



## Message to General Hospital – It’s the public’s \$113 million!

The *Sunday News*’ May 10 lead article headed “\$113 million surplus is a decrease for LGH” leans over backwards to paint Lancaster General Hospital as a great benefactor of the City and the community while struggling to minimize the implication of so much public money being directed not necessarily in the public’s best interest.

The paper quotes President and CEO Thomas Beeman as saying “*Things have changed dramatically in the past year. We’re reflecting the rest of the economy.*” For the sake of the national economy and especially the auto industry, would that it were true!

As a series in *NewsLanc* exposed, LGH has been the second most profitable hospital in the state and has one of the lowest levels of contribution to charity.

Also reported and affirmed by a reliable LGH source, the hospital’s dominant position in the Lancaster market place enables it to negotiate higher fees from insurance companies than is possible elsewhere.

**But the brunt of the high prices falls upon the policy owners, who are we Lancastrians. So we aren’t talking about LGH’s money; it’s a non-profit institution. We are talking about our money: the public’s money!**

Here are two sycophantic quotes from the article:

***“Lancaster Mayor Rick Gray lauded Beeman and LGH. ‘When I talk to other mayors and tell them how much they contribute, their jaws drop.’” If Gray tells them how much money LGH is making due to its dominant health care position, the other mayors would probably keel over!***

Alex Henderson III, Vice Chair, is quoted as saying “*All the money we make goes back into the community.*” True enough, but the issue is how much is bloated compensations, pensions, perquisites, and spending on plant and equipment which should not have the highest priority?

LGH has a responsibility to utilize its earnings for the best overall interests of the community from which its disproportionate profits spring. It could well afford to donate \$25 million to \$50 million of the \$113 million towards public health and education. Furthermore, over time, the gifts would actually earn profits as a result of a healthier and more prosperous community that would be better able to pay its bills without subsidies and charity.

It’s time for Gray, Henderson, and the Lancaster Newspapers to stop blowing kisses to LGH (to put it politely) for the crumbs LGH allows to fall from the banquet table and call upon the health care system to do far more for the good of the public, which not only is the source of its revenue, but owns the place!

## If dump is indeed a hazard, why not also remove F & M's half?

A presumably knowledgeable source who was not directly involved in the TRRAAC controversy commented to a *NewsLanc* reporter that it was good that the old 'Brick Yard' dump was being excavated and relocated as part of the

rail yard relocation because "*this eliminated the source of ground water contamination.*"

If so, then let's require F&M to also excavate the waste from its side of the tracks!

## \$200 million can't buy flowers?



Recently it came to *NewsLanc*'s attention that the several large planters on the Market side of Penn Square are currently adorned with nothing

more than clover and weeds. In the peak of the Spring season, there is not a flower to be seen at the heart of Downtown Lancaster!

## INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL

The May 7 editorial "Little leverage" observes "*The quickest and cheapest way to undercut the [drug] cartels, of course, would be to legalize marijuana, which, according to the White House drug czar, accounts for 62 percent of the Mexican drug cartels' profits.*"

**WATCHDOG:** The dog's tail was wagging so hard, it almost fell off!

## Have housing costs escalated 2000% over 40 years?

Forty years ago, investors built luxury garden apartments for under \$10,000 per apartment. In today's dollar, that is the equivalent of \$58,000.

More recently, comparable units are under development in an upscale Harrisburg suburb costing under \$100,000 per apartment.

Under the heading "*Living up to need for work force housing*", the May 10 *Sunday News*

reports the near completion of the Country Club apartments in East Lampeter Township. It is being developed by the nonprofit Community Basics Inc. with government tax benefits and special financing and is offering subsidized rentals.

The cost: \$200,000 per apartment!

Hmm.

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