

COUNTY PLANNING



American Planning Association
County Planning Division

Making Great Communities Happen

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OUR MISSION: The County Planning Division of the APA seeks to strengthen relationships among county planners, county elected officials, and other county personnel by facilitating the sharing of technical information, encouraging continuing professional development of its members, researching county planning issues, and building strong ties with other organizations and disciplines with related interests.



NEWSLETTER Schedule

SPRING

Submittal deadline: March 15

SUMMER

Submittal deadline: June 15

FALL

Submittal deadline: September 15

WINTER

Submittal deadline: December 15

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION: This newsletter is published by the County Planning Division of the American Planning Association. Circulation is to the APA members of the County Planning Division (CPD). The CPD Executive Committee welcomes submission of original articles, editorial letters, and any other information of interest to County planners. Submissions should be made to the newsletter editor:

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From the Chair:

Dear County Planning Division Members,

Well, it has been a pretty interesting summer so far. I am sure many of you are struggling with a number of budget and legislative issues as we are here in North Carolina. Our field is certainly not a static one and it seems as though a new challenge is around every corner. These budget challenges may be affecting your staffing and / or operations budget, and we all are being compelled to do more with fewer resources. Even though things may appear difficult, there has never been more need for county planning, and one of the most important jobs you can do is make sure your elected officials know that. Diminishing revenues and shifting priorities require sound and strategic community planning, and this is where you are the expert. Take time to educate your fellow county employees and elected officials about the multi-disciplinary skills of county planners so they know you are a source of information they will need to make the difficult decisions that lie ahead. You have never been more important than you are now, so keep your head up and your eyes open for opportunities to let the world learn about what you are doing now, and what you are capable of doing in the future.

Thanks to all the members who responded to our recent poll about the County Planning Division, and our affiliate organization, the National Association of County Planners. We plan to post the results of the poll on the web pages of both organizations so you can view the results in their entirety. In looking over the findings, it is clear that membership is something that is valued, particularly for the information we can share with each other through recognition of superior projects, networking and conferences, but also for the resources we share with one another that help us with our day to day work. I am currently working with APA to discover ways to broaden that capacity and have our information shared with even more planners through sponsoring webinars and distributing research on topics that matter most to you. I'll have more information about that soon. I was heartened to see that the vast majority of respondents are pleased to be a member. We are a very new division at APA, but we have made remarkable strides very quickly – and I intend to make sure we keep progressing to ensure that we attract additional members and you, our current members, continue to value your membership into the future. Just because the survey is over doesn't mean I am not listening to your ideas, so feel free to contact me with your thoughts and suggestions. We still have a long way to go and we need everybody to help us achieve the type of organizations we can rely on as the "go to" source for information about county planning.

Finally, I also want to congratulate the twenty-four members of this division who are eligible to apply for FAICP status. What a tremendous source of information and experience you are for the rest of the membership! We are truly honored to have you in our midst!

Thanks for everything you're doing to promote and implement planning in counties across America!

Sincerely,
Judy Francis, AICP
Chair, APA County Planning Division

County Planner Profile

Short profiles of County Planners

County/Employer: Washoe County, Nevada

Name: Kimberly H. Robinson

Job Title: Planning Manager, Community Development Department

Years in position: Fifteen years as a Planner, in Michigan and Nevada.

Education: **University of Nevada, Las Vegas**, 1992, Hotel Administration B.S., cum laude, **University of Michigan**, 1996, MS, Urban Planning.

Is your county considered urban or rural? 421,407 (2010 Census) 6,551 square miles.

Washoe County is a growing area located along the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in western Nevada. The county covers an area of 6,551 square miles in the northwest section of the State bordering California and Oregon and has a population of approximately 421,407.

The county seat is the City of Reno, the third largest city in Nevada. Other communities include Sparks and Incline Village, at Lake Tahoe.

Accomplishments during your current position:

Looking for new challenges and increasing responsibilities, Kim moved to Reno, NV in August 2007, accepting the position of Planning Manager, Current Planning Program, Washoe County Community Development Department. In this position, she managed planners and support staff (7) responsible for the review of development applications and their presentation to the county's planning commission and board of commissioners. During her first two years in this position, she revamped the application process, staff report format, development application fee schedule and coordinated the use of the county's GIS program to better provide property information to the staff and public. Kim was also a leading participant in the department's first strategic plan. In May 2009, Kim took on added responsibilities and new staff (4) for the advanced planning program. In this expanded role, she now manages the department's coordination with two regional planning agencies, maintenance and update of the department's comprehensive plan and area plans, and maintenance of the department's development code. Kim has recently participated in the development of a series of monthly presentations sponsored by the county's Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment for citizens interested in planning issues. One of Kim's proudest accomplishments at Washoe County is the development of a speaker series for the planning staff. Monthly workshops are held on such topics as the 2011 legislative session, conflict resolution, and regional economic development. Kim is also a member of the Strategic Planning Technical Advisory Committee, a group tasked with working with the Board of County Commissioners, and other departments to better develop and align the strategic plans and goals of the organization. With the retirement of the department's director in December 2010, Kim now co-manages the agency.

Kim's interests outside of the demanding responsibilities of her position include doting on her cat, Sylvester; cooking, gardening, swimming, jewelry making, watching movies, reading history and learning new things.

NEWS



Come to Santa Fe in 2011 for an Enchanting Four Corners Planning High!

NM APA, Colorado APA and Western Planner invite you to join us up in old Santa Fe, New Mexico from September 11 to the 14th in 2011 for the 30th annual Western Planners conference. We say “up” in Santa Fe because the capitol city of New Mexico is over 7,000 feet above sea level. Planners attending this elevated conference will certainly enjoy the warm days and cool evenings of late summer in the “Land of Enchantment”. The conference will happen just after Fiesta and before the wine and chili festival, when local restaurants will be welcoming visitors and the smell of pinon fires and roasting chili pervade.

Santa Fe is celebrating its 400th anniversary in 2010 and New Mexico its centenary in 2012, so it’s a good time to be a Western Planner in 2011. Santa Fe is the oldest capital city in North America and the oldest European community west of the Mississippi. Thirteen years before Plymouth Colony was settled by the Mayflower Pilgrims, Santa Fe was established and soon it would soon become the seat of power for the Spanish Empire north of the Rio Grande.

Santa Fe is the site of both the oldest public building in America, the Palace of the Governors and the nation's oldest community celebration, the Santa Fe Fiesta, established in 1712 to commemorate the Spanish reconquest of New Mexico in the summer of 1692. Peralta and his men laid out the plan for Santa Fe - according to the Laws of the Indies signed by Phillip II - at the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains on the site of the ancient Pueblo Indian ruin of Kaupoge, or "place of shell beads near the water." The Laws of the Indies were influential in the creation of regulations that later guided the development in the United States, particularly the Land Ordinance of 1785, which introduced townships and sections.

The city has been the capital for the Spanish "Kingdom of New Mexico," the Mexican province of Nuevo Mejico, the American territory of New Mexico (which contained what is today Arizona and New Mexico) and since 1912 the state of New Mexico. Santa Fe, in fact, was the first foreign capital over taken by the United States, when in 1846 General Stephen Watts Kearny captured it during the Mexican-American War.

Join us for a planning conference that considers the old, contemplates the present and looks to the future, in a city where all three times seem to abide. The conference will be held at the historic La Fonda Hotel on the Plaza, and there is a special room rate of \$119 - Call and reference NMAPA/Western Planner to reserve this special rate (limited number of rooms): 800-523-5002 or go to www.lafondasantafe.com For more information contact: Dan Pava dpava@lanl.gov 505-667-7360.

NEWS



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2011 County Planning Division Award Winners Announced

On April 10, 2011 at the County Planning Division's Business Meeting conducted at the APA National Conference in Boston, the County Planning Division in conjunction with the National Association of County Planners presented their 2011 Project Awards. This year three awards were presented, one Award of Excellence and two Awards of Merit.

The **Award of Excellence** was presented to **Charlotte – Mecklenburg County, North Carolina** in the **Small Area/Special Area Planning** category for their *Area Plan Implementation Program*. The **Area Plan Implementation Program** is a system created to inventory, analyze, track, and implement capital projects as well as other recommendations originating from adopted Area Plans. It began from the need to follow-through on the community's planning vision that was developed during a lengthy and in-depth planning process. The program established annual bond funding for area plan capital project implementation, enhanced information sharing amongst public service providers, and has resulted in the construction of a number of projects.

The **Awards of Merit** were presented to **Henrico County, Virginia** in the **Grass Roots Initiative** category for their *Homeowner's Enhancement Guide* and to **Riley County, Kansas** in the **Best Practices** category for their *Vision 2025 – A Comprehensive Plan for Riley County, Kansas*. The *Homeowner's Enhancement Guide* is intended as a means of maintaining the stability and desirability of mature neighborhoods. The Homeowner's Enhancement Guide is a how-to handbook intended for homeowners and prospective purchasers of older homes, which may be in need of modernization and enhancement. The Guide is a tool for homeowners and prospective purchasers of mature homes that assist in the processes of adding character, modernizing, and improving livability through improvements at various ranges of cost. The *Vision 2025 – A Comprehensive Plan for Riley County, Kansas* provides the guidance to ensure the continued viability of the agricultural sector within the county while allowing compatible residential growth in appropriate areas. Developed over a 20-month time span by a representative steering committee with the guidance of facilitators and staff, the plan includes unique features such as a statement of property rights principles, an exclusive agricultural district, a uniquely tailored Land Evaluation Site Assessment System and an innovative Surrounding Agricultural Land Easement to protect agricultural operators.

Congratulations to all the winners. You can find out more about the County Planning Division of APA at <http://www.planning.org/divisions/countyplanning/index.htm>.

You can also find out more about the National Association of County Planners, an affiliate of the National Association of Counties at <http://www.countyplanning.org/>.

Article (s) that may be of interest to County Planners.

New Urbanism celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2011. It all started in South Walton County in Northwest Florida in 1981 with the development of Seaside. Today there are over 600 developments following New Urbanism principles planned or currently under construction in America. Look for CPD and NACP Chair-elect Tim Brown's article titled *Thirty Years of New Urbanism in Northwest Florida* in the June edition of *Practicing Planner*. The article looks at the history of New Urbanism, the concepts New Urbanism uses as alternatives to conventional zoning and subdivision regulations, and discusses the New Urbanism communities located in Northwest Florida and how they have impacted the New Urbanism movement.

**Do you have an event related to County Government?
Email it to the editor.**



CPD President Judy Francis presenting Past President Dennis Sandquist a certificate.



NACo Representative James Davenport presenting Past President Dennis Sandquist a gavel.



Award of Merit presented to Riley County, Kansas



Award of Excellence was presented to Charlotte - Mecklenburg County, North Carolina



Award of Merit presented to Henrico County, Virginia



Joe Scorcio and Mike Kayes, CPD members having an intelligent discussion. NOTE: Look at the computer monitor.

Important Contact Information

Feel free to contact any of the following individuals with your ideals and suggestions, as well as your willingness to volunteer to assist the Division in any capacity:

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