and discussed housing matters in the southern region. The tour then progressed through the eastern areas of the County, including Christiana and the Mill Valley region before concluding at the Leacock Township Office in Intercourse. There the Committee heard an insightful presentation led by local officials and a representative of the Amish community. The group then visited a farm business operated by three generations of an Amish family.

Clearly these tours could not have been conducted without the assistance of many people. Presentations and discussions were prepared by 11 guest speakers on the first tour and 14 on the second, as well as Committee members and planning staff.

These informative days provided background information as well as the opportunity to view many sites throughout the County.

Following these tours, the Committee conducted an extensive public participation process that provided opportunities for individuals, developers, financial institutions, non-profit organizations, and government agencies to provide early input on the *Update*. With the information gathered during these tours and from the public meetings, the Steering Committee, consultant team and staff will spend the winter months preparing a draft of the *Update* for release in spring 2005.

For information on the status of the *Update*, please see "Comp Plan Updates" under "In the Spotlight" on the LCPC website at [www.co.lancaster.pa.us/planning](http://www.co.lancaster.pa.us/planning) or contact Patricia Kadel, Senior Planner, at 717-299-8333 or [kadelp@co.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:kadelp@co.lancaster.pa.us). ●

# Growth Management Update Task Force Covers A Lot of Ground

The 60-member Growth Management Task Force, Co-Chaired by 2003/2004 LCPC Chair Lois Herr and Vice President of RETTEW Associates Ron Beam, continues to cover a lot of ground.

The Task Force is working hard to develop an *Update* to the Growth Management Element of the County's Comprehensive Plan, which will plan for the County's growth through 2030. The *Update* will be based on the County's existing Growth Management Program developed in 1993, which steers growth to urban and village growth areas while preserving agricultural land and open space in rural and natural areas.

As of December 2004, the Task Force completed one year of meetings. During that time, it has traveled throughout all regions of the County holding monthly meetings to hear presentations from municipalities and others on a variety of topics, issues and opportunities that will play a role in the County's future. Topics heard and examined by the Task Force include:

1. Agricultural Preservation
2. Rural Economy
3. Water Quantity and Quality
4. Redevelopment Efforts for Urbanized Areas
5. Transportation Planning
6. Open Space, Heritage Planning and River Communities
7. Multi-Municipal Planning
8. Economic Development

In addition to the Task Force's work relative to the collection and analysis of information heard at its meetings, it has recently selected, with the Board of Commissioners support, a consultant team headed by the Philadelphia-based planning firm Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC. Other members of the team include the engineering/geographic information services firm McCormick Taylor also of

Philadelphia; the American Farmland Trust, which is based in Washington, DC and brings expertise in rural economies and farmland preservation; and David Elesh, Ph.D. of Temple University in Philadelphia, who brings expertise in population and employment projections. With their technical credentials and knowledge, the team will assist the County and Task Force in the development of the *Update*. Currently, the team is helping the Task Force configure three subcommittees around areas deemed particularly important to the *Update*. These topical areas include:

- A Rural Strategy to support Lancaster's preservation and rural economy;
- A Smart Growth Toolbox to support Lancaster's urban and rural areas, and
- A Buildable Lands Inventory to identify sites for future residential, commercial/retail, and industrial growth.

If any municipality or citizen would like to participate on a subcommittee or would like to attend subcommittee meetings, please contact Principal Planner Mary Frey. Your participation is welcome.

Also, participation by municipalities and citizens is encouraged at a series of Public Meetings which the County and Task Force will host to discuss findings generated through subcommittee and related work on the *Update*.

More information about the work of the Task Force and the Public Meeting series can be obtained through the LCPC's home page at [www.co.lancaster.pa.us/planning](http://www.co.lancaster.pa.us/planning). Please click on "**Comp Plan Updates**" under "**In the Spotlight**" on the home page, or contact Principal Planner Mary Frey at [frey@co.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:frey@co.lancaster.pa.us) or 717.299.8333. ●

## Most Important Meetings of the Decade

### Growth Management Public Meeting Series

All meetings 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Select one in your area each month.

### January Public Meetings—Growth Trends in Lancaster County

- Monday, January 24—Netherlands Inn, Strasburg Borough
- Tuesday, January 25—Ephrata Library, Ephrata Borough
- Thursday, January 27—Acorn Farms Reception & Conference Center, Mount Joy Road, Rapho Township

### March Public Meetings—Strategies for Strengthening a Balance Between Growth and Preservation

(Location of meetings to be announced)

- Monday, March 14
- Tuesday, March 15
- Thursday, March 17

### April Public Meetings—Developing a Preferred Land Use Scenario for Lancaster's Future

(Location of meetings to be announced)

- Monday, April 25
- Tuesday, April 26
- Thursday, April 28

This Land is Your Land.  
Come and let your voice be heard!

# Bailey

Continued from page 1.

county planning experience from Oregon and Washington to Lancaster. A native of California, Bailey demonstrated a growing commitment to make Lancaster County a better place for residents and visitors.

“Ronald Bailey is a man of principles and high standards,” said Lois Herr, 2003-2004 Chair of the LCPC. “Over the past 16 years, he built an accomplished staff of planning, government and business professionals from Lancaster and throughout the United States. Ronald will be missed, but the passion for Smart Growth now permeates our County. With leaders like Chris, James, Nancy, Phyllis and Scott, I know that Lancaster County’s planning effort is in good hands.”

Today, LCPC is nationally recognized for its leadership in the areas of Growth Management, Preservation and Smart Growth.

Additionally, it has forged an enhanced relationships between the department



**At Regional Forum on the County’s Comprehensive Plan, Ronald Bailey solicits insights from municipal and school officials.**

and municipalities. LCPC now offers technical expertise to municipalities through assigned community planners. Land use and related training programs are customized for municipalities. Transportation and park grant programs also help LCPC facilitate collaboration.

Moreover, it has facilitated improved inter-municipal relationships. The largest multi-municipal planning effort in the state is now underway in Lancaster County and includes 11 municipalities. Thirty other municipalities are also engaged in multi-municipal planning.

“Ronald was able to see the big picture and helped to put in place the pieces to shape the future of land use in Lancaster County in a positive way,” said Charlie Douts, 2004 LCPC Secretary. “Local municipal officials began to realize the impact of their decisions upon neighboring municipalities. Ronald encouraged and, if needed, facilitated a dialogue between the County and adjoining municipalities.”

Ronald’s role as a visionary, change agent, collaborator, and facilitator will forever impact the landscape of this community. LCPC will continue to draw on his expertise through Renew Pennsylvania and through the Pennsylvania State Planning Board to which Bailey has been recently appointed by Governor Edward G. Rendell.

Bailey will work out of Harrisburg in his new position but will continue to live with his wife of 21 years, Laura, in Lancaster Township. Bailey has two grown children, Justin and Adam and a grandson, Keyton, who is now walking and the apple of his grandfather’s eye. ●

## Bailey’s Accomplishments

Under the Leadership of Ronald Bailey, the Planning Commission has had many accomplishments; the following provides a list of some of the top ones:

1. Established LCPC as a venue for consensus on growth and preservation;
2. Established designated Growth Areas;
3. Developed a Parks and Open Space Element under the Comprehensive Plan;
4. Initiated the Expedited Permitting Initiative for Economic Development projects;
5. Linked planning and economic development;
6. Provided a Community Planner for each municipality;
7. Linked transportation to land use planning;
8. Developed a Zoning Lexicon model;
9. Started a Municipal Transportation Grants Program and the Community Parks Initiative;
10. Developed a Water Resources Element under the Comprehensive Plan;
11. Established the Lancaster-York Heritage Region;
12. Enhanced heritage tourism;
13. Developed the County’s first Geographic Information System;
14. Spearheaded multi-municipal plans and inter-municipal cooperation;
15. Provided leadership at the state level on a variety of planning issues;
16. Developed the Master Planner and Municipal Training Programs;
17. Initiated Envision Lancaster County (the Smart Growth Initiative);
18. Created the Smart Growth Leadership Awards program;
19. Increased private/public partnerships;
20. Started the County newsletter, **fyi**; and
21. Created Lancaster County’s Land Recycling Program ●

### We Are Committed

At this busy time in the *Update* to the Growth Management Element, the development of the Cultural Heritage Element, and the *Update* of the Housing Element of the Comprehensive Plan, continuity is important, and LCPC intends not only to provide guidance but also to dedicate whatever extra time and effort may be required to see that those projects are completed on time. It is equally important to reassure municipal officials and others who depend on the planning staff that the LCPC and staff will continue to support the programs and projects that have been put in place.

All the planning commission members are committed to working with the County Commissioners and with planning staff to help select and then ease the transition to a new executive director.

Lois Herr, 2003/2004 Chair  
Lancaster County Planning Commission

## 2005 Lancaster County Board of Commissioners

Dick Shellenberger, Chairman  
Howard (Pete) Shaub, Vice Chairman  
Molly Henderson, Commissioner

## 2004 Lancaster County Planning Commission

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Jonathan Price

**fji** Newsletter is published by the Lancaster County Planning Commission and is dedicated to sharing knowledge about information on urban and regional planning issues affecting Lancaster County. The purpose of the newsletter is to inform and promote more effective and equitable planning. **fji** is free and made available by contacting Gael Rapp at (717) 299-8333.

### 2004 **fji** Team

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## Got Milky Way? The Issue of Light Pollution

When was the last time you saw the Milky Way? It's a fact that many, if not most, children in the United States today have never seen the Milky Way nor a sky full of stars. The dark skies of our childhoods have disappeared.

The loss of dark skies is as much a loss of our natural heritage as the loss of clean water or forested open space. Urban sky glow (the noticeable lightening of the sky at night) is the problem; its cause is the use of bad or inappropriate lighting.

The gradual loss of dark skies has been happening over the last thirty years. Because the loss has been incremental, the issue has not gotten the public's attention. This is an issue that is slowly gaining notice in Lancaster County, including rural parts of the county where lighting in new development has had some noticeable effects on the nighttime landscape.

**"Astronomy compels the soul to look upwards and leads us from this world to another."  
Plato, The Republic, VII, 529**

Night lighting is needed for security and safety, but there is good lighting and bad lighting. Good lighting provides necessary illumination, saves energy, and does not contribute to light pollution. Bad lighting increases urban sky glow, trespasses on to neighboring properties, is glaring, and wastes energy.

Fortunately, there are simple solutions to bad lighting. Light fixtures are available that direct illumination to the area where it is needed. These fixtures are designed so that the light does not shine upward or outward to where it is not intended. For many applications, outdoor lighting controls such as timers and motion sensors are available so that light is only shining when it is needed.

The International Dark-Sky Association's mission is to educate the public about the issue of light pollution and to offer solutions. The Association believes that there are common sense solutions to light pollution problems. The Association's website at [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org) offers a wide range of resources. The Lancaster County Planning Commission through the Community Planning Division can assist with lighting standards for inclusion in subdivision and zoning ordinances. Such lighting standards will be part of the Model Smart Growth Subdivision Ordinance that the commission will release later this year.

Eventually, as the issue becomes known and new fixtures replace old, we may once again be able to point up at a dark night sky from our backyard and be able to say, "I've spotted it. I've got the Milky Way." ●