

NewsLanc.com

Providing Lancaster City & County with an Alternative Source for
Local News and Commentary

4/9/10 • Publisher: NewsLanc.com, LLC • Combined Circulation: 80,000 monthly • Volume II, No. 114

In truth, LGH gave only 1% of “excess” to local causes

On page 1 of its 2007 Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Taxes, “Public Charity” Lancaster General Hospital reported “*Excess for the year*” as \$113,326,709. This was the excess of “*Total Revenues*” over “*Total Expenses*.”

LGH reported on page 2 of the same Form 990 that 2007 “*Expenses*” included a total of \$1,183,464 in “*Grants paid from donor advised funds*.” This represents a mere one percent of its “*excess*” or, for a regular corporation, what would be called ‘profits’.

In an exchange of letters in March, *NewsLanc* publisher wrote LGH president Tom Beeman, noting that “*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.*”

Beeman’s response was that “*this statement is categorically false. Our contributions to our community in charity care, free healthcare services, financial assistance and cash donations*

to government and school districts exceed other hospitals in our region.”

Note that Beeman switches the subject from grants to “*local public health and education*” to include extraneous items, and from a comparison with hospitals throughout the state to a comparison with regional institutions, some of which are struggling to survive due to LGH’s market dominance.

LGH’s paltry contribution of one percent confirms state statistics indicating that LGH is one of the lowest contributors to charitable causes. So who is being “*categorically false*”?

NewsLanc brought the above information to John Lines, Director of Communications for LGH, over a week ago and asked for a comment. Neither Lines nor Beeman have responded.

Although we have some very community-minded organizations, it is sad to observe the practice over recent years of CEOs for several of Lancaster’s largest, most prominent institutions of being disingenuous in their actions and statements.

City building permit fees to be reduced

At the April 5 meeting of Lancaster City council committees, economic development and neighborhood revitalization director Randy Patterson recounted how a city man recently renovated a three-unit apartment building at a construction cost of \$2,100, but paid an additional \$800 in fees. Now, according to Patterson, the City is doing what it can to bring those figures down.

At the April 13 city council meeting, Patterson will present council with a series of changes to the city’s building code permit fees. The most significant change will be a reduction of the minimum fee from \$300 to \$100.

[Continued on back...]

Many of the high fees imposed on city projects owe to the charges of third-party inspectors. Patterson asserted that, while those are costs that City Hall cannot influence, the building permit fees provide at least one opportunity to ease the overall burden.

“I will tell you, I don’t think that covers our cost,” Patterson said of the minimum fee, arguing

Law requires employers to show justice and mercy

At the Tuesday breakfast meeting sponsored by the “Justice & Mercy” organization, which advocates the mentoring of prisoners upon their release, panelists and audience members lamented a pattern of employers routinely refusing to hire persons with a conviction record.

A *NewsLanc* reporter commented that he was of the opinion that the law prohibited refusing to hire an ex-con unless the nature of his conviction would conflict with his duties. None of the panelists nor the audience was aware of such a law.

As a public service, the law firm of McNees, Wallace & Nurick researched and provided the following excerpt from the relevant statute:

INTELLIGENCER NEW ERA: An article, “**LGH set to open 4 walk-in clinics**”, reports: *“Lancaster County residents soon will be able to get medical care in a different sort of a place: a Walmart, a supermarket or a former furniture store.*

“All will be the sites of four new walk-in clinics being opened this spring and summer by

that the new bargain rate barely keeps up with in-house personnel and processing expenses incurred by the City when responding to permit requests.

The change is intended to reduce expenses for smaller improvements and renovations in the city. Larger-scale projects, Patterson said, will not be affected.

“18 Pa.C.S.A. § 9125. Use of records for employment...

“(b) Use of information.—Felony and misdemeanor convictions may be considered by the employer only to the extent to which they relate to the applicant’s suitability for employment in the position for which he has applied.”

Unfortunately, applicants often fail to disclose their past convictions on their employment applications. Since most employers today run a criminal background check, the omissions are discovered and the applicants are refused employment for misrepresentation.

Lancaster General Health...A visit will cost \$59. All of the new clinics will accept insurance payments as well as cash or credit...”

WATCHDOG: Three wags of the tail! It has been a long time coming, but these are much needed and most welcome.

The above have been excerpted from NewsLanc.com.
Visit the website daily for news, commentary, letters, and other features.
Suggestions and letters welcome at info@NewsLanc.com.