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Need for rational assessment of Lancaster General Health

It is natural for the public to look at this colossus of a local health provider with reverence. We often suspend critical judgment as we do for the entire health care system because, deep down, we harbor a sense of dependency.

But there needs to be a spotlight placed on LGH. And in fairness, next week we will spotlight their response.

(1) Its second highest profits in the state are mainly the result of market dominance, something they are trying to perfect by crowding out the one remaining viable competitor, Ephrata Community Hospital.

(2) Because LGH market dominance enables it to charge insurance companies more, insurers in turn charge more to Lancastrians for coverage. So LGH's huge profits are in part coming from our pockets.

(3) LGH, a non-profit 'public charity' is one of the least charitable hospitals in the state! We know not what it is doing with its vast earnings, but we do know they are not being directed adequately towards local public health and education.

(4) There is total lack of transparency, with media and public being banned from all LGH trustee and committee meetings except for the annual public meeting, and that one goes unnoted and unreported by the Lancaster press. (It was held last November, but not a word was printed about it before or after.)

(5) Finally, management at LGH is totally self-perpetuating, with current trustees choosing future ones. There is no public input.

With LGH, we have a non-profit institution that acts like a Fortune 100 for-profit corporation that pays no dividends. We hope to help LGH find its way.

New location proposed for LT fire house

A new location has been proposed for the controversial Lancaster Township emergency services center, one that could potentially assuage the concerns of many of the project's past opponents, according to Michael Rowen of the School District of Lancaster board. Rowen discussed the proposal at the board's Tuesday evening meeting, calling it "*a possible win-win situation.*"

Rather than sitting behind Planet Fitness with private access drives connecting Atkins Avenue and Millersville Pike, the new location would front on

Millersville Pike, sitting alongside the Planet Fitness parking lot. A one-way private drive from Atkins leading to the fire house would run along the Manor House Apartments' property line and behind Planet Fitness. It would begin at a point that would minimize travel along the residential Atkins Ave.

According to Rowen, the newly proposed location would not require the relocation of district athletic fields, thus making it unnecessary to consider clearing portions of the wooded areas in the Lancaster Township Community Park.

EDITORIAL: District Attorney's logic is contradictory

District Attorney Craig Stedman is critical of Judge Jeffery Wright for only sentencing Ryan Lebus to 5 to 12 years in state prison for driving drunk and causing a fiery 2008 accident that killed a mother of three, badly burned a grandmother, and injured the burned woman's daughter...

It is tragic that the accident occurred. But 5 to 12 years

in prison is not a rap on the knuckles. We side with Judge Wright that the punishment must take into consideration more the nature of the crime, not the tragic outcome. Lebus didn't just get three months for driving under the influence, which normally would be a long sentence had no accident occurred. He received 5 to 12 years!

LETTER: A different mission for PAM

"If you want to make that school useful to the community and the actual demographic of people who live near it—do NOT follow the founders' dream of making it into the next stuck-up Julliard and make the

school into a place where children of all cultures and skills and wealth can come to learn about, appreciate, and develop skills in the art of music."

LETTER: Only 4 of 49 F&M trustees are local

"For all of John Fry's passion for F&M and Lancaster, he has been seriously lacking in compassion for the people of Lancaster.

"Of the 49 trustees controlling F&M, only Fry and 4 others have Lancaster addresses. There are 12 with New York City addresses. Why should F&M trustees care about the rest of Lancaster?..."

"Undoubtedly that's one of the reasons that Drexel thought John Fry would be a good man to recruit—they were looking for a capable individual who put the wants and needs of his employer first. There's nothing wrong with that. If an honest man is going to accept a paycheck, he will want to earn it. The problem is in the nature of the corporation...."

"We need more regulation of corporations and other institutions in order to ensure that they have a healthy community in which to thrive, and less regulation of sole proprietors in order to give them the flexibility to match their responsibilities. As long as our law fails to recognize the very different nature of corporate entities and humans, we will suffer accordingly."

LETTER: LGH needs to treat itself

"This is no longer LGH, but LGH Investments. And junkies are not a good investment. Nor is the health of the addicted or the possible spread of disease among addicts [and to the general population]. Shame on you, Lancaster General Hospital! Your disregard for public health is disgusting.

Lancaster County....and you are seeing 12 a week? Laughable. With all the hoops the addict needs to jump through to be even on a waiting list to be seen are even more roadblocks to recovery. Lancaster General Hospital, you are pathetic.

"We have an estimated 5,000 to 10,000 addicts in

LGH should be treated for an addiction.....to money!"

**The above have been excerpted from NewsLanc.com.
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