

COUNTY PLANNING DIVISION NEWSLETTER

APA ♦ American Planning Association

County Planning Division

Making Great Communities Happen

National Association of County Planners

NACo ♦ National Association of Counties



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

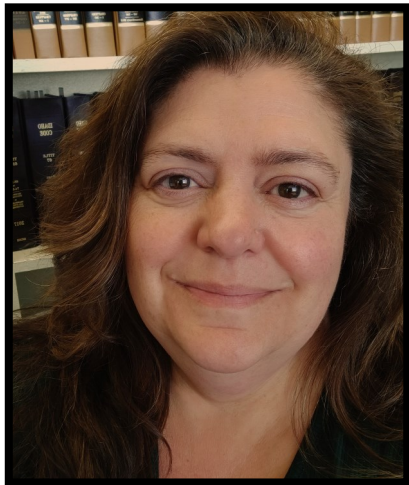
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Letter from the Chair



Trying new things can be intimidating. Having the confidence to try and to keep going until you get it right is the key to learning and doing new things.

I did not set out to become Chair of the County Planning Division. I saw an advertisement for their Social Media Coordinator and decided to apply. I had never done anything like it before and knew very little about the division I was a part of, but thought perhaps I could gain some experience and help the division. After several years of serving as the Social Media Coordinator, our Division Chair announced that elections were happening and that no one had applied to be the Chair. I decided to give it a go.

Occasionally opportunities present themselves to us that we do not anticipate. Sometimes we need to say yes to those opportunities even when they do not line up with our expected trajectory, our long term goals, or with our education or experience. Trying new things helps to build neural connections and it adds depth to our existence. But mostly, it is fun to follow an uncharted route in our own lives just to see where it might take us.

This being said, consider volunteering for the County Planning Division or any other division that may be of interest to you. Uncoincidentally, it is time for division elections. Serving as an elected leader in APA offers a tremendous opportunity to sharpen your skills, expand your networks, and work directly to strengthen the impact of the organization.

The portal for candidate self-nominations will be open through **May 19th** at <https://apa.directnominations.net/>, and includes all the groups and positions up for election this year. Learn more at <https://www.planning.org/elections/>.

Michelle Fuson

Chair, APA County Planning Division & NACo National Association of County Planners

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Somerset County, NJ

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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.

Member Spotlights

ALASKA

Richard Harney, Ketchikan Gateway Borough Planning and Community Development Director, spearheaded a participatory planning process. Ketchikan, Alaska has a year-round population of 14,000 and is growing in popularity, especially as a cruise destination, which brings over 1.2 million cruise passengers to its shore every year. While tourism growth has brought many economic benefits, it is putting a strain on the community, its infrastructure, and natural resources, and some residents have stated this may be too much tourism. Ketchikan is facing a range of challenges such as over-reliance on cruise tourism, traffic congestion, aging infrastructure, persistent workforce shortages, and limited workforce

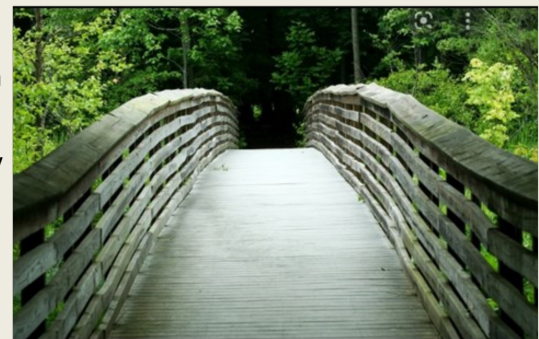


RICHARD HARNEY

housing. To address these challenges and avoid consequent impacts from unmanaged tourism, a participatory planning process was enlisted that brought together about 1,600 residents, businesses, non-governmental organizations, public sector and community leaders across all local jurisdictions to develop a community vision and strategies for staying ahead of uncontrolled tourism. The Ketchikan Tourism Strategy (KTS) is the result of this yearlong process. The KTS looks at all of the ways tourism is affecting Ketchikan and identifies ways to support the positive effects and reduce or eliminate the negative impacts. To find more information on this go to ktntalk.com/Ketchikan-tourism-strategy

CALIFORNIA

Hina Gupta, MURP, LEED AP and her team from UltraSystems Environmental have been working on a project that started in January of 2022 that will develop a bridge over the San Diego River where Max Lenail, a pre-med student at Brown University, tragically drowned on a popular hike in the Fortuna Peaks area at the Mission Trails Regional Park in San Diego County. The portion of the trail where Max lost his life is dangerous and crosses the San Diego River, yet it is just a few minutes away from the Visitor Center Loop. His parents approached San Diego officials with the intent to ensure the safety of fellow hikers, runners, cyclists, and first-time visitors so they would not be in peril at the park crossing and future tragedies could be prevented. The Max LeNail Memorial Bridge project was unanimously approved by the Park Task Force on May 20, 2021. The project received a \$1.5 million grant from the State of California on July 22, 2021 to assist in building the Bridge. To find more information on this go to <https://bridgeformax.com/support/>



Let us know about your projects - anything, big or small!

We love to hear from our members!

Email the County Planning Newsletter Editor: jonathan.buono@yorkcountygov.com

Member Spotlights

MARYLAND

Frederick Johnson from Upper Marlboro Maryland helped to lead a team of people to apply wood chips to the periphery of their trails to reduce the amount of mowing that was required in their public parks.

MISSOURI

Nathan Vanzeyl, a planning student at the University of Missouri, wrote a paper that examines food deserts in the State of Missouri that has applications to the entire United States. The paper highlights urban farming as a new approach to combating food deserts and that helps put the power of agriculture in the hands of the local people and communities. He highlights how urban farms can benefit both urban and suburban communities, provide more accessible healthy food choices to residents, help bond the communities they are in, and beautify cities by temporarily repurposing empty lots. Practicing planners such as Kimberly Portillo, AICP, and Michael Zeek, AICP, which are included in the paper, show their support for this idea. This paper can be found at: https://d1fdloi71mui9q.cloudfront.net/kYNfHrz2QY61ZnU24lXk_Feeding%20Missouri%20The%20Plan%20for%20Urban%20Farms%202.pdf



NEVADA

Clark County, Nevada created the Clark County Transportation Electrification Working Group. Because emissions from transportation are one of the highest pollutants for many regions, counties across the U.S. are looking for ways to transition passenger and commercial vehicles to electric to meet policy goals and improve public health. Clark County, Nevada convened a stakeholder engagement effort to create a Regional Transportation Electrification Strategy to achieve the rapid adoption of electric vehicles (EV) and help meet the state's goal of net zero emissions by 2050. The Working Group identified local gaps and barriers that included the cost of EV charging infrastructure, the lack of EV education and outreach programs, and the need for incentives. Recommendations included fleet electrification efforts, identifying public property to host EVs, and adopting an EV charging infrastructure ordinance to ensure that new construction and significant building retrofits are done in anticipation of higher levels of EV deployment. A Regional Transportation Electrification Strategy was developed by **APA member S Curve Strategies**. It is a component of the All-In Clark County Community Sustainability and Climate Action Plan created by **APA member KLA**. For more information contact ABolduc@SCurveStrategies.com



Did you know that membership in the County Planning Division automatically enrolls you as a member of NACo's National Association of County Planners? Just one of the many benefits of being a member!

COUNTY PLANNING AWARDS

NACo

APA
County
Planning

**DEADLINE
EXTENDED**

**JUNE
16
2023**

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The project should encompass either a large jurisdiction with the most recent Census population of 50,000 or more, or a small jurisdiction with a population of less than 50,000.

PLANNING PROJECT

The project should demonstrate "on-the-ground" results that are supported by documentable physical or social change.

SMALL AREA SPECIAL AREA

Awarded to a small area/ special area plan, program, design, or related effort demonstrating innovative planning principles and measures that create sustainable communities with lasting value.

BEST PRACTICES

For a specific planning tool, practice, program, project, or process that is a significant advancement to specific elements of planning. This category emphasizes results and demonstrates how innovative planning methods implement a plan.

GRASSROOTS INITIATIVE

An initiative that illustrates how a community utilized the planning process to address a need that extends beyond the traditional scope of planning.

COUNTY HOLISTIC INNOVATION PROJECT

This award recognizes a county that has incorporated "smart cities and sustainability" considerations into the planning process and has demonstrated a commitment to involving innovative practices.

For official entry details, **hurry over to** county.planning.org/project-awards/



Long time planner, Tribal and Indigenous Division founder and co-chair, and our friend Sherwin Racehorse has passed away. Sherwin was a dedicated planner, a great guy, and influenced planning in Idaho and the West. He will be missed.

The Tribal and Indigenous Planning Division is holding a Virtual Membership Meeting on May 11th, 11am - 1pm PT. In his honor, we encourage County planners to check out this new division that Sherwin started and to learn more about tribal planning.

From the Tribal and Indigenous Division Newsletter:



It is with heavy hearts that we share news of the passing of Sherwin L. Racehorse, our friend, colleague, leader, and founder of the Tribal and Indigenous Planning Division of APA. Sherwin passed on April 29th at home, with his family and on his ancestral lands which he loved so much. Sherwin was active with local and national APA, not only serving as founder and inaugural Co-Chair of our Division, but also serving in leadership with the Division's Council, Executive Council for the Federal Planning Division, Western Planner Board of Directors, and leadership in the Idaho Chapter. He also held many leadership roles in his community of Fort Hall Indian Reservation and Indian Country such as Chairman of the Board for the Shoshone-Bannock Agri-Business and Tribal Enterprise Corporations and his work with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI). We honor and celebrate Sherwin and his many contributions and unwavering commitment to his Tribe, Tribal Planning and Planners.

We will pay our respects and honor Sherwin during the meeting and in our June 2023 Inaugural Division Newsletter and Planner's Spotlight.

Our condolences to Sherwin's family. We will greatly miss our fearless leader and fierce advocate for Tribes.