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10/9/09 • Publisher: NewsLanc.com, LLC • Combined Circulation: 80,000 monthly • Volume II, No. 88

YMCA membership more than doubles in a year

According to Jeffrey Kenderdine, Chief Executive Officer of the Lancaster Family YMCA, *“Last year we were just under 4,600 members and 3,700 the year prior.”* The ‘Y’ now serves *“over 11,200 members.”*

On September 24, the City YMCA opened the doors of its new facility on the Harrisburg Pike. By the end of the month, it had attracted 416 new members.

Earlier this year, the YMCA opened a new Lampeter-Strasburg location.

Kenderdine further related, *“Of the 11,200 members, 33% are youth and teens. 3,680 individuals under the age of 18 now call the YMCA ‘theirs’; many of these children are part of family memberships...”*

LGH not required to demonstrate need for West Earl facility

According to Public Relations Director John Lines, Lancaster General is under no legal requirement to demonstrate a public health need for the proposed West Earl inpatient hospital and medical center. The facility would be located less than 3 miles from Ephrata Community Hospital, which runs at a capacity lighter than the national average for hospitals of its kind.

Through an email inquiry, *NewsLanc* asked Lines the following: *“With no State-level Certificate of Need program in place, are there any other government agencies, programs, or authorities that must verify the need for a new medical facility such as the one proposed for West Earl?”*

In reply, Lines simply answered, *“No.”*

LETTER: Surveillance opponents overreached before City Council

“At the Lancaster City Council committee meetings, the seven members of Lancaster City Council very effectively countered the arguments presented by Mr. Russel and Ms. Baumgartner. It was noted that the Lancaster Crime Commission was created early in this decade in response to residents’ concerns about crime. One of the seventeen recommendations made by the Crime Commission was the installation of surveillance cameras....It was proposed that a private non-profit organization own and operate the camera system....”

“Mr. Russel and Ms. Baumgartner didn’t help their own cause by appearing to be inflexible. Although Mr. Russel’s statement included concerns about the lack of public oversight over the surveillance cameras and their operation, both he and Ms. Baumgartner went on to insist that there be a moratorium on the installation of any new camera installations. Had they both concentrated on City Council increasing its oversight of the LCSC, they might have made a more effective impact.”

Regionalized police force: Background and potential benefits

The idea of regional police consolidation has existed long before Mayor Rick Gray began promoting it last month. In the 1940s, the UK Parliament provided for the consolidation of borough-level police forces into county constabularies. Stateside, in 1967, the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice released a report that recommended the consolidation of local police departments.

By 2009, a number of larger metropolitan regions have formed consolidated police forces in the United States. Las Vegas, Charlotte, Louisville, and Indianapolis are among those areas that have combined their city and county departments.

Arguments in favor of regionalization lean heavily upon the potential for improved service and public safety enhancements. A consolidated department allows for more time-intensive officer training, which is easily neglected in small, low-staffed departments. Specialized

services—such as accident reconstruction and juvenile detective work—can be shared by urban centers with their smaller municipal neighbors. Likewise, a regionalized department offers all parties access to expensive police technology that may not have been otherwise affordable.

According to a report on regionalization by the Pennsylvania Governor's Center for Local Government Services, "It is not uncommon within any given area of Pennsylvania for five or six police officers to be investigating a series of criminal offenses all committed by the same person when the investigation could be handled by one officer...Consolidation improves coordination of police efforts."

Ron Stern, a PA local government policy specialist, told *NewsLanc* that he never promises first-year savings to the municipalities that he works with; however, he is "99% sure" that overall costs are reduced within 10 years. Stern said that long-term studies have consistently demonstrated a 24-25% cost reduction.

Despite deregulation, syringe sales off to slow start

A survey of pharmacies in the Lancaster area indicates that, despite their current availability without a prescription, sales are slow.

The cost is about \$2.50 a dozen, around 20 cents each. Quantities of 100 can be obtained for about \$15, or 15 cents each.

After a torturous five-year application effort, the state regulation was altered in September to permit the sale to anyone, without a purchase limit or identification requirement. The only stipulation is that customers must request them at the pharmacy department.

The regulation was changed with the intent of reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and other diseases through the sharing of needles by addicts. Pennsylvania had been among less than a handful of states to yet require prescriptions.

Since HIV/AIDS is also spread through sexual activity, eliminating the sharing of syringes indirectly benefits the general public.

With a reported minimum of 5,000 heroin addicts in the Lancaster area, syringes should be in high demand, with an estimated market of at least 20,000 daily, and perhaps even twice that much.

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