



Chester County Historical Society • 225 North High Street, West Chester PA 19380 • 610.692.4800

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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*For Immediate Release*

SAVE THE DATE:  
**OPEN SPACE FORUM: February 21, 2009 1-4 p.m.**

Chester County Historical Society to Host Michael DiBerardinis,  
Pennsylvania Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources, To Discuss Open  
Space in Chester County

West Chester, Pa. January 25, 2009: A public forum event featuring Michael DiBerardinis, Pennsylvania Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources, opens the door February 21 to serious discussion of the future opportunities and challenges for open space in Chester County. The forum is a compliment to the newly installed *What is Open Space?* exhibit, which explores the past and present conditions of Chester County including the topics of urban sprawl, natural habitats, and wildlife. The forum aims to formulate answers to the question, "What is the future of open space in Chester County?" by providing a time and place for the community and experts to openly discuss and celebrate the meaning of open space in Chester County.

**WHAT:** The Future of Open Space in Chester County is a public forum for people who live and work in Chester County to gather and discuss the future possibilities for open space in Chester County, in light of its past and present uses. The forum kicks off with a reception and chance to view the exhibit *What is Open Space?* Secretary DiBerardinis will offer a keynote address at 2 p.m. followed by a community discussion led by a panel of experts. The program is supported in part by *The Daily Local News* and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

**WHEN:** February 21, 2009 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: Chester County Historical Society  
225 North High Street  
West Chester, PA 19380

WHO: Keynote speech by Michael DiBerardinis, Pennsylvania Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources

Panel Moderator: Anne Pickering, Reporter, *The Daily Local News*  
Panel members: Molly Morrison, President and CEO, Natural Lands Trust  
William Gladden, Director, Chester County Open Space Preservation  
W. Joseph Duckworth, President, Arcadia Land Company  
Robert Lonsdorf, Senior Planner, Brandywine Conservancy  
Claire Quinn, Executive Director, French and Pickering Creeks  
Conservation Trust

WHY: After 20 years of preservation, the emphasis in the open space movement is shifting towards stewardship. Particularly during the current economic recession, the community needs a place for open discussion and consensus about the challenges and the opportunities ahead. The Chester County Historical Society with its partners, the Natural Lands Trust, West Chester University's Biology Department, and The Children's County Week Association, is providing the Forum for community leaders and members to gather in order to discuss the future of land use, conservation, and development in Chester County.

### **About Chester County Historical Society**

Located in downtown West Chester, The Chester County Historical Society is a center for exploring the exciting three-hundred year history of Chester County through museum, library, and archival collections. Hours of operation are Wednesday – Saturday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. *What is Open Space?*, made possible in part through the support of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Natural Lands Trust, Aqua, The Children's County Week Association, and the Chester County Planning Commission, is open through August 1, 2009. A traveling trunk of resources for teachers of grades 5 and up is available through the support of PECO and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. For more information visit [www.chestercohistorical.org](http://www.chestercohistorical.org)

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