

LGH charity list contains many surprises

A veil of secrecy surrounds the dealings of Lancaster General Health. However, *NewsLanc* was able to access LGH's 2007 well-concealed tax return, which included a list of all of its 'charitable' donations.

Of LGH's vast "Excess" (profits) in 2007 of \$113,326,709, one of the highest in the state, only one percent—\$1,183,464—went to charitable donations, one of the lowest rates in the state.

There were approximately 155 separate donations, which included some strange items.

Most notable is that \$117,000, 10% of the total, went to the private Franklin & Marshall College. John Fry, F&M's president, is a member of the LGH board.

The Congressional Black Caucus received \$13,500. Why would a political contribution be treated as charity?

There is a thousand dollars for the private Lancaster Country Day School, but only \$560 to the McCaskey Alumni Association and nothing else for the School District of Lancaster. (There is also \$250 for the Penn Manor High School post prom.)

The Lancaster Alliance receives \$23,583. (Its prime effort over the past couple of years is to bring back a streetcar system to downtown.)

There was \$6,564 for Willow Valley Resort.

Particularly notable for its absence is the lack of any contribution to public libraries, especially the downtown Lancaster Public Library.

NewsLanc has requested a copy of the 2008 tax return from LGH, but, as has often been the case for local media in dealing with LGH, have received no response. LGH appears only interested in 'puff pieces', not journalism.

City will collect home appliances for recycling

At the Tuesday, April 13 Lancaster City Council meeting, Mayor Rick Gray announced a new citywide program that will make disposing heavy household appliances a little bit easier. Effective immediately, the bureau of solid waste will provide collection services for "white waste" items such as air conditioners, washers, dryers, hot water heaters, and refrigerators.

Appliance pickup will come at a cost of \$15—the price of an "*extra service tag*," which can be purchased at the City Treasury.

Since many of these items contain environmentally harmful chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), Gray said, their proper disposal is required by federal air quality regulations. "*This program provides a cost effective, convenient, and legal way to dispose of large appliances from homes and small businesses in the city,*" Gray asserted.

Movable bollards will limit Market Street traffic

According to market master Michael Ervin, vehicle traffic on Market Street poses a frequent hazard for pedestrians passing through the area. Just last Tuesday, Ervin watched a car fly down the bumpy brick street at over 30 miles per hour. “*One of the [James Street Improvement District’s] red shirt guys jumped in front,*” Ervin said, “*But if he didn’t jump away, he probably would have been run over.*”

The Central Market Master Plan, prepared by Murphy & Dittenhafer Architects, observes that “*many customers perceive this situation as dangerous because of the speeds at which some cars travel through this block, and worry about the potential for pedestrian accidents.*” The plan later recommends that

“*A key step to a pedestrian-friendly Market Square is the permanent closing of Market Street to vehicular traffic between West King and West Grant Street... Bringing back the old Lancaster custom of curbside vendors, or day stalls, would*

SUNDAY NEWS: “Economic outlook here not brightest, Annual F&M study sees strengths; has concerns about education, dearth of high-tech jobs” goes on to report:

“*The comparative underfunding of local libraries (\$17.80 per capita here in 2007, the latest year for which figures are available, compared to \$20.52 in the region and \$27.33 in the state) suggests that the county simply doesn’t value education to the extent it must to build a ‘first-class knowledge infrastructure’ — and attract the type of employers that would take advantage of it.*”

WATCHDOG: This brings home how essential good libraries are for the economic

also make better use of the space around the Market building.”

That report was published in 2005. Six years later, in 2011, the city is expected to see a modified incarnation of that proposal, but with the “*permanent closing of Market Street*” nowhere on the immediate horizon.

Instead of total closure, the second phase of Central Market renovations realizes a compromise that should keep all parties satisfied and advance a more pedestrian friendly Market Street, public works director Charlotte Katzenmoyer explained. Mechanically retractable bollards will be installed to avert traffic during select times, allowing vehicle access on non-market days for nearby businesses and early morning access for market loading trucks.

According to Katzenmoyer, this is a firm component of the Phase Two plan, with design work already completed.

prosperity and contentment of a community. But lack of funding has been but one reason for the deplorable condition of some of our libraries, especially the all important Lancaster Public Library on Duke Street.

Another reason has been the way that the countywide Library System has been allowed to grow from its original location in the basement level of the Duke Street facility to a point where it consumes about half of the funds available from state and county sources while providing services that only justify a portion of its cost. This has been through bureaucratic manipulation rather than merit.

The above have been excerpted from NewsLanc.com.

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