

# NewsLanc.com

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

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## MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: Fewer newsletters but website remains

Robert Field had lived in Lancaster for 45 years but his business and political activist interests were mainly national and international. It took the Convention Center issue to attract his attention and, to his horror, the realization that what had once been one of the fairest and most democratic counties had fallen under the control of a few predators and their many dupes.

The question he mulled was how to find a way to educate and mobilize public opinion in its own best interest. His answer was *NewsLanc.com*, and what started almost five years ago with handing out pamphlets in front of 8 W. Kings Street (the Lancaster Newspapers Inc.'s office building)

became a way of communicating with an average of five-thousand readers a week via the Internet and newsletters.

**Now, some five years later, Lancaster County has returned to the fair community which Field had experienced when he first arrived. There is little to report that is not covered by the reformed and chastised local media (although they still demur from offending establishment interests.) Therefore, in the future the *NewsLanc* newsletter will be published irregularly and only when there is a need for another view to be heard or neglected stories to be reported.**

What follows is a partial list of expose's from 200 prior newsletters:

- 1) The Convention Center and Hotel Project, misrepresented from beginning to end for the benefit of the very few, and a corrupting and divisive influence on the community
- 2) The Lancaster newspapers often slanted, misleading, and arguably conspiratorial coverage of Convention Center project.
- 3) District Attorney Donald Totaro unrelenting and unethical 'witch trial' of the county commissioners which came out empty on all accounts yet bludgeoned a plea bargain to a minor indiscretion that may not have ever taken place.
- 4) S. Dale High, leader of The High companies and the Convention Center – Hotel Project, whose firms collected millions in development fees, tens of millions in construction fees, became equitable half owners of the largely taxpayer funded and financed Marriott Hotel, and were the recipients of benefits from unusually one-sided management contracts with the Convention Center Authority, the City, and the Redevelopment Authority.
- 5) John Fry, former president of Franklin & Marshall College, who did some good things but in the worse possible ways, and who used the F & M Security Force as his personal guard and to 'mug' a reporter, and who abused the legal 'no trespassing' process to retaliate against real and imagined critics.
- 6) The proposed streetcar project which was accompanied by phony reports of success in other cities, blindness to the impact on traffic and pedestrian safety on the already congested downtown streets, and disregard to the failure of the current faux street cars to generate significant revenues.

- 7) The School District of Lancaster's dysfunctional athletic program which had been incompetently administered with the results of abysmal records in most sports, including football.
- 8) Electronic voting machines with no capacity for a recount or authentication.
- 9) Inept downtown snow removal in the winter of 2008 / 2009
- 10) Exorbitant health care charges of the Amish and others who pay directly by Lancaster General Hospital
- 11) Lancaster General Hospital as a Public Charity failure to provide a fair measure of support to local charities and public health efforts.
- 12) Lancaster General Hospital's refusal to help fund the Urban League's offer to provide an expanded syringe exchange to promote public health and reduce HIV / AIDS.
- 13) The bloated and bureaucratic Library System that diverted funding from the individual libraries.
- 14) The 2008 tragic last minute thwarting of the Lancaster Public Library project through board members' ignorance, incompetence and likely mean spirited motives
- 15) Paul Ware's ruinous and conflicted leadership as the board chair of the Pennsylvania Academy of Music and his family Ferree Foundation seemingly vindictive and aggressive extraction of '*an ounce of flesh*' as part of the foreclosure process.
- 16) The extravagant price paid by Millersville State to relieve Ware and the Ferree Foundation from many millions of dollars of debt guarantees. ("*Alms for the rich.*")
- 17) The original plan for expansion of Amtrak Station parking that reduced, rather than increased, passenger parking spaces
- 18) ***New Era's*** mid-day election reports and salacious reporting
- 19) The so called School Lane Hills Homeowners Association that misdirected the energy of the community from resisting the Norfolk & Southern rail yard relocation
- 20) The Thomas W. Bucher estate litigation which court records suggest was a posthumous continuation of a dysfunctional family relations rather than a justifiable claim to estate assets
- 21) The Lancaster Democratic Party that slept through the November bi-election and thus greatly contributed to the U. S. Senate seat loss of Joe Sestak.

Future visitors may find ***NewsLanc.com*** more interesting than ever, since there will be more time to explore and link to exceptional articles dealing with a broad spectrum of state, national and world wide importance. It will continue to provide some local commentary, an occasional scoop, and a forum for comment and discussion by its readers. Furthermore, the Watchdog will feel more at liberty to share his readings, to opine, and to reminisce.

We wish to express our gratitude to Cathy Reinhold (Friday mornings) and Laura Sefershayan (Saturday mornings) who conscientiously and cheerfully handed out the newsletters at the Central Market and elsewhere in fair weather and foul. Hopefully their services will continue to be available when needed

**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)**