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Exchange: Tom Beeman of LGH and Robert Field of NewsLanc – Part 2

LGH: *Everything Lancaster General Health earns is reinvested back into our system, unlike for-profit hospital chains that pay dividends to investors, or use profits to acquire hospitals in far-away states...For example, hospitals of our size and scope require approximately \$50 million annually to replace capital equipment throughout our health system...*

NEWSLANC: ...Isn't the \$50 million expended for capital improvements annually amortized over the years, and thus roughly represented as an equal amount of 'expenses' on your operating statement each year? ...**NewsLanc** questions why LGH does not spend more of its \$110 million in "surplus" or "profits" for public health and educational purposes. ...

LGH: *Certainly, if we did not place a priority in getting the uninsured enrolled in Medicaid, our charity care number would be much higher...*

NEWSLANC: Are you suggesting the other hospitals throughout the state are not seeking compensation for those who qualify for Medicaid but are not enrolled?

LGH: *A great way to start learning would be to download our many Community Benefit Reports at <http://bit.ly/cKKcJw>*

NEWSLANC: The site does not provide dollar amounts of aid to local organizations or the hospital's own public health efforts. (**How shockingly little is actually donated will be the subject of a future article.**)

LGH: *We use national, state and local health data... to objectively identify our community's actual health priorities. Those priorities are: Increasing healthy weight management, Reducing*

tobacco use, Improving access to primary care for the growing number of medically underserved throughout addicts in Lancaster County.

NEWSLANC: Rick Kastner, Executive Director of the Lancaster County Drug and Alcohol Commission, estimates there are 5,000 to 10,000 heroin addicts in the county.

How do you justify LGH's stated refusal to donate money to maintain a syringe exchange, even now that the sale of syringes has recently been deregulated? ...How do you justify LGH maintaining a clinic for medical treatment of heroin addicts only one afternoon a week with only one physician present?...

LGH: ... *Our financial performance, clinical outcomes, charges, and infection rates are publicly reported on a regular basis by several independent agencies and via our website. We publicly issue two Community Benefit Reports and send monthly Community Benefit Updates via email to more than 9,000 people to communicate our efforts in improving the health and well-being of Lancaster County. Furthermore, we are regularly featured by the local print and electronic media, which write both positive and negative stories. As for the LGH Trustee meeting, it was advertised in Lancaster Newspapers and members of the public attended.*

NEWSLANC: ...What relevance does information released by LGH have to do with a public dialog engendered by open board and committee meetings? How can LGH be critiqued if it only holds one meeting a year (out of hundreds) open to the media and general public?...

LGH: *You wrote: "Finally, management at LGH is totally self perpetuating, with current trustees choosing future ones. [Continued on back...]*

There is no public input.”...*Management isn't governance. At LG Health, management serves at the pleasure of our community-based Board of Trustees. Our Board of Trustees is “the public”...*

NEWSLANC: Are not members of the Board of Trustees and “*ad hoc committees*” selected by

LGH rather than appointed by government officials, local social service organizations, or elected by the public? How is this not “*self perpetuating?*”

Modest quilt show gains for downtown shops

NewsLanc surveyed 23 downtown shops this week to see how much their business was up during the course of last week's show.

The result, averaged from locations in close proximity to the event as well as some several blocks north, showed a rise in business of roughly 21%.

Businesses within a block of the convention center—including the Tropical Smoothie Café, Isaac's Downtown, Ric's Bread, and the Penn Square Grille—all estimated an increase of business near or above 100%.

But not even all shops near the center saw such an influx of quilters. Character's Pub, a classy bar and restaurant tucked away near the back of Isaac's, only experienced a 5-10% jump. About the same increase was estimated by Annie Bailey's, which shares the first block of East King with the Marriott.

Most businesses north of Orange Street did not see gains above 5%. Rachel's Creperie, Spiro Gyros, Zap & Co., the Fractured Prune, and Square One Coffee all reported no significant up tick in business from the show.

LETTER: *NewsLanc* asked the wrong question

“I must take issue with the question that you posed to these businesses as it is the same inane question that LNP has been asking for 11 years.

“The more apropos question to pose to downtown merchants, who as of yet have paid nothing for the

CC, is whether or not they would support some kind of tax or fee levied against each and every one of their customers, each and every day of the year, for the benefit they might see over a 20-40 day a year period?”

INTELLIGENCER NEW ERA: An article “**Convicted killer of 2 dies in prison**” goes on to say, “*LeRoy Stoltzfus always maintained he was innocent...*”

WATCHDOG: We felt sad for both Stoltzfus and the victims. Modern day DNA testing would

have established whether Stoltzfus was indeed guilty of the rape and murder.

Where the evidence still exists, scores of people who have been imprisoned have been proven innocent as a result of the new testing methods.

The above have been excerpted from NewsLanc.com.
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