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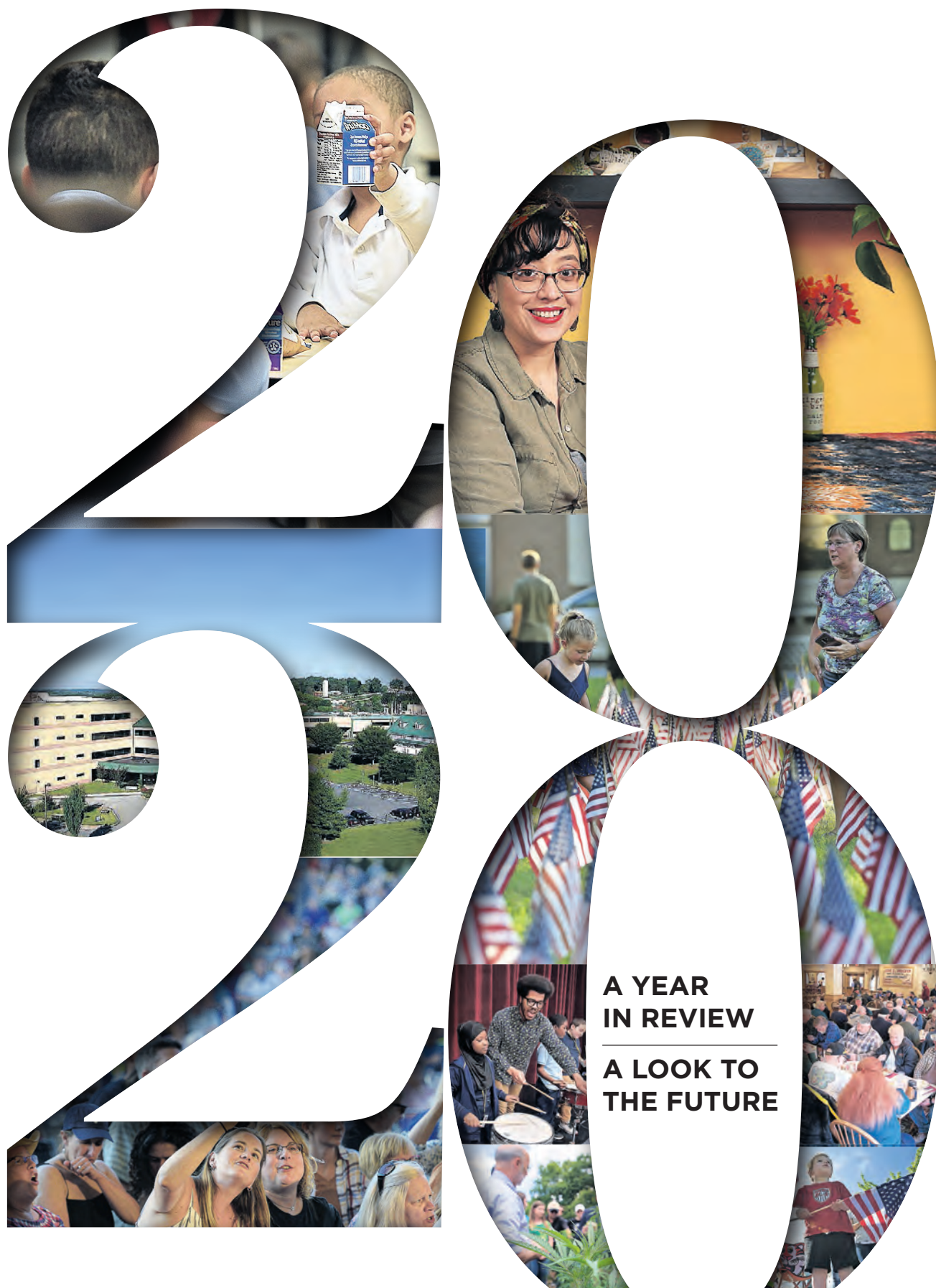


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This 2020 edition of *Progress* offers a snapshot of life in Lancaster County. We introduce you to some people who, for one reason or another, have had an impact on the lives of county residents. We also look at trends in various aspects of county life, from how dairy farmers are finding ways to survive in a difficult market to how local senior living communities are using technology to improve the lives of residents. You'll learn who the top employers are, how healthy we are as a county and where we need to make more progress.

Content Editor Margaret Gates
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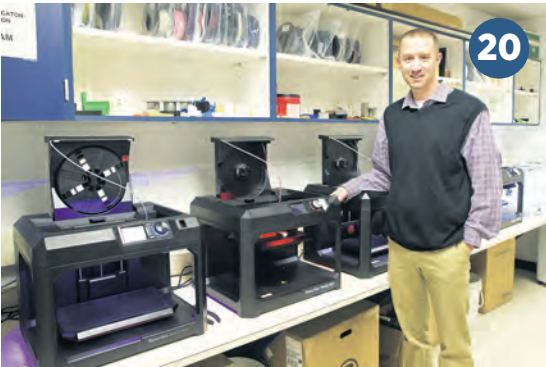


Table of contents photos by:
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ISSUES WE'LL BE TALKING ABOUT

It's a presidential-election year, in which incumbent Republican President Donald Trump will face off against a Democrat to be determined eventually — possibly as late as July.

During this polarizing time, LNP | LancasterOnline Opinion staff fully expects to be receiving impassioned letters to the editor from Lancaster County residents through October's end.

The Nov. 3 election will not just determine who wins the White House. It also will determine if Republican U.S. Rep. Lloyd Smucker can defeat a Democratic challenger — to be determined in Pennsylvania's April 28 primary — in the 11th Congressional District race.

Incumbent Republican state Sen. Scott Martin, of Martic Township, is also up for reelection. Lancaster County Commissioner Craig Lehman is the Democrats' endorsed candidate in the April primary; he's vying against Lancaster City Council member Janet Diaz for the chance to take on Martin in November.

Every seat in the state House of Representatives also will be on the ballot.

So brace yourselves for the coming onslaught of political ads and mailers. Spare a thought for your mail carrier.

And please choose reliable news sources such as LNP | LancasterOnline. Facts and truth are essential.

Here are some other issues we expect to preoccupy us all in the months to come.

Economy

Here's hoping the booming economy continues. A healthy stock market means healthy 401(k)s and investments for those seeking to retire.

While unemployment remained low in Lancaster County as 2020 began, a debate over raising Pennsylvania's hourly minimum wage — from

\$7.25, which it's been since 2009 — raged in Harrisburg. Senate Republicans have passed a bill that would raise it to \$9.50. Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf wants to raise it to \$12 initially, with a gradual increase to \$15.

We expect that debate to continue.

Education

Lancaster's own Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology continues to be a model of excellence in Pennsylvania. Its graduates are the highly skilled workers sought by local industry.

For this and other reasons, some Pennsylvania lawmakers seem increasingly inclined to shift funding from four-year liberal arts colleges to career and technical education of the kind offered by Stevens.

State Sen. Ryan Aument, R-Mount Joy, told LNP | LancasterOnline last year that "there's a real question about what we should subsidize" when in some academic degree areas, "there's an oversaturation in the economy, and (in) other areas significant shortfall."

Aument co-sponsored legislation that created a new commission of state legislators that is meeting to study the way the commonwealth funds higher education.

Pennsylvania has an abysmal record on higher education: It ranks near the top in student debt and tuition costs, and near the bottom in state funding for colleges.

Supporters of state-owned schools such as Millersville University argue that a well-rounded liberal arts education is ever more essential to help students hone the critical thinking and interpersonal skills needed in a job market that will be shaped by technology and automation.

We expect this debate to heat up, as the Public Higher Education Funding Commission continues its work.

Meanwhile, at the K-12 level, some county school districts, such as Lan-

caster and Conestoga Valley, continue to be underfunded by the state because a bipartisan fair funding formula enacted in 2016 hasn't yet been fully implemented.

Community

This year, U.S. census workers will be knocking on doors to ensure that all Lancaster County residents participate in the decennial — that is, once in every 10 years — census.

It's essential that we do.

As Norman Bristol Colon, executive director of Gov. Wolf's Complete Count Commission, wrote in an op-ed for LNP | LancasterOnline, "The federal government depends on census data to allocate resources; state governments use census data to draw legislative districts and to direct spending; and academics, nonprofits and businesses rely on census data to inform and direct their work."

And as Andrew Szalay, executive director of Lancaster Lebanon Habitat for Humanity, wrote in another op-ed: If "you aren't counted in that census data, not only can we not serve you, we don't even know you're out there to be served."

So, please, take part in the census. For the first time, you'll be able to fill out the survey online. Be sure to count everyone living in your home.

The census kicks off April 1.

Health

As COVID-19 continues to spread across the globe, we'll continue to make the case for science and fact over the scourges of rumor and junk science.

No matter what our friends and relatives post on Facebook, the science is clear: Children need to be fully immunized against vaccine-preventable disease, and individuals older than 6 months need to get their annual flu shots.

And proper hand-washing, along with coughing and sneezing into

one's elbow, rather than one's hands, continues to be the best way to prevent the spread of any strain of flu virus.

On a related note, Lancaster County residents, no doubt, will be among those watching and worrying as presidential candidates debate how best to ensure that health care and prescription drugs are available and affordable for all.

Environment

In Lancaster County, we'll continue to watch as local municipalities manage stormwater pollution in runoff to the Chesapeake Bay, and balance development with farmland preservation.

Climate change will continue to loom over the future of our children and grandchildren, some of whom have joined Sunrise Movement Lancaster — a youth climate action group — and have participated in Friday school walkouts to raise the alarm about global warming.

Home

For seniors who want to age in place, a major obstacle remains: ever-rising school property taxes. The LNP | LancasterOnline Editorial Board keeps imploring the Pennsylvania General Assembly to ease the real estate tax burden on senior citizens on fixed incomes, but so far, our pleas have been to no avail.

We'll keep trying.

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PEOPLE



PATRICK BLAIN | LNP CORRESPONDENT

Lancaster County is home to more than 543,000 people. On the following pages are a few you should know.

ADAM OZIMEK

Nationally quoted economist • Entrepreneur

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When we think of local products with a national reach, we might think of Armstrong floors and ceilings, Twizzler candies or some other physical items.

But when we include less tangible types of output such as research, opinions and ideas, among the sure-fire additions to the list is economist Adam Ozimek.

In the past five years, Ozimek, 37, has been quoted by The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, The Philadelphia Inquirer and National Public Radio.

Research the Lancaster city resident co-authored also has been cited recently by Democratic presidential candidates Mike Bloomberg, Joe Biden and Pete Buttigieg as a rationale for their immigration policies.

Ozimek, who was the keynote speaker for the Lancaster Chamber's annual "State of the County" breakfast earlier this month, enjoys the interactions with the national media.

"It's exciting and it never really gets old. I have developed relationships with reporters over the last decade or so, and I've tried to build a reputation as a reliable and helpful economics expert," he says.

Ozimek, a Hempfield High School graduate (Class of 2001) with a master's and doctorate from Temple University, remembers how a high-school class cemented his interest in the field.

"I had a class (taught by Allen Melinger) my senior year in high school about government and economics that I really enjoyed. I probably already was leaning that way, but I was like, yeah, this feels right," he says.

Ozimek held jobs with two small Philadelphia firms before joining



DAN MARSCHKA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Economist Adam Ozimek at his work station in his Lancaster home.

Moody's Analytics in West Chester, where he stayed nearly five years and became a senior economist.

In May, he left Moody's and became chief economist at Upwork, a San Francisco-based tech firm that provides the world's biggest online "marketplace" for freelancers to find businesses wanting to hire them for work done remotely, and for businesses to find freelancers.

"I'm still doing economics, but it is a little bit different," he says. "At Moody's, I was in charge of U.S. demographics forecasting. I did a lot of work on the U.S. labor markets. So I did research on the economy, forecasts about the economy, that sort of thing. I also covered the Pennsylvania economy."

"At Upwork, I still do write about

labor markets. I still do research on labor markets. I draw on our data and other data sources. So public-facing research is still a big part of what I do.

"But I also work on design of how the marketplace works. I didn't have any marketplace design at Moody's. Now I'm designing marketplace features, doing A/B testing, figuring out how to make the marketplace work most efficiently, drawing on economic theory and empirical research for that kind of stuff."

Ozimek describes Upwork as "an exciting and cutting-edge place to be working. ... It's definitely a major intellectual challenge. Upwork is a very big company, so it's really important job-helping."

Ozimek, who works from his home office, points to his Upwork job as an

example of work done remotely and successfully.

"They really believe in the mission that you can work with people productively at a distance. So they were putting their money where their mouth is, by hiring someone like myself all the way on the other coast," he says.

Ozimek, though, also is an entrepreneur.

He's a partner with friends Chris Trendler and Jonathan Yeager in Joycat Events, creators of the Lancaster Craft Beerfest and developers of Decades, with the support of two investors.

Decades, a year-old arcade, bowling alley, bar and restaurant, opened in the former Stahr Armory at 438 N. Queen St.

JANET RUSHMERE

Senior athlete • Volunteer • Willow Valley Communities resident

ALEX GELI

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Staying active is a way of life for Janet Rushmere.

Whether it's training for and competing in the National Senior Games swimming events, taking a long, Sunday afternoon stroll or chasing around her great-grandchildren, who are 4 and 6 years old, Rushmere seems to be constantly on the go.

And it's paid off for the 86-year-old, who lives with her husband of 36 years, John, 90, at Willow Valley Communities.

"It pays off as you get older, I think, if you live an active life," Rushmere says.

Here's a glimpse into the life of the self-proclaimed "cheerleader" for healthy living.

What's an average day like for you?

We both try to be very active. We get out and do something. I'm a swimmer. I've been on the Willow Valley National Senior Games team the last three times. I feel like I'm in constant training for that. I'm usually in the pool or the gym. And if it's a beautiful day, I'll try to fit a short walk in the afternoon. That doesn't leave time for much else. John walks every day, swims. We try to do something every day. He doesn't sit around too much. He plays bridge, too, and bowls with a friend once a week. We're always going to be doing something active.

Why is it so important for you to maintain such an active lifestyle?

I think it's been very well proven now. If you want a long and healthy and basically problem-free life, you better stay active. Of course we try and eat healthy, too. It's a combination. It's not one or the other. We have always enjoyed that kind of life. I guess that's why we finally found each other.



DAN MARSCHKA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

How did you two meet?

I met my husband through a hiking club in the early 1980s. He was a widower, so he was just out hiking so he could be with people and talk to people. I wanted to meet more people. I had been divorced a few years before and just needed a new circle of friends. It just appealed to me because I liked the outdoors. I gave it a try and found I liked it. It was a very active group that did interesting trails every week.

How long have you been an avid swimmer?

It's been a lifetime activity. My father was the swim coach at the University of Delaware. Two to three mornings a week, he'd put us in the

water. We had little floatation devices, and we'd swim back and forth between the jetties. If the ocean was rough, we'd go to the bay. I was no more than about 4. I still love to swim in the saltwater.

When have you competed in the National Senior Games?

It's scheduled every other year, so I did 2015, 2017 and 2019. And in 2021 it'll be in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. It's a huge undertaking. In fact, the last one there were over 13,000 athletes from all over the country. The older you get, the less competition you usually have, so it's not as tough for me. I got two silvers in freestyle and two bronzes in backstroke in 2019.

Willow Valley Communities resident Janet Rushmere, who regularly volunteers as a reading tutor at Martin Luther King Elementary School, reads to siblings Jacob Smith, 3, Jayla Smith, 7, and Jabriel Smith, 4, children of Jasmyne Smith, Lancaster, during the celebration of Martin Luther King Day earlier this year at the YWCA.

How do you juggle all of your activities?

It's not too hard when you're retired. I do mentor one morning a week at Martin Luther King Elementary School, because I wanted to do something to give back to the community and I wanted to help out with kids. Other than that, my time's my own. I can schedule it any way I like.

Will you ever slow down?

I would say not until I have to, because I like what I'm doing. It makes me feel good. When I get out of the pool, I just have this tremendous sense of well-being. I always say water fixes everything. Maybe not the flu. But it always makes you feel better. The longer we could stay healthy and active, the longer we could stay in this unit rather than an apartment or, God forbid, assisted living.

What's your advice to people aspiring to live an active lifestyle?

Anything you do is better than nothing. If it's only 10 minutes a day, get up and move. I hope the message is getting through. You feel so much better. It really does pay off. For most people there's some way they can be active.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

SALINA ALMANZAR

Latinx artist and activist • School District of Lancaster school board member

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Lancaster city resident Salina Almanzar's work is rooted in her love for family, community and culture, and with the purpose of community engagement, neighborhood connectivity and creating spaces for collaboration.

A Latinx artist and activist, Almanzar earned a bachelor's in studio art and English literature at Franklin & Marshall College and a master's in arts administration from Drexel University.

Almanzar, 28, wears many hats. She currently is teaching at the Pennsylvania College of Art and Design and at Franklin & Marshall College, where she also serves as a photography technician. She is a director on the School District of Lancaster's school board and serves on several committees, including the South Central PA Partners for the Arts. Her mural project on the Water Street Mission was recognized by Americans for the Arts as one of the top 50 public art projects in the nation.

Another interest, Café Pa'lante, will soon come to fruition for Almanzar. It's a cafe that will utilize traditional brewing methods and cooking and will serve as a cultural space for education and community connections in Lancaster city.

What was the pivotal moment when you decided to set your path as an artist?

I've always had a love for the arts. My parents are both artists ... creative folks. I've learned that my grandmother was also very creative and my family has a long history, as many Caribbean families do, of making things. I first seriously considered a career or lifelong journey in the arts during my high school years.

A teacher asked me what I wanted to be and I remember saying, "Well



VINNY TENNIS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Artist Salina Almanzar at her home in Lancaster.

if I could do anything, I would be an artist but I guess I want to be a doctor." He challenged the idea that I couldn't be an artist and that thought sat in the back of my head like a real possibility.

In college, I enrolled as a pre-med student at F&M, but within the first semester realized my heart just wasn't in it. I had fun writing and experimenting but I couldn't connect it with the theory. I decided to double major in studio art and English literature because they were my first loves. By the time I graduated, I knew that I could forge my own path and that the arts, reading and writing would always be a part of me.

Connecting with people, their history, your heritage is important to you. How do these connections inspire or inform your work?

I like to think of myself and everyone around me as ancestors. We will all disappear sometime, and I imagine that we want our stories to live on. I also think that our stories are interconnected and if we could see this and honor it, we might be able

to live more peacefully together. We need each other.

In my personal work, I've been mining my family history as a way to learn more about my maternal grandparents and my connection to the Caribbean (specifically Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic). They passed before I was born and yet I have always felt very connected to them. I think that as people making a home in a brand new place and new country, they would have wanted their stories to be preserved and shared and for their future family to know who they were.

Separately but connected, I also deeply value representation, and I think it's important for Puerto Rican and Dominican voices to be heard. It's something I wish I saw more of as a growing artist.

Our history is so beautiful and is full of stories of resilience and powerful women. I try to weave this into my work to show how important it is to understand that we all come from some place. The islands are thought of as small, and yet there are millions of us here on the mainland making

art and really molding the culture. We're small but mighty.

Does your art represent something about you?

A lot of my art is definitely a kind of self-portrait even if my face might not be the first thing folks see. I believe in making work about what you know. I also have always been fascinated by how we change as we grow older. My work has helped document how I've changed and how my relationship with my family and myself has changed.

I think it's our responsibility as makers and creators to be the person we may have needed when we were kids. We can't do that unless we have a deep connection to our inner child and the freedom that affords.

What does Latinx mean to you and how do you see or envision yourself as a Latinx artist in contemporary art?

Latinx means understanding that gender and sexuality are huge categories and that queer folks of color have always been a part of our history. It's certainly not a perfect term, but I use it to honor the many ways we can show up in our world.

So often we hear about machismo as synonymous with Latinx culture and yet when we look at our roots — specifically in Puerto Rican culture this would be our Taino roots — we see how women played leading roles in our communities. Even now, we see how the tias (aunts) and abuelas (grandmothers) who keep watch from their windows are the protectors of our neighborhoods.

Latinx helps us reconnect with the spectrum of identities we claim. I tend to use a lot of Taino and Yoruba indigenous imagery.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

MATTHEW WOODSON

Director of community percussion • Music for Everyone

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If you have a heartbeat, you can play drums.

Matthew Woodson believes that, and he is on a mission to make sure everyone in Lancaster County does, too.

Woodson, Music for Everyone's newly appointed director of community percussion, wants to encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to try their hand at drumming through workshops, community drum circles and more. Music for Everyone is a Lancaster-based nonprofit dedicated to cultivating the power of music.

Woodson says drumming offers a great foundation for youngsters just starting out.

"It's a great starting point for most kids and people in their musical journey because it kind of puts that center of pulse to you," Woodson says.

Woodson first connected with Music for Everyone as a Millersville University student. Before accepting his new position, he taught drums to School District of Lancaster students as a music mentor.

He encourages his students to take ownership over their new skill by giving them each their own set of drumsticks.

"They're like, 'I can take them home?' " Woodson says. "I'm like, yeah, they're yours. Just don't destroy your mother's furniture or any of her kitchenware."

He still works in the schools as director of community percussion, with the expanded mission of encouraging that same type of learning with the larger Lancaster community, too.

Woodson's work is connected to the nonprofit Music for Everyone's Well-Being initiative, which aims to connect more individuals to the healing qualities of music, like what many believe is a stress-relieving ef-



DAN MARSCHKA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Matthew Woodson teaches a drum workshop to Reynolds Middle School students, from left, Kaya Senffert, Amina Salim, Zymir Womack and Isaias Diaz.

fect.

He's taking that mission to groups in our community who need it most, from families getting back on their feet through Milagro House to individuals living with Parkinson's disease.

At Church World Services, Woodson hosted a workshop with refugee women. He says despite the language barrier, they were able to connect through song.

"I'm just playing, looking around like, wow. This is amazing," Woodson says. "This is exactly what we're trying to do. Build this community and bring wellness into different pockets all throughout Lancaster."

The Boys and Girls Club, the Lititz Senior Center and the Lancaster

Early Education Center are among the other groups Woodson works with.

He also started a free community drum circle at Brightside Opportunity Center. The gathering runs 7-8 p.m. every other Monday and is open to all ages and skill levels.

Woodson is a native of Willow Grove, Montgomery County. His father was a drummer in a jazz trio, and their family home was the weekly rehearsal spot.

"I basically had a jazz club come to my house every Thursday night," Woodson says.

He started playing with his dad in church at age 6. He joined his public school's band in middle school, but his first one-on-one lesson didn't

come until he was a college student at Millersville.

Woodson says the connections and opportunities he's had through Music for Everyone and Big Boy Brass led him to stay in the area after graduation.

"Where else would I want to go right now? Like, this is just too awesome," Woodson says. "It's more than I can ever ask for."

And now that his own dreams have come true, he's looking to pay it forward by giving Lancaster County kids an earlier start in music lessons than he had.

"I wanted to be the person who laid down that beautiful foundation for a child to basically grow and take it wherever they like," Woodson says.

CHRISTINE WILSON

Assistant district attorney • Supervisor, Major Crimes Unit and Unsolved Homicide Unit

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Christine Leigh Wilson began working in the district attorney's office as an intern in summer 2003. During her last year at Widener University Commonwealth Law School, she was offered a job as an assistant district attorney by former District Attorney Donald Totaro, who is now a Court of Common Pleas judge.

Wilson, 45, is currently the supervisor of both the Major Crimes Unit and the Unsolved Homicide Unit.

A graduate of Manheim Township and Penn State University, she lives in Manheim Township with her dog, Luke, 13, a Dalmatian-chow-hound mix.

Why did you become a lawyer and, specifically, a prosecutor?

I knew from an early age that I wanted to become a lawyer like my father, David Wilson, a corporate lawyer. When I was 12, I decided I wanted to be a prosecutor. I wanted to be in the courtroom setting, presenting cases to juries and obtaining justice for victims.

What drives you in the job?

What drives me the most in my job is advocating and obtaining justice for victims, whether that be from a guilty verdict or guilty plea that gives them closure to the criminal process as a crime victim. I am also driven to solve the cold cases that we are currently investigating, in hopes that families will receive the closure and justice that they have long deserved.

We can't leave unsolved cases sitting on shelves without continuing to review them. I believe I possess the drive and persistence necessary to work on cold cases because they can be very time-intensive and chal-

lenging, with many setbacks along the way. What is important to always keep in mind is a victim murdered years ago is no less important than one murdered today.

What's the hardest or most challenging part of the job?

I believe one of the most challenging parts of being a prosecutor is getting a disappointing jury verdict.

What was your most difficult case?

The most difficult case I worked on was the murder of Christy Mirack. I knew that so many dedicated prosecutors and detectives had worked diligently on the case for years. I worked for years on the case reviewing reports and believing that maybe I would see some small clue that someone else had not seen in the past. I knew the case had the potential to be solved due to the existence of DNA evidence.

You were recently recognized for your work on the Christy Mirack case. What was it like working on that case?

It was very challenging to work on the Christy Mirack case, yet rewarding at the same time. Christy Mirack was murdered when I was a senior in high school, and I remember how devastated the community was that the case went unsolved.

I always knew that once I gained experience in the DA's office, I wanted to work on helping to solve the case because I knew it had the potential to be solved. Detectives Chris Erb, Larry Martin and I made a very strong team, and we worked countless hours to achieve our goal of solving this case. While we had several setbacks along the way, we always



SUZETTE WENGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Assistant District Attorney Christine Wilson is pictured inside of courtroom 6 in the Lancaster County Courthouse.

had confidence that we would solve the case; it was just a matter of when. It was persistence that achieved this.

The Christy Mirack case is one that will always be memorable to me because Christy's brother, Vince, told

me how appreciative he was for my hard work over the years and never giving up on her case; and we stay in touch to this day.

MARC ROBIN

CEO/executive producer • Fulton Theatre

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The historic Fulton Theatre is going through some historic changes these days.

Renovation and expansion have and will continue to bring a new look and feel to the Grand Old Lady of Prince Street, both inside and out.

The downtown art scene is thriving, and the Fulton is making sure it is a major part of it.

Marc Robin — who first came to the Fulton as a guest director in 2001, became artistic director in 2009 and and is now CEO/executive producer — is overseeing the renovations, scheduled for completion at the end of the year, as well as managing the business and artistic sides of the theater.

As busy as he is, Robin was happy to answer questions about the state of the Fulton these days and its boundless future.

What are the challenges of the Fulton's growth?

The Fulton isn't just growing, all of downtown Lancaster is growing. Part of the challenge is finding ways to continue to grow our audiences and still be able to maintain a budget that is affordable without sacrificing any of the audience's experience.

The other challenge is we want to be able to create opportunities that reflect our entire community. We want to be an artistic home for everyone to feel comfortable coming through our doors.

Why did the Fulton decide to expand and renovate?

It was time. Our last renovation was well over 20 years ago. That was more of a refurbishment than an expansion. As little as five years ago we weren't selling out performances and we were able to accommodate



ANDY BLACKBURN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Marc Robin announces the Fulton Theatre expansion plan in 2018.

the audience's needs between restrooms, bars, etc.

We have been unbelievably fortunate and are unbelievably grateful for the growth in our audience base and now realize that if we don't expand we will not be able to give them a pleasurable experience, which is why we are adding 27 bathrooms (stalls) and a lobby that can hold over 1,000 people versus our current lobby that only holds 400.

What do you think it will mean for the economy of Lancaster?

It's going to be awesome. We have done financial models and engaged in economic impact studies to gauge whether it was smart for us to do this and whether our community will support it. All the models show that if we build it, even if they don't suddenly jump on the bandwagon and fill every performance, we will increase the economic impact to the

city by \$7 million for a total of well over \$20 million just when we open up the new building.

What has happened so far in the renovations?

We have finished what we are calling phase I, including the Ann B. Barshinger Artist's Village, which are 16 new one-bedroom or studio apartments that will house our guest artists who come from all over the country.

The expansion of our stage right, which is something that this building has never had in its history, will enable us to do bigger and more exciting visual designs. We have also finished a new automated fly system, sound system, lighting system, and the first part of the renovation of the façade of King Street corridor so that it has been restored to what it was when this block was built in 1850.

As the renovations go forward, what's to come?

Phase II (includes) the expansion of the building to be a city block-long performing arts complex. This complex will have four gathering spaces: the mainstage theater, which seats 658; the Tell Studio Theatre, which seats 150; the new Castagna Hall, which will seat 250; and our new chamber theater, as yet unnamed, which will seat 75. All four of them can be performance spaces and gathering spaces.

Also, Phase II will complete the new lobby, new bar, the 27 bathrooms I mentioned earlier, as well as more entrances to the building, more exits from the building, and more elevators, along with new administrative office space.

Do you feel the type of shows you can stage has changed? How so?

Yes. I think that the mainstage really wants to reach as big and broad of an appeal as possible.

(With) the Ellen Arnold Groff Series, plays are being picked so that our audiences have a discussion point. It doesn't matter if there's a show with 14 or 150 people, it's the conversations that matter. The programming has become more clear and defined because we have these models of the programs.

Dream shows still to come?

Anything Sondheim. I want to do "Cats" here and get the rights to it because I think it would be an incredible and immersive experience on the mainstage. I want to do "Parade" in the Tell Studio Theatre as part of the Groff Studio Series. I want to do the shows that will excite our audiences like "Come From Away," "Dear Evan Hansen," but I'd also like to bring back "Sweeney Todd," "Into the Woods" and "Follies."



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ECONOMY



CHRIS KNIGHT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



LNP FILE PHOTOS

Among the top county employers, clockwise from top: Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health, Eurofins, Nordstrom, LSC Communications and Giant Food Stores.

LG HEALTH TOPS LIST OF COUNTY'S BIGGEST EMPLOYERS

CHAD UMBLE
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Lancaster County has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state, helped by a diverse economy that includes health care, manufacturing and agriculture.

Topping the list of the county's largest employers by a wide margin is Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health. The health system has more than three times the number of employees as Giant Food Stores, which ranks second.

1. Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health

Lancaster General Hospital first opened in 1893 in a three-story brick residence at 322 N. Queen St., admitting 53 patients in its first year.

It grew to include Lancaster General Hospital, Women's & Babies Hospital and Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences as well numerous outpatient, express and urgent care locations and physicians practices.

In 2015, Lancaster General Health merged with Philadelphia-based Penn Medicine to become Penn

Medicine Lancaster General Health. It has 9,099 employees in Lancaster County.

2. Giant Food Stores

With 12 stores and an e-commerce hub in Lancaster city, Carlisle-based Giant is the largest grocery store operator in Lancaster County. With 2,193 workers, it is also the county's second largest employer.

Giant added three new Lancaster County stores in 2019 through buying Musser's Markets locations near Mountville and the Buck and the

Ferguson & Hassler in Quarryville. The Giant Direct e-commerce hub also was added at the former city store at 235 N. Reservoir St.

3. Eurofins Lancaster Laboratories

With 2,039 employees at its Leola campus, Lancaster Laboratories Eurofins provides analytical testing services to the bio/pharmaceutical, food, environmental and medical device industries.

Begun in 1961 by Earl Hess, the

Employers

Continued from 14

Leola lab is now owned by Eurofins Scientific, a Luxembourg-based firm that employs 25,000 people in more than 250 laboratories across 39 countries.

4. Dart Container Corp.

Founded in 1937 in Mason, Michigan, the cup and container maker opened a Leola plant in 1964. In 2018, that plant and a smaller one on Pitney Road outside Lancaster had a combined 1,961 employees.

5. Masonic Village

The Masonic Village at Elizabethtown was founded in 1910 as the Masonic Homes of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

Today, the Masonic Village campus encompasses 1,400 acres and includes a health care center, children's home and residences for nearly 1,900 people. It has 1,861 employees.

6. County of Lancaster

The County Government Center at 150 N. Queen St. is in a former Armstrong World Industries building renovated for county offices in 2009. The county also operates the Lancaster County Prison and the Youth Intervention Center.

The 1,842 county employees also

include those who work in the county courthouse and judicial offices.

7. School District of Lancaster

The school district that serves Lancaster city and Lancaster Township is comprised of 20 schools, including 12 elementary schools, four middle schools, one K-8 school, two alternative schools and the high school campus. The school district employs 1,662 staff members, including administrators, teachers, counselors and support staff.

8. Federal Government

Most of the estimated 1,300 federal employees in Lancaster County work for the U.S. Postal Service, although there are also employees of the Internal Revenue Service, Homeland Security and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

9. LSC Communications

LSC Communications' Lancaster plants at 216 Greenfield Road and 1375 Harrisburg Pike together have about 1,200 employees. The former R.R. Donnelley prints catalogs, magazines, newspaper stuffers, direct-mail pieces and other materials.

10. Nordstrom Inc.

Seattle-based department store chain Nordstrom came to Lancaster County in 2015 when it opened a



LNP FILE PHOTO

With plants in Leola and Lancaster, Dart Container had a combined 1,961 employees in 2018, making it the fourth largest county employer.

1.1-million-square-foot fulfillment center outside Elizabethtown. Employment at the facility can swell above 1,000 during the holiday season, the company said when it opened.

Nordstrom also operates a Nordstrom Rack store in the Shoppes at Belmont which opened in February 2018 with around 50 employees.

Note: The county's top 10 employers were identified through rankings published by the state Department of Labor & Industry for the second quarter of 2019. The department refused to disclose specific employee counts so those were based on previous LNP reporting, public reports or information some of the companies agreed to provide.



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Oak Shade Cheese in Kirkwood, above, and Sunset Farms in Ronks, inset, have partnered with the nonprofit Philabundance to produce cheese for those struggling with food insecurity.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PHILABUNDANCE

DAIRY PRODUCERS DIVERSIFY TO STAY AFLOAT IN AILING MARKET

KIMBERLY MARSELAS
LNP CORRESPONDENT

In 2003, Hillacres Jerseys started selling milk from its Peach Bottom herd to a local cheese producer.

In 2009, the Arrowsmiths, third-generation owners, brought cheese-making in-house with the launch of their Hillacres Pride brand.

More than a decade later, they make 20 varieties, two of which have landed in the gourmet cheese case at Giant Food. They also recently landed a \$35,114 state grant that would support the purchase of a larger vat and a commercial shredder to increase production.

And yet, the question remains: Will it be enough to keep them in the

business of farming?

"It's a weekly consideration," says Mandy Arrowsmith, who owns the farm with her husband, Tom. "Until four or five years ago, we were doing fine, able to pay our bills and put a little bit in savings. But the atmosphere has really changed. We've seen so many farms disappear. A lot of our Amish neighbors have sold."

After years of falling demand and low prices, farmers like the Arrowsmiths are looking for new ways to use their milk. They're diversifying, trying to innovate without taking on additional debt and forging partnerships that may be the difference between abandoning a way of life and saving the farm.

When Borden Dairy, one of the nation's largest, filed for bankruptcy in January, the company said more than 2,700 dairy farms had gone out of business since 2018. Half of all U.S. milk is produced on farms with more than 1,000 cows, and Lancaster herds tend to be one-tenth of that size.

Still, there may be some light at the end of the tunnel, even if farmers haven't reached the end of the struggle yet.

Graywood Farms co-owner Lisa Graybeal sits on the state's Dairy Future Commission, created last year and tasked with formulating recommendations to shore up the industry.

"Things are a little bit better. The price of milk has come up a little," Graybeal says. "The problem is so many farmers have dug such a deep hole. To diversify, you have to have income or upfront money. ... You have to learn something else, and then there are labor costs or equipment costs."

Branching out

Dairy farmers across Lancaster County have begun raising animals for meat, adding crops like hemp to tap into new markets, and turning increasingly to value-added products to add new revenue streams.

COUNTY'S HEMP ENTHUSIASM TEMPERED WITH CAUTION

Longtime illegal crop grown commercially, but price drops leave future shaky

HEATHER STAUFFER
HSTAUFFER@LNPNEWS.COM

The first year of widespread commercial hemp farming in the U.S. met considerable enthusiasm in Pennsylvania — especially in Lancaster County, which was a hemp powerhouse until the crop was federally banned about eight decades ago.

But after a price drop, continued deep uncertainty and new federal guidance that largely dismayed the industry, the mood is much more measured as preparations for the second year begin.

Advocates still say that long-term, they believe hemp can be a game-changer for farmers, with myriad uses from nutrition to manufacturing. But for now, they're advising a ton of caution and research.

"It seems like everyone is pumping the brakes," says Alyssa Collins, director of Penn State Extension's Rapho Township research center, calling that "probably a good thing."

What happened

Last year, the state Department of Agriculture issued 323 hemp permits covering 812 farms statewide, which grew about 4,000 acres of hemp.

Lancaster County claimed an out-sized number of permits — 55 covering 180 farms. The majority of the local farmers grew an acre or several for CBD, the non-psychoactive compound of hemp plants widely purported to offer health benefits.

The weather was good, and CBD products popped up like mushrooms after rain in Kennett Square, despite



DAN MARSCHKA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Steve Groff with some of the 70 acres of hemp he's growing for CBD in Holtwood. Groff, a well-known cover crop educator who also runs a hemp school, still thinks there's an opportunity for hemp growers who know what they're doing.

the U.S. Food and Drug Administration warning that it has approved only one prescription drug and "there are many unanswered questions about the science, safety, and quality of products containing CBD."

But then CBD prices started dropping, and there weren't enough processing facilities to keep up with all the hemp grown across the nation.

The many farmers who had grown hemp without contracts found the market looking very different than it had in the spring.

New rules

On top of all that, in November the U.S. Department of Agriculture released its long-awaited interim

hemp regulations, tightening key requirements instead of loosening them as the industry asked. And then Groff North America, a York-based business that contracted about 2,000 Pennsylvania acres of hemp grown for fiber in 2019, said it wasn't planning to contract this year.

Pennsylvania farmers have until

Dairy

Continued from 16

Value-added products take a raw material, in this case milk, and create something longer-lasting through processing and added ingredients. Think cheese, ice cream and yogurt.

Cheese was the first product created by Philabundance's Abundantly Good line. The nonprofit organization has teamed with Lancaster-area dairies for the last three years, connecting farmers with wholesalers and retailers who commit to buying their cheeses. When they have surplus milk, farmers can then turn to Philabundance to pay for its processing at a Lancaster County facility — resulting in cheese for the organization's clients.

"It was really appealing to the farmers to have a consistent buyer who could buy at this scale and a new audience for their products," says Kait Bowdler, director of sustainability for Philabundance. "In this really tough market, being able to make them whole, just being able to cover the costs, it's a huge benefit."

In total, the partnership with Oak

Shade Cheese in Kirkwood and Sunset Farms in Ronks has produced more than 7,700 pounds of cheese for people grappling with food insecurity. Currently, most of the milk comes from Mervin King's Gap View Farm.

Philabundance is supported by donors and federal and local funding, including the Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System, which allows the organization to buy produce, protein and some dairy products. Gov. Tom Wolf this year increased funding for the system from \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million.

Wolf's administration also created the Dairy Investment Program in 2018 to encourage research into new technologies and products; diversification; transitions to organic production; and marketing efforts.

Bowdler says Philabundance aims to grow its locally produced product line — a spiced tomato jam debuts this year — but it must do so in a way that is financially feasible. The best approach is to get more people to buy the cheeses, and the organization's \$63,376 Dairy Investment grant received last year is being used on marketing efforts.

Looking ahead

In all, the state has awarded \$10 million in dairy investment grants for 75 projects, and those are in addition to existing programs for grants and low-interest loans for best management practices, capital investments and more.

"I think farmers are starting to realize that there's some help out there, but is too late?" Graybeal asked. "I think the commission was started in part because there is a little panic out there."

Her subcommittee is trying to identify additional needs and legislative fixes for the dairy crisis.

For now, finding new uses for all the milk that consumers don't want to drink is critical.

The owners of Taylor Chip Cookie Co. in Manheim Township won one of five new dairy investment grants for \$470,076. The money will go toward rehabilitating a West Hempfield building to accommodate cookie dough- and ice cream-making.

"This value-added processing plant will allow us to partner with PA dairy farmers, buying their milk at a fair price and processing it into value-

added products such as ice cream, heavy cream and butter to use in our buttercream frostings," owner Doug Taylor wrote in his application.

In an email to LNP, Taylor added that his company "sources ingredients locally whenever possible" and is looking for dairy partners to provide milk that isn't from genetically modified cows or is from grass-fed cows.

Back at Hillacres — where more revenue comes from cheese, bulls sold for beef, pigs and chickens raised off site than from the milk of 55 cows — grant funding might not even be enough to upgrade.

The Arrowsmiths had applied for an additional \$15,000 to cover the cost of a small, pump-equipped trailer needed to move milk from the barn to the cheese shop.

The Arrowsmiths were ready to get a loan to put up 15% of their project's cost as required by the state but can't immediately afford the \$15,000 trailer cost. Without it, increasing the size of the cheese operation may be impossible.

"For us to go into more stores right now, that's critical," she says.

Hemp

Continued from 17

April 1 to apply for a permit to grow hemp this year. The state agriculture department banned some varieties of hemp that had been grown for CBD here, and announced new restrictions on how close it could be grown to schools and residences not owned by the farmer.

As of mid-February, the department reported that it had received 62 applications to grow hemp and 20 to process it, but couldn't say which counties they were for.

Steve Groff of Quarryville, a well-known cover crop educator who's not connected to the Groff operation

in York, grew 70 acres of hemp for CBD in 2019. As of mid-February, he says his hemp was scheduled for extraction in March and he expected payment a few weeks after that.

Now running a "hemp school" called Hemp Innovators, Groff says he doesn't know yet how many acres he'll plant this year because of "needless unknowns" caused by federal regulations, but he's planning to stick primarily with CBD and still thinks there's opportunity for those who know what they're doing.

Fred Strathmeyer Jr., the state Agriculture Department's deputy secretary for plant industry and consumer protection, spoke in mid-January at one of Groff's Hemp Innovator events in Lancaster County.

He called hemp "absolutely one of the best opportunities that agriculture has had in a long time," but said farmers need "to be smart about it," do their homework and not invest money they're not willing to lose.

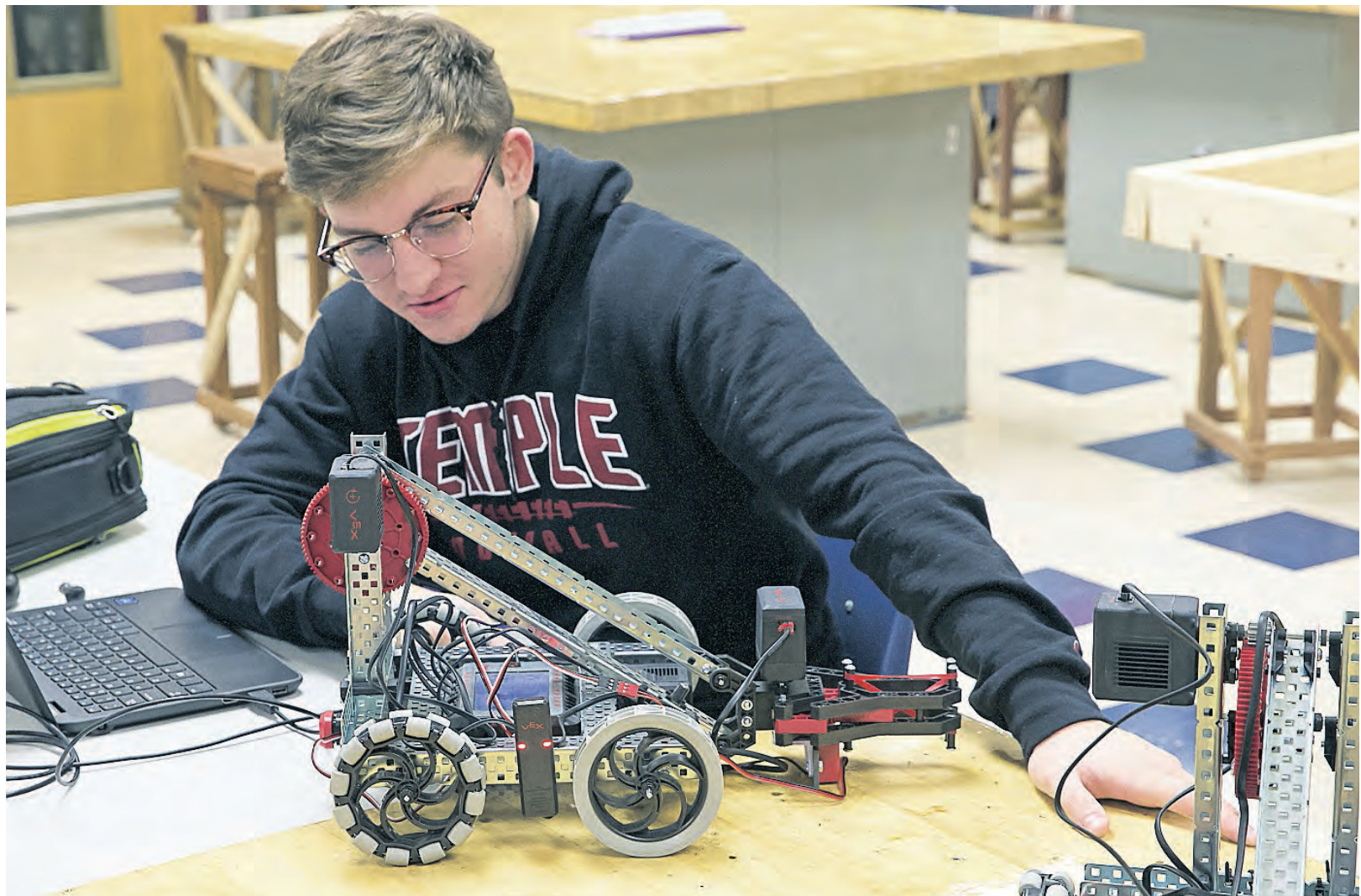
"If there's one area that absolutely needs to happen, it's to advocate to the masses about the good things this product can do and where it can be placed," Strathmeyer said.

If there's one area that absolutely needs to happen, it's to advocate to the masses about the good things this product can do and where it can be placed.

— Fred Strathmeyer Jr.,
deputy secretary for plant industry, state Department of Agriculture

EDUCATION





VINNY TENNIS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gabriel Lamonica works on a robot at Solanco High School in Quarryville. Students designed and made parts using 3D printers.

LEARNING WITH ROBOTS

Grant provides opportunities in 3D printing for Solanco students

REBECCA LOGAN
LNP CORRESPONDENT

It's 8 a.m. and several Solanco High School students are already busy building robots. They're tinkering with an amalgamation of wires, wheels and plastic parts — including some that didn't come with any kit.

"This is so we could put the sonar on right here," says junior Josiah

Petersheim, pointing at a small, gray piece on his robot. "We could have attached it back here, but this other part would have been in the way. So we had to design this so we could drop it down lower."

That gray piece — created on a 3D printer in the room next door — took three prototypes, says his technology education teacher, Todd Brown.

"So maybe about three days until we got the right one," Brown says. "And then to print? Right about two hours."

Welcome to one example of the type of real-world technology that some Lancaster County schools are incorporating via a variety of grants.

Consider a few announced this year in a release from state Sens.

Ryan Aument and Scott Martin. The Lancaster County Workforce Development Board got a \$100,000 grant from the Department of Labor and Industry designed to help schools and businesses work together to better prepare students for different career paths.

The senators also announced five

Robots

Continued from 20

grants of \$35,000 each through a program administered by the state Department of Education to expand computer science programs for students. Those went to Cocalico, Conestoga Valley, Ephrata, Lampeter-Strasburg and Lancaster school districts.

Solanco received its recent grant last year through the General Electric Additive Education program, meant to encourage students to pursue higher education in additive education at the University of Delaware.

GE says additive manufacturing brings flexibility and efficiency to manufacturing and defines it as using computer-aided design software or 3D object scanners to instruct hardware to deposit layer after layer of materials in precise shapes.

The grant came with a Polar 3D printer for Solanco and access to the 3D Polar cloud resources, which Brown says is invaluable for idea sharing. The University of Delaware and Solanco were among a handful of recipients from nearly 3,500 applicants across 48 countries.

“What GE is also developing — and they’re in their beta stage — is metal 3D printing, which is the next big revolution. Printing things like car parts,” Brown says. “And GE realized, ‘If we just give this to the universities, where is the pipeline coming from?’

“So each of those universities had to select a high school, essentially, and say, ‘You’re our target. As we learn things, we’re going to put it down the pipeline,’ ” Brown says. “Because college freshmen aren’t learning the same thing all the time anymore. What our freshmen learn, their seniors are learning.”

Brown says he likes the collaborative spirit that comes through the GE grant and the ability to work in this Polar Cloud.

“Around here, even with agriculture, it seems like every farm has its own: ‘This is how we do dairy.’ Every

family has their own trade secrets and its hard to break into the industry,” Brown says. “I think GE has an understanding that ... we just have to rely on our ingenuity and our drive as a society to still be world players. Let’s not keep everything a secret anymore.”

As Solanco High School cycles through its older 3D printers, it is pushing those down to Solanco’s middle schools to start getting students there ready, Brown says. The current lineup at the high school ranges in value from about \$2,000 to \$15,000 per printer, he says.

The machines are also used by computer-aided design students and their teacher, Mike Minchhoff. He and his students help as needed with the robotic pieces of Brown’s class. Those requests thus far have been fairly straight-forward, he says.

“It’s kind of like an erector set,” Minchhoff says. “Once you figure out the hole spacing, we can duplicate that hole spacing time and time again.”

Petersheim plans to use some of what he’s learning in robotics in the construction industry where he hopes to work as an electrician.

Gabriel LaMonaca, a senior, will use it next year at Temple University, where he plans to prepare for a career involving robots and prosthetics.

His current class robot assignment involves a piece made on the 3D printer to better accommodate its bumper.

“There are a lot of kids who are tactile learners, and a lot of classes don’t incorporate that,” LaMonaca says. “This is a very hands-on class. I myself am a very tactile learner so this makes it easy for me.”

He enjoys the class and the fact that students have technology like those 3D printers.

“You wouldn’t necessarily expect that from Solanco,” LaMonaca says. “But I think it’s awesome that we have the sort of resources that we do to be able to do this.”

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PHOTO COURTESY LINDEN HALL

HOW LATER START SPELLS SUCCESS FOR ONE COUNTY SCHOOL

Linden Hall administrators say results back up medical research

ALEX GELI
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Thirty minutes can go a long way for someone like Mahisha Tanna.

The 17-year-old is student council president at Linden Hall, an all-girls private school in Lititz offering grades six through 12. She's a National Honor Society member, an International Thespian Society member, a student ambassador and a residential assistant. She's president of Linden Hall's DECA chapter, a student leadership and entrepreneurship organization. She also

dances and plays tennis.

And in February, she was named Miss Lancaster County's Outstanding Teen.

So when Linden Hall bumped back its school start time by half an hour a few years ago, Tanna was overjoyed at the prospect of getting more sleep after a busy night.

"I think mentally is just made me feel more comfortable with everything that we're doing," she says.

Ephrata Area School District in February approved a plan to delay start times by five minutes at the

elementary level to 9 a.m., 30 minutes at the intermediate school to 8:55 a.m., 45 minutes at the middle school to 8:05 a.m. and 40 minutes at the high school to 8:10 a.m.

Other school districts, such as Hempfield and Solanco, have said they're studying later school start times.

Linden Hall in 2016 changed its school start time from 8 to 8:30 a.m., when Tanna, now a senior, was about to start high school. Head of School Michael Waylett says the decision was based on a "great deal

of research" behind the benefits of later school start times.

He also borrowed the idea from a private school in Charlottesville, Virginia, at which he worked before coming to Linden Hall five years ago.

"Students do much better when they start the day later as opposed to starting the day earlier," Waylett said.

Research tends to agree.

Health organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Association

Start

Continued from 22

tion say the ideal start time for secondary school students — grades six through 12 — is 8:30 a.m. or later.

That's because puberty causes a delayed release in melatonin, which affects sleep onset and wake times, researchers say. That can lead to myriad health problems, from anxiety and depression to diabetes and heart disease.

A state-commissioned report released in 2019 said sleep deprivation among teenagers amounted to "a public health crisis of epidemic proportions" and recommended considering pushing back secondary school start times to 8:30 a.m. or later.

The report, conducted by educators, health professionals, transportation administrators, parents and students, listed Linden Hall as the only Lancaster County school, pri-

vate or public, to delay start times.

Waylett says he'd "absolutely" recommend making the switch.

"The girls come to us and they're more prepared, more ready to take on the school day," he says. "I think that extra half-hour really makes a difference."

Linden Hall, however, doesn't have to deal with transportation, which is one of the major hurdles for adjusting schedules. About two-thirds of the school's 200 students live on campus. The other third commute.

For Tanna, the switch has made it easier to juggle all of her evening activities and allowed her to explore more of her passions, she says.

"It's really just helped me feel more comfortable in pursuing my interests personally and academically," she says.

Asked if she gets to sleep in, Tanna says yes — most of the time.

"When I'm not in a meeting, yes," she says.



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COMMUNITY



ANDY BLACKBURN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



SUZETTE WENGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A Wickersham Elementary School student shows off his milk during lunch recently. The 2020 census will affect how free lunches will be determined.

COUNTING ON THE COUNT

Key services, vulnerable populations rely on funding tied to accurate U.S census figures

KIMBERLY MARSELAS
LNP CORRESPONDENT

A salesperson trying to navigate the flow of traffic on Route 30.

A Marietta homeowner who relies on the borough's upgraded public sewer system.

Any uninsured resident who turns to Lancaster County's State Health Center for a free flu shot.

All of these people count on the census — as does pretty much anyone who takes advantage of a public service, from schools to job training to farm programs to hospital stays.

Population figures collected during the once-per-decade count, which starts April 1 in most areas, will determine how many seats Pennsylvania gets in Congress and how those

are apportioned.

But an account of where people live and other data also will inform how federal, state and local governments spend their money starting in 2021 and over the next 10 years.

Pennsylvania receives about \$26.8 billion each year through federal funding streams, or roughly about \$2,000 per person counted in 2010.

"So for every person not counted, the county loses about \$2,000 a year, which equals \$20,000 over 10 years," says Alice Yoder, executive director of Community Health for Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health. "This can have major funding impacts on road repairs, education programs, human services and infrastructure."

Yoder co-chairs one of several

subgroups that make up Lancaster County's Complete Count Committee, which aims to ensure effective outreach and an accurate count this year. Yoder's job is to reach hard-to-count populations, which are often the very people who most depend on services whose funding levels are driven by a population count.

In focus in 2020 are young children, people of color, lower-income residents, those with limited internet access, people who rent or share homes with others, the elderly, Plain sect communities and immigrants.

The last census, Yoder says, informed LGH's planning for physical growth and services. Other health and social services organizations do the same.

"When you find the population

might be growing, that's when you start looking at what you're doing," she says.

The county now has three federally qualified health centers, which provide care to the uninsured or underinsured in at least seven locations. Those kinds of facilities — for which Pennsylvania received \$116.3 million in 2016 based on previous census data — can also serve migrants, the homeless and public housing residents.

In addition, federal funds feed nutrition and education programs for pregnant and nursing mothers, support substance abuse prevention and treatment efforts and cover insurance and Head Start costs for children living in poverty.

Census

Continued from 26

Counting key populations

The Hard-to-Count subcommittee is working with partners that already have relationships with those populations, hoping the trust they've built will get residents to understand that truthful census participation is fundamental to sustaining local services.

It's a tactic shared by the School District of Lancaster, which is the county's largest district and the one that serves the most economically disadvantaged students. The district will be working with Head Start and church partners to promote census completion. In February, principals started sharing details and tips with families, and the information will be available in multiple languages.

"Communities of poverty have low

turnout rates. Immigrants and refugees also have low turnout rates for completing the census," says Superintendent Damaris Rau. "Our school district, because it is urban, also traditionally has low turnout. But the census is going to make a huge impact here."

Special education services, which are expanding to meet need, netted the district \$2.2 million in federal funding last year, which goes largely toward the cost of higher staff ratios in designated classrooms.

The district also received \$6.3 million in Title I funding, which supports staffing, parent engagement, intervention and professional development programs. About \$650,000 in Title II funding helps to keep class size to around 25 in kindergarten classrooms, while \$400,000 in Title III money offsets costs of the district's 75 teachers for English language learners — who speak 60 different languages at home.

Census-connected funds also keep the district's free breakfast and lunch program sustainable and support career and technology programs that touch about 400 students annually.

Other federal funding supports children at the county's Youth Intervention Center.

"These are our most at-risk populations," Rau says. "Every single dollar we get based on the census, it really impacts real-life children. We want our families to understand that."

For Rau and others, it's critically important that census-takers understand their answers are protected — with no identifying information available to noncensus officials for 75 years. Despite early debate about a citizenship question, none appears on the final set of questions.

Investing in the count

SDL is investing its own money in

CENSUS, page 35

WHY IT COUNTS

Surprise! These five programs are affected by the census, too.

The GW Institute of Public Policy at George Washington University looked at how census data influenced allocations of 55 federally funded programs in Pennsylvania. The following were among those whose 2016 funding amounts (shown below) were linked to the 2010 census.

- Adoption assistance (Health and Human Services): \$120.7 million.
- Business and industry loans (Department of Agriculture): \$26.4 million.
- Cooperative extension for farming and health innovation (Department of Agriculture): \$17.2 million.
- Crime victim assistance (Department of Justice): \$86.8 million.
- Meals on Wheels and other senior nutrition services (Health and Human Services): \$31.1 million.

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K. SCOTT KREIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

U.S. military veterans gather for breakfast at Bird-in-Hand Restaurant for the monthly Veterans' Breakfast Club.

THE BREAKFAST CLUB, VETERANS-STYLE

'Brothers in arms' come together once a month to recount war stories, show their support

GILLIAN MCGOLDRICK
GMCOLDRICK@LNPNEWS.COM

Every third Saturday of the month, veterans from different wars, military branches and assignments gather, with their spouses, for eggs, bacon and a community that understands them.

"A lot of these gentlemen have had it worse than I have," says David Rynier, a 10-year Army veteran who says he served in Operation Desert Storm. "When you're a vet, other

people don't understand you as well."

The Veterans Breakfast Club meets once a month at the Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant in Ronks, bringing anywhere from 60 to 80 veterans together for a meal. Veterans from around Lancaster County come out, mostly after learning about the breakfast by word of mouth from other vets.

Bill Terry founded the Lancaster County breakfast in 2016 to connect his "brothers in arms" after attending a similar gathering in Gettysburg

that had been meeting for more than 20 years.

"After sitting and having breakfast with them, I said I got to do this," says Terry, a retired Navy medical deep-sea diver who served in Vietnam.

When the veterans breakfast first started, two World War II veterans were attending. There are veterans from the wars in Korea and Afghanistan, and most are Vietnam War veterans, Terry says. Since Vietnam War veterans were degraded when they returned home, Terry says they

still salute them and say, "Welcome home" to them.

The Veterans Breakfast Club has outgrown its breakfast spot several times since it first began with about 20 veterans at the Lyndon Diner in 2016. As it grew, the group moved to several locations before finding its current home at Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant.

Terry is constantly inviting people to come to the breakfast, he says, stopping people with vets hats on or

Vets

Continued from 28

in the Home Depot veterans parking spots. David Bjorkman, a veteran at the breakfast, says he was stopped by Terry at a Costco and invited to attend. He's been coming for two years now.

Rynier's wife, Mary, also calls every single veteran on their list — about 180 veterans who have ever attended a breakfast — each month to get a head count and invite them individually.

Several veterans say they have been coming for years because they enjoy talking about stories from their service and being with people who have a common understanding of their service. (Plus the food is good, they

say.) For others, the February breakfast was their first one — and they plan to return.

Tom Asplin, a retired educator at Donegal High School and retired Navy veteran, says he attends the Veterans Breakfast Club with the memory of “people who didn’t make it,” like his friend from high school who died in Vietnam within two weeks of his arrival.

At the February meeting, Rynier was surprised with a “blanket of honor” provided to him by the American Legion Riders. He has had recent health problems related to post-traumatic stress disorder, he says. He was wrapped in the blanket by the American Legion Riders, bringing tears to his eyes.

“It meant a lot,” Rynier says. “It means there are people out there who care.”



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Over the past 30 years, Anderson's Chimney Sweeps has grown exponentially. They now serve an eight-county area

that extends north to south from Duncannon to the Maryland state line and west to east from Chambersburg to Lancaster.

Anderson's not only grew their service area they also grew their menu of services. Now known as Anderson's Chimney and Masonry Services, the company handles all of your chimney and fireplace needs, including gas and pellet appliance service and installation, chimney and furnace liners, wood to gas conversions, chimney caps, stove and insert installs, masonry fireplace and chimney repair and restoration, leaking chimney repair and chimney scan inspections. They also clean dryer vents and install new dryer venting systems that not only prolong the life of the dryer but also help prevent fires.

Rick, a former fire chief, no longer sweeps chimneys himself, but as owner of the largest full-service chimney business in Pennsylvania he still prides himself on the reputation he's built since filling that community void three decades ago. Anderson's Chimney and Masonry Services makes it a priority to educate customers. The goal is to ensure customer safety and peace of mind, whether they are lighting that first fire of the season, turning on the furnace or throwing a load of laundry in the dryer.

Anderson's staff is certified through the Chimney Safety Institute of America, maintaining the highest level of training available. They are active members of the National Chimney Sweeps

Guild and the Pennsylvania Guild of Chimney Sweeps, and Rick has served as both president of the state guild and an ethics committee member of the NCSG.

As certified sweeps, all Anderson's technicians are held to the standards of the National Fire Protection Association for wood burning, gas appliances and oil appliances. The company has 16 technicians certified by the Chimney Safety Institute of America, two certified gas specialists by the National Fireplace Institute and seven team members also certified as dryer exhaust technicians through the CSIA.

Every service team member also goes through 100-plus hours of additional training throughout the year, so customers can rest easy knowing that Anderson's Chimney and Masonry Services is using the latest techniques and equipment to keep their home's heating and venting systems cleaner, safer and more energy efficient.

All chimneys and venting systems should be inspected annually and swept as needed. As the heating season draws to a close, spring is the ideal time of year to schedule a chimney inspection and cleaning. In the Lancaster area, call 717-975-3526 or visit info@andersonchimney.com.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

John Sauder Chevrolet 90th Anniversary



There aren't many holiday meals at the Sauder dinner table that don't somehow evolve into car talk. That's no surprise, considering cars have been the life's blood of the Sauder family since John N. Sauder opened his Chevrolet franchise in New Holland in 1930. The family business, now in its fourth generation, celebrates its 90th anniversary this year with its foot still firmly on the gas pedal.

While the world and the auto industry have seen great changes over the past nine decades, John Sauder Chevrolet has remained a constant in the community and a part of the family for generations of loyal customers. John N. Sauder was born right before the turn of the 20th century and grew up riding horses. His fascination with more powerful forms of transportation began with Indian Motorcycles, which he started selling, along with lawn mowers, in 1924 in downtown New Holland. He acquired the Chevrolet franchise in 1930 and the rest, as they say, is history. The Oldsmobile franchise followed in 1935.

John N. Sauder's sons, Mervin and

Carl, eventually joined the family business, and Carl relocated the dealership to its current location at 875 W. Main St., New Holland, in 1966. Six years later, Carl's eldest son came on board. John D. Sauder steered the company through three decades of growth that included the addition of a Geo franchise in the 1980s, a new dealership and location at 4161 Oregon Pike in Ephrata/Brownstown, and another Chevrolet franchise along with Buick and Pontiac in 2001.

Today, John D. Sauder remains at the helm as dealer principle/owner, along with the fourth generation - daughter Candi and son John Patrick - who joined the business in the early 2000s.

The company's longevity and success, John D. Sauder says, is a testament to the area in which they live and serve. "The growth in Lancaster County has in no small part been part of our growth and success," he says. Another part of that success is the loyalty and trust they've built with four generations of customers, despite a changing auto landscape. Today's auto industry is far different from the one that existed during the company's first two generations. Where the marketplace was once within a 30-mile radius of the Sauder dealership, it is now much of the Northeast thanks to the internet, John D. Sauder notes.

"We compete with any dealer who has what somebody is looking for," he says. "The market has become

universal. It's not just a car for Lancaster County buyers. Half our sales are outside of our area. At least 60 percent of our sales we can directly link to the internet."

Still, they enjoy a healthy business from referrals



and from repeat buyers who have purchased from the Sauder family for generations.

"We have built trust and a rapport with our customer base," he says. "We emphasize servicing the cars for our customers after the sale, and in our view that builds a repeat customer. If we can keep a customer happy and satisfied with their purchase for four or five years, they'll come back."

In addition to new and used cars, the core business has included parts, body and collision repair, and service since the beginning.

The company has earned the Business Elite status from General Motors. The team is also a Mark of Excellence achiever from Chevrolet. John Sauder Chevrolet plans to celebrate its 90th anniversary and the community of customers that have made the milestone possible with a weekend of events in October,



culminating with the company's annual car show from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11. People are invited to bring their old Chevys to the New Holland location, whether they purchased them at Sauder's or somewhere else. John D. Sauder will hand out awards. The event also includes

live music and food trucks.

John D. Sauder still remembers his first car, a 1966 Chevy Malibu that he shared with his mother - marina blue with a black top and bucket seats. "It was not a fast car, but it looked like one," he says.

More than 50 years later, electric cars and autonomous cars are now the talk of the auto industry. John Sauder Chevrolet plans to be there for all of it. Both dealerships underwent extensive renovations within the last decade, creating state-of-the-art facilities geared toward the future.

As for the fifth generation of the Sauder family? The oldest is a freshman in college and the youngest is 3. "Time will tell," Candi says, "but there's definitely interest."



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ROOFTOP BARS OFFER SIPS AND SKIES

Nearly a dozen locations in county attest to growing popularity

KEVIN STAIRIKER
KSTAIRIKER@LNPNEWS.COM

It wasn't so long ago that Lancaster County residents were relegated to eating and drinking on solid ground, with views limited to what their respective heights could provide.

In the last several years, rooftop bars have sprung out of both pre-existing structures and brand new buildings at an alarming rate. The appeal can be quite obvious — in a time when the “experience” of a bar or restaurant can sometimes be the deciding factor in a sea of choices, the feeling of a rooftop locale can help cinch the deal. And sure, if you're the type that is always in search of that perfect Instagrammable moment, the views are a no-brainer.

In Lancaster city alone, there are nearly a dozen rooftop bars, each with varying degrees of space, vibe and, naturally, height. It would be impossible to speak of the views afforded by rooftop bars without first mentioning one of the newest and highest in the area — **The Exchange** (16 E. King St.), found some 12 stories in the air and built into the side of the Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square.

After officially debuting in summer 2019, the space has enjoyed popularity both with hotel guests and county residents wanting to see their backyards from a different perspective. On a clear day, you can see all the way toward the green grass of Lititz.

Other rooftop bars may be a little closer to the ground, but that doesn't diminish the experience. Take **Little Mykonos** at Yorgo's Restaurant & Lounge (66 N. Queen St.), for example. After closing for eight months in 2017 for what was described as a “multi-million-dollar” renovation, Yorgo's turned each of its three floors into an entirely different concept. Noticing the rooftop trend in the city, owners George and Ekaterina Katsaros committed to transforming the third floor into “Little Mykonos.”

“Obviously, we come from Greek heritage, so up there, we like to remind ourselves that we're in Mykonos, Greece,” explains Tony Katsaros, son of George and Ekaterina and a manager at Yorgo's. “The views and energy are amazing in the real Mykonos, so we wanted to bring that here.”

As with The Exchange, Little Mykonos is sleek and encourages a



TY LOHR | DIGITAL STAFF

The view from the rooftop at Tellus360.

nightclub-esque feeling, perfect for late nights when the ground-level bars have all closed down for the evening.

Of course, not every rooftop bar is ideal for 1 a.m. Outside the city, **Loxley's Restaurant** (500 Centerville Road) at the Heritage Hotel is a dif-

ferent beast entirely. In what can only be described as a gigantic tree house for adults, Loxley's boasts a two-floor, three-bar wooden outdoor deck and patio. There are areas for groups small and large, private or otherwise, with enough yard games

ROOF, page 34

Voted Lancaster County's #1 Sticky Bun

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Roof

Continued from 32

to keep kids entertained, as well.

In some respects, the most exclusive rooftop area in Lancaster County is **The Vue** at Willow Valley Communities (450 Willow Valley Lakes Drive). That is, of course, because it is open only to the 55-and-older residents of Willow Valley Communities and their guests.

“Rooftop decks are very hot right now,” says Maureen Leader, public relations and communications manager at Willow Valley Communities. “They’ve always been a popular space. And now, even us, a senior living community, has one and it’s wonderful.”

Visitors to The Vue enjoy a full-service bar with snacks and regular live entertainment. If that wasn’t enough, the view from The Vue of-



KEVIN STAIKER | DIGITAL STAFF



WILLOW VALLEY COMMUNITIES

The views from The Exchange atop the Lancaster Marriott, left, and The Vue at Willow Valley Communities.

fers the sights of downtown Lancaster city on one side and farmland on the other, offering arguably the most complete view of both sides of the Lancaster County coin.

As strange as it might sound, there is a rooftop bar for any type of person in Lancaster. Want to start at The Ex-

change and stay on King Street for a sort of bar crawl through the clouds? **Tellus360** and **Altana Rooftop Lounge** (24 and 26 E. King St., respectively), offer wildly different experiences in two separate, side-by-side buildings. Though it is perhaps the smallest space listed here,

The Belvedere (402 N. Queen St.) also offers one of the most romantic spaces, perfect for a special date.

This is by no means a complete list, so the next time you’re wondering where to drink or dine, just look up.

Odds are, you’re bound to find a new rooftop space to hang out.



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Census

Continued from 27

outreach and providing computers for those who can't complete online forms at home.

Officials there aren't the only ones who see a potential return on investment.

"It's not really all about the dollar amount but understanding why it matters," says Heather Valudes, another committee member and community impact director for the Lancaster Chamber. "How are we making this a community that we want to live in, be in, work in?"

She sees statistics gathered through the census as a rich resource for those educating future Lancaster County workers and making sure the community remains attractive to employers. Businesses need educational and job training programs that supply skilled labor, while they also need infrastructure that makes

it possible to move their people and their products at a reasonable cost and in good time.

"It's important we have the federal dollars that match what our needs are," Valudes says.

Transportation dollars are linked to the census through multiple programs, including highway planning and construction funds (almost \$2 billion for Pennsylvania in 2016) and transit formula grants (\$524 million in 2016).

Community block grants can help communities revitalize their Main Streets or expand utilities to support new development. Meanwhile, career and workforce development programs rely on significant federal funding to stay solvent and grow. The Chamber has reached out to professional organizations to emphasize the message to members and workers (even with paycheck messaging) and encourage participation.

"We all need to work together to make sure the message gets lifted up," Valudes says.

It's not really all about the dollar amount but understanding why it matters. How are we making this a community that we want to live in, be in, work in?

— Heather Valudes,
community impact director, Lancaster Chamber

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READERS' CHOICE Favorite 2019

Argires Marotti

Neurosurgical Associates of Lancaster



The top goal of Argires Marotti Neurosurgical Associates of Lancaster is to restore quality of life to patients whose daily lives have been impacted by chronic pain or brain and spinal cord disorders. Their clinical practice focuses on neurosurgery and neurology with a concentration in spinal surgery. The team works hard every day supporting their patients and each other. “Our mission is to provide the very best neurosurgical care to

Lancaster County and southcentral Pennsylvania,” Dr. Perry Argires says. Dr. Louis Marotti agrees and adds, “Our goal is to deliver a personalized experience so that each patient feels like they are part of our family.” Neurologist Dr. Jared John provides compassionate and timely care to all patients with neurological disorders. Our neurology team uses the latest in advanced diagnostics to identify the cause of your symptoms with the goal of creating a unique and individualized care plan.

Argires Marotti recently welcomed to their team Dr. Steven Falowski and Dr. Jack M. Smith, both of whom are on the cutting edge of pain relief techniques. Dr. Falowski is a nationally recognized physician with deep expertise in spinal cord stimulation and has established a new UPMC Lititz program for deep brain stimulation. Shawn Taylor, the practice administrator, says, “This entire team of specialists is truly in tune with helping people improve their lives

and not live another day in pain.” Because Argires Marotti is an independently owned practice, patients are able to be seen quickly. Outpatient treatments at the ambulatory surgery center further reduce wait times for procedures. The team at Argires Marotti Neurosurgical Associates of Lancaster can help you determine the best treatment to address the most complex disorders, using the most minimally invasive procedures possible.



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ADVERTISING FEATURE

HEALTH



VINNY TENNIS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTHIER THAN MUCH OF STATE

We've made gains in many areas from a decade ago, but new problems have arisen

HEATHER STAUFFER
HSTAUFFER@LNPNEWS.COM

Changing people's behavior is possible but difficult, and Healthy People 2020 shows both of those realities.

The federal health goals set a decade ago span more than 1,200 quantifiable objectives, from reducing the percentage of people who smoke cigarettes to increasing the percentage of people who exercise regularly.

Many of the objectives couldn't be tracked locally because of data limitations. Of the 35 that could, assessment by area health systems found that Lancaster County met 17 and missed 18.

Here are key takeaways from two people who direct community health efforts: Alice Yoder for Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health and Steve Batchelor for WellSpan Health.

The good

Compared to the rest of Pennsylvania, Lancaster generally looks pretty good.

Annual health rankings by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation use metrics like Healthy People 2020 and consistently place us between eighth and 10th best overall of the state's 67 counties.

Yoder says the best public health news of the decade, locally and nationwide, is a continuing decrease in deaths from heart disease and cancer — by far the two leading causes of death — due in part to reduced to-



ROBERT DEVONSHIRE JR. | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Runners fill South Custer Avenue shortly after the start of the Garden Spot Village Half Marathon 10K run in New Holland.

bacco use.

And she notes that fighting tobacco was not one effort but many, from insurance covering treatments to regulation that increased prices and decreased youth access to the rise of smoke-free workplaces and restaurants.

The bad

On the flip side, Yoder says, the rapid rise of vaping is a definite cause for concern, as are increased suicide rates. So is drug use, including the opioid epidemic and the growing understanding that the focus needs to be broader than particular drugs, but on all addictions and what drives them.

Batchelor notes the prevalence of

diabetes and the fact that two-thirds of adults are overweight or obese as significant problems, along with the rise in isolation.

"We can't let our social media platforms replace our social life," he says.

Looking ahead

Both Batchelor and Yoder also note a shift in community health work that focuses on social determinants of health, looking beyond individual factors like poor diet and working to address underlying systemic issues like housing instability and disparities in economic and social opportunity.

Yoder says she's encouraged by the increasing availability and popularity of rail trails, dedicated bike lanes

and other efforts to encourage the daily movement that over time has increasingly disappeared from modern life.

And Batchelor says the emergence of social service hubs like Declaration House in Denver is notable, making assistance more available to people who live far from Lancaster city.

"You have representation from health care, social services, school districts, government officials — a host of people sitting around the same table sharing data, sharing ideas, really working together to make a better community," he says, calling them "impactful" and crediting United Way of Lancaster County for providing "a lot of the backbone for these efforts."

HEALTHY PEOPLE 2020 GOALS ACHIEVED

Indicator <div>■ = CNHA targets that Pa. did not meet</div>	HP2020 target	Lancaster	Pa.
Adults who binge drink	24%	12%	18%
Adults who smoke	12%	11%	18%
Age-adjusted death rates due to:			
Coronary heart disease	100.8	93.6	111.3
Firearms	9.2	6.8	11.2
HIV	3.3	0.7	1.4
Motor vehicle collisions	12.4	9.1	9.4
Cancer	160.6	154.3	168.5
Colorectal cancer	14.5	13.8	15.2
Lung cancer	45.5	35.5	43.7
Prostate cancer	21.2	16.0	18.8
Babies with low birth weight (per 1,000 live births)	7.8%	7.1%	8.2%
Cervical cancer incidence rate	7.3	7.2	7.4
Children who are obese: Grades K-6	15.7%	15.2%	16.7%
Colorectal cancer incidence rate	39.9	37.1	42.6
Mothers who breastfeed	81.9%	86.4%	79.7%
Salmonella incidence rate	11.4	9.3	12.1
Workers who walk to work	3.1%	3.7%	3.8%

SOURCES: PENN MEDICINE LANCASTER GENERAL HEALTH, UPMC PINNACLE, WELLSPAN HEALTH

Top chart shows 17 of the 34 health objectives met by Lancaster County in a Community Needs Health Assessment study funded by Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health, UPMC Pinnacle and WellSpan Health. Red indicates which of those objectives Pennsylvania did not meet.

The bottom chart shows the 17 health objectives Lancaster County failed to meet in the study. Green indicates objectives that the state did meet.

NOTE: Rates in both charts are per 100,000 people unless otherwise indicated.

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HEALTHY PEOPLE 2020 GOALS MISSED

Indicator <div>■ = Community Needs Health Assessment targets that Pa. did meet.</div>	HP2020 target	Lancaster	Pa.
Adults who are obese	31%	33%	31%
Adults with a usual source of health care	89%	87%	86%
Adults with health insurance	100%	89%	93%
Age-adjusted death rates due to:			
Cerebrovascular disease	33.8	37.5	37.1
Drug use	11.3	15.4	25.3
Falls	7.0	8.3	9
Suicide	10.2	10.6	13.4
Unintentional injuries	36.0	50.3	61.2
Breast cancer – females	20.6	20.7	21.6
Child abuse rate (per 1,000 children)	8.5	15.1	14.5
Children (0 - 17 years of age) with health insurance	100%	83%	96%
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	6.0	6.4	6.4
Mothers who did not smoke during pregnancy	98.6%	91.7%	87.4%
Mothers who received early prenatal care	77.9%	61.4%	72.5%
Pneumonia vaccination rate 65+	90%	71%	74%
Teens who are obese: Grades 7-12	16.1%	18.0%	19.0%
Workers commuting by public transportation	5.5%	1.2%	5.6%

SOURCES: PENN MEDICINE LANCASTER GENERAL HEALTH, UPMC PINNACLE, WELLSPAN HEALTH



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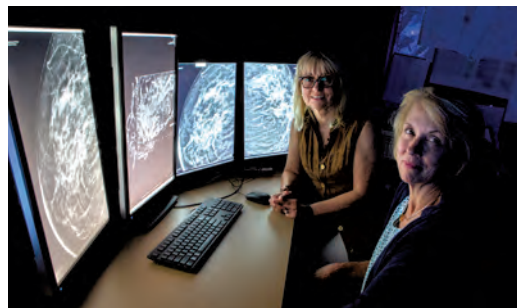
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Penn State Health: Committed to the future of care in Lancaster County



Dr. Daleela Dodge, left, and Dr. Julie Mack review mammogram images at Penn State Health Lime Spring Outpatient Center.

A proud member of the community for 50 years, Penn State Health continues to make major investments in the future to ensure greater health care access and choice for the people in Lancaster County.

Penn State Health's earliest services in the area included a Penn State Children's Hospital outpatient practice and outpatient locations for both primary and specialty services in Elizabethtown and Mount Joy and was enhanced in 2017, the health system welcomed the providers, staff and practice sites of Physicians Alliance LTD (PAL), the largest independent physician practice group in Lancaster County. PAL included 12 practice sites and more than 100 physicians, advanced practice clinicians and registered dietitians, have been serving families for generations.

By joining Penn State Health, these providers gained access to

another dimension of care: direct and coordinated access to the world-class resources of the health system, Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and Penn State Children's Hospital.

After increasing its primary and specialty care presence in Lancaster County, Penn State Health's commitment deepened last January with the opening of Penn State Health Medical Group - Lime Spring. The 76,000-square-foot facility, located at 2221 Noll Drive in East Hempfield Township, created a centralized and convenient providing even more options for primary care, specialty care and ancillary resources.

The center's first floor includes orthopedics and sports medicine, dermatology, breast care, ENT, cardiology, urology, optometry, audiology, physical therapy and cardiac testing, as well as several pediatric specialties and imaging services. The second floor includes primary care offices and a walk-in lab. It also offers a walk-in clinic, open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., with no appointment necessary, for common illnesses and injuries such as colds, pink eye,

upper respiratory infections, muscle strains and sprains, sore or strep throat and earaches.

Having all these services and specialties under one roof allows providers at Lime Spring Outpatient Center to provide convenient and better coordinated care. For example, it's common for patients to see a primary care doctor in the center and then get lab work in the same building immediately afterward.

Now, Penn State Health is excited to expand its commitment to Lancaster County with the construction of the new Penn State Health Lancaster Medical Center. This five-story, 129-bed community hospital will be located at the intersection of State Road and Harrisburg Pike in East Hempfield Township, and will be the health system's fourth acute care hospital.

When complete in summer 2022, the 341,000-square-foot Lancaster Medical Center will include all private inpatient beds, an emergency department, complete medical and surgical capabilities, specialty inpatient services, an imaging lab and an attached medical office building



The new 129-bed, five-story Penn State Health Lancaster Medical Center is expected to be completed in summer 2022.

for outpatient services. It will feature an open medical staff, which means both Penn State Health physicians and independent community physicians will be able to provide care there. And it will help to ensure that people in Lancaster County can receive the same high-quality care in their community, while needing to travel to Hershey for only the most serious of health concerns.

The new hospital delivers on a promise made by Penn State Health and Highmark Health in 2017 to build a broader community network. The goal is to ensure patients throughout central Pennsylvania are within 10 minutes of a Penn State Health primary care provider, 20 minutes of a specialty provider and 30 minutes of acute care.

With steady growth and a strong commitment to Lancaster County and its residents, Penn State Health looks forward to serving the community for years to come.



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VINNY TENNIS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Juanita Angelini of Willow Valley Communities demonstrates a virtual reality headset that simulates what it's like to have memory loss and other health conditions.

A TECHNOLOGY AGE FOR THE AGING

Tech advances are making life easier for older populations

CAROLE DECK
LNP CORRESPONDENT

Technology has changed the way we live, work and play. Today, technological advancements are positively affecting the aging population.

A recent survey by the Consumer Technology Association found seniors 65 and older are eager to adopt safety and smart home technology. This changing market culture of savvy seniors who embrace tech tools is feeding a rapidly growing active-

aging industry.

"The entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well in the longevity economy," says Lisa McCracken, director of senior living research and development for Ziegler Investment Banking, based in Chicago.

Every week, there's a new technology solution or company with a plan or device for older adults or those serving that population, McCracken says. That's not surprising, since statistics show more than 30 million

people in the United States will be 75 or older this year. Senior living communities are committing time and finances to cutting-edge technology aimed at keeping older adults safer, healthier, connected and informed.

Smart technology

Fred and Brenda Kaylor moved into the first smart cottage at Masonic Village at Elizabethtown in 2017. As tech users with smart home

devices in their former home, Fred, 70, and Brenda, 65, were eager to test new options.

"The current technology will greatly benefit us to age in place in this cottage," Fred says.

Built as part of a 72-cottage neighborhood, the Kaylors' cottage is equipped with smart home technology as part of the K4 Community system through K4Connect.

The system includes a resident

Senior

Continued from 42

portal, known as Village Connect, which is accessible through a computer, tablet or smartphone, says Ray Tierney, Masonic Village's chief operating officer.

Village Connect allows residents to: control home automation (lights, thermostats, motion sensors and more), monitor wellness (fitness trackers, sleep, medication), check campus information (activities, menus, weather, directories) and request maintenance services.

Masonic Village launched the system in 2016 and continues to expand its capabilities. Among the safety features are automatic motion sensors installed in the master bath of apartments and cottages. If the sensors do not show activity within a certain time period, campus security will check in on the resident if they can't reach them by phone.

A pilot in 2019 explored the use of Amazon Alexa for voice-activated assistance with plans for future use.

"We believe technology will help team members be more proactive in anticipating health episodes before they become emergencies through technological monitoring services," Tierney says.

The information age

Steve Lindsey, CEO at Garden Spot Village, agrees technology is changing senior living at the New Holland facility. Two years ago, the organization began providing iPads for independent living residents to receive secure, confidential campus information.

"Communication and connectiveness on campus are important for our residents. The iPad makes both possible and is a library for life on campus," Lindsey says.

While some may be intimidated at first, residents quickly learn to rely on it, says Andrew Dietzel, chief information officer.



Village Connect, the resident portal at Masonic Village in Elizabethtown, is accessible through a tablet, computer or smartphone.

MASONIC VILLAGE PHOTO

"The iPad is for use only on campus," Dietzel says.

Residents can access information such as campus services, events, lunch/dinner menus, resident/staff directories, GSV publications, travel, weather and CATIE, a radio station dedicated to older adults.

Lindsey says a big benefit is being able to send timely alert blasts regarding severe weather, electrical outages, meeting room changes and more.

With an abundance of new technologies, Lindsey says staff does due diligence on whether a product is worth the return on investment.

"We do a lot of research on companies and products. It takes significant staff time setting up and supporting any new technology," Dietzel says.

In someone else's shoes

Willow Valley Communities introduced the Embodied Labs Virtual Reality Kit in 2018.

"Wearing a virtual reality headset, participants experience what it's like to have a certain health condition," explains Juanita Angelini, memory support resource coordinator.

The kit features a library of patient experience sessions, which are used to educate team members, residents and families. More than 500 sessions have taken place to date. Following a VR experience, which can take up to seven minutes, Angelini discusses it with participants.

Team members, even those working in long-term care for years, say they've gained a new perspective on

a disease and believe the kit's a beneficial training tool. Residents and family members are awed by the experience. The library features what it would be like to experience vision and hearing loss, Alzheimer's disease, end-of-life conversations, Lewy body dementia and Parkinson's disease.

As a hands-on type of learning tool, the VR experience is different than attending a lecture or class, Angelini says.

"It increases awareness of cognitive issues for those affected by memory issues, increases empathy and generates outside-the-box thinking in assisting those living with these diseases," she says.

For Samantha Boxleitner, a certified dementia practitioner, VR helped her understand what people with dementia were experiencing and how to better help them.

"It's a helpful tool and enlightening for anyone with a loved one with dementia," says resident Jean Morgan.

Another popular tech device found in health care areas of senior living communities are robotic pet companions. Willow Valley Communities is home to PARO the robotic seal.

Angelini shares several stories about the lifelike animal, which can put a smile on a sad face and take away loneliness. PARO makes cooing sounds with slight movement. She also blinks and lifts her head when you say her name.

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ENVIRONMENT



WATERSHED LEARNING

Initiative teaches environmental stewardship through 3 school districts and MU

CATHY MOLITORIS

LNP CORRESPONDENT

A new collaborative program is bringing environmental education and community partners together to create unique learning experiences for students.

The Outdoor Learning Network Initiative is a partnership with Conestoga Valley, Ephrata and Columbia school districts, as well as Millersville University, the Lancaster County Conservation District and the Stroud Water Research Center.

"It's a program designed to connect students and teachers to fun and meaningful learning opportunities outdoors," says Dan Daneker, science and technology education K-12 subject area supervisor for Conestoga Valley School District.

The program is funded by the Pisces Foundation, the Chesapeake Bay Trust, the Chesapeake Bay Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Chesapeake Bay Funders Network.

Daneker says the program began after he initially applied for a grant with the Chesapeake Bay Trust to increase environmental literacy in his district.

"The trust got back to us and said, 'We want to bring in partners and other districts,'" Daneker says, noting that Ephrata and Columbia were the first districts to respond to the call for partners.

Soon, they expanded their network of resources to include their other partners.

"Each is bringing a little bit of a different spin to it," he says. "Millersville University is helping with the metrics to determine if the grant is successful. Stroud will offer two days of professional development this summer, and the Lancaster Conservation District is providing instruc-



CONESTOGA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT PHOTOS

Top: Conestoga Valley High School science teacher James Hovan teaches at MU's Watershed Education Training Institute last summer. Above left: CV middle school teachers, from left, Ramón Rivers, Kate McKinne and Lauren Martin at Stroud Water Research Center. Right: CV high school students collect organisms.

tional support as well as a trip to Middle Creek."

After winning the grant, Daneker began organizing the partners, holding meetings this past fall to develop the program.

"We have been meeting to figure out how we're going to deliver this program," he says. "We are looking at meaningful professional devel-

opment for the teachers, and we're taking into account how all three districts are very different. CV is suburban, Ephrata and Columbia are in more of a town. There is a different need in each of the districts."

CV is a natural district to take the lead with initiative, Daneker says, because the district has been offering environmental education since 1993.

"At Conestoga Valley, we have an award-winning environmental literacy program," he says. "Our equipment and materials are much farther along in the process of environmental education than Columbia, which is just putting its programs together."

CV plans to focus on fourth grade with the program, while Ephrata is looking at fifth and seventh grade, and Columbia is considering fourth grade, eighth grade and a high school elective.

The grant includes materials for teachers and a week-long professional development institute scheduled for July 20 to 24. The week includes presentations on everything from water chemistry to macroinvertebrates, plus small-group work. Environmental curriculum from the program will be implemented during the 2020-2021 school year.

Participants will receive a digital field microscope that is Bluetooth-enabled and can link to a phone or iPad for closer study of rocks, water and other materials. Additionally, each district will receive access to an augmented-reality sandbox, a 3D educational tool to help understand mapping, topography, watersheds, natural hazards and more.

Daneker says the grant is important because environmental education matters.

"As educators, we work every day to make and build positive relationships with kids," he says. "We work on the three R's: relationships, relevancy and rigor. We have a welcoming school, so then we work on making content we teach relevant to our students. We as teachers are salespeople. We're selling the topic we're teaching, and if they're not buying it, they're not going to learn it."

Environmental education, espe-

Watershed

Continued from 46

cially opportunities for hands-on learning, helps bring relevancy into focus for students, he says.

“They begin to think, ‘This is my schoolyard. This is my community. This is what is happening to the water running off right behind my school,’ ” he says. “When they see this is their neighborhood, then it becomes relevant. As soon as relationships and relevance are in place, rigor can go through the roof.”

A goal of the program is to get students to the “action step” of a subject, he says.

“We can teach, and they can sit passively and learn, but if we can get students to the action stage where what they are learning is meaningful to them because they’ve taken some sort of action — which could be as simple as turning off the water when

they brush their teeth to creating a recycling program at their school — they really begin to connect and absorb the lesson.”

Daneker says the program also focuses on data-driven instruction in terms of assessing how teachers are learning through professional development and how they can use that to inform their instruction.

“Sometimes teaching science can be a little scary for teachers,” he says. “We want to make this comfortable for teachers. We want to look at concepts before and after professional development and see if professional development helped make them more comfortable teaching environmental literacy.”

That’s where Millersville University comes in, says Nanette Marcum-Dietrich, professor of science education. She says she has collaborated with CV for years on water conservation issues and training future science teachers, so this project was a

natural fit for the university.

“We’ve worked together quite a bit on curriculum and watershed education,” she says. “With this grant, we’ll be leveraging those previous relationships and expanding them. It’s a wonderful opportunity to get these groups together within Lancaster County.”

She’ll be analyzing the outcome of the grant, noting, “We’re going to be looking at the effectiveness of the training and the implementation and what tools teachers are using. We’ll be looking at how watershed curriculum is being used in the classroom.”

Environmental education is particularly interesting in Lancaster County, she says, because Pennsylvania has signed the Chesapeake Bay Agreement and put a premium on protecting natural resources.

“Protecting our Chesapeake Bay watershed is essential,” she says. “Water is the most important resource we have on the planet. We

have a shared watershed, and it’s our responsibility to take care of it.”

The grant also will offer lots of chances for students to learn through hands-on work, she says.

“It provides a wonderful opportunity to enact project-based learning and to engage students in critical-thinking skills using environmental data,” she says. “We can look at the impact we have on our local environment and put 21st century skills to use — collecting data, making sense of data. It’s a wonderful opportunity for students to have an active role in the scientific process.”

She’s also looking forward to the collaboration the initiative offers.

“It’s exciting to be able to bring together all of these community resources,” she says. “No one is working on this in isolation. We’re pulling all of this expertise together so teachers don’t have to go it alone. There are lots of organizations eager to help.”



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HOME



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Realtor Debra Burke, right, with the Patrick Trimble Team, shows Stephany Baughman a home in Bent Creek in Lititz.

FROM BUST TO SCARCE

Housing prices have recovered, but those in industry say there's too little supply

REBECCA LOGAN
LNP CORRESPONDENT

The current Lancaster County real estate market could be described as a landscape of limited choices.

"I don't have the statistics. But being in the market day to day, it feels like inventory is as low as it has ever been," says New Holland real estate agent Greg Hostetter.

"People want to buy but nobody's selling," Hostetter says. "Why aren't people selling? I get asked that ques-

tion a lot. It's hard to pinpoint. Everybody has their own circumstances."

Many factors are contributing to the dearth of homes on the market, he says. Even something like the popularity of real estate auctions can have an impact.

"There are buyers who just cannot or will not go to an auction to buy a property," Hostetter says. "And that hurts the real estate industry."

Many folks who find something

they like among more traditional listings are having to act fast.

"I just showed a house to somebody on Saturday at 11. There were two offers at 6 o'clock that night and they had to hurry up and make a decision," he says. "To me that's just unhealthy."

National problem

Scenarios like the one Hostetter describes are playing out across the

county and across most price points, says Frank Christoffel III, executive vice president of the Lancaster County Association of Realtors.

"It's not only throughout Lancaster County, it's pretty much a national problem," he says. "The variety of reasons is huge. Aging in place. That's a large part of it. Moving in with the kids may not be an option because now they may be living with you."

Housing

Continued from 50

Low inventory can lead to buyer fatigue, he says. Homes in hot markets are sometimes getting offers five at a time, meaning that four would-be buyers walk away empty.

"If that happens to you a couple of times you get really frustrated," he says. "Potential buyers might just go home and say, 'You know what, Martha? We're going to wait until this situation changes. Maybe we can fix up the basement or put a room up in the attic.' They make do because they get tired of doing everything they're asked to do and still losing."

Christoffel declines to share countywide inventory numbers, saying that specific markets vary greatly and that contributing factors reflected in numbers from a few years ago aren't the same as what's happening now.

New builds, high cost

Real estate investor Patrick Trimble shared inventory figures he tracks for Manheim Township, Hempfield and Warwick school districts. He says that in 2007 the average number of active homes in those districts combined was 562. That rose to 834 homes in 2010 and has declined each year since. In 2019, the average number of active homes for those districts was 280, Trimble says.

The pricing of new construction

has a lot to do with that, he says.

"We have a neighborhood in East Petersburg that we're going in with where we're struggling, and I mean struggling, to keep the price at \$300,000," Trimble says. "We're ending up pushing up into the \$375,000 range with the cost of stormwater management and land development and engineering fees. With all the things that go along with government regulations, it's just very difficult to keep those prices down."

So, say someone was looking to move out of a small home and into one in the \$250,000 to \$300,000 range. New construction is generally not an option for them, so they must consider existing inventory, he says.

"They look around, and they can't find what they like so they stay where they are and they make renovations," Trimble says. "So that house doesn't come on the market, where in the past it would have. It's almost like it's feeding upon itself in a negative way. They can't find what they want so they stay put."

Trimble doesn't think the sting of the 2007 housing market crash has much to do with what's happening today, as he says prices have generally recovered.

"Sure, if somebody purchased a house in 2005 and tried to sell it in 2010 they had a very bad taste in their mouth because they sold their house for less," he says. "But I think that's far enough in the rearview now that that's not really a factor anymore."



Realtor Debra Burke, left, with client Stephany Baughman at a home in Lititz.

FOR SALE

Real estate professionals across the county are reporting lower than usual inventories. Here were the average number of for-sale homes for each year in the area of Manheim Township, Hempfield and Warwick school districts.

► 2007: 562	► 2014: 602
► 2008: 653	► 2015: 555
► 2009: 698	► 2016: 451
► 2010: 820	► 2017: 381
► 2011: 834	► 2018: 349
► 2012: 742	► 2019: 280
► 2013: 648	

Source: The Patrick Trimble Team

Separate market

The inventory scenario for sellers asking for half a million or more is a different story than the more common scenarios above.

"You have two very distinct markets when you're talking specifically about Lancaster County," Trimble

says. "In the higher-end price points the market is very soft. There's plenty of inventory."

Buyers in that range can afford options.

"If a buyer goes and looks at a \$600,000 house and it's not what they want, they just go talk to a builder and get exactly what they want," he says. "On the higher-end side the pricing is static at best."

The absorption rate for \$500,000-plus is well over 12 months, whereas it's less than two months for the lower price points, he says.

"Those numbers have been very consistent over 2019 and I expect to see the same thing in 2020," he says.

Each area of the county has its own specific situations contributing to inventory decline. Southern End listings, for example, are missing out on a number of neighbor-to-neighbor sales, says Kenneth Rutt with Berkshire Hathaway's Quarryville office.

"If I want to sell my farm, my neighbor wants to buy it. It's sold before it ever hits the market," Rutt says.

And it's not just farms. It's brick ranchers and Cape Cods on smaller lots nearby.

Amish families are snapping many of those up so that grown sons can live close to the family farm, Rutt says. Buyers are approaching potential sellers directly and working out arrangements, which means those houses aren't ever showing up in any real estate listing.

Many buyers who both work and

HOUSING, page 55

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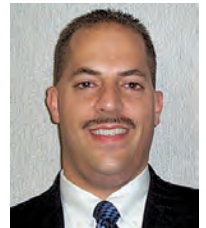
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STEVENS HOUSE CONDOMINIUMS GETTING A MAKEOVER

Downtown high-rise also changes name to 10 Prince Apartments

TIM MEKEEL
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The Stevens House Condominiums in downtown Lancaster have a new lease on life, you might say.

The high-rise building at West King and South Prince streets has a new owner — real estate investor Daniel M. Berger, who's based in Wayne, Delaware County.

Berger explained his decision to acquire the building for \$8.65 million last year by saying he's attracted to markets that offer "long-term stability."

"Lancaster's strong employment, engaged business community, proximity to highways and transit, and welcoming environment have made it an ideal location for our long-term investment," he added.

(Berger is not related to Lancaster Realtor Daniel A. Berger of U.S. Commercial Realty.)

With the new owner has come a new name, 10 Prince Apartments, reflecting a transition to purely rentals.

Previously it was purely condos that mostly were rented out.

Each of the 76 units is getting a new look, a new heating and cooling system and new appliances, through a complete renovation over the next three or so years.

New features for tenants of the nine-story building are coming over the next year to its common areas. These will include a fitness center and lounge.

New features for the public are on the way as well, as the owner

searches for a tenant to open the vacant 9,000-square-foot restaurant space that includes a liquor license. Previous occupants included the Bird's Nest and before that, the Hoar House.

There are 14 other commercial spaces, all filled.

Including its new property downtown, Berger Rental Communities now manages nearly 30 rental-housing communities in Pennsylvania, its website shows.

These include three others in Lancaster County: Creekside North and South (with 261 units combined) on Stone Mill Road and Millers Crossing (180 units) off Millersville Road.

Stevens House had opened in 1965 at a cost of \$1.2 million, according to LNP | LancasterOnline files.

The high rise replaced a four-story luxury hotel, also dubbed the Stevens House, that had opened in 1874 and was razed to make way for the new, taller and "modern" building.

In addition to its investment to acquire the property, Berger is investing another "substantial" sum in improvements, said Nicole Loser, regional manager for Berger Rental Communities.

The most pronounced change is happening inside the apartments. All are getting an extreme makeover as tenants depart. (As of mid-February, only three were empty.)

STEVENS, page 55

The 10 Prince high-rise at King and Prince streets.



DAN MARSHKA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Housing

Continued from 51

live in the Southern End are looking for homes in the \$180,000 to \$250,000 range, Rutt says.

Ready to build

Builder Joe Nadu expects to pull a number of buyers who work in Lancaster city to his large Southern End development in Providence Township outside of Quarryville. That won't be officially priced and won't hit the market until spring. Nadu, founder and owner of Lancaster Home Builders, has been

planning it for about 10 years.

"The recession scared people but we're all over that. The market is back. The prices are good. Mortgage rates are good. Everything's there," Nadu says. "There's great opportunity. People see that and they're buying up what's there."

Builders are in high gear and would be more so if the development pipeline would accommodate, he says.

"The problem in our county and in the surrounding counties is finding available lots. They're not there anymore," Nadu says. "After the Great Recession nobody was developing because you wouldn't be able to sell them. So development pretty much stopped."

As for land that had made it through the subdividing process before the crash?

"A lot of that sold really cheap. Builders bought most of it up, including myself," Nadu says. "We bought a lot of stuff during that time. But all that old inventory is gone."

The path to getting acreage approved for development is a long one, he says. He likes buying land that's ready to go.

"We buy scattered site lots," he says. "If it's a reasonable price we'll buy it. It doesn't matter where you put it. You build a nice home in a reasonable area, it's going to sell. Period."

While there are neighborhoods of

exception, real estate agents across much of the county are coaching their buyers in the lower and middle price points that it's a seller's market and that it may be for some time.

"The reality is we have to stop right here and now and look forward," Christoffel says. "That means looking at really intelligent land policies instead of just preservation, preservation, preservation."

"There's no simple solution to this. There's no one fix," Christoffel says. "And quite honestly, you have to raise the question: Can we build ourselves out of this? Not really known at this point."

Stevens

Continued from 54

For instance, the units used to have vinyl floors in the bath and kitchen, and carpet in the rest. That's being replaced with laminate flooring, ceramic tile and carpet, Loser said.

Kitchens are getting new appliances (stainless steel), backsplashes, countertops (quartz) and cabinetry. New heating and air conditioning systems (with separate controls for the bedroom) are also being installed.

Off-white walls are getting repainted in gray.



Left: The dining and living area in the model unit of the new 10 Prince Apartments undergoing renovations at West King and South Prince streets. Right: The model bedroom.



DAN MARSCHKA | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

To date, six apartments have been renovated, with four more to be renovated by the end of February.

Once they've been renovated, stu-

dio apartments (450 square feet) are renting for \$700 and up, one bedroom apartments (650 square feet) for \$1,100 and up, and two-bedroom

units (1,090 square feet) for \$1,300 and up, plus utilities. There are 40 underground parking spaces which rent for \$75 a month.

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