

# COUNTY PLANNING



American Planning Association  
County Planning Division

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the County Planning Division  
of the American Planning Association

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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.



*South Dakota morning in June*

## A Special Thank You

The County Planning Division would like to thank Robert Hill for his excellent work as newsletter editor over the years. Thank you for keeping us informed on interesting projects and news!

## 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:** Welcome to summer County Planners! So far our Division is having a very good year. Our Facilitated Discussion on Green Infrastructure Planning was well attended and well received at the National Conference in Chicago. Our sponsored session, Online Resources for Protecting Coastal Counties, was also well received and NOAA will be providing an article for an upcoming CPD Newsletter on this subject.

Planning is now getting underway for next year's national conference in Atlanta. This is your chance to become involved on the national stage. Consider proposing a session or a facilitated discussion topic. Also consider partnering with the Division on sessions at your State conferences.

At our Annual Meeting in Chicago we handed out six project awards, three Awards of Excellence and three Awards of Merit. One of these awards fell under the Division Council's initiative of Senior Livability. The winner of that award, Clark County, Washington, provided an article in this newsletter to discuss their *Ageing Readiness Plan*.

The Division Council's newest initiative is Immigration and Migration, a very topical subject. This will be a conference track at next year's conference, so please consider proposing a session dealing with this important subject.

The Division, through the Planning Webcast Series Consortium, provided a webinar on Land Use and Development Planning Near Transmission Pipelines in April that was well attended and well received. We are hoping to provide another webinar later this year on Electronic Signage. Please let us know if you would like to provide a webinar or have specific topics that you would like the Division to consider for future webinars.

We also have four new board members; Megan Nelms, Chair-elect; Tracy Hegler, Membership Coordinator; Jacqui Kamp, Newsletter Editor; and Adriana Trujillo-Villa, Technology & Social Media Coordinator. Adriana is coordinating the development of a LinkedIn page for the Division. Be looking for it in the near future. Please welcome them to our team!

We are still in need of a Secretary. Let me know if you are interested. You can find the duties of the Secretary position on our webpage. County Planners, so far this has been an exciting year, keep up the good work.

**Tim Brown, AICP, County Planning Division Chair**

# Student Planner Profile

## Short profiles of County Planners (and Student Planners)

**Name:** Jody Hodge

**Background:** I have had a career in public relations.

**School/University:** Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, AL

**Degree Program:** Master of Science in Emergency Management

**Specialty (if applicable):** There's not a specialty per se, but I am drawn to the intersection of emergency management and community planning.



**Employment Preferences:** A position in a planning department or consultant company where I can use my emergency management knowledge to help forge better short-term and long-term planning goals.

**Interest in County Planning:** Living in the Birmingham, Alabama area, I've seen the metro area grow. Unfortunately, like many communities around the country, Birmingham has suffered from urban sprawl. It has left parts of Birmingham with very severe traffic problems, uncontrolled retail and office developments, as well as neighborhoods placed haphazardly. I believe planning can create better communities for its citizens and businesses.

**Hobbies:** I love playing golf; of course I'm much better at it on the Wii.

**Any other pertinent information you would like to provide:** Birmingham is located on the tail end of the Appalachian Mountains. Because of this, as well as several creeks in the area, parts of Birmingham have experienced repeated flooding. In the late 1990s, FEMA, the Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency and the City of Birmingham worked together to develop a flood mitigation plan.

In my studies in emergency management, there have been several chapters dealing with the importance of community planning. Community planners, working in tandem with emergency management personnel, can plan communities that, not only are models for smart growth, but also plan communities that are able to withstand hazards and mitigate damage. Thus, communities are smarter and safer.

***Submissions for County Planner and/or Student Planner profiles are always welcome! Please contact the newsletter editor at [Jacqui.kamp@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Jacqui.kamp@clark.wa.gov) for more information.***

# NEWS

## National APA 2014 Conference call for sessions

The window is now open to propose sessions for the 2014 APA National Conference in Atlanta. The Division has one by-right session and a facilitated discussion. The deadline for the Division session proposals is July 31, 2013 and the deadline for the facilitated discussion proposals is August 20, 2013.

Consider sessions that address the Divisions Council initiatives of Immigration and Migration and Senior Livability. If your session proposal is not selected as the Division by-right session it will go into the general session proposal pool to be considered as part of that group.



*Atlanta, Georgia skyline*

You can submit your proposals through the APA website [here](#). Let's come up with some terrific sessions and show what great work county planners are doing.

## County Planning Division Member Appointed to DOT Committee



Robert Hill, Brookings County Development Director/ Emergency Manager and a County Planning Division member was appointed to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Technical Pipeline Safety Standards Committee (TPSSC) (also referred to as the Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee) as a Special Government Employee by Secretary Ray LaHood on January 18, 2013.

Robert was also a member of the Pipelines and Informed Planning Activities (PIPA) Subcommittee from 2008 to 2010 as a representative of the National Association of County Planners (NACP), an affiliate of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Planners.

## Volunteer position available in the County Planning Division

Are you looking for a volunteer position in the County Planning Division? A Secretary is needed for the County Planning Division. Please contact any of the individuals listed on page six and ask them about the position.

**Have some news to share? Let us know!**

**Contact the newsletter editor: [jacqui.kamp@clark.wa.gov](mailto:jacqui.kamp@clark.wa.gov)**

## Preparing for the coming age waves: Clark County, Washington's planning approach

By Jacqui Kamp, AICP – Clark County, Washington

Never before in our history have people lived so long. Older adults have many names – *baby boomers, silver tsunami, elders, seniors*. As the baby boom generation – those born 1946-1964 – reaches retirement age, one in four Clark County, Washington residents will be 60 or better.

However, our aging society is not just about baby boomers. Generation X will likely live longer as will the Millennial Generation. It is said that the boomers will be an introduction to what will be a permanent shift in the aging of our communities. This major demographic shift will shape all communities in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### Aging Readiness Task Force

Anticipating challenges locally, Clark County appointed a 24-member task force administered by the county's long-range planning department. The task force was charged with assessing the county's capacity to serve the approaching *silver tsunami*. The group examined whether we are ready for such growth and developed recommendations on how we could prepare.

Through an extensive public outreach process, the task force asked residents whether Clark County will be livable for them as they grow older. Would they continue to be able to live independently in their homes and neighborhoods? The task force welcomed ideas about what changes were needed to ensure residents could remain in their homes as active, engaged community members as they age.



# Growing up and growing older in Clark County

The Aging Readiness plan identifies how our community can better serve people who want to remain in Clark County as they age. Five key areas have been assessed. The Aging Commission is overseeing implementation.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

TRANSPORTATION/MOBILITY

HOUSING

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CLARK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

Envisions Clark County as a livable community for all ages and abilities where citizens are valued, engaged and respected.

### Aging Readiness Plan

The task force developed the [Aging Readiness Plan](#) that identifies 91 strategies focusing on **healthy communities, housing, transportation and mobility, supportive services and community engagement**. The plan's goal is to improve the quality of life in all our communities. It further provides leadership to accomplish this through existing regional collaboration and heightened public engagement.

Part of that leadership provision was the recommendation to create a Commission on Aging to lead the implementation of the plan and to be advocates towards initiating change for an all-age-friendly, livable community.

Meeting first in June 2012, the nine-member group established working committees comprised of commission members, community stakeholders and volunteers. In its first year, the commission clocked in over 975 volunteer hours, completing six strategies of the plan with another 39 underway.

### **Aging in urban, suburban and rural communities**

Realistically, most communities built in the past several decades were not designed for aging-in-place. In Clark County, the majority of older people live in suburbs and rural areas where little or no public transportation exists and they must rely on the automobile. In short, the same neighborhoods that were wonderful places to grow up may prove to be unsuitable places to grow old.

The task force took into consideration that many of our aging residents will live in areas far from services they require. Future transportation services may not be able to accommodate that growing need. The Aging Readiness Plan provides innovative solutions to help urban, suburban and rural residents to age-in-place.

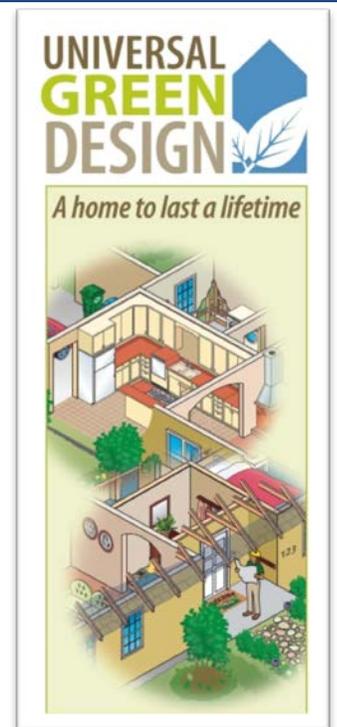
### **Examples of age readiness strategies in play**

**Timebanking**: A time bank is a form of community currency that is based on time rather than dollars. Requests (withdrawals) are made from a large selection of available services offered by members. All hours are valued equally and earned and withdrawn on an hour-for-hour basis. With neighbors helping neighbors, we all build a stronger, more connected community.

**Universal Green Design**: Universal Green Design is a long-term approach to building and remodeling. It combines environmentally sustainable elements of green building with the flexibility of universal

design. The goal is simple: make products and places adaptable to people of all shapes, sizes and abilities.

Adding universal design to green building seemed logical. Although a home might be environmentally friendly and energy efficient, it isn't sustainable if the resident can no longer live there because of accessibility limitations.



*Educational brochure created for project*

### **Age readiness planning and land use policy**

The Aging Readiness Plan is a comprehensive assessment of the livability of our communities, similar to a comprehensive plan. Planning staff's assistance and management of the project was critical to making sure planning principles and other public objectives, such as public health, transportation and environmental policies were observed and incorporated when appropriate. The new land use policies recommended in the Aging Readiness Plan will be incorporated into Clark County's 20-year Growth Management Comprehensive Plan update.

For more information about the Commission on Aging and the Aging Readiness plan, please visit the website at [www.clark.wa.gov/aging](http://www.clark.wa.gov/aging)

# COUNTY PLANNING DIVISION NEWS

## 2013 County Planning Division Awards

Each year the American Planning Association (APA), County Planning Division (CPD) and its sister organization, the National Association of County Planners (NACP) gives out County Planning Awards. There are two types of awards, Awards of Excellence and Awards of Merit.

In addition, there are seven categories of awards, listed below.

1. ***Planning Project***
2. ***Comprehensive Plan – Large Jurisdiction***
3. ***Comprehensive Plan – Small Jurisdiction***
4. ***Best Practices***
5. ***Grass Roots Initiative***
6. ***Small Area/Special Area Planning***
7. ***Special Focus Planning Initiative – Senior Livability***



Only one Award of Excellence and one Award of Merit may be granted per category each year. If the Awards Jury finds that none of the nominations in a particular category meets the desirable standards, they may grant no award in that category for that year.

The 2013 recipients of the APA CPD/NACP County Planning Awards are as follows:

- An **Award of Excellence** for Howard County, Maryland in the Small Area Plan/Special Area Planning category for the *Downtown Columbia Plan*.
- An **Award of Excellence** for Clark County, Washington in the Special Focus Planning Initiative – Senior Livability category for the *Aging Readiness Plan*.
- An **Award of Excellence** for The Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission in the Best Practices category for the *Guide to Creating & Updating Community Plans in Unincorporated Hillsborough County*.
- An **Award of Merit** for Richland County, South Carolina in the Grassroots Initiative category for the *8<sup>th</sup> Annual Neighborhood Planning Conference*.
- An **Award of Merit** for Sarasota County, Florida in the Planning Project category for *Nathan Benderson Park*.
- An **Award of Merit** for McHenry County, Illinois in the Best Practices category for the *Green Infrastructure Plan*.

These awards were given out at the County Planning Division/National Association of County Planners Annual Business Meeting at the APA National Conference in Chicago, April 14, 2013. Congratulations to all award winners!

See page 7 for photos of the recipients accepting their awards.

## Tim Brown selected to Division Council Awards Committee

Tim Brown, Chair of the County Planning Division has been selected by the APA Divisions Council to chair the Division Council's Awards Committee. In addition to its standing mission, the DC Awards Committee shall recommend a process to identify and recognize students receiving scholarships, fellowships, or other awards granted by Divisions. The committee also works with APA to ensure that these students are recognized at the National Conference.

## 2013 Annual Conference

County Planning Division Chairperson, Tim Brown presenting awards during the American Planning Association's National Conference in Chicago.



William Mackey, Division Chief for Comprehensive and Community Planning, Howard County, Maryland, Department of Planning and Zoning



Colete Anderson, Senior Long Range and Transportation Planner, Clark County, Washington, Community Planning Department.



Tony Garcia, Team Leader and Commissioner Mitch Thrower, Vice Chair, the Hillsborough County, Florida, City-County Planning Commission



Tiaa Rutherford, Neighborhood Planner and Tracy Hegler, Planning Director, Richland County, South Carolina, Planning and Development Services Department



Adriana Trujillo-Villa, DRI Coordinator, Sarasota County, Florida, Planning Services Department



Darrell Moore, Principal Planner, McHenry County, Illinois, Department of Planning and Development

## WEBINAR INFORMATION

### Upcoming webinars through the Planning Webcast Series Consortium

- July 12 – **Multimodal Way Finding** – Transportation Planning Division: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/912342010>

New York is known the world over as a city of walkers and straphangers, not to mention one of the most popular tourist destinations anywhere with five very distinct boroughs, clashing street configurations, and a variety of naming and numbering conventions. Despite huge volumes of residents and visitors walking and using transit, most existing on-street directional information is aimed at drivers.

To fill this gap the New York City Department of Transportation chose an international design consortium known as PentaCityGroup (PCG) in 2011 to develop a standardized, map-based, citywide Pedestrian Wayfinding System. PCG is comprised of wayfinding specialists CityID, industrial designers Billings Jackson Design, graphic designers Pentagram, cartographers and map database developers T-Kartor, and engineers and urban designers the RBA Group. The first phase of the program is rolling out this summer with additional phases and program expansion in the works. This webinar will introduce participants to the basics of wayfinding with a focus on the system design and program development in NYC. There will be a Q & A session at the end of the webinar.
- July 25 – **The State of Takings After Koontz** – Florida Chapter: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/899152450> - Featuring Professor John Echeverria (Vermont Law School) and Dwight Merriam, Esq., FAICP (Robinson & Cole LLP)
- July 19 - **Getting Back to Business: Addressing the Needs of Rockaway Businesses Impacted by Superstorm Sandy** – NY Metro Section, NY Chapter – <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/653203482>
- July 26 - **Functional Classification: So Important That No One Wants to Talk About It** – New Urbanism Division – <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/723130898>
- August 2 – **Addressing the Needs of LGBT Seniors** – GALIP Division – <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/854418202>
- August 9 – TBD – New Jersey Chapter
- August 16 - **Beyond LID: Density and Form-Based Zoning Codes for Watershed Health** – Connecticut Chapter – <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/387711122>
- August 23 - **Success Stories in Sustainability: The Common Ground Program** – Western Central Chapter – <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/729822458>

**More webinar information will be sent out as email blasts when it becomes available.**

## Important Contact Information

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