

THE VANTAGE POINT



American Planning Association
Pennsylvania Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association



2014 PA Chapter of APA

Award Winners

*The Best and Brightest recognized at the
Annual Awards Luncheon in Philadelphia!*

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association (PA Chapter of APA) held its Annual Awards Luncheon in Philadelphia, PA where nearly 500 attendees celebrated the esteemed award winners of this year's highly competitive program.

The following awards were presented:

Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan

Dream Dormont: 2013 Comprehensive Plan

Borough of Dormont
Interface Studio, Sam Schwartz Engineering,
Duane Morris Government Strategies

Dream Dormont grew out of a desire by officials to redefine the borough and set a fresh approach for the future. The plan is definitely fresh in its look and ideas. It recommends capitalizing on affordable, small-town living, working, and shopping only 15 minutes from downtown Pittsburgh via the "T"; re-thinking streets as public spaces; and using creative new parking options and green infrastructure. Public input events attended by over 200 people were held at a historic theater and offered a fun way to discuss the borough's issues. The plan paints the new Dormont as a place steeped in historic charm that embraces the next generation and progressive ideas.

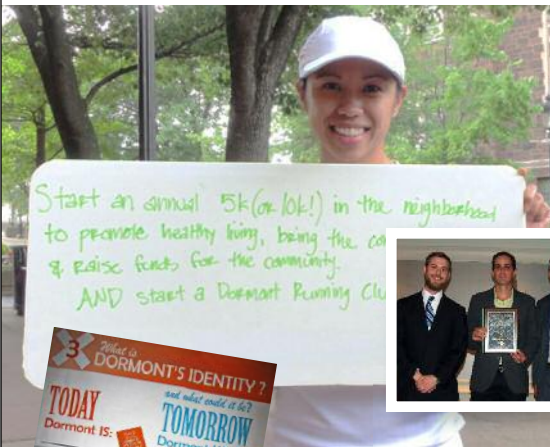
Planning Excellence Award – Implementation

Green City, Clean Waters Plan

Philadelphia Water Department

Green City, Clean Waters is Philadelphia's innovative plan that calls for green stormwater infrastructure to reduce combined sewer overflow by 85% and drastically reduce related pollutants. The plan lays out a 25-year agenda of public investment, private property retrofits, and regulations on new development. The aim is to redirect runoff from over 9,000 acres of impervious surface away from the sewer system and instead to irrigate vegetation and infiltrate into the soil. Since 2011, the Philadelphia Water Department has completed 97 public projects, provided over \$14 million in retrofit incentives, and overseen stormwater management on 396 new development sites, with hundreds more projects in design or under construction.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2





2014 PA Chapter of APA

Award Winners

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Planning Excellence Award – Best Practice

Montgomery County Planning Commission Model Sign Ordinance Montgomery County Planning Commission

A model sign ordinance is the latest in the outstanding series of model ordinances from Montgomery County Planning Commission. The 132-page document describes various types of signs and current sign issues with photographs and graphics, and provides model ordinance language with helpful sidebar comments. The model ordinance is supported by thorough research into best practices, federal and state laws, and recent leading court decisions. Local code officials and attorneys provided input. The model ordinance is currently being used by local officials in preparing revisions to local signage provisions and is available to anyone on the MCPC website.

Planning Excellence Award – Implementation

Emerald View Park Trail Plan Mount Washington Community Development Corporation

Emerald View Park atop Pittsburgh's Mount Washington is home to one of the nation's most beautiful vistas. In 2010, the city and Mount Washington CDC completed a plan for a 19-mile trail system in the park and through green spaces around the neighborhood. There were large challenges – difficult terrain, homeless encampments, and illegal dumps. Already 10 miles have been built. Work was primarily accomplished by the Emerald Trail Corps, a workforce development program for adults, and Student Conservation Associates. The trails have become a neighborhood asset providing public space for neighborly interaction, and are growing as a visitor attraction within ½ mile of downtown Pittsburgh.

Planning Excellence Award – Public Outreach

ConservationTools.org Pennsylvania Land Trust Association PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

ConservationTools.org is Pennsylvania's premier web resource library for conservation and land use best practices. It includes over 1,000 library items – reports, articles, sample ordinances, and guidelines. There are introductory profiles and guides prepared by experts in conservation, planning, and law. The site also has a database of experts that can be consulted for help. ConservationTools.org is free for users. It has user-friendly topic directories and a search engine, and invites users to share comments and their own best practices.

Student Project Award

Small Legacy Cities, Equity, and a Changing Economy University of Pennsylvania, School of Design, Department of City Planning (Graduate Planning Studio)

Small Legacy Cities, Equity, and a Changing Economy is a policy and strategy report prepared by Penn graduate planning students for the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. The report addresses to what extent traditional economic development projects equitably benefit low-moderate income communities. Three nearby cities were used as case studies – Wilmington, DE, Lancaster, PA, and Bethlehem, PA. Students did an extraordinary job developing a methodology for assessing equity, crafting policy or program interventions, and measuring impact. The methodology provides a blueprint for cities interested in building equity into their future development plans.



Thanks

THANKS TO THE MEMBERS

of the Awards Committee for the time and hard work they contributed to carefully review all the awards submissions, and especially to Denny Puko for chairing the committee and presenting the Awards Program.

Denny Puko, Chair
*Planning Program Manager
PA DCED*

Robert M. Behling
*Chair, South Heidelberg
Township Planning Commission*

Graciela Cavicchia, AICP, PP

Brian O'Leary, AICP
*Section Chief, County Planning
Montgomery County Planning
Commission*

Brandi Rosselli, AICP
*Manager, Planning Services
Mackin Engineering Company*



Planning Leadership Award – Professional Planner
Donna J. Carney, Philadelphia
Citizens Planning Institute

Donna Carney is the founding director of the Philadelphia Citizens Planning Institute. CPI was formed in 2010 to enlighten civic leaders of changes as the city updated its comprehensive plan and zoning code. Under Carney's leadership, it has grown to a larger role of making planning, and how to influence plans, understandable and accessible to the public at large. CPI has trained 245 citizen planners (from over 600 applications) representing over 400 organizations and over 100 neighborhoods, and delivered other training and presentations to over 800 people. CPI is self-supported by public and private grants – principally raised by Carney – by modest fees, and by 72 volunteer instructors and panelists.



Planning Leadership Award – Elected Official
Maria D. Quiñones-Sánchez, City of Philadelphia

Councilwoman Quiñones-Sánchez has been the Philadelphia City Planning Commission's greatest ally on city council. She has been an advocate for neighborhood revitalization and a long-term approach to planning for development. She introduced and fought for the bill which passed in January 2014 establishing a land bank to restructure how the city deals with vacant, blighted properties. She is leading the charge to update the city's zoning maps, introducing bills that would implement 14 of the 19 zoning recommendations from the Philadelphia2035 plan for the Frankford neighborhood. And she and her staff worked to get \$340,000 in renovations to neighborhood parks, \$200,000 in storefront improvements, and a \$355,000 ArtPlace America grant to create public spaces through art. She serves on numerous committees and boards dealing with city and neighborhood development issues.



Planning Leadership Award – Distinguished Service
Michael N. Kaiser, AICP

In a remarkable 50 years with the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, Mike Kaiser significantly shaped the affairs of the Lehigh Valley. He led development and regular updating of the two-county (Lehigh and Northampton) comprehensive plan. He advocated for preservation of farmland and natural resources, affordable housing, and improved transportation and infrastructure. Under his direction, LVPC created a series of smart growth model regulations, and helped municipalities prepare comprehensive plans and zoning and subdivision ordinances. Kaiser was active in statewide affairs as a member of the Pennsylvania State Planning Board, president of the Pennsylvania Planning Association, chair of PPA's Growth Management Subcommittee which contributed to major MPC amendments passed in 2000, and a purveyor of no-nonsense planning wisdom to various statewide and regional audiences. A colleague praised Mike Kaiser as "a man who should be remembered for being heroic in his vision and pursuit of that vision." ♦



INSIDER

A Message from President **Brian O'Leary, AICP**

Hello Fellow Planners. It's been a long time since the state planning conference has been held in Philadelphia, and I think we'll have to have it back in Philly much sooner next time around. Once again, it was a great conference with a lot of inspiring speakers, sessions, mobile workshops, and special events. There was even a concurrent Quizzo night where planners competed on their knowledge of planning trivia. *(I wasn't a particularly helpful member of my Quizzo team, although at least I knew who the current president of the Chapter is, one of the questions.)*



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Pennsylvania Chapter

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The Vantage Point is published four 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 Susan Shermer, CMP at 717-671-4510 or sshermer@shermer-assoc.com.

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Please help us close the loop
and recycle this newsletter.

THE CONFERENCE LOCATION in Society Hill worked well, with the opportunity for attendees to easily walk to Old City, South Street, the Delaware riverfront, and historic sites. Congratulations to the Southeast Section, the conference planning committee, and everyone who helped bring about this great success.

There were many excellent sessions and presentations on a wide range of topics.

A couple of themes stood out to me:

Stormwater Greening.

The **Pitkin Lecture speaker** was **Michael Nutter**, the **mayor of Philadelphia**. He gave a rousing speech about his planning legacy, highlighting the comprehensive plan, new zoning, the new citizen institute, and stormwater greening implementation. On Tuesday, the city received an award for this **greening initiative**, and there were a number of sessions and mobile workshops that focused on green stormwater infrastructure as a way of controlling stormwater in an environmentally beneficial and attractive way.

The **Monday morning keynote address on climate change and disasters** was given by **Scott Gabriel Knowles**, a professor at Drexel University. He emphasized that there will be more natural disasters and impacts from climate change in the future. Stormwater planning and green infrastructure are two important tools for preparing for these changes.

Legal Issues. I never thought I'd see the day when the legal sessions were some of the best of the conference. But they definitely were in Philadelphia. Two that stood out to me were Tuesday's opening plenary session on **how to be an expert witness** and a session on **wireless telecommunications service**.

Even though I haven't needed to be an expert witness, Tuesday's session was an excellent guide on how to prepare for the give and take of public meetings. I recommend that you look up the literature prepared by the presenters for the session. The wireless telecommunications presentation was very timely, providing technical and legal ad-


vice on changes in the wireless world.

AT THE BOARD meeting held Sunday morning before the conference, **Jim Drinan**, the **new Executive Director of APA**, and our own **David Rouse**, now the **Director of Research and Advisory Services at APA**, joined us. Jim discussed the direction he'd like to see APA go – towards **more support of Chapters**, Divisions, and other parts of the organization providing direct services to planners. I think this is a welcome change. David Rouse mentioned a large, new health planning grant APA has received from the federal government. Hopefully, there will be an opportunity for the PA Chapter to participate in these grants. If you're interested in partnering with us, just let me know.

Overall, the conference was great. **Next year is Pittsburgh**, another Pennsylvania city with lots of new activity and investment. I hope you'll be able to come.

Keep up the great planning work and advocating for a better future. ♦

I never thought I'd see the day when the legal sessions were some of the best of the conference. But they definitely were in Philadelphia.



A window into planning history

Pennsylvania Planning Association
Archives provided at Temple

*by James F. Duffy, Public Relations and Website Coordinator,
Temple University Ambler, Ambler, Pennsylvania*

VIEWING THE NEWLY AVAILABLE Pennsylvania Planning Association's (now the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association) vast collection of records in the Temple University Urban Archives is like **taking a trip through the foundations of modern planning in Pennsylvania.**

From the speeches of Francis A. Pitkin to the entries of decades of Planning Association award winners, from a **treasure trove of state and municipal comprehensive plans** to **oral histories of some of the most prominent planners and civic leaders** in Pennsylvania history, the **collection spans 58 years**, from 1948 to 2006.

"The goal of establishing this inventory is to preserve extensive records of the state chapter, its leaders and practicing professionals, as a source for scholarly research," said Ronald K Bednar, AICP, a former president of the Pennsylvania Planning Association and an expert in urban development. **Bednar directed the project in association with the Temple University Libraries' Special Collections Research Center**, which includes the Urban Archives. "We wanted to create a permanent record of significant accomplishments since the organization's formation."

Establishing the collection of thousands of documents, recordings and much more — 115 boxes and 50 full feet of archive space — didn't happen overnight. Making the material available for students, scholars, planners and special researchers globally was a seven-year undertaking, according to Bednar.

"No collection of this magnitude, related to Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association records, has ever been created. It is a one-of-a-kind, historic record identifying key professional planning leaders, policy decisions and nationally recognized award-winning practice during an important period of statewide development," said Bednar. "Temple has been a leader in planning education for more than a decade. Combined with its academic research and practice, the archive can become an important destination, developing the special collection to anticipate new and expanding frontiers of interdisciplinary research in community and regional planning worldwide. My hope is that this project will serve as an inspiration for new generation of leaders."

The collection is available to explore in an online catalog —

<http://library.temple.edu/scrc/pennsylvania-planning> — that went live in late October. The archive joins a previously established collection from the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association, spanning 1969 to 1980, and available at **<http://library.temple.edu/scrc/american-planning-association>**. ♦

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**Contact information is
available at www.planningpa.org
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from Historic Foundations



Conference photos by Pattie Guttenplan

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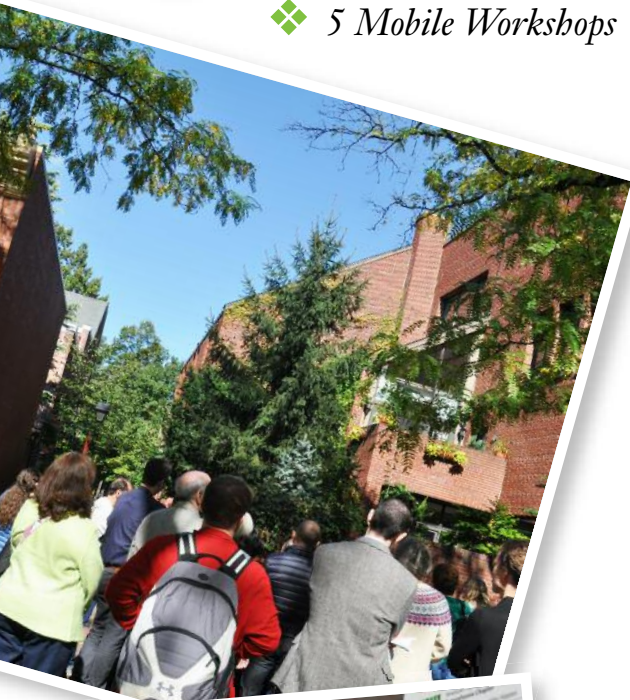


❖ 3 main sessions and Our State of the Chapter and our Annual Awards luncheon

PHILADELPHIA 2014



❖ 5 Mobile Workshops



2014 CONFERENCE *Committee*

The 2014 conference was successful due in large part to the tireless efforts of the local conference committee. Many thanks to the committee for their hard work!

Committee Chairs

Justin J. Dula, AICP, Delaware County Planning Department

Martha J. Cross, AICP, PP, TRF Development Partners

Ronald K. Bednar, AICP, Econsult Solutions, Inc.

Nando Micale, AICP, Wallace Roberts & Todd

Committee Members

Christina Arlt, AICP, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Sarah K. Bowen, AICP, CFM, Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

Chrissy Caggiano, AICP, Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

Dr. Kristen B. Crossney, West Chester University of PA

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John Federico, AICP, Urban Engineers Inc.

Charles L. Guttenplan, AICP, PP, Whitmarsh Township PA

Jill N. Hall, AICP, Delaware County Planning Department

Pankaj Jobanputra, AICP, Econsult Solutions, Inc.

Sharon E. Maclean, AICP, US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development

Susan Myerov, AICP, Pennsylvania Environmental Council

Brian O'Leary, AICP, Montgomery County Planning Commission

Rebecca M. Ross, AICP, Delaware County Planning Department

Tom P. Shaffer, AICP, Delaware County Planning Department

Michael Swidrak, Delaware County Planning Department

Karen A. Thompson, Delaware River Waterfront Corporation

Mindy Watts, AICP, PP, Interface Studio, LLC

Alexis Williams, AICP, Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

David C. Zipf, AICP, Bucks County Planning Commission

APA-PA2014 *annual conference recap*

INNOVATION

from Historic Foundations

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◆ *A new scholarship fund
was started this year
by Rich Bickel, FAICP*



◆ *Jerry S. Walls
Planning Professional
Development Award*



PHILADELPHIA2014



Exhibits



THIS YEAR'S APA-PA ANNUAL CONFERENCE was held in Philadelphia and offered something for everyone, including CM credits, great mobile events, and an inspiring Pitkin Lecture from Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter. Hopefully everyone who was able to attend has taken the time to register the CM credits on the APA website. The end of every calendar year brings the **end of a CM cycle for certain AICPs**, depending on when you passed the exam. To register credits, and check for when your CM cycle ends, go to www.planning.org, log in under the "My APA" in the upper right, and then select "My CM Log". From here you can register CM credits, view your CM cycle dates, check to see if you have logged your required ethics and law credits, and, if you have exceeded requirements, view the number of credits you have to carry over into the next cycle. You can search for the annual conference by APA-PA as the provider, or through the event number: 28241.

APA's **updated exam prep resource, Exam Prep Product 3.0**, is now out. Completely **web-based**, this resource includes streaming video based on the exam content outline, supplemental handouts, a glossary, and questions in three different formats – an assessment exam to identify your knowledge base strengths and weaknesses, pop-up questions associated with the streaming video to reinforce concepts, and a full, timed practice exam. A discussion forum is also included as part of the product, as well as tips to approach the exam process and specific question types. **Tips on preparing for the exam and a link to purchase Exam Prep 3.0 is available at:** <https://www.planning.org/certification/examprep/>

As always, please check the free exam prep resources available, particularly the PDC Study Notes from 2007 and the Exam Review Series that is part of the Planning Consortium webcast series. Information on these and other resources is available on the PA Chapter website here: <http://planningpa.org/for-planners/professional-planners/aicp-exam-prep/>. The **spring prep session, a full day in-person session, has been set for March 21, 2015 in Harrisburg**. More information and registration will be available on the website in 2015. ♦

congrats!

AICP Recipients

In May 2014, the following were awarded their AICP designation:

- Mark Boeckel
- Andrew Hartwell
- Sze Ng
- Shannon Rossman
- Gregory Waldman

APA Charles Abrams Scholarship Recipient for 2014:

Brett Roeth Peanasky, University of Pennsylvania was awarded a scholarship of \$2,000. Brett aspires to be both a planner and a lawyer, and he is now completing his second year in Penn's MCP-JD Dual Degree program. He plans to seek to use the tools of city planning and law to effect environmental and civic progress. Upon graduation, Brett plans to build a career in local and regional government through which he can lead the creation of communities of empowered citizens.

The 2014-2015 Charles Abrams Scholarship is made possible by the APA Planning Foundation. The amount of the award is \$2,000. This scholarship is awarded each year to students at one of the graduate programs where Charles Abrams taught: Columbia, Harvard, MIT, New School University, or the University of Pennsylvania. ♦



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 2,600 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 under **About Us**.

Individual Members:

Logan Axelson, *Southeast Section*
Krista Guerrieri, *Southeast Section*
Melissa Matthews, *Central Section*

Organizational Members:

Borough of Kutztown, *Lehigh Valley/Berks Section* ♦

Help Wanted

PA Chapter of APA Seeks Volunteers for Two Board Positions

It's not every day that the PA Chapter of the APA puts out a help wanted ad! Are you the one for the job?

The Chapter has openings for the following two leadership positions with the organization:

- **Legislative Committee Chair**
- **Student Representative**

Legislative Committee Chair

Kyle Guie led as the Chapter's Legislative Committee the past two few years, but needs to focus his energies in new directions; he is stepping down at the end of 2014.

Briefly,

- The Chair serves on the PA APA Board which consists of elected members from the PA Chapter,
- This committee advocates for planning issues with local, state, and federal elected officials and monitor, make recommendations or take positions on State and Federal legislation or regulatory actions.

More details can be found on the website at

<http://planningpa.org/advocacy/legislative-committee/>

Student Representative

The Student Representative must be a full-time student enrolled in a planning or planning-related program at either the undergraduate or graduate level.

The Student Representative roles and responsibilities include the following. The Student Rep is also encouraged to explore additional opportunities.

- The Student Rep serves on the PA Chapter of APA Board of Directors which consists of elected members from around the state, and several appointed positions. The Student Rep is appointed by the PA APA Executive Committee.
- The primary responsibility of the Student Representative is to advise the Board and the Chapter on the conduct of services to students and the evolving character of the planning profession.

If you are interested in pursuing either opportunity to support the efforts of planning in Pennsylvania, please contact Chapter President Brian O'Leary for more details ♦

FIRST PLACES DESIGNATED

GREAT PLACES in Pennsylvania



The PA Chapter of APA kicked-off the "Great Places in Pennsylvania" Program in the spring of 2014. The purpose of the Program is to recognize places with exemplary character, quality, identity, cultural interest, and community involvement.

GREAT PLACES ARE UNIQUE and have a sustainable vision for tomorrow; they serve as a model that other communities want to emulate.

For 2014, there were two categories of Great Places: Great Public Spaces and Great Neighborhoods. A total of 27 nominations from across the Commonwealth were submitted. They were then reviewed and rated by a panel of eight judges. The outcome was the designation of seven Great Places in Pennsylvania: three in the category of Great Public Spaces and four in the category of Great Neighborhoods.

Congratulations to the 2014 Winners!

GREAT PUBLIC SPACES

- **Allen Street and College Avenue Intersection – State College Borough**
- **Race Street Pier – Philadelphia**
- **Steel Stacks Campus – Bethlehem**

GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS

- **Downtown West Chester – West Chester Borough**
- **The Strip District – Pittsburgh**
- **West End Theatre District – Allentown**
- **West Reading – Berks County**

Descriptions and photos of these Great Places is available on the Chapter website

www.planningpa.org/about/great-places-in-pennsylvania.

A special thank-you is extended to the judges for their time and dedication to the Program.

The 2015 Great Places in Pennsylvania categories will be announced in January. Consider nominating a "great place" in your community! ♦

Grant received from the **Richard P. Byler Charitable Fund** of The Philadelphia Foundation

THE PA CHAPTER OF APA has received a grant in the amount of \$611 from the Richard P. Byler Charitable Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation to support the scholarship program. The funds will be used for the **Pitkin Fund** to support the scholarship program. The PA Chapter of APA scholarship program supports young planners in furthering their education.

The Philadelphia Foundation, a public charity, is Southeastern Pennsylvania's leading center for community philanthropic engagement and is committed to improving the quality of life in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties through funds established by its donors. Established in 1918, The Philadelphia Foundation continues to help donors harness their generosity and vision by providing tools, knowledge and financial stewardship directed to maximize the strategic impact of charitable contributions. Grants from more than 750 charitable funds strengthen the effectiveness of nonprofits and supports programs that are vital to the people of this region. ♦



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LAND USE *webinars*

by Peter Wulfhorst, AICP

PENN STATE EXTENSION will be conducting their fifth Land Use Webinar series starting in January 2015 and continuing until May 2015. The webinars will occur on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 12 noon – 1:15 pm. Recordings of the webinars will also be made available to registrants. The cost of the webinar series is \$30 for all 5 webinars and \$60 for all 5 webinars for those who want to get CM credits.

Registration information can be found at <http://agsci.psu.edu/land-use-webinar> starting in January 2015.

Topics include:

- **Using the Official Map for Your Community's Infrastructure**—January 21, 2015
- **Understanding the Relationship between Municipal Budgets & Comprehensive Plans**—February 18, 2015
- **TBA**—March 18, 2015
- **All About Open Space – Owning and Managing Natural Lands**—April 15, 2015
- **Agri-Tourism Issues for PA Communities**—May 20, 2015

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