

Scenic Overlook

April 2013

[Read this newsletter online](#)

[f Friend on Facebook](#)

[t Follow on Twitter](#)

[Forward to a Friend](#)

Scenic News:

[Special report](#) from Vermont:
What is a Scenic Byway and
why does it matter?

Route 100 Scenic Byway [to
become](#) 2nd longest in
Vermont...

Tennessee River Trail Scenic
Byway wins award for [its
website](#)...

Poconos township [denies
application](#) for digital
billboard...

Downeast Maine towns [rally
to form](#) the Bold Coast
Scenic Byway...



*Your tax-deductible contribution
will support our unique and vital
mission to protect the scenic
qualities of America's roadways,
countryside and communities.*

Scenic America honors Mount Laurel for precedent setting billboard ban

Scenic America [has presented](#) its Stafford Award to Mayor Linda Bobo and the citizens of Mount Laurel, NJ for their successful years-long effort to prohibit billboards in the township. The Award was presented at a recent Township Council meeting by Scenic America President Mary Tracy and Board Member Carl E. Hintz.

"We are thrilled to present this award to Mayor Bobo and the township of Mount Laurel for standing tall against the forces of blight," said Tracy. "They are to be commended for rigorously defending their vision for the township and not backing down against an industry with deep pockets and a track record of using intimidation to get what they want."



photo by Kristen Coppock for the
Burlington County Times

The township's ban was upheld by several courts, including the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit, which set a precedent in the U.S. Court of Appeals.

[Click here](#) to watch part of the presentation.

Digital billboards go dark in L.A.

Los Angeles residents rejoiced recently when a judge ordered nearly a hundred digital billboards to be turned off, giving relief to residents whose homes have been invaded by the uninvited glow of constantly-changing commercial advertisements.

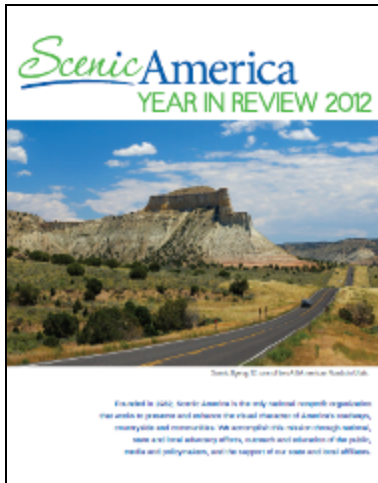
The darkening of the billboards is the latest chapter of a saga that began in 2006 when the city signed a clandestine agreement with two billboard companies that allowed for the conversion of hundreds of

Newsletter archives:

You can now access past issues of Scenic Overlook newsletters

[in once place!](#)

Don't forget to download our 2012 Year in Review:



billboards to digital. A judge later voided that agreement, calling it "poisonous."

But it took several more years before the signs were actually turned off. In the meantime the billboard companies continued to profit while nearby residents suffered.



It remains to be seen what's next for the blank signs. Will they be torn down? For further analysis of the issue check out the L.A.-based [Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight](#).

Beauty is the topic of new TED radio hour series

The [latest edition](#) of the TED Radio Hour explores a topic near and dear to our hearts: Beauty -- what is it, and why are humans hardwired to crave and respond to it?

One of the featured speakers is Bill Strickland, who grew up poor in Pittsburgh but found inspiration in art and aesthetics. As an adult he wanted to give back to his city so he established Manchester Bidwell, a world-class institute founded on his conviction that an atmosphere of high culture and respect will energize even the most troubled students.



Strickland says, "When I think of beauty, I think of life and hope and all of its enormous possibilities. I think single parents, at-risk children, homeless people and steel workers all deserve beauty in their lives."

[Click here](#) to listen to the series.

Contact us:

Scenic America
1785 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20036

phone: 202.588.6385
email: scenic@scenic.org
web: www.scenic.org

[unsubscribe from this list](#)