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American Planning Association
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association

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PENNSYLVANIA **AGAIN SELECTED**
FOR SOME OF APA'S "GREAT PLACES"

APA's GREAT PLACES in America

by Ruth Eckdish Knack, AICP

CONGRATULATIONS to Philadelphia, PA and Franklin, PA! Both were recently recognized by the American Planning Association in its annual list of "Great Places"—Franklin for a Great Street and Philadelphia for a Great Public Space. They were featured in the December 2010 issue of *Planning*; excerpts of the article appear here.



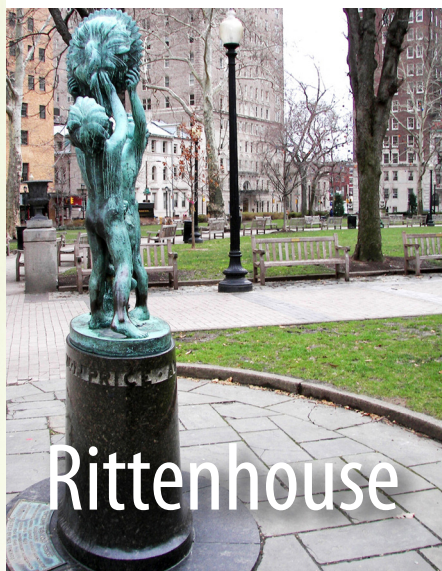
EVERY YEAR, APA HIGHLIGHTS "GREAT PLACES" in three categories: neighborhoods, streets, and public spaces. The designations are based on many criteria, including cultural importance, design quality, and community involvement. Most important is the extent to which selections reflect a planning vision, foster a community's sense of place, enhance the quality of life, and promote sustainability. To qualify for designation, places must be at least 10 years old.

All of the places chosen are described in full on APA's website. The site includes photographs, comments from local planners, and media coverage. It also includes material on past designations, information about proposing other great places, selection guidelines, and answers to commonly asked questions about the program.

On the Streets Where We Live

As visual corridors, streets are an important part of the public realm. All kinds of streets are eligible for "Great Streets" designation, from alleys to arterials. The best candidates, according to the guidelines, are "complete streets," which serve a variety of users

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Jane Jacobs called the Center City area around the six-acre Rittenhouse Square "the perfect neighborhood" because of its vibrant mixture of housing, shops, and cultural institutions.

*Allegheny County Releases
First Comprehensive*

Active

TRANSPORTATION PLAN

by Lynn Heckman, Assistant Director-Transportation Initiatives, Allegheny County Economic Development, and Carla Dietrich, Technical Manager, Transportation Planning, Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

ACTIVEALLEGHENY is Allegheny County's first comprehensive active transportation plan with sustainable travel choices for destinations throughout the County.

ACTIVEALLEGHENY is a blueprint for improved access and choices to connect people to communities, work sites, transit, schools, attractions and residences. The plan integrates non-vehicular modes of transportation, specifically walking and biking, into our transportation system to increase "livability". Benefits and rewards of active transportation range from: cost savings; low-cost exercise opportunities for healthier lifestyles; a more vibrant, safe community with neighbors-out-on-the-street and potential for revitalized local business districts; reductions in congestion, air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions; and increases in neighborhood desirability and value. The activities recommended in the plan assist in promoting "placemaking".

The **ACTIVEALLEGHENY** plan, published in December 2010, lays the groundwork for a complete transportation network with active transportation connections within Allegheny County (the County) and southwestern Pennsylvania. Due to the size of the County and its evolving nature, the plan is nei-

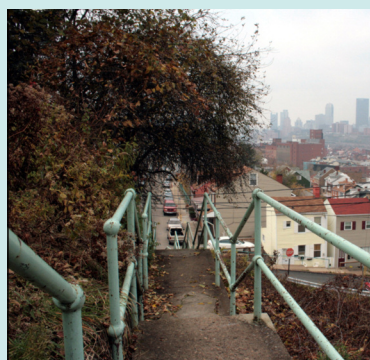
ther a static document nor one that identifies every desirable active transportation project in the County. Instead the Plan is a foundation for the planning and implementation of pedestrian, bicycle, and active transportation modes within the County. For example, the plan identifies recommended major arterial commuter bike facilities, for each quadrant of the County, as well as a circumferential route. That enables the various stakeholders who will implement segments of the plan, to work toward and create a comprehensive commuter bike system.

The plan focuses on connectivity, access and mobility through five specialized plan components:

- **Bike Allegheny** – Dedicated commuter bikeway connections to activity centers and other travel modes;
- **Walk & Roll Allegheny** – Improved walking routes for connectivity and mobility, including ADA access;
- **Other Active Transportation** – Improved access for alternative modes, such as kayaks and skateboards;
- **Complete the Street** – Three



TOP: Bicyclists, pedestrians, cars and buses share Smithfield Street, in downtown Pittsburgh, during AM peak travel time. **ABOVE:** The Over the Bar Bicycle Cafe, in Pittsburgh's trendy and bike-friendly South Side neighborhood, is a gathering place for bicyclists and other outdoor enthusiasts. **LEFT:** Public steps, providing exercise and connectivity, are tucked into steep hillsides all around Allegheny County.



"Complete Streets" prototypes demonstrate accommodation for all modes; and

- **Action for Active Transportation** – The action plan including costs for implementation, by various entities, and potential funding sources.

An extensive data collection effort supported the plan development. Mapping the existing facilities helped to identify connectivity to the larger transportation network and between desired land use origins and designations. The data collection efforts included:

- Facility inventories to establish baseline conditions;
- Site visits to confirm the presence and condition of bicycle and pedestrian facilities in identified focus areas and major commuter corridors; and
- Information gathering from all

stakeholders including the public, Core Committee meetings, Advisory Committee meetings, a project website, a Facebook page, an online survey, several open houses and attendance at events and specialty meetings.

Development of the **ACTIVE ALLEGHENY** plan was a collaborative effort between planning professionals, local agencies, active transportation enthusiasts and other interested Allegheny County residents. Implementation of the plan will require actions by many agencies and stakeholders to achieve a more walkable and bikeable transportation system in Allegheny County. The County's topography is famously challenging—creativity is key to implementation.

The **ACTIVEALLEGHENY** plan provides a number of recommendations and acts as an important resource:

- **Bicycle system improvements** including designation of Bicycle Commuter Routes to connect the City of Pittsburgh and its suburbs and a “beltway bicycle route” to provide connectivity to recreational facilities such as parks, greenways and trails throughout the County;
- Identification of improvements along **key pedestrian corridors**, particularly those which provide connections to transit, schools, commercial centers and parks, and intersection improvements to facilitate connectivity;
- Discussion of the County’s abundant “**public steps**” network relative to connectivity of the

ommendations; and

- Policy and programmatic recommendations, models and programs for governmental agencies, funding sources, public education strategies and marketing efforts.

ACTIVEALLEGHENY is an implementation activity of **ALLEGHENYPLACES**, the Allegheny County Comprehensive Plan; it facilitates and increases “place-making” activities. Allegheny County developed this plan in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT). Funding resulted from a competitive PA Communities Transportation Initiative (PCTI) grant of \$300,000. Plan results and recommendations reflect



Onorato with County Employees walking on the Smithfield Bridge to promote healthy lifestyles.

Allegheny County Executive **Dan Onorato** on **ACTIVEALLEGHENY**: “This Plan shows how we can integrate walking, biking, and other active, healthy travel modes into our existing transportation system. Planning and prioritizing investments in commuter bike routes and walking facilities will enhance our transportation network and

provide sustainable travel choices to move people to-and-from their destinations. The **ACTIVEALLEGHENY** plan is a blueprint for improved access and choices to connect people to communities, work sites, transit, schools, attractions and residences.” Dan “hopes you read and enjoy the plan and become inspired by the possibilities. By working together we can provide active transportation infrastructure to increase connectivity, sustainability and an enhanced quality of life for County residents.”

active transportation network;

- An outline of investments toward **sustainable improvements** for short-, mid- and long-term community benefits;
- A planning and design resource manual for active transportation efforts through the Bicycle Facilities Toolbox, the Pedestrian Facilities Toolbox, and a guide for the development and advancement of local Complete Streets projects;
- **A Complete Streets model** ordinance for use by local municipalities;
- Recommendations in support of a diverse group of users including **specialized “Kids” rec-**

guidelines from PennDOT and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

The plan has been distributed to Allegheny County’s 130 municipalities and other key agencies and stakeholders. The plan is available on the project website **www.activeallegheny.com**.

On February 9, 2011, the Airport Corridor Transportation Association (ACTA) presented Allegheny County Economic Development with the Exemplary Achievement in Planning Award for **ACTIVE ALLEGHENY**. ♦



The four blocks of Liberty Street designated as a great street are lined with impressive 19th century brick buildings, including the Italianate Venango County Courthouse.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

(particularly pedestrians), connect to the broader transportation network, and make use of green infrastructure (in managing stormwater runoff, for instance). Parking, lighting, and signage are also considered in the criteria.

Liberty Street (Franklin, Pennsylvania) is part of the western Pennsylvania oil region, and the four blocks designated as a great street are lined with impressive 19th century brick buildings, including the Italianate Venango County Courthouse. In 1989, a local music group, the Franklin Civic Operetta, bought an empty building and, with the help of hundreds of volunteers, turned it into a 500-seat theater. Next to it is a children’s theater, carved out of a former drugstore, and a museum dedicated to preserving old musical instruments. A downtown building fund established in 2004 has helped to create upper level housing.

People Places

They’re the places we remember, where we gather on holidays and special occasions, where we most feel part of the community.

Rittenhouse Square (Philadelphia) is the most intact of the five public squares William Penn laid out in 1681. Jane Jacobs called the Center City area around the six-acre square “the perfect neighborhood” because of its vibrant mixture of housing, shops, and cultural institutions. Paul Cret’s 1913 landscape plan put a Beaux Arts stamp on the space. Its modern planning history goes back to 1947 and the organization of the Center City Residents Association, which defeated a proposal to build a parking garage beneath the square. Today the Friends of Rittenhouse Square keeps watch. The square was designated a national historic district in 1981 and a local historic district in 1995. ♦

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ONCE AGAIN I HAD THE PRIVILEGE of representing the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association at the 2011 APA National Conference in Boston. I understand that attending the national conference annually is beyond the affordability of most planners; however, it should be a goal of any professional planner to attend once every five to ten years and for planning officials to make the conference once.

ATTENDING THE APA

National Conference is both educational and inspirational. Once again Pennsylvania was well represented with **over 100 planners from the Commonwealth** plus a large number of students from our planning schools. In addition Philadelphia's own **WRT won the first APA**

Excellence Award for a Planning Firm (*see page 6*).

I echo Rich Bickel's comments (*see page 6*), Boston is very interesting, walkable city. My hotel in Beacon Hill was about 1.5 miles from the Hynes Convention Center, which was in the Back Bay section of town. I fell in love with the city as I made the 30 minute walk back and forth. The "T" subway system provided a convenient trip from the airport and over to Harvard in Cambridge, MA. I did catch a Red Sox Game and experienced the regional commuter rail with a trip to Providence.

My thanks goes to people like **Rich Bickel** as well as **Susan Elks**

(our Chapter Professional Development Officer), **Jeannette Brugger** and **Kathleen Lambert** who joined Rich in Representing the Chapter at the APA Delegate Assembly. I appreciate the effort it takes to attend the meetings in addition to the normal conference functions. **Our Chapter is special due to the many dedicated volunteers.**

Besides the numerous meeting that I attended as Chapter President, I was able to take in a number of sessions, and most enjoyed the **Diversity Forum, Planning the Shrinking City** and the mobile workshop on community planning: **Plymouth Plantation to Pinehills.**

At the Diversity Forum I was motivated to form a **"Diversity Task Force"** for our Chapter. The task force will review the diversity of our membership related to the diversity of Pennsylvania in the present and set benchmarks for the future. It will research the efforts of APA and other Chapters looking for best practices to integrate diversity and opportunity in leadership and the profession. Most importantly the task force will develop goals, objectives, and strategies to be adopted by the Chapter Board of Directors. The Task Force will give a report at the annual conference in Scranton.

The Diversity Task Force is consistent with the values and benchmarking goals of our current Development Plan. **If you have a commitment to diversity and are interested in being appointed to the PA APA Diversity Task Force please send me an email by May 25, 2011.** ♦



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The Vantage Point is published six times a year by the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association and is available at www.planningpa.org. Material may be reprinted provided *The Vantage Point* is credited. The views expressed in *The Vantage Point* are not necessarily those of the PA Chapter of APA. Send comments and subscription requests to Sarah Galbraith Laucks, CMP at 717-671-4510 or sgalbraith@shermer-assoc.com.

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and recycle this newsletter.

APA Chapter Annual Awards Reminder: Applications due May 20, 2011

EACH YEAR, PENNSYLVANIA RECOGNIZES THE BEST and the brightest plans and planners through the highly competitive PA Chapter Annual Awards Program. The Annual Awards application is now available online at www.planningpa.org or by calling the PA Chapter office at 717-671-4510. The deadline to apply for this year's awards is Friday, May 20, 2011. The winners will be announced at the Annual Awards Program, scheduled for Tuesday, October 18, 2011 during the PA Chapter Annual Conference. Many thanks to the Awards Committee members for their commitment to this program each year! ♦

the future is in your hands

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

*by Shirley Yannich, PP, AICP, Planning Officials Development Officer
& Chair, Planning Officials Development Committee*

The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code grants authority to the municipal governing body to prepare a municipal Comprehensive Plan and gives this responsibility to their Planning Commission. This duty is one of the most important tasks that a Planning Commission performs.

MANY COMPREHENSIVE

Plans were first written in the mid 1960's and 70's when the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development distributed grants to municipalities for the purpose of creating a local plan that would be the basis for the redevelopment of cities. The use of these grants, referred to as "701" spread to small communities and rural areas to meet the planning needs of these growing areas.

In Pennsylvania all counties (except Philadelphia County) are mandated to prepare and **adopt a Comprehensive Plan and review that plan every ten (10) years.** Municipalities, on the other hand, do not have the same mandate. However, if a municipality does choose to prepare and adopt a Comprehensive Plan it must be consistent with the County Plan.

There are certain elements that make up the Comprehensive Plan. **First and foremost** are *your goals and objectives.* **Second,** is *a land use Plan.* Planning Officials know that the land use plan is the basis for your zoning map. The zoning map shows the different zoning districts, such as, residential, agricultural, commercial, institutional, industrial,

open space, etc.

Most Comprehensive Plans contain chapters dealing specifically with a plan for future development and/or redevelopment, history, demographics, housing, natural and environmental features, circulation (roads/transportation), the relationship of the municipality to adjacent municipalities and, most importantly, a statement as to how your municipality's vision will be implemented.

If you were to look into the **history of your Comprehensive Plan** you might find that since it was first prepared several updates have occurred. Your municipality may have gone through a period of rapid residential growth during the 1970s and 1980s and the commercial development known as the "big box" stores could have emerged. Your farms were rapidly being converted to suburban subdivisions. Your open space was becoming scarce. The State Highway that runs through your municipality may have been widened by PennDOT as more and more retail and office uses emerged along the corridor. Traffic jams and new traffic signals may have occurred at the crossroads that was once the

intersection of your historic village.

Now, during a period of **declining development applications and the results of the 2010 United States Census data** becoming available, is the perfect time for your Planning Commission to review your Comprehensive Plan. Update your housing element, which is based on your population. Discourage leapfrog subdivisions by connecting new subdivisions to your open space plan. Analyze the vacancy rate in your shopping centers. Amend your zoning ordinances to reflect best management practices in controlling storm water. Evaluate the impact of Marcellus Shale Gas drilling on your roads and water supply. Attend Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Educational Institute's (PMPEI) classes and learn more about Comprehensive Planning and how important your Comp Plan is to your municipal budget.

Don't let the narrow views of special interests control your landscape. Make your Comprehensive Plan a living document that reflects how you want your municipality to work and grow in the future. As a Planning Official the future is in your hands. ♦

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available at www.planningpa.org
under "About Us".**

APA National Planning Conference – A Pennsylvania Perspective

by Richard G. Bickel, FAICP, Director, Planning Division
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

The National American Planning Association

Conference in Boston (April 8 to 12) was well-attended; nearly 5,000 total with a record 1500 students!

The City: Boston is an interesting, walkable, and transit-oriented city with many great restaurants. (The ball team is another story; at least while I was there.) I had a chance to drive through the “Big Dig” (I-93) twice (north and south-bound); while rather grungy looking inside it is certainly an improvement over the formerly elevated structure, and it has spurred tremendous growth in Southeast Boston. The orientation tour was excellent.

State of APA/AICP: According to Paul Farmer, APA CEO, the total membership is around 40,000, down from a high of 45,000 a few years ago. However, this is better than some professional organizations that have lost up to 30% of their membership. Without being specific, he said that there was some AICP membership loss from members who failed to gain AICP credits; 17 members are facing loss of AICP at the present time. There is optimism that members will seek the advance specialty certification for transportation and environmental planning. Mitchell Silver from the DC area is the new APA President and Anna Breinich of Maine (formerly of PA) was installed as AICP Chair.

Delegate Assembly: I was one of three PA Chapter delegates to participate in the Assembly that voted to approve an excellent, 90-page Climate Change policy

paper. Most of the amendments that our Chapter proposed were accepted prior to the conference. Thanks to Rob Graff and Elizabeth “Liz” Compitello for helping to review the paper and motions.

Sessions: The opening keynote on Sunday was outstanding by Prof. Michael J. Sandel of Harvard. It focused on some ethical dilemma case studies and he gave a pep talk for the nobility and usefulness of the planning profession in our current time of distress and protest. (He has a video on the Harvard website.) I also attended several interesting sessions on BRT planning in Cleveland and elsewhere, Visual Preference Surveys for Wind Farms off the Cape Cod coast, creating age-friendly communities (with an excellent presentation by Deborah Howe, PhD, FAICP, Chair of Temple University’s planning program) and spreading the cost of development with a form of impact fee. I tried to get into a corridor planning session and one on TOD, but, as usual, if you show up a few minutes late getting from one level of the convention center to another the popular sessions are standing room only or worse. **The APA National Planning Awards luncheon and the APA/AICP Awards session were also interesting.**

Overall, an interesting and successful conference; now it’s on to Los Angeles in 2012! ♦

WRT Receives Inaugural APA National Excellence Award for a Planning Firm

The American Planning Association selected WRT to receive the first National Planning Excellence Award for a Planning Firm for its innovative, collaborative, and ethical approach to planning.

The award recognizes planning firms that have produced bodies of distinguished work influencing the professional practice of planning. WRT will receive the award at a special luncheon at APA’s National Planning Conference in Boston on April 11, 2011.

“WRT has cultivated a pioneering approach to planning while fostering a renowned culture of cooperation and teamwork,” said **Marie L. York**, FAICP, APA Board member and 2011 National Planning Awards Jury Chair. “The extensive body of work produced by WRT is truly distinguished and continues to influence the planning profession today.”

WRT integrates planning with landscape architecture, urban design, and architecture, resulting in a broad understanding of the implications of city and regional planning on the built environment. The development of the environmental planning method, the invention and application of the “susceptibility to change” analysis in urban planning, and the development of “values-

based” planning are significant examples of our firm’s influence on the planning profession.

“WRT’s work has always been grounded in two ethical stances,” said the firm’s Managing Principal, **Joe Healy**. “First is the belief that there are principles of planning that derive from nature. This belief is reflected in WRT’s focus on sustainable planning and design. Second is the belief in the moral role and professional planner’s responsibility as agents for the general public welfare, helping to make environments better places in which to live and work.”

In the course of nearly 50 years of practice, WRT has received more than 300 awards from national, state, and local organizations, including over 150 awards for planning. Over half of our 50 national planning awards have been won just in the past decade, including six from the American Planning Association.

The Pennsylvania Chapter of APA is pleased to congratulate WRT on this outstanding achievement. ♦

“First is the belief that there are principles of planning that derive from nature. This belief is reflected in WRT’s focus on sustainable planning and design. Second is the belief in the moral role and professional planner’s responsibility as agents for the general public welfare, helping to make environments better places in which to live and work.”

— Joe Healy, Managing Principal, WRT

2010 EnvisionLeadership

Lancaster County Awards Winners Announced

The Lancaster County Planning Commission held its 8th annual Envision Leadership Awards Program on February 10th. The winners of 2010 Envision Leadership Awards were recognized at this event.

by Mary L. Frey, AICP, Principal Planner,
Lancaster County Planning Commission

THE ENVISION Leadership Awards Program is intended to raise design and planning awareness in the community, while encouraging the support of planning activities and projects that foster smart growth. This program recognizes the work of municipalities, developers, consultants, non-profits and others who embrace smart growth planning concepts.

To date, Lancaster County has recognized 51 projects with awards. **James Cowhey**, LCPC Executive Director, said that "this year's winners continued the tradition of outstanding smart growth projects at the

Based Code is intended to preserve the relatively compact, traditional community while encouraging appropriate infill development opportunities. Form-Based Codes enable the creation of walkable neighborhoods, compact communities with a true "sense of place" and mixed land uses while respecting historic context and incorporating sustainable "green" infrastructure for healthier, more vibrant communities.

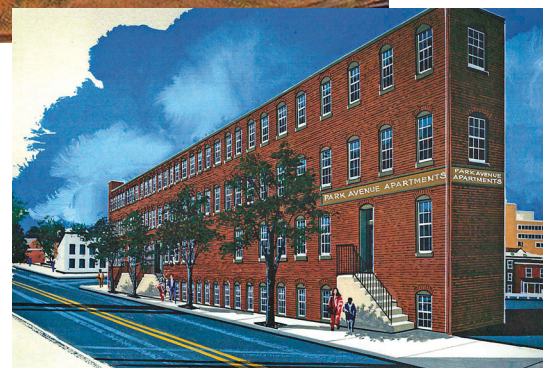
Winner of an Achievement Award in the Sustainable Growth category was **Park Avenue Apartments** in Lancaster City. Project partners for the

Park Avenue Apartments included Fulton Bank, the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Lancaster, the City of Lancaster, Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, Lancaster County MH/MR/EI, The Lodge, Inc. of Pennsylvania, Architectural

Concepts, and Caldwell Heckles and Egan. Park Avenue Apartments will provide 24 new 1 & 2 bedroom apartments for individuals 55 years of age or older. This project is built within what once was a blighted and crumbling building – the former Fraim Lock Company and sub-



TOP TO BOTTOM: Lititz Borough's Form-Based Zoning Code; Hendricks Place at Moravian Manor; Renewable Wind Energy Project at the Frey Farm Landfill; Rendering of Park Avenue Apartments



sequently the Davidson Shoe business. This unique building was extensively renovated while preserving defining features of the 27,000 sq. ft. structure.

The Townhomes on Hendricks Place at Moravian Manor in Lititz Borough was also a winner of an Achievement Award in the Sustainable Growth category. Project partners for this project included Moravian Manor, RGS Associates, and RLPS Architects. Moravian Manor is a continuing care retirement community that provides a wide range of residential options for residents with various health care needs and income levels. The Townhomes at Hendricks Place provide a new independent living cottage option for residents. This infill project will reflect the architectural styles and land use patterns

of Lititz Borough.

Winner of a Certificate of Merit in the Infrastructure category was the **Renewable Wind Energy Project at the Frey Farm Landfill** in Manor Township. Partners in this project included Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority, PPL Renewable Energy, Turkey Hill Dairy, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Through this project, the adjacent Turkey Hill Dairy will receive 25% of its annual electricity needs from clean, renewable wind energy. Generating 7.76 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually, the output from this project is enough to make 6 million gallons of ice cream or power 700 homes. ♦

2011 Leadership Award Winners.



local level in Lancaster County."

Winner of a Leadership Award in the Community Design Category was **Lititz Borough's Form-Based Zoning Code**. This code was prepared by Thomas Comitta Associates in conjunction with Lititz Borough and Venture Lititz. The Form-

PA Chapter of APA is Looking for...

A Few Good Planners

2011 is an election year for the chapter. This summer we will hold elections for the Chapter's Board Officers—the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Are you interested in serving the chapter?

- **Review the Chapter Bylaws** for descriptions of the Officer roles and responsibilities. The bylaws are available at: http://www.planningpa.org/about_ppa_bylaws.shtml
- **Determine if your schedule will allow sufficient time for the position.** Officers serve the Chapter for 2 year terms which begin in January 2012 and conclude in December 2013.
- **Talk with current officers for additional information.**
- **Share your interest with the Nominating Committee.** Send an email of interest to Chapter Administrator Sarah Galbraith Laucks at sgalbraith@shermer-assoc.com by **June 10, 2011.**
- **Have additional questions?** Please contact us!

Reminder to all members—The official elections ballot will be distributed on August 8 2011. Voting will be open for 30 days and concludes September 9.

The election results announced at the Chapter Annual Meeting and via *The Vantage Point*, email news and the website. ♦

10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania

2011 Commonwealth Awards

Call For Entries Now Open!

The 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania 2011 Commonwealth Awards are now accepting entries. The entry deadline is June 15, 2011. For details, including project and individual entry forms visit www.10000friends.org

The Commonwealth Awards help 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania put smart land use, smart design, and smart growth in the spotlight. Through these awards, 10,000 Friends aims to raise awareness of projects that successfully demonstrate sound land use principles around the Commonwealth — projects that are development or redevelopment; in settings from urban to suburban to rural. In addition to honoring smart growth projects, we also recognize individuals that help further the mission and goals of 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania and smart growth principles.

Save the Date — September 20, 2011

Commonwealth Awards Ceremony, Hilton Harrisburg, Harrisburg, PA

For any questions, please contact Andrea McCormick at 717-234-6070, ext. 10 or amccormick@10000friends.org. ♦

MARK
YOUR
CALENDARS
NOW!



**PA Chapter of APA
Annual Conference
October 16-18, 2011**

The 2011 PA Chapter of APA Annual Conference will be held October 16 to 18 at the Hilton Scranton & Conference Center in Scranton, PA. The Conference Announcement, including descriptions of all workshops, registration and hotel details, will be available in late July 2011. For additional information, visit the Chapter website, www.planningpa.org and click on "Annual Conference." ♦

APA PA Mission

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association provides leadership in the development of vital communities by advocating excellence in community planning through education, empowerment, partnership, and public policy. ♦

PMPEI

Announces 2011 Train-the-Trainer Session

by Stan Lembeck, AICP

The PA Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI) will hold a train-the-trainer class June 10-11, 2011 to prepare new instructors to teach The Course in Subdivision and Land Development Review. **If you are interested in helping local planning and zoning officials learn how to effectively carry out their responsibilities consider becoming a PMPEI Certified Instructor.**

PMPEI IS PENNSYLVANIA'S PRIMARY EDUCATION outreach program for planning commissioners, zoning board members, zoning officers, and elected officials. The Institute is a collaborative effort of the PA Chapter of the American Planning Association and Penn State University Cooperative Extension. The Course in Subdivision and Land Development Review is one of PMPEI's four, 10-hour, in-depth courses that are presented throughout the Commonwealth.

THE TRAIN-THE-TRAINER SESSION IS A FAST- paced 16 hour program over two days in which new instructors review and discuss the course materials, techniques for teaching adults, how to team teach with other instructors, and ways to present the course material to make it exciting and understandable. Upon completion of the training instructors become certified to teach the course for which they receive compensation and travel expenses. CM credit for AICP members is pending for portions of the course.

THE TRAIN-THE-TRAINER CLASS WILL BE HELD at the Hilton Garden Inn in State College, Friday and Saturday, June 10 and 11, 2011. Citizen and professional planners with a minimum of five year's experience in planning are eligible to become certified instructors. The registration fee for the training is \$160, which includes instruction, materials, meals, and breaks. The deadline for applications is May 25, 2011.

For more information or an application for the training contact Stan Lembeck, AICP, at 814-237-2382, or email sml1@psu.edu.

For information about the Institute and its courses check the PMPEI website: <http://cax.aers.psu.edu/pmpei/>. ♦

PDOcorner

by Susan Elks, AICP, Professional Development Officer

IT'S SPRING, AND TRAINING IS IN THE AIR. From transportation to ethics, zoning to AICP exam prep, the PA Chapter's Professional Development Committee (PDC) is keeping busy facilitating multiple training opportunities for the planning community.

Up next is **Zoning Matters: The Process of an Update and the Legal Issues that Should Concern You.** This 3 CM-credit session is being offered across the state, and will focus on the creation or update of a zoning ordinance. A planner will present on the process of updating or rewriting a zoning ordinance, followed by an attorney providing their take on specific elements of a zoning ordinance that can create legal hazards for a municipality if done incorrectly. These include fair housing, signage, alternative energy provisions, historic preservation, effective agricultural zoning, gas extraction, RLUIPA, spot zoning, and communications towers. Some municipalities regulate beyond good planning and legal guidelines; others stop short in fear of lawsuits. This session will provide a legal and planning baseline on what's required, what's legal, what's pushing the envelope, and what's illegal. This training is funded in part by the PA Local Government Training Partnership, enabling the Chapter to offer this in-depth training at a minimal cost in several locations. Registration information is available on the PA Chapter website or by contacting the office at 717-671-4510.

Transportation training offered in several locations across the state has wrapped up. Focused on **PennDOT's Publication 662: Improving the Land Use-Transportation Connection through Local Implementation Tools**, presenters **Steve Deck, AICP** and **Brian Funkhouse, AICP** provided attendees with

detailed information and examples of tools such as transit oriented development, transit revitalization investment districts, tax increment financing, and transportation impact fees. If you missed the training, check out the publication on PennDOT's website:

Publication 662: Improving the Land Use - Transportation Connection through Local Implementation Tools.

As part of **the free planning webcast series** sponsored by chapters, divisions, and universities, the PA Chapter provided the April 8 session on ethics. Many thanks to **Dr. Steve Gimbel** of Gettysburg College, who once again assisted the PA Chapter with this topic. The PA Chapter is developing a second webcast for later this year, focusing on the planning implications of natural gas extraction. Details on the webcast series and upcoming topics can be found online at the PA Chapter's Events Calendar.

In addition to providing training on specific planning topics, the PDC also assists planners who are preparing for the AICP exam. The annual in-person, all-day prep session was held on February 26 and provided general testing tips and focused review of test content topics for 26 attendees. Many thanks for my fellow presenters for the day, **Rebecca Ross, AICP**, **Jessica Fieldhouse, AICP**, and **Dave McFarland, AICP**. Good luck with exam preparations to all those taking the exam, and remember to visit the Chapter website for a variety of exam preparation resources. ♦

LEGISLATIVE

committee update

by Shannon Debes, Chair, Legislative Committee

New Legislative Services Provider

The Legislative Committee has been very busy this year working to set a direction that will continue to benefit the PA Chapter of APA and assist in its growth and visibility. Chair **Shannon Debes** outlined the professional service needs of the Committee in January and subsequently released an RFP at the end of that month which was posted to the PA Chapter website. After reviewing several responses with an RFP committee comprised of Board members and Legislative Committee members, **GSP Consulting** was selected to be the new legislative services provider and their contract was finalized in February.

Planners Day on the Hill Planned for May 23, 2011

In March, **Debes** spent time making contacts with the APA national office as well as establishing a relationship with GSP (who has both a state and national presence) to guide the organization through this coming year. Talks during March yielded the idea to have a Planners Day on the Hill on May 23, 2011. Planning for the event took place through the month of April and details are now available on how members can take the future of Planning into their own hands in a very purposeful and orchestrated visit to the Hill. Visit www.planningpa.org for details. ♦

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DEADLINES FOR UPCOMING 2011 ISSUES:

June: May 20, 2011

August: July 8, 2011

October: September 16, 2011

December: November 11, 2011

Submit to:
sgalbraith@shermer-assoc.com

VIDEOTOWATCH

"Tools for an Effective Planning Commissioner"

**PLANNING
OFFICIALS:
Video Training
Now Available**

The PA Chapter of APA is pleased to make "Tools for an Effective Planning Commissioner" available for FREE viewing. The video, produced by the PA Chapter of APA in association with Penn State Cooperative Extension, is available by visiting www.planningpa.org. Click on *Video* under the *Events & Training* section.

This video provides both new and experienced planning commissioners with an overview of what planning commissions do and where they fit in their city, borough, township or county government. The basic tools of comprehensive planning, subdivision and land development regulation, and zoning are described so commissioners can learn how they can effectively contribute to the quality of life in their municipalities.

Quick link to free video: http://www.planningpa.org/events_video.shtml

eMAIL

news from the PA Chapter

The PA Chapter now sends a significant amount of our updates and news by email. Because we know that everyone receives a lot of email, we make every effort to send you information that is relevant and timely – updates you can use.

Help Us Reach You with Important News and Updates

For us to reach you with this information we need your correct email address. Please keep the PA Chapter office posted of changes to your email address. APA members must also notify APA of these updates.

Other Ways to Receive News

If you prefer to not receive email from the Chapter, simply unsubscribe using the link at the bottom of an email you receive from us. We will understand! Much of this information is also posted on the PA Chapter website, so check the website frequently to stay current on news that is important to you. ♦

PA Chapter Represented at the 2011 PSATS Annual Convention

*Thank you to the following
PA Chapter members for volunteering
to staff the PA Chapter booth
at this year's PSATS Convention.*

Tara Hitchens, AICP
Terry Ruby, AICP
Pam Shellenberger, AICP
Danny Whittle, AICP

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CM tips

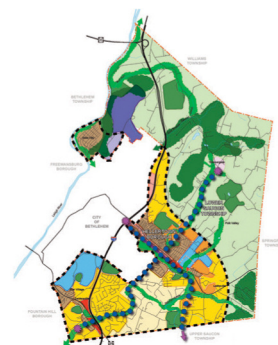
Free and Low-Cost CM Courses – Many Opportunities

Available! Are you challenged with finding quality CM programs at low or no cost? There are many opportunities to earn CM credits via free and low-cost programs.

- ✓ **Free! You can currently earn up to 48 CM credits** through the Planning Monthly Webcasts, sponsored by many of the APA chapters (including Pennsylvania) and several APA divisions. Watch webcasts from your office – just tune in through your computer and your phone. For the current schedule visit www.utah-apa.org/webcasts. Be sure to check out the “Past Webcasts” link on the website – many previous webcasts also qualify for distance education CM credits.
- ✓ **Free APA Web Events Offering CM Credits!** APA makes many webcasts available at no charge. Visit www.planning.org/cm/free for the full list. Be sure to click on the “learn more” text link under the Tuesdays at APA heading on this same page. You will find a long list of 1-2 hour webcasts – most are CM approved.
- ✓ **The PA Chapter of APA Lending Library** offers CD programs for loan at just \$10.00 per program (for shipping and handling). Earn a total of 18.25 CM's! View the full list of available programs at www.planningpa.org/events_cd_lending_library.shtml. ♦

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Annual Conference
October 16-18, 2011**

EVENTS & training opportunities

Renewable Local Energy, 1.5 CM

May 11, 2011
Chester County Planning Commission, West
Chester, PA
Sponsored by Delaware Valley Regional Planning
Commission
www.dvrpc.ticketleap.com

Statewide Conference on Heritage – CM Credits Available!

May 17-19, 2011
Hilton Harrisburg, Harrisburg, PA
www.pennbyways.com

2011 Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference – 10.5 CM

May 19-21, 2011
Harrisburg Hilton, Harrisburg, PA
www.conserveland.org

Events are added regularly.
Visit www.planningpa.org for all events
and registration details.

Access to the Healthy Foods in the Built Environment

May 24, 2011
Embassy Suites, Newark, DE
Sponsored by Delaware Chapter of APA
www.delawareapa.org

First Annual Community Development Summit

May 25, 2011
8:00am – 8:00pm
Omni William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA
www.pcrp.org/summit2011/registrationform.php

PMPEI 2011 Train-the-Trainer Session

June 10-11, 2011
State College, PA
www.planningpa.org/events.shtml

2011 PA Chapter of APA Annual Conference

October 16-18, 2011
Scranton, PA
www.planningpa.org

APA Federal Policy & Program Briefing

September 18-20, 2011
Washington, DC ♦



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**October 16-18, 2011
PA Chapter of APA
Annual Conference
“Our Changing
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