



# THE VANTAGE POINT



American Planning Association  
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association

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## Who?

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association

## What?

Annual Conference

## When?

Sunday, October 14 through  
Tuesday, October 16

## Where?

Bayfront Convention Center

## Why?

Skills building, networking, top-notch education, new ideas, great keynote addresses, services and products on display, catching up with fellow planners, planning officials and students...all on Lake Erie!



## APA-PA 2018

### *annual conference*

Our 2018 Conference Planning Committee is pleased to announce that details are falling into place for another great conference. Included will be three phenomenal Plenary sessions; over 40 concurrent sessions, including a Healthy Communities based Fast, Fun and Fervent session; a brand-new Mentoring event on Monday evening; plenty of networking opportunities; and exciting Mobile Workshops including exploring Erie's Wine Region.

Our **Welcome Reception on Sunday evening** is taking place at the **Erie Maritime Museum**, a short walk from our host property, the Sheraton Hotel. Here you can enter the world of Lake Erie. From the War of 1812 to present history, the Erie Maritime Museum will take you through time, the people and the events surrounding Lake Erie. It will be a great opportunity to meet up with friends and colleagues.

Back by popular demand, our **Opening Session on Monday morning** will be presented by **Tom Murphy**, a senior resident fellow, ULI/Klingbeil Family Chair for Urban Development of the Urban Land Institute, Washington, DC. Murphy, former Mayor of Pittsburgh, will present ***Intentionality: Competing in the 21st Century***. The rules are getting turned upside-down. Globalization, demographics, climate



TOM MURPHY

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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### Inside This Issue:

Lankenau Medical Center..... 6  
 2018 Governor's Awards.....7-9  
 Hazard Mitigation ..... 10  
 EarthFest ..... 12

# 2018 Annual Conference October 14 – October 16 Erie, PA



JOE NICKOL



KEVIN WRIGHT



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change, and technology are forces that are creating both challenges and opportunities. How communities, big and small, respond to those forces of change will determine whether they will compete successfully. Maintaining the status quo is not an option. Embracing change and the risks and controversy that it entails is the challenge.

Monday afternoon will be **PA-APA President James Cowhey's** time to present his *State of the Chapter* address. This will be followed by the Scholarship Awards and the annual awards for the **Best & Brightest in PA** presented by **Denny Puko**.

Our **Plenary session on Tuesday morning** will be a presentation by two representatives of **Yard and Company**. Yard and Company has over 25 years of combined experience in architecture, urban design, real estate, marketing, communications and community development. They have project experience in over 25 states, seven countries, and dozens of towns, cities, and neighborhoods. Project sizes range from 2,000 square foot buildings and parklets to whole villages, neighborhoods or districts. Their scope ranges between lightweight, low-cost popup activations to billion-dollar redevelopments of entire city districts.

Yard and Company co-owners, **Joe Nickol** and **Kevin Wright**, will present *The Neighborhood Play Book*, a field guide for community members and developers that facilitates the activation of spaces with the goal of influencing physical and economic growth in neighborhoods. Their hope is that The Playbook will create more neighborhood amenities where people want to spend time, interact socially, create memorable experiences, and connect with the built and natural environment. It will allow entrepreneurial developers to explore new markets with lower risk en route to developing authentic, lasting investments. Together, developers and everyone else will be able to increase the value of their neighborhoods by making them healthier, more fun places to live.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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Following lunch on Tuesday, the Planning Committee is extremely pleased to have **Charles L. Marohn, Jr., PE, AICP to present our Pitkin Lecture.** He is a Professional Engineer licensed in the State of Minnesota. He is the Founder and President of **Strong Towns.** Marohn has a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Minnesota's Institute of Technology and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute.

Mr. Marohn's presentation is entitled *Infrastructure Crisis: It's Time to Retbink Our Approach to Growth.* For more than six decades, local governments have been accustomed to building infrastructure and expanding existing systems. While liabilities have grown, transportation funding has not kept up. Now there is a desperate need for local governments to change their approach. We need to shift our strategy from an emphasis on continuous expansion to a more mature focus on maintenance and maximization of existing infrastructure. In difficult economic times, this is a scary, but necessary, realignment.

There are trillions of dollars of unproductive infrastructure already in the ground today waiting for us to make better use of. At Strong Towns, we see that our cities, towns and neighborhoods are dripping with opportunity. These opportunities are not of the mega-project variety. They are small — seemingly beneath us, perhaps — but they can positively transform everything about how we live our lives.

This presentation will help you bring your community into the national conversation about infrastructure spending and will help your local decision-makers determine where to spend precious infrastructure dollars to get the best return on your investment.

We are very pleased to announce that Mr. Marohn will also present a concurrent session on Monday afternoon entitled *The Growth Ponzi Scheme.* "Chuck" will explain, in plain language, how so many American cities have found themselves in decline after decades of "growth." The problem lies in the current model of development — one which values short-term gains over long-term prosperity. To strengthen our cities and ensure their economic success, we must look to traditional ways of building cities. In this presentation, Marohn will explain how active citizens, local officials and design professionals can change the negative trajectory in their towns and help them to become more resilient — no matter what challenges lie ahead. This core Strong Towns presentation is a game-changer for communities looking to grow more resilient in an uncertain future. ♦

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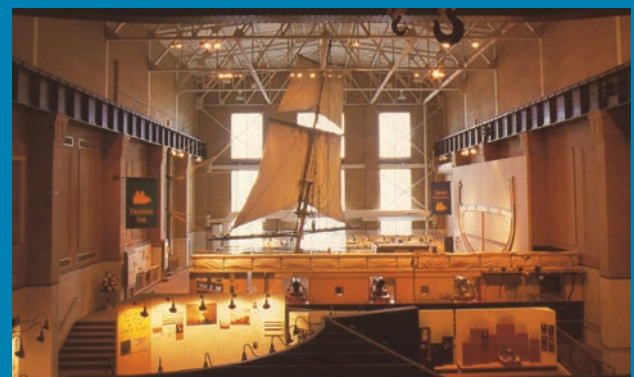


CHARLES L. MAROHN, JR.



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It wouldn't be a PA Chapter event without time for networking and camaraderie! Join us Sunday, October 14 at the **Erie Maritime Museum**, walking distance from the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel. Enter the world of Lake Erie. Learn its history. Find out about fishing. From the War of 1812 through present day, the Erie Maritime Museum will take you through time, the people, and the events surrounding Lake Erie. The U.S. Brig Niagara is berthed within yards of the museum. Inside the museum there are plenty of exhibits to explore.



ERIE MARITIME MUSEUM. PHOTO CREDIT VISITERIE.



## Committee Chair *Spotlight*

**Amy Evans, AICP**, is Co-Chair of the **Communications & Membership Committee** of APA-PA. Amy cut her teeth as a municipal planner in Tennessee and now works in Long Range Planning for the York County Planning Commission. There, she creates long range plans and social media material for the YCPC and works with the County Criminal Justice Advisory Board and the York County Reentry Coalition. Amy lives in an old house in Columbia Borough (Lancaster County) and serves as Chair of the borough's Shade Tree Commission and as a HARB member. Amy is an avid reader and enjoys traveling with her husband Justin, who is a municipal manager. Hiking, birdwatching, camping, and sampling local food and drinks are favorite activities both away and at home.



Amy invites anyone interested in the Communications & Membership Committee to consider joining the group! Email [Amy](mailto:Amy) if you are interested or want to know more! The Committee works to support and expand membership and get the word out about all the good things APA-PA does. ♦



## welcome New PA Chapter Members!

**WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS** who joined the PA Chapter over the past few months. The PA Chapter membership includes nearly 2,500 planning officials, professional planners, and others who care about how Pennsylvania continues to grow the places where we live, work, and enjoy recreation. The board and staff are available to answer any questions. Feel free to contact the Chapter Office at 717-671-4510. Board member contact information is available at [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org) under **About Us**.

### Individual Members:

**Andrea Campisi**, *Southeast Section*  
**Catherine Reynolds**, *Southeast Section*  
**Herman Slaybaugh**, *Central Section*



American Planning Association **Pennsylvania Chapter**

Making Great Communities Happen

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## PA Chapter *Executive Committee*

**PRESIDENT**  
**James Cowhey, AICP**  
 Lancaster County Planning Commission

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
**Amy McKinney**  
 Lawrence County Planning Department

**SECRETARY**  
**Leah Eppinger, AICP**  
 Housing Authority of Dauphin County

**TREASURER**  
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 Delaware County Planning Department

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**Sara Pandl, AICP/RLA**  
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**NORTHEAST SECTION REPRESENTATIVE**  
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 Penn State Cooperative Extension

**SOUTHWEST SECTION REPRESENTATIVE**  
**Katie Stringent**  
 The Borough of Sewickley Heights

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**Brian O'Leary, AICP**  
 Chester County Planning Commission

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**  
 Zachery Hammaker

### *Section Chairs*

*Central*  
**Rachelle Abbott, AICP**  
 STEP, Inc.

*Lehigh Valley*  
**Sara Pandl, AICP/RLA**  
 Lower Macungie Township

*Northeast*  
**Peter Wulfhorst, AICP**  
 Penn State Cooperative Extension

*Northwest*  
**Amy McKinney**  
 Lawrence County Planning Department

*Southeast*  
**Justin Dula, AICP**  
 Delaware County Planning Department

*Southwest*  
**Katie Stringent**  
 The Borough of Sewickley Heights

### *Committee Chairs*

*Professional Development Officer/Professional Development Committee Chair*

**Alexis Williams, AICP, PP**

*Planning Officials Development Officer/Chair of the Planning Officials Development Committee*

**Troy Truax, AICP**

*Communications/Membership Co-Chairs*

**Amy Evans, AICP**  
**Amy McKinney**

*Education Committee Chair*  
**David McFarland, III, AICP**

*Legislative Committee Chair*  
**vacant**

Contact information is available at [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org) under "About Us!"



## We welcome Alexis Williams as our new PDO

The APA PA Chapter is pleased to welcome **Alexis Williams, AICP, PP** to the role of Professional Development Officer (PDO). Alexis recently assumed the position

previously filled by Susan Elks, AICP for the past 10 years.

Alexis has been a member of the Professional Development Committee since 2014 and has held the committee's Vice-Chair position for the last couple years. As such, she has been heavily involved with the activities of the committee, including AICP exam prep sessions and FAICP nominations. Alexis is also Vice-Chair of APA-PA's Southeast Section Council where she is currently serving her second term.

Alexis is a Senior Planner in the Philadelphia Office of STV, Inc., a full service planning and engineering firm that specializes in transportation, environmental, and transit planning. She has over a decade of planning experience in the public and private sectors. Her broad experience includes preparing a wide range of transit studies, developing local and regional land use and multimodal transportation plans, and leading public outreach processes for a variety of clients in the northeast.

Alexis holds a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies from Gettysburg College and a Master's Degree in City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania. When not working, Alexis enjoys spending time exploring the outdoors with her two year old son and her husband.

Please join us in welcoming Alexis to the role of PDO!

## Congratulations to Richard (Rick) Collier who has achieved the planning profession's highest honor by being named to the prestigious American Institute of Certified Planners College of Fellows (FAICP) for his outstanding achievements in environmental planning.

Fellowship is granted to planners who have achieved certification through the American Institute of Certified Planners, and have achieved excellence in professional practice, teaching and mentoring, research, public and community service, and leadership. Invitations to join the College of Fellows come after a thorough nomination and review process, ensuring the candidate has had a positive, long-lasting impact on the planning profession. Rick was inducted into the Class of 2018 at a ceremony at the APA National Planning Conference in New Orleans on April 22nd. Rick joins his wife, Carol Collier, who was inducted into APA's College of Fellows in 2016.



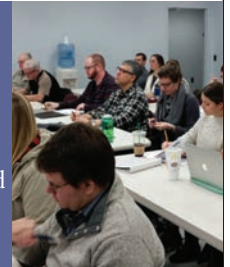
Rick is a career planner specializing in environmental planning, land use, site design, and resource protection for the public/private sector spending the first half of career at WRT and the latter half in private practice as a principal of LandConcepts Group, LLC which he helped establish in 1998. He has been a board member of the APA-PA SE Section for over 20 years, serving as Treasurer, and also actively serves on several other boards and associations including the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association, PennDesign (U of PA) Alumni Association, Upper Dublin Planning Board, Temple Ambler Arboretum Advisory Committee, Princeton Regional Planning Board (serves as an advisor), and Carson Valley School for disadvantaged children. He has led numerous resource and preservation plans and projects across the country and internationally; several of which have won awards. Rick is also an active planning instructor, teaching courses for APA, U of PA, Temple University (Center for Sustainable Communities), Drexel University, and Montgomery County Land Trust.

Sadly, because we will miss her, we say **'Thanks for an extraordinary job well done' to Susan Still Elks, AICP**. Susan was our Professional Development Officer for ten years. We will miss her support but know that she'll continue to lend a guiding hand to Alexis and the committee.



## Exam Prep

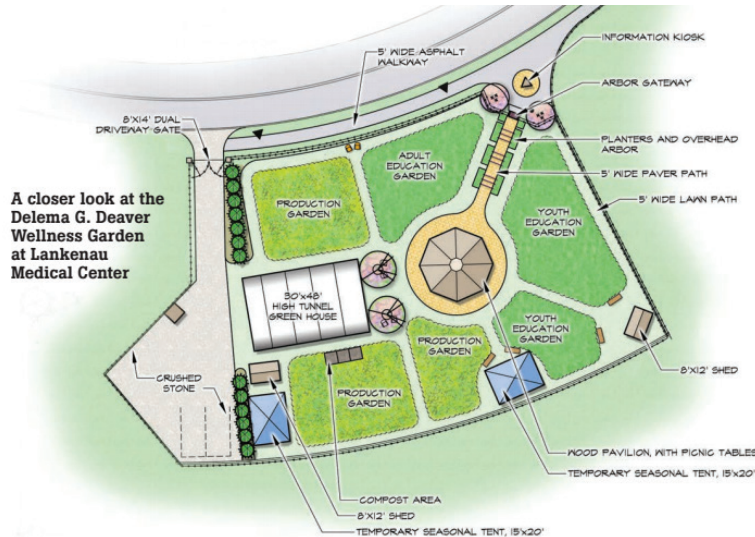
This year's AICP exam prep session was held on March 10 in Harrisburg. Susan Elks, Alexis Williams, Dave McFarland, and Jennifer Crobak took time from their weekend to help aspiring AICPs learn information and tips to pass the exam. Over thirty people were in attendance, with several attendees coming from out of state. A shorter exam prep session will be offered at the fall conference in Erie. If you are considering taking the AICP exam in the future, please join us for that session!





# Lankenau Medical Center and the Deaver Wellness Farm — Growing For Health

By Anne Leavitt-Gruberger, AICP, Assistant Section Chief of County Planning, Montgomery County Planning Commission



A closer look at the Delema G. Deaver Wellness Garden at Lankenau Medical Center

As a requirement of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, nonprofit hospitals are required to “give back” to the communities they serve to keep the nonprofit status. These hospitals are also charged with conducting a Community Needs Health Assessment and developing a subsequent Community Health Improvement Plan to prioritize what their community’s most urgent needs are and how the hospitals can improve their patients’ health outcomes.

Lankenau Medical Center, part of Main Line Health, is located in Lower Merion Township and is directly adjacent to West Philadelphia. In 2012, the hospital started to address some of the community health needs using food and food access. Although Montgomery County (where the hospital is located) has some of the top health outcomes of the 67 counties in the state, Philadelphia’s health outcomes tend to be on the other side of the spectrum. The contributing factors toward positive health outcomes that can be easily measured (such as income, education level, employment, diet, and exercise) also tend to be strong in Montgomery County and weaker in Philadelphia.

Lankenau Medical Center is also lucky enough to be located on a 93-acre campus. Building upon the sentiment that the built environment at the hospital needs to reflect its commitment to health and wellness, the Deaver Wellness Farm was created on about a half-acre of land. Staff from Greener Partners runs the farm. Much of the year is spent utilizing the farm as an outdoor classroom as part of the youth outreach at the medical center’s Health Education Center. For students who don’t necessarily have a good understanding of where fresh food comes from and how it’s grown, the farm gives staff the opportunity to teach about seeds, the lifecycle of plants, soil and compost, and pollinators, as well

as health and nutrition. At the end of the session in the farm, students are served a healthy snack. Farm staff has found that students who are engaged in farming activities tend to be more adventurous eaters.

Medical students can participate in the Medical Student Advocate Program, a partnership between the hospital and Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Students have the opportunity to do a rotation at the farm, giving them the opportunity to truly address their patients’ health needs that are based in social and environmental issues.

As for the farm, more than 5,000 pounds of produce was grown in 2017 in raised beds on that half-acre plot (more than 9,000 pounds of produce since its inception). And the bounty of this farm gets distributed through two of the hospital’s on-site primary care practices, including an OB-GYN care center. A third distribution site was added this year, off of the medical center’s primary campus. The food is literally brought to the front office of these practices, making it very visible and accessible. Patients are encouraged to take food home, and residents can use the presence of the food to discuss health and healthy eating habits with their patients.

As a result of this partnership with Greener Partners, Lankenau Medical Center is having a real effect on the health and diet of their patients. ♦



# Governor Wolf Recognizes Recipients of 2018 Governor's Awards for Local Government *Excellence*



On April 11, on behalf of Governor Tom Wolf, Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Secretary Dennis Davin recognized municipalities and local government officials for their dedication and commitment to strengthen their communities and better serve their residents.

“More than any other level of government, our local governments often have the greatest and most immediate impact on the lives of Pennsylvania residents – and are often the source of innovation and outside-the-box thinking that every level of government can aspire to emulate,” Secretary Davin said. “It’s my honor to recognize the local officials, governments, and organizations that have accomplished such outstanding achievements in the past year.”

Twelve communities and seven individuals from across the commonwealth were recognized for excellent service as part of the 22nd Annual Governor’s Awards for Local Government Excellence.

The following local government officials were recognized for their dedication to public service and their communities:

- Mrs. Anna H. Swailes, Supervisor/Secretary, Metal Township, Franklin County (nominated by PA State Association of Township Supervisors)

- Mr. Chuck S. Mummert, Jr., Mayor, Elizabethtown Borough, Lancaster County (nominated by PA State Association of Boroughs)
- Mr. Salvatore J. Panto, Jr., Mayor, City of Easton, Northampton County (nominated by PA Municipal League)
- Mr. John Kuntzelman, President Commissioner, East Pennsboro Township, Cumberland County (nominated by PA State Association of Township Commissioners and PA Association of Councils of Governments)
- Mr. Kevin Barnhardt, Commissioner, Berks County (nominated by County Commissioners Association of PA)
- Ms. Felicia Dell, Director, York County Planning Commission (nominated by PA Chapter of American Planning Association)
- Mr. Timothy G. NeCastro, President/CEO Erie Insurance, City of Erie, Erie County (Received the Secretary’s Award for Distinguished Service to Their Community, nominated by the Center for Local Government Services)

The following municipalities, organizations, and counties were recognized:

## RESPONDING TO ADVERSITY

*The Responding to Adversity award is given for overcoming an exceptionally difficult situation or obstacle.*

### Goshen Township, Clearfield County

Goshen Township, particularly Secretary Terri Cunkle, set a high standard of excellence for Department of Community and Economic Development peer consultants and has done an outstanding job of providing service to Pennsylvania’s

local governments in crisis. Cunkle is always willing to go the extra mile to solve difficult situations and train new secretaries.

## INNOVATIVE PLANNING AND SOUND USE PRACTICES

*The Innovative Planning and Sound Use Practices award is given to a local government that has instituted an innovative approach to planning principles, sound land use, or utilization of renewable energy sources.*

### Bucks County

Bucks County participated in the Municipal Economic Development Initiative (MEDI) program, which assists municipal governments by devoting resources to revitalize downtowns, redevelop brownfields, enhance existing technology centers, support small-scale businesses, improve older shopping centers, and encourage transit-oriented development. Thirty-two out of 54 of the county’s municipalities participate in the volunteer MEDI program. The Bucks County Planning Commission spearheaded the process by soliciting municipal partnerships, pursuing communication with private entities, and facilitating public participation.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

*The Information Technology award is given to a local government that utilized new information technology as an innovative tool to foster greater public access to local government and to increase the efficiency and effectiveness.*

### Clinton County

Clinton County’s Management Information Systems (MIS) provide seamless communications and data functionality to hundreds of people on a daily basis. Services include tech support, telephone, and audio/visual services to several municipal and social service entities within the county. The county also does this for the conservation district, the tourism board/

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8





chamber of commerce, and the City of Lock Haven, on a network they created from scratch.

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS INITIATIVES**

*The Health and Wellness Initiatives award is given to a local government that demonstrates a direct involvement in efforts to provide health and wellness benefits to a community.*

**Sharpsburg Borough, Allegheny County**

Sharpsburg Borough received this award for the development and implementation of a weekly farmers' market that provides the community with fresh produce and other foods, and a wellness fair that incorporates the concept of mental wellness, physical activity, proper nutrition, quality of life, and overall well-being.

**FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

*The Fiscal Accountability and Best Management Practices award is given to a local government that has instituted a process, policy, or procedure that enhanced its fiscal accountability and utilization of resources and assets, and which can serve as a model for other local governments to use as a best practice.*

**Ferguson Township, Centre County**

The finance and administration departments of the Ferguson Township have been committed to providing a transparent and easily-understandable budget document through several initiatives. For example, the Budget

Executive Summary has provided a vehicle to explain the complex process of municipal budgeting to a broad audience of people. It condenses hundreds of pages of budgeting information to a 35-page illustrative document for which the community can be proud.

**Ambridge Borough, Beaver County**

Ambridge's new Fire Department Code Enforcement Program is a unique initiative that other municipalities can use as a model that has saved tax dollars, doubled the staffing of their career fire department (combination department, both paid and volunteer), and increased the efficiency and service hours of their department to cover operations.

**PROMOTING COMMUNITY/ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION**

*The Promoting Community/Economic Revitalization award is given to a township directly involved in efforts that revitalize a designated residential, commercial, and/or industrial area or property.*

**Upper Dublin Township, Montgomery County**

Upper Dublin Township's board of commissioners, staff, planners, and engineers have taken a thoughtful and assertive approach to revitalizing the more than 60-year-old Fort Washington Office Park. To implement key recommendations, the township commissioners formed a Steering Committee on Redevelopment and Economic Investment (CORE), which they have since replaced with a new General Municipal Authority

in 2016. This vital partnership between the municipality and business community continues to work together on various initiatives.

**INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES**

*The Innovative Community and Government Initiatives award is given to a local government that has instituted an innovative approach to carrying out its community and/or governmental function that resulted in cost savings, increased productivity, improved risk management, and/or overall service delivery efficiencies.*

**Borough of Dormont, Allegheny County**

The Borough of Dormont executed a downtown revitalization program, the Potomac Avenue Project, that utilized new products and technologies to incorporate storm water management into the road and sidewalk restoration. The project used innovative construction materials and techniques to stop flooding in an area prone to aerial floods, as well as filter contaminants and detain the equivalent of a ten-year storm. Estimated replacement costs determined that the cost of the innovative approach saved significant funds over the life of the project.

**Hampden Township, Cumberland County**

In response to growing environmental concerns regarding storm water, Hampden Township initiated the first Storm Water Authority in Pennsylvania. The Hampden Township



Cedar Run Restoration Project, working in conjunction with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC), consisted of the retrofit of two storm water best management practices and the construction of a storm water injection well. As part of the project, the SRBC and the township will host information sessions to educate the public about the project and the effects storm water can have on the local and national environment.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION**

*The award is given to a local government that demonstrates it is presently providing outstanding service through coordination between two governmental units.*

**New Brighton Borough, Beaver County**

New Brighton shared resources among neighboring municipalities and the New Brighton Area School District for maximum efficiency. Existing intergovernmental cooperation agreements have allowed the borough to eliminate duplication of efforts and save taxpayer dollars through shared

policing, recreation, code enforcement, and administration. The agreements provide high-quality services to the residents in a cost-effective manner and have made financial incentives available with decreasing tax bases and diminishing revenues.

**BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

*The Building Community Partnerships award is given for fostering partnerships between both public and private stakeholders within the community.*

**City of Latrobe, Westmoreland County**

In the 10 years of the Latrobe Community Revitalization Program’s (LCRP) existence, they have transformed their downtown from empty, dilapidated buildings to a thriving and growing city. The city has supported and partnered with the LCRP to reverse a long-standing trend of deterioration of their downtown. These efforts have created a renewed interest and an enthusiasm in their downtown and throughout the community.

**Luzerne County**

The Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority (WVSA) Regional Stormwater Management Project in Luzerne County is designed to create opportunities for streamlined regulations, economies of scale, strategic partnerships, and a more affordable cost for property owners who benefit from stormwater services. Thirty-two municipalities serviced by WVSA will participate in this collaborative venture. The goal of this project is to reduce stormwater pollution to the Susquehanna River and to continue to honor Pennsylvania’s commitment to the Chesapeake Bay Agreement.

The Governor’s Center for Local Government Services sponsors Local Government Day annually to honor local governments and officials who serve their communities and improve their quality of life. For more information about the [Governor’s Center for Local Government Services](#), visit the [DCED website](#). ♦

# Planning Awards Program Announced



American Planning Association  
**Pennsylvania Chapter**

*Making Great Communities Happen*

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association (PA APA) is pleased to announce its Planning Awards Program for 2018. **It is one of the most popular programs organized by the Chapter. A select group of the “best and brightest in Pennsylvania planning” will be recognized for their transformative initiatives and projects.** Winners are announced at the Chapter’s annual conference, this year in Erie, October 14-16.

In 2018 the awards program was reorganized into three categories: **1) Plans, 2) Projects, Programs and**

**Practices, and 3) Leaders.** The *Plans* category recognizes comprehensive plans and other types of plans that have positive community impacts and advance the “science and art of planning.” The *Projects, Programs, and Practices* category recognizes a broad variety of initiatives that “create communities that enrich people’s lives.” The *Leaders* category recognizes people that demonstrate “outstanding, innovative, and sustained contributions” to planning in the communities they serve. “The revised awards categories are simpler and clearer this year,” stated awards committee chairman Denny

Puko, “It should be easier than ever to submit a nomination for a PA Chapter Planning Award.”

**Award nominations are due by June 15, 2018.** Nominations should be completed online. To review the 2018 Awards Guidelines and submit a nomination, go to [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org), *Events & Training / Annual Awards* and follow instructions. Specific questions should be directed to Denny Puko at [dpuko@state.pa.us](mailto:dpuko@state.pa.us) or (412) 770-1660. ♦

# PEMA and Partners Tackle Ever-changing Hazards in 2018 Plan

By Tracey Vernon, AICP/PP, Principal, Vernon Land Use



Every five years, each state in the country prepares a hazard mitigation plan to tackle risks associated with hazards like floods, winter storms, tornadoes, and transportation incidents. Hazards and the degree to which they pose a risk to people, property, and the environment change continually. The planning and implementation set forth in a hazard mitigation plan is one of the best ways to shore up communities and mitigate future risk prior to the occurrence of an incident or disaster.

To complete Pennsylvania's 2018 State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP), the robust state planning team that prepared Pennsylvania's 2013 plan was reconvened and new members added. Consisting of a broad set of stakeholders, including the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), additional state and federal agencies, local and regional government and planners, and others, the state planning team assessed known hazards that could potentially impact Pennsylvania and suggested new hazards to include based on current conditions. A detailed set of statewide mitigation actions was developed as part of the plan to specifically address how Pennsylvania will mitigate risk for each hazard over the next five years.

The state planning team identified three new hazards to include in the

2018 plan: **cyber-terrorism**, **opioid addiction response**, and **building and structure collapse**. With ever-increasing malicious threats to our electronic infrastructure, *cyber-terrorism* was added to the SHMP to ensure our critical electronic systems are protected and resilient. Working with local governments to incorporate cyber-security measures into operations and encouraging industry and government to implement cyber-security prevention tools and resources developed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security are two mitigation actions that will improve the resilience of our critical electronic infrastructure.

*Opioid addiction* response was added to the 2018 plan. Because more Pennsylvanians die from opioid overdoses than fatal vehicle accidents, the state planning team determined it was necessary to support the Pennsylvania Department of Health in addressing this crisis. Working with the Department of Health to increase awareness about treating and preventing opioid addiction and briefing emergency management officials and first responders on resources available to address opioid addiction in their community are two actions included in the draft plan.

To mitigate risks associated with Pennsylvania's older buildings, many of which are historic, *Building and Structure Collapse* was added. The focus is on reducing impacts to buildings from disasters and incidents

as well as reducing impacts associated with building or structure collapse.

Finally, as we continue to operate with limited budgets and ever-shifting economic and environmental conditions, tackling community **resiliency** is a new objective in the SHMP. Making sure that Pennsylvania communities can function in the face of hazards is critical and building resiliency is essential. Together with resiliency is **recovery** to make certain our communities **recovery efficiently and effectively after a disaster or incident**. The 2018 SHMP includes an action to develop County Recovery Plans following a new template designed as part of PEMA's State Disaster Recovery Plan effort.

Hazard mitigation plans are designed to be fluid and flexible. PEMA and its planning partners have been thoughtful and proactive to make certain that Pennsylvania's hazard mitigation plan is just that.

Pennsylvania's draft 2018 SHMP was reviewed with the state planning team in May 2018 and is open for public comment and input until June 23, 2018. As a Pennsylvania planner, your input on the draft plan is welcomed and appreciated. The draft 2018 SHMP can be found at <http://pahmp.com/>. Your input ensures we collectively tackle risks associated with the ever-changing hazards that impact Pennsylvanians. ♦



# Considering Hurricanes and Land Development

By Jack Dunn

The featured speaker at the 1962 PPA Annual Conference was Ian McHarg who at that time was the founder and head of the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania. He was also a writer on the topic of regional planning. The theme of his remarks was *Design with Nature*, also the title of his book published in 1969. ***Design with Nature admonishes us to carefully consider and take into account the physical environment as we plan land development activities.*** Ignoring this fundamental relationship may result in serious consequences. For instance, if we install septic systems in unsuitable soils we'll get a real mess in our backyard. Facilitating urban sprawl in a coastal plan subject to hurricanes creates a certain inevitability that at some point an environmental disaster is going to occur.

In August 2017, Hurricane Harvey made landfall on the Texas coast affecting Houston and nearby areas with devastating effects. This was not without predecessors as the Texas Gulf Coast experiences such events at the rate of one every six years. Two of the more serious were in 1929 and 1935. Flood control initiatives resulted in the construction of two dams west of Houston completed in the mid-forty's.

**Houston is the only major United States city that does not employ zoning and relies on deed restrictions and development covenants.** This means that growth is dictated by controls established by individual developers and there is no overall plan. The City's web site indicates they have a Planning Department that is focused on neighborhoods and not surprisingly is headed by a PE.

The City's growth has been phenomenal from half a million in 1950 to about 2.3 million in 2015. Sprawl outward into Harris County to the west resulted in one of the

flood control dams being completely surrounded by development. Harris County's web site does not indicate that they have a planning department. Local officials tout the areas resilience and vow to rebuild in the face of costs in the tens if not hundreds of billions of dollars.

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina impacted New Orleans and surrounding areas with a cost of about \$100 billion and 2000 lives lost. It has been known for several decades that despite levees and flood walls, New Orleans was and continues to be an accident waiting to happen.

The devastation of Hurricane Irma on Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands was horrendous and recovery made more difficult in getting relief supplies to the area from the States.

The next major hurricane to hit the Gulf or the Caribbean Territories is not the only issue. The web shows projections of the altered coastlines resulting from rising sea levels. The impact of this will not be limited to the Gulf ports with south Florida and the Atlantic coastline effected.

Hurricane Katrina should have been a wakeup call to start taking a serious look at the extent of land development patterns in hurricane-prone areas and coastal areas projected to be affected by rising sea levels. How many lives and dollars are we willing to gamble that we can out-guess Mother Nature?

A final question might be to wonder how and where the disposal of two hundred million cubic tons of waste left by Harvey was accomplished.

Jack Dunn can be reached at 570 654-4414 or [rjdunn@surfrees.com](mailto:rjdunn@surfrees.com) ♦



News  
You Can Use

## Nathan Jones Leaving Bethlehem Township for Lower Mac



Nathan Jones has been Bethlehem Township's Planning Director since July 2014. But starting in May, he will be the Assistant Planning Director in Lower Macungie Township.

"I really enjoyed my time here," he explained, "but I could not miss this professional opportunity."

Jones was slated to attend the American Planning Association conference in New Orleans for a week's worth of training in April but has canceled those plans. He said it would be inappropriate for him to travel Bethlehem Township's dime.

Jones is a graduate of both The University of Pittsburgh and Suffolk University, where he attained a master's degree in Public Administration. Before coming to the Lehigh Valley, he was a planner in New England.

# EarthFest 2018 –

## *Planning and Youth Engagement*

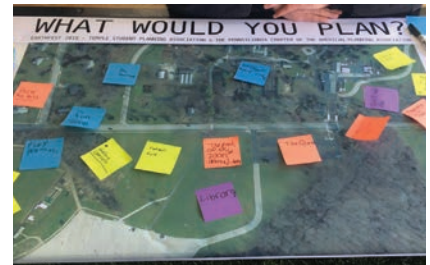


On an unseasonably cold and blustery April day, aspiring planners from the Temple Student Planning Organization (TSPO) – in partnership with APA Pennsylvania’s Southeast Section (APA-PA SE) – hosted a booth at Temple University’s EarthFest. The purpose of this annual event is to teach students about sustainability concepts and promote environmental awareness. This year, the event honored the late Dr. Jeffrey Featherstone, founder of the Center for Sustainable Communities and professor in the Department of Planning and Community Development at Temple University.



TSPO volunteers led elementary and middle school students in an exercise designed to foster a discussion about planning and encourage them to think about how land can be sustainably developed. Using an enlarged aerial map of the field in which they were standing, students were asked to guess what the map depicted. With impressive regularity, students correctly identified the location of the aerial. Next, volunteers led a discussion of various types of development, culminating in students suggesting ideas for developing the field by placing sticky notes on the map. Some of the most compelling responses were “homes but cheap” and “a nature preserve,” though “swimming pool” seems to be the perennial favorite. The APA brochure *What Planners Do* was also available at the booth and used to spark discussions with interested chaperones.

Each year, Temple University’s EarthFest provides an opportunity to engage with students and their families about the work that planners do to improve communities. The participation of TSPO and APA-PA SE in this event is a small but meaningful way in which the planning community can promote a greater understanding of the important role planning has in our society. ♦



### Central Section Update

*By Rachelle Abbott, AICP*

The APA – PA Central Section hosted a continuing education workshop on the topics of Law and Ethics in Linglestown on May 11. The workshop was very well received, and some attendees even

enjoyed happy hour after the event. Watch for information about the Fall workshop hosted by the APA-PA Central Section.

APA-PA Central Section is accepting applications for the Professional Development Scholarship Program. If interested

in applying for a scholarship, visit the APA-PA Chapter website [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org) for the overview and application. The scholarship is available for the education and training of planners, public officials, and students in the Central Section, including, but not limited to, Section workshops, Chapter conferences, and AICP exam. Scholarship amounts will be awarded based on eligibility, benefit to planning knowledge or career goals, and financial need, with a maximum award of \$500.00.

Do you want to be more involved? The APA-PA Central Section welcomes guests to our upcoming meetings, for more information please email the APA-PA Central Section Chair, Rachelle Abbott, AICP at [raabbott@stepcorp.org](mailto:raabbott@stepcorp.org). ♦





*In Memoriam*  
**Daniel Olpere**

**Daniel P. Olpere** of Montgomery Township, Pa. passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, April 25, 2018, surrounded by his family after a long battle with cancer. He was 66. He was the loving husband for 39 years to Diane (Beighey) Olpere.

Born July 13, 1951 in Pittsburgh, Pa., he was the son of the late Nicholas and Edna (Phillips) Olpere. Dan grew up in Oakmont, Pa.

Dan attended Penn State University, earning a bachelor's degree in Community Development and his Master's degree in Public Administration. He was a life member of the Penn State University Alumni Association and loved Penn State football. Dan had a long, successful career in local government for over 40 years. He was fully committed and dedicated to providing excellent service to the communities he served. From 1979 to 1999, he served as first manager of Montgomery Township, during which the township population

quadrupled. Dan had also managed the boroughs of Lemoyne and Perkasio, as well as Lower Providence Township and Upper Macungie Township. He retired from Upper Macungie Township on Sept. 30, 2017. Dan consulted for a number of municipalities through his company, Local Government Management Services, LLC, and taught as an adjunct professor in the Master of Public Administration program at Villanova University.

Dan was well-known and highly regarded in local government. He was a member of the International City Managers Association (ICMA), Association for Pennsylvania Municipal Management (APMM), and American Planning Association (APA). Dan also served as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Norristown (Pa.) Katherine Gibbs School. He was also a longtime member of Sanctuary United Methodist Church. ♦

**Penn State Extension** **LAND USE** *Webinar Series*

*By Peter Wulfhorst, AICP*

**PENN STATE EXTENSION** will be conducting the next Land Use Webinar series starting in July 2018 and continuing until November 2018. The webinars will occur on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from Noon – 1:15 pm. Recordings of the webinars will also be made available to registrants. The cost of the webinar series is \$50 for all 5 webinars and \$95 for all 5 webinars for those who want to get CM credits as well as Professional Engineering credits. In addition, Registered Landscape Architects registration is \$65.

Registration information can be found starting in early July at <https://extension.psu.edu/land-use-webinar>.

The Summer/Fall 2018 topics include the following:

- Stormwater Management
- Regulating Short-term rentals
- “Market Analysis”: A Guide for Decision-making for local governments
- Regulating Noise in our communities
- Private landowner rights vs. Public Land rights

The dates are July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17 & November 14. Please note November 14 is a 2nd Wednesday.

**For registration information, please contact Extension Educator Peter Wulfhorst at 570-296-3400 or e-mail at [ptw3@psu.edu](mailto:ptw3@psu.edu)**

