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Downsizing imperils our small-town values

I've been working for the Village of Lancaster for 22 years and have not taken a penny in salary or perks. As a commission, our members are appointed and we help our elected officials with much of the "heavy lifting." The downsizing craze is about more than money. I feel that it is mainly about loss of values and the places they're nourished. These are called communities, villages.

The Village of Lancaster has already lost its police department. The more we lose of the town or village center that figured forth in American history and literature as the wellspring of all that is human, the more we become less human, less American. Conservatives talk of "family values." From what are these values made? I think they are born of their community's history. The national Main Street model has revived hundreds of downtowns with this approach.

Donn Esmonde quotes our mayor as forecasting that our village "may just dissolve." Kevin Gaughan and his followers should beware what they wish for; one day their children may wish they could have it back.

Will Harnack

Village of Lancaster Historic Preservation Commission



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