

# NewsLanc.com

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

12/3/10 • Publisher: NewsLanc.com, LLC • Volume II, No. 148

---

## Mayor Gray explains library budget cut

**NewsLanc** interviewed Lancaster City Mayor Richard Gray concerning the proposed \$50,000, 50% cut in the city budget for support of the Lancaster Public Library on Duke Street. According to Gray:

*"I hate it! To the best of my recollection, the city was the only municipality to support the proposed library tax several years. (Editor: It lost by a relatively narrow margin in an off-election year.) Libraries should have some regular source of revenue and not depend upon the municipalities.*

*"I also hate this recession. Earned income tax is down. The property transfer tax revenue is down. Building permits are down. And at one time we earned a million*

*dollars a year on interest income but what we get on interest now is pocket change.*

*"Meanwhile cost of core services - police, fire and public works - continues to rise.*

*"Our revenue sharing from the federal government has been reduced every year.*

*"Moreover, partisan politics in Washington has made it impossible to pass a federal stimulus package of the size necessary to support municipal services*

*"What we have done this year is cut just about every place we can cut."*

## Ten minutes daily at [www.NewsLanc.com](http://www.NewsLanc.com) is a good investment of time

This newsletter only carries a fragment of the material that appears daily at **NewsLanc.com**, nor does it reflect the breadth of the state, national and international coverage and commentary.

First thing every morning, the **NewsLanc** editor visits a variety of worldwide news sites and excerpts and links to the most interesting articles, avoiding duplicating what is covered by the local newspapers.

A news agency provides **NewsLanc** with superior reporting and commentaries from newspapers across Pennsylvania daily on state affairs.

There are also letters and comments from readers, movie reviews from our Santa Monica reporter, and comments by the Watchdog who plays Ombudsman to our local media.

## PA needs real reform

**BEAVER COUNTY TIMES:** ...Pennsylvania is one of 11 states that allow unlimited contributions to political campaigns. Meanwhile, the federal government and 39 states limit the amount of money donors can make to individual candidates and political action committees.

If you don't think that makes a difference, check out the run-up to last month's general election when the natural gas drilling industry poured millions of dollars into the governor's race. As the editors of

**The Philadelphia Inquirer** noted, when "*a wealthy individual, corporation or union can donate a six-figure sum to a candidate, the concepts of a level playing field and fair elections become a laughingstock.*"

Then there are the state's ethical standards for its judiciary. The Inquirer reported Pennsylvania judges, with the exception of district magistrates and traffic court judges, can accept whatever gifts they like as long as they disclose them....

## EDITORIAL: Can we learn from Rome's experience?

History students can sense “*déjà vu all over again*”, in the words of the great Yankee catcher and manager, Yogi Berra. The Watchdog senses that the USA started to decline around 1992 with the election of Democrat Bill Clinton by a minority with almost 19% of the public voting for Ross Perot of the “United We Stand” political party, a movement with much in common with today’s “Tea Party.”

So where is the similarity to history? We need to go back to 137 B. C. when first Tiberius Gracchus, and then Gaius Gracchus, “*stood in the center of the turmoil*” that was largely of their own making. Until that time, the Roman Senate and other political institutions had conducted themselves with respect and adherence to its traditions, obeying its own rules and the decisions of the Roman Court. But during the successive administration of the brothers:

*“Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus saw an opportunity not only to achieve their own political power, but to stabilize the inequality through reform and new*

**NEW ERA:** Editorial “*Seeking answers to Taser death*” reports “**Neill was in an ambulance at some point when ‘his breathing became labored and his pulse became weak.’ ...There are a number of questions that require answers in this**

*laws benefiting the common people. Reasonable and noble concepts on the surface, however, were undermined by their own contempt for the Senate and opposite party. What could be seen on one side as an attempt to rectify a dangerous and debilitating social system [Continued on the back] was viewed on the other as nothing more than a power grab and a flagrant attack on the Republican institutional ideas of the time.*

*“One-upmanship was countered with arguments and these countered with physical force. As the results at stake grew, so did the egos of the individual players. The goal of the betterment of society as a whole was lost, and victory became the only objective. As ambition and personal motivation became the predominant theme of the Late Republic, the social fabric that long held Rome together, against all odds, was being torn apart.”*

Continued at

<http://newslanc.com/2010/11/24/editorial-can-we-learn-from-romes-experience/>

**disturbing case. Among them is, how did a man who initiated the call to police end up being the bad guy?”**

**WATCHDOG:** A wag of a tail for an apparently well researched and thoughtful article about a troubling local occurrence.

### Letter: Local press wimps

*“Called WGAL – News director says they have no interest in going to that meeting so he doesn’t care. (WOW – you would think they would want to be there and care about being barred, wouldn’t you?) Lanc News editor said he was in a meeting and had no comment at this time.*

*“I loved the old movies with breaking brave reporters. They were slow to go to staged PR events where the big wigs wanted them to be, and fast to move on anywhere the big wigs did NOT want them to see.”*

The above have been excerpted from [NewsLanc.com](http://NewsLanc.com).  
Visit the website daily for news, commentary, letters, and other features.  
Suggestions and letters welcome at [letters@NewsLanc.com](mailto:letters@NewsLanc.com)