

This is a printer friendly version of an article from [publicopiniononline.com](http://www.publicopiniononline.com)
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

Article published Apr 27, 2005

Speak out against ethanol plant

Having grown up in Baltimore and lived in Virginia, I've been dumbfounded over the past 13 years since moving to Chambersburg at how little true planning for growth there has been.

The costs for such lack of planning are all around us — you see it every day — more traffic, loss of farmland, out-of-area and out-of-state developers and industrialists using our resources until they are depleted, then packing up and heading out.

Growth, as we well know, is happening all around us and that is to be expected, but it seems that we are currently living under a "ready, fire, aim" mentality. Where's the planning for growth? Where's the upgrading of environmental standards to meet that of a modern society?

How can we preserve all the wonderful things about the community we live in while allowing development to take its appropriate place in our community? Unchecked growth and inattentiveness to our environmental standards could destroy our area.

Last week Letterkenny and Greene townships heard from Penn-Mar Ethanol concerning a height variance beyond the allowable 45 feet for 22 buildings/structures; 22 — that's quite a lot. You'd think that requesting that number of exceptions to our ordinances would have meant that they would have done their homework. Not so!

I and others were alarmed as Penn-Mar seemed to be unaware that the proposed building site was near an airport, (remember, they were there for a height variance). Even worse, they were unaware of a helicopter pad on Letterkenny's base, quite close to the proposed building site.

Penn-Mar is willing to pay \$2.24 million to buy their way in and circumvent our environmental standards. What will they do for us? No tax base until 2011, increased air pollution, noxious odors, heavy truck traffic and dangers of explosion, fire, chemical releases.

What can we do? Take action! I think it's high time we wake up and tell our county commissioners and supervisors that we want a plan — a real plan — for growth, and that that plan doesn't include companies who only take from our community.

Show you are concerned about these and other issues that impact our community by attending a public meeting about the proposed Penn-Mar Ethanol distillery/refinery Thursday, April 28 at 7 p.m. in J. Frank Faust Junior High School auditorium, 1957 Scotland Road, Chambersburg.

Carolyn Griffin Yeager

Greene Township
