

Our pledge to community

Over the past six months, Lancaster Newspapers has conducted an extensive review of how, in challenging economic times, it can remain what it has been for the past 218 years — the primary source of news and information for all residents of Lancaster County.

This examination has led us to refocus our efforts on traditional core principles expected by longtime readers and to adopt several new principles important to our digital readers. We want you, our readers, to know these principles and hold us accountable to them:

- We will be a local community newspaper. We will report on all of Lancaster County, the suburbs, towns and farming communities as well as the city.
- We will publish comprehensive local news stories in our newspaper. We will strive to tell readers what has happened, its meaning for local people and what is likely to happen next.
- We will publish breaking news as it happens for all popular digital devices and social media.
- In print or online, our journalists will report as truthfully and objectively as possible, using trusted sources, multiple sources and verification of facts whenever possible. We will seek to tell all sides of a story in an even-handed manner.
- We will confine personal opinion columns to editorial pages. They will not appear on news pages.
- We will maintain our role as a community watchdog, monitoring the use of power by those in elected office or in positions of influence over the lives of county residents. We will investigate abuses of power or position.

It is worth emphasizing our commitment to fairness. While we value vigorous debate in a democracy, and intend to report local discussion of issues fully and fairly, this newspaper will not be a liberal paper or a conservative paper. It will simply be a news paper.

Further, we pledge that we will listen to you when you ask for news coverage in your community or question coverage that we have provided. We may not always be able to respond as you wish, but we will listen and we will respect your point of view. We will do our best to satisfy your concern.

Recently, for example, we stopped publishing a television guide, and many readers have expressed their disappointment. We have listened and we will bring back a TV magazine as soon as possible.

Finally, we recognize that many county residents are adopting new ways of getting local news — on their phones, tablets or computers. They expect the latest news wherever they are and whenever they want it.

We also understand that many readers prefer to get their news as they always have — organized and edited in their daily newspaper in an easy-to-read format that can be carried anywhere, without cords to plug in, buttons to push or expensive electronics to maintain.

Lancaster Newspapers respects and wants to serve both types of readers.

We have the largest and most experienced corps of journalists in Lancaster County — 75 professional writers and editors devoted solely to providing readers with news of Lancaster County.

We pledge to you that these journalists will work for you, reporting fully, fairly and responsibly to bring you the latest news of people and events in our county when you want, in the manner you want and in a way that will hopefully make your life easier.

Beverly R. Steinman
Chairman of the Board

Robert M. Krasne
Vice Chairman of the Board

Ernest J. Schreiber
Executive Editor