



## Ongoing investigation of early Convention Center spending

Over the course of 2008 a journalist and a professional investigator, on behalf of *NewsLanc*, spent hundreds of hours reviewing Convention Center Authority expenditures of almost \$20 million that proceeded commencement of construction. They also conducted interviews.

Authority Chair Art Morris and the staff were co-operative in providing records requested under the "Pennsylvania Right To Know" law.

A framework was created that will facilitate further investigations by parties and authorities.

**Although no "smoking gun" has yet been found, there are signs of possible fraud and malfeasance, misrepresentations, disingenuousness, ineptitude, mismanagement, and partiality to Penn Square Partners at the expense of the public.**

Law enforcement authorities need to become involved to conduct under oath interviews of key figures. Nevertheless, *NewsLanc's* research will continue to be made available.

*NewsLanc* will serialize its findings over a minimum of six monthly reports commencing this month.

## Retired Judge Bucher accuses deceased son of "insane delusion"; contests bequest to Library

Former County Judge Wilson Bucher is contesting the estate of his deceased son, Thomas W. Bucher, who died in July, 2008. The estate is anticipated to be in the amount of \$500,000.

Five years prior to his demise, Thomas Bucher signed a Will that states *"I give the residue of my estate, real and personal, to the Lancaster County Library, Lancaster, Pennsylvania." (125 N. Duke Street.)*

Judge Bucher contends his son Thomas *"was suffering from an insane delusion caused by a mental condition that was initially diagnosed in 1975 and from which he suffered for the remainder of his life..."*

*"The aforementioned insane delusion was*

*that his immediate family was conspiring to divert his legacy under a will by a related aunt by marriage that was being probated at the time decedent's probated will was executed..."*

The son was gainfully employed, unmarried, and without children. Five years had passed since he signed his Will.

**Due to Judge Bucher's claim, what had appeared to have been a blessing for the library and the public has become a drain on the library's already scarce funds in order to defend the bequest against the judge's challenge.**

Judge Bucher is represented by his son-in-law, attorney Steven R. Blair.

## LETTER: F & M, General Hospital and newspapers thwart transparency

“The Jan. 4 *Sunday News* editorial on the subject of New Year's resolutions encouraged ‘government officials at every level...to build public trust by openness’, concluding that ‘Transparency is the best policy.’

“Officials of F&M College and Lancaster General Hospital should have been included in this statement. These two non-profit corporations are partnering with Norfolk Southern in a plan to move the rail yard to a site west of the City near several upscale residential neighborhoods.

“There has been a decided lack of ‘openness’ and ‘transparency’ from the time that these project plans were first begun nearly five years ago...

**“Even though the information was sent to them by a TRRAAC supporter, all three newspapers failed to report that on Dec. 11, 2008, PennDOT turned down F&M’s request**

**for an additional \$9.2 million for the rail yard project.**

**“The consultants who worked on the environmental and engineering studies for the rail yard relocation project were selected by F&M. Nor has there been an independent evaluation of alternative sites, even though TRRAAC has asked for one.**

“The Lancaster *Sunday News*, *Intelligencer Journal* and the Lancaster *New Era* have all failed to provide the public with objective and detailed reporting of this issue. The stories that have appeared have mainly relied on quotes by the project partners, notably F&M.

“Likewise, F&M, LGH and Norfolk Southern, as well as the involved state agencies, need to provide TRRAAC with the information and independent studies that TRRAAC has been requesting throughout the past year.”

### INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL

On Jan.1st in what read like a press release, the *Intell* headlined “Weis to lower; freeze food prices. 2,400 items affected; will last 90 days.” On the next day, the *Intell* contained a ten page Weis insert with the front page message: “Price Freeze. Weis has lowered and frozen the price on thousands of items you purchase the most for the next 90 days.”

**WATCH DOG:** Will we soon read front page news articles about forthcoming Stauffer and Giant advertising inserts?

### INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL

In an article concerning the demolition of the Queen Street pedestrian bridge, the *Intell* quotes Rep. Mike Sturla as follows: “I don't know that tearing it down first just so we can have a vacant hole there makes a whole lot of sense.” He further indicated that any developer “worth his salt” could evaluate the site’s potential with the bridge in place.

**WATCH DOG:** If we tear it down, they will come!

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