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Senator Brubaker to consider 'Protection From Abuse' concerns

According to County Commissioner Scott Martin, State Senator Mike Brubaker will hold a mid-October meeting with local civic leaders, including the Commissioners, to assess citizen concerns regarding the use of Protection From Abuse orders (PFAs) in Lancaster County.

PFAs are frequently submitted by women

alleging spousal abuse. The orders can effectively remove the alleged abuser from the home, demand financial support, and cut off communication between the alleged abuser and children. These orders are issued twice as often in Lancaster County than in York County, and some activists have cited this as evidence of a flawed system.

Change of the guard at Academy of Music

A press release from the Pennsylvania Academy of Music, reporting multiple changes, led with the following: "*Michael Jamanis, co-founder of the Pennsylvania Academy of Music, has assumed a new role as president emeritus of the landmark music school and performance center in downtown Lancaster.*"

Also announced was the creation of the Business Committee consisting of three prominent Lancastrians—Art Mann as chair; Mary Burton, and retired attorney Jon Tryon, all PAM trustees. The Business Committee will also fulfill the function of the presidency for the time being.

Mann is the Chair and CEO of Donsco, Inc., a former chair of the board of directors of the School

District of Lancaster, and a co-founder of the Hourglass Foundation. Burton was the long time president of Specialized Medical Devices.

Tryon was also elected Vice Chair. Michael T. Jamanis, a member of the faculty and of the Newstead Trio, was appointed the school's dean of faculty. Also announced was that the Philadelphia law firm of Dilworth Paxson was retained as counsel.

The release further states: "[Jamanis] *will remain on the Board of Trustees. His wife and Academy co-founder, Frances Veri, will continue in her role as vice president and academic dean with an emphasis on planning academic curriculum and graduate studies.*"

Media banned at most LGH board meetings

In response to a *NewsLanc* request to attend the board meetings of Lancaster General Hospital, a high ranking LGH official responded as follows: "*Lancaster General Health and Lancaster General Hospital are both considered public*

charities under the IRS code... Our Board meetings and Committee meetings are not open to the public other than the one public meeting of the hospital board that is held each year." **[Continued on back]**

Conducting the public's business behind closed doors is worrisome, especially when, largely through market dominance, LGH extracts well over a hundred million dollars a year in profits from county residents.

We recommend that a county commissioner, the mayor of Lancaster, and the chair of the School District of Lancaster be made ex-officio members of the LGH board.

Then the public would have a voice in these currently insular proceedings—conducted by board members who were selected by board members and who may be unduly lavishing funds on Lancaster General Hospital rather than contributing to public health, education, and social safety net programs that are languishing for lack of adequate funds.

SD of L sports on the upsurge

According to Jon Mitchell, athletic director for the School District of Lancaster (SD of L), McCaskey High School's athletic program is well on its way to becoming a competitive force in the region. Mitchell observed that school's seven fall programs have already shown improved performance and morale.

Mitchell noted the following achievements in a recent *NewsLanc* interview:

- **The boys' soccer team currently holds a 5-1 record, a reversal of the team's 2008 performance. Mitchell credits recent training programs by One On One Soccer of Lancaster as well as the team's general maturation for improvement.**
- The boys' cross country team holds a 7-1 record, with their single loss owing to a razor-thin 28-27 defeat from Lancaster Mennonite.
- The girls' field hockey team has tied one game and lost the other to Penn Manor High School, which, according to Mitchell, is known to be a dominant force statewide.

This month marks the beginning of Mitchell's first full school year as the District's athletic director.

READER COMMENT: Re: Mayor Gray's claim that city police better off without LT

"So why not tell Lancaster Township to hit the road sooner if it was such a bad deal for city residents? I know that some question whether or not MT can do the job, especially at their bargain price, but I personally applaud LT leaders for their efforts.

"The reality is that the City, under Mayor Gray's leadership, played a risky game of chicken with LT and lost. They did not bargain in good faith, they said take it or leave it. Now that LT has left it, Mayor Gray wants to tell his constituents it was a bad deal all along. I don't buy that.

"The fact is that Rick Gray has a huge black eye on this one and he is trying now to spin it as a positive...in other words, he is 'putting lipstick on a pig'."

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