

# NEWSBRIEF



American Planning Association  
Virginia Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Virginia Chapter of the  
American Planning Association



Volume 8, Issue 1  
Spring 2011

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**Deadline**  
for summer issue is  
June 3, 2011.

## What Happens in Richmond: Recapping the 2011 General Assembly

By George Homewood, AICP  
Vice President for Legislative & Policy Affairs



It wasn't quite March Madness, but the General Assembly required overtime to finish the 2011 Session and once again it was the budget that added extra time to the game clock. At the Session's final buzzer, planning and community development fared well enough, and it could have been a whole lot worse.

This year, for the first time, the APA Virginia Chapter was involved in drafting two bills for consideration by the Assembly. In the 2010 Session, the General Assembly created the Rural Economic Opportunities Task Force and the Chapter was specifically named as one of its members. During the "off-season," the task force worked on a number of things to improve the economic condition of agriculture and other rural enterprises, one of which was streamlining the Agricultural and Forestal District Enabling Act. The Chapter was a key player in this effort, with assistance from Albemarle and New Kent counties. The result was HB 2078 (Landes)/SB 1092 (Hanger), which creates a program administrator and a straightforward and consistent process to designate land for inclusion in or withdrawal from local agricultural and forestal districts. It passed both houses without a single negative vote.

The success of HB 2078/SB 1092 validated the inclusion of the Chapter on the task force and should allow it to be given a seat at the table for other planning, economic and community development studies. The other bill, HB 1965 (Rust), was initiated by the Chapter's Legislative Committee and carried by Delegate and Chapter member Thomas D. Rust, AICP. The bill requires local Capital Improvement Programs to consider the lifecycle cost of capital projects contained within the CIP. The reason for this is that the option with the lowest total cost of ownership for the taxpayers may not be the option with the lowest acquisition cost. HB 1965 also passed both houses of the General Assembly without a single negative vote.

Other bills that passed and are of note to planners include HB 1844 (Athey), which requires that notice be provided to the property owner when a zoning administrator opinion is requested by someone other than the property owner; HB 1931 (D. Marshall)/SB 783 (Watkins), barring certain provisions in local cluster provisions; HB 2472 (Poindexter), requiring that all improvements for which performance guarantees are required must be shown on the approved plan for which the

*Continued on page 4*

Above: Richmond, Virginia, skyline. Photo by Jason Garber.  
Left: Weeping Cherry at the University of Virginia. Photo by Karen Blaha.





## President's Message *By Jeryl Rose Phillips, AICP*

### Greetings!

With the onset of spring, we have turned our attention to a number of things, not the least of which is planning for a return to Wintergreen Resort for the 2011 Annual Conference on July 20-22. We look forward to putting on the chapter conference each year to gather and share the latest practices with one another, and to have some down time to reacquaint or make new connections. Wintergreen proved to be a pleasant mountain retreat during Summer 2007 and was a huge success. This issue of *Newsbrief* contains a conference teaser, and I look forward to seeing you there! December 2011 will also be the end of the 2009-2011 CM reporting period, so be sure to come and load up if you still need some credits.

I know there has been some frustration with the recent inconsistency of our Annual Conference dates. The conference has historically been held in the spring, but more and more we are running into conflicts with the APA National Conference dates, causing us to have to hold our conference earlier in March or later in May to put some space between the two. It's still pretty cold in early March to get out and about to explore on mobile sessions, and come May, we begin to lose the opportunity to involve our students and academic members as they head into finals. That's also a time when travel and training budgets for local governments are pretty much depleted. In the fall, we would compete with a heavy conference calendar for allied organizations. So, summertime looks to be our best bet and we can take advantage of better deals to keep our conference costs down. The Board made a command decision at its March meeting that **the Annual Conference will always be held during the third week of July**. We are already actively searching for a conference venue for Summer 2012 and hope to make that announcement in during the 2011 Annual Conference.

At the APA National Conference in Boston in April, Virginia will shine once again with receipt of two national APA awards: **Fairfax County** is the recipient of the **The Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan for Transforming Tysons: Tysons Corner Urban Center Comprehensive Plan**; and, I just received word that the **City of Hampton** has been selected as the winner of the **2011 Donald E. Hunter Excellence in Economic Development Planning**,

presented by APA's Economic Development Division, for its work on Peninsula Town Center. Congratulations to each! During the conference, Virginia will also have four delegates attending the Delegate Assembly, during which an update to APA's Policy Guide on Planning for Climate Change will be debated and adopted. Before the conference, I will be attending the spring Leadership meetings, where APA Services to Chapters and consideration of a consolidated election ballot will be the hot topics. APA's Governance Committee is exploring the pros and cons of moving all chapters to the same election cycle. It's always something!

Over the winter, I appointed a committee to review the Chapter's FAICP Nominations Support policy and make recommendations for how the Chapter can be more proactive in soliciting and supporting nominations for eligible AICP members during each election cycle. The Board was pleased to receive and adopt the committee's recommendations in March and, as a result, **a new FAICP Advisory Committee will be formed this spring to manage a call for nominees and make recommendations to the Board for Chapter nomination endorsement**. This policy does not preclude members from pursuing nomination to the AICP College of Fellows on their own. You can read more about it in the next issue.

In closing, as always, I encourage you take the time in your communities to raise the visibility of the important role that planners and planning plays in addressing both the existing and future needs of our communities. We shouldn't wait each year until National Community Planning Month to do so. How does good community planning, and the public involvement process that underlies it, bring lasting value to your community? Tell your story! Host a planning department or planning commission open house, talk to kids in schools about a career in planning, present a library display about planning and planners, sponsor a neighborhood tour to highlight how planning helps the community. These are just a few ideas and APA has many more. For more information, visit [www.planning.org/ncpm/yourcommunity/index.htm](http://www.planning.org/ncpm/yourcommunity/index.htm).

Charge!

—Jeryl Rose Phillips, AICP

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## Census 2010: The Early Returns

By Michael Lewyn, Assistant Professor,  
Florida Coastal School of Law

### United States<sup>®</sup> Census 2010

Census data is in for a couple of dozen states, and already blogs are starting to speculate about their lessons for American cities. Some commentators look at the continued decline of Rust Belt cities

like Chicago and St. Louis, and suggest that suburban sprawl continues (and will forever continue) unabated. But reality is not quite so simple.

When commentators argue about whether cities can compete with their suburbs, they don't really mean "all cities"; instead, I suspect they mean "cities that have been losing population to their suburbs." So in examining the early returns from the Census, I focused on two groups of cities: declining cities (those that have lost population since their post-WW II peak) and formerly declining cities (those that have lost population in at least one post-1950 decade, but have recovered and are now more populous than in 1950).

By my count, the Census has issued population data for only nine declining cities with over 200,000 people: Chicago, Baltimore, Washington DC, St. Louis, Newark, Jersey City, Birmingham, New Orleans, and Norfolk. Four of these cities actually gained population in the 2000s: Washington, the two New Jersey cities, and Norfolk— and in three of the cases (all but Jersey City) the city gained population for the first decade since 1970. So if anything, there has been a modest "back to the city" movement in some cities. On the other hand, one city that had gained population in the 1990s (Chicago) slipped backwards.

A second category of formerly declining cities slipped in the mid-20th century, but started to gain population in the last decade or two of that century. This category includes Indianapolis, Fort Worth, Kansas City, Seattle, Denver, Portland, Omaha, Winston-Salem, and Baton Rouge. Not one of these "comeback cities" lost population; it appears that once a city regains its appeal, it keeps growing again. (Caveat: I am sure some of these cities grew by annexing their suburbs).

Of course, all of this could be balanced out by population losses among growing cities. Among cities that consistently gained population in the last half of the 20th century, census data is available for Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, Austin, Charlotte, El Paso, Las Vegas, Oklahoma City, Raleigh, Colorado Springs, Tulsa, Arlington (Texas), Wichita, Aurora, Corpus Christi, Plano, Greensboro, Lincoln, Durham, Laredo, Lubbock, and Garland. Only

one of these cities (Tulsa) lost people in the 2000s, and by the narrowest of margins (about 2,000 people).

So far it appears that the 2000s has been a better decade for cities than the last decades of the 20th century—albeit not the complete reverse of suburbanization that some pundits appear to yearn for. Not every declining city gained population, but on balance there were more winners than losers, and more winners (if "winning" is defined as "gaining population")\* than in prior decades.

Another issue that I find interesting is the relationship between mid-decade Census estimates and the 2010 Census. As yearly Census estimates came in over the past decade, commentators battled over their meaning. Does it matter if a Census estimate in year X shows more big cities growing? Or does it matter more if the trend appears to be reversed in year Y?



Norfolk skyline. Photo by Matt Davis.

Intercensal estimates were not consistently wrong in any one direction. The 2009 estimates showed Chicago and St. Louis growing—results quite contrary to the 2010 Census. But in some cities (such as Washington and Newark), the 2009 Census estimate came within a couple of thousand people of the 2010 result. And the 2009 estimate failed to catch Norfolk's growth, and underestimated Charlotte's growth by 20,000 people. So on balance, the best one can say about intercensal estimates is that they have a margin of error of as much as 11 percent (the amount by which the Census overestimated the 2009 populations of St. Louis and Omaha).

\* One could also define "winning" as increased income.

That is a topic for another time.

*This article originally appeared on Planetizen at [planetizen.com](http://planetizen.com). Reprinted with permission.*



## Read On, Planners...

At the 2011 APA National Conference, discussion and adoption of an update to APA's Policy Guide on Planning for Climate Change will be on the Delegate Assembly's agenda. APA policies are developed through a thorough process of chapter and division involvement under the overall guidance of the Legislative and Policy Committee. In addition to articulating specific policies that establish principles for better addressing our issues, APA develops more specific guidelines that recommend specific actions on the part of APA members through leadership, chapters, divisions, and allied organizations that move toward an improved social and political environment for planning to play its most effective role. Together, these two elements -- policies and general recommendations -- form APA Policy Guides.

Those interested in knowing more about climate change or the related topic of sustainable development might wish to review the recent essay by John Nolon and Patricia Salkin that appeared in *Planning and Environmental Law*, the APA's land use law and zoning digest. The essay, entitled "Integrating Sustainable Development Planning and Climate Change Management: A Challenge to Planners and Land Use Attorneys," thoughtfully addresses the two subjects and explores the linkages between them. It also puts forth the idea that planners should assume a leadership role in crafting state and local mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Nolon and Salkin's essay is based on their new book, *Climate Change and Sustainable Development Law in a Nutshell* (West 2011), which describes the close relationship between sustainable development and climate change management. The book reviews the history of both fields and demonstrates how they appeared at the same time as an integrated set of considerations. It contains numerous examples of state and local initiatives that draw on the skills of the planning and legal professions, including energy-efficient buildings, green buildings and sites, renewable energy, green neighborhoods (including transit-oriented development, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system for Neighborhood Development (LEEDND), green infrastructure, and district energy systems) and climate change adaptation through sequestration, resiliency and adjustments to sea level rise.

For full text of the essay, visit [www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~db=all~content=a933222918~frm=titlelink](http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~db=all~content=a933222918~frm=titlelink).

## 2011 General Assembly (continued)

surety is applicable; and SB 1204 (Obenshain), allowing court costs for the prevailing party when contesting local government action to collect cash proffers earlier than the certificate of occupancy and also extending the provision by which cash proffers are to be paid at the certificate of occupancy for an additional year to July 1, 2015. Also several bills—SB 1206 (Obenshain), SB 1221 (Barker) and SB 1462 (Puckett)—reduce the VDOT Traffic Impact Analysis requirements and require VDOT to review those requirements together with their requirements for access management, secondary street acceptance and private entrances. HB 1584 (Oder) is intended to make online "sweepstakes" machines illegal and SB 1457 (Hanger) attempts to maintain local sign ordinances in the regulation of outdoor advertising of alcoholic beverages (this was a last-minute effort triggered by the revelation late during the Assembly that the Attorney General had entered into a consent decree with a provider of outdoor advertising that would have apparently removed all restrictions in the Commonwealth on outdoor liquor advertising).

Three bills that failed in this Session drew a lot of attention from planners. HB 2492 (Hugo) would have

exempted existing alternative on-site sewage systems (AOSS) from the soon-to-be finalized Virginia Department of Health (VDH) operations and maintenance regulations. This is of great concern because localities were precluded from local regulation of AOSS in 2009 with the promise

that VDH would adopt and strictly enforce consistent regulations statewide to ensure protection of both groundwater and surface water resources. The bill eventually died on the floor of the House. SB 1190 (Norment) would have added aquaculture to the Commonwealth's Right to Farm Act. While the patron maintained otherwise, the bill was portrayed by opponents as an effort to override the authority of local government over planning and especially that of a single locality

within the patron's district. Concern about the possible unintended consequences caused the House Agriculture Committee to table the bill to allow further study before the 2012 Session.

The failed bill with the most press and the one that generated the most political theater this Session was HB 1721 (R. Marshall). The purpose was to remove the UDA mandate and make it a voluntary option for all localities, but it went further and

*Continued on next page*





## 2011 General Assembly (continued)

allowed citizens to petition to have any existing UDAs removed from local comprehensive plans. This latter provision was later amended to allow petitions to eliminate UDAs to be considered only once every two years. What contributed considerably to the political theater was the involvement of the Tea Party in supporting the bill; the Party's rationale largely being that UDAs are a component of sustainable development, which is part of "Agenda 21" portrayed as a United Nations conspiracy to deprive Americans of their property rights. Recalling that UDAs are a Republican idea championed by the Speaker of the House as a part of HB 3202 (the GOP transportation bill of 2007), it was left to the Democrats to defend the concept as the GOP members looked over their right shoulders in advance of the election cycle this fall. The machinations around this bill would, by themselves, fill an entire column—in the end, the bill died by a single vote in the Senate Local Government Committee on a straight party line vote. But, this very likely is a harbinger of things to come. The one bill that did pass related to UDAs is SB 1339 (Puller), allowing the use of Metropolitan Planning Organization/Council of Governments population projections prepared for federally-mandated regional transportation plans instead of only allowing VEC projections in determining the size of UDAs.

My personal candidate for the worst bill of the Session is HJ 693 which, if adopted in exactly the same form next Session and approved by the voters of the Commonwealth in November 2012, will amend the Virginia Constitution to place substantial burdens and costs on the use of eminent domain by the Commonwealth, localities and public service authorities and corporations. This will drive up the cost of projects by dramatically increasing what constitutes just compensation well beyond the construct in the Fifth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution. This will especially impact VDOT and public utility providers and will allow what amounts to extortion of the taxpayers and utility rate payers by those savvy enough to hold out to be the last or one of the last properties acquired for a public or utility project.

Also during this Session, the General Assembly adopted parts of the Governor's omnibus transportation package. Included is \$3 billion in new debt and creation of the Virginia Transportation Infrastructure Bank, which is capitalized with \$250 million found in the audit of VDOT

undertaken last year but no new General Fund revenues. In addition, the package includes changes that make it much easier for localities to use the VDOT Revenue Sharing Program, a 50-50 matching program for local transportation infrastructure, and creates the Intercity Passenger Rail Fund (although with no funding). This continues the decades-long refusal by the legislature to provide adequate revenues to meet the Commonwealth's transportation needs. Borrowing money only kicks the can down the road, and while it provides a quick influx of capital, it also means that less will be available in future years as both federal and state funding are absorbed by debt service rather than concrete and asphalt. It also counts against the Commonwealth's total indebtedness, potentially making less funding available for higher education, mental health and other capital requirements.

No matter how some may try to disguise it, it is deficit spending—the very thing that supporters of this plan roundly condemn their brethren in Washington for doing.

As for the budget amendments, the Commonwealth adopts two-year budgets (which occurred last Session), so all of the effort this Session surrounded amendments to the previously adopted budget for the current year

and next fiscal year. Planning and community development came out in reasonably good condition: more money was made available to the planning district commissions in the Commonwealth to partially make up for prior year cuts; some of the previous cuts to the Enterprise Zone Program were restored; funding was provided to target regional cooperation in economic development; and funds were included for brownfield restoration and redevelopment in FY12. On the downside, Main Street Program funding was eliminated along with locality assistance associated with Base Realignment and Closure activities.

The Commonwealth's fiscal picture is growing brighter, even if ever so slowly. For the first time in four years, the General Assembly had the opportunity to add spending to the budget; however, there are many in the legislature who want to ensure that, as the Commonwealth comes out of the Great Recession, it does so in a fundamentally different way from the way we went into the economic downturn. This will loom very large over next year's long session when the next biennial budget will be considered. Continued on next page



Photo by Missy Schmidt, Hampton Roads Partnership.

## 2011 General Assembly (continued)

The General Assembly will convene in Special Session on April 4, 2011, when they will take up the redistricting required by the Constitution after every decennial Census. The boundaries of the Commonwealth's 11 seats in the U. S. House of Representatives and all of the districts in both houses of the General Assembly will be modified to assure that every district has approximately the same population as every other district in the same body. Virginia is one of the states that must obtain preclearance for all of our federal, state and local voting plans from the Civil Rights Division of the U. S. Justice Department under the federal Voting Rights Act. Thus, redistricting in the Commonwealth is on a very compressed timeline to ensure that state and local elections this fall can go off on Election Day. The Veto Session will occur on April 6, 2011, to consider amendments recommended by the Governor and any vetoes issued by him. Soon afterward, the Chapter will publish our annual "Key Bills for Planners," which will give a far more detailed look at the bills impacting planning and especially noting those bills that may trigger the need for local ordinance, policy and/or procedural changes.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the fine work provided the Chapter by our legislative consultants, Eldon James and Associates. Eldon and Sue Rowland always go above and beyond for the Chapter and their efforts deserve being noted. Keeping up with the General Assembly is a daunting task; Eldon and Sue, together with our partners at VACO and VML, make it possible.

## The APA-Virginia Annual Conference Returns to Wintergreen This Summer

*By Earl Anderson, AICP  
Vice President of Chapter Affairs*



Still working on your summer schedule? Consider a trip to APA Virginia's Annual Conference at the Wintergreen Resort, July 20 - 22. While this event has been traditionally held in the spring, the APA Virginia Board

has elected to migrate the conference to a summer schedule to avoid creating a conflict for those who want to attend the national APA conference. Additionally, we are pleased to announce the conference registration will remain under \$300, with great rates for lodging from Wintergreen Resort. Don't forget that, because the conference will be in July, you may be able to split your costs over two budget cycles.

This year's annual conference is our opportunity to share successes and lessons learned in a variety of planning specialties, and we are hoping to announce a broad range of interactive and motivational sessions, which are being compiled now. Furthermore, all sessions will be submitted to AICP for certification maintenance credits. So, this could be your opportunity to knock out much of what you need.

- **Opening Day: Wednesday, July 20**

Attend a full day of conference sessions, including sessions on ethics and law. Keep a watchful eye on the website for the announcement of the keynote and any other special speakers or guests. As is our tradition, a Welcome Reception will be held Wednesday evening at the Discover Ridge Adventure Center to allow attendees to reconnect with colleagues and enjoy the beauty of Virginia's mountains.

- **Thursday, July 21**

In addition to a full program, APA Virginia will present the Planning Awards Session. Nominated by their colleagues and evaluated by a jury of their peers, this year's exemplary winners will be honored for their hard work, creativity, and leadership in the field of planning.

- **Enjoy Wintergreen: Friday, July 22**

We will wrap up on Friday with a half-day program that allows everyone to take in the scenery and enjoy a relaxed lunch at one of Wintergreen's several restaurants, before heading out to enjoy some of Wintergreen's finest recreational opportunities.

**More details on the program will be available at [www.apavirginia.org](http://www.apavirginia.org), as they become available.**

## A Few Words About Wintergreen

The peaceful mountain setting at Wintergreen offers a wonderful opportunity for Virginia's planners to focus their minds and unlock their creativity. This year's APA Virginia conference isn't at Wintergreen simply because of meeting rooms, fine food, and beautiful settings. We hope it's also an opportunity to refresh and reinvigorate by taking advantage of the resort's 45 holes of golf, award-  
Continued on next page

## Wintergreen Resort (continued)

winning tennis courts, outdoor recreation opportunities such as hiking, fly fishing, horseback riding, swimming and mountain biking, or the renowned Wintergarden Spa. Treat yourself to magnificent mountain views, sumptuous luxury, and thrilling recreation at Wintergreen Resort. Spanning 11,000 acres on the eastern slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains, lovely accommodations are surrounded by winding trails, cascading streams, and lush forests.

The ultimate four-season vacation or conference spot, Wintergreen Resort is peaceful and refreshing, with an endless variety of activities.

For those seeking a memorable family vacation, Wintergreen offers special packages, children's programs at The Treehouse, and a host of special events and activities to keep everyone entertained.

For more than 30 years, Wintergreen has served as the preferred location for corporate planners, government leaders, association policy makers and family gatherings, and finally, the APA Virginia annual meeting.



Conference room photo on page 6 and resort entrance sign on this page courtesy of Wintergreen Resort.



## AICP Update

*By Glenn Larson, AICP, Virginia Chapter Professional Development Officer*

Congratulations to the following 24 Virginia Chapter members who passed the AICP exam administered this past November. I think this is a record for the number of Chapter members passing the exam during one testing period. The pass rate for Virginia Chapter members taking the exam in November was 75 percent, compared to 63 percent nationally.

<b>Jeffery Butts</b>	Norfolk	<b>Matthew Ladd</b>	Fairfax
<b>Claire Cary</b>	Alexandria	<b>Marc Lewis-Degrace</b>	Leesburg
<b>Andrew D'Huyvetter</b>	Arlington	<b>Maritza Mercado</b>	Alexandria
<b>Mary Ashburn Darby</b>	Richmond	<b>Elaine O'Flaherty Cox</b>	Oakton
<b>Andrea Dorlester</b>	Annandale	<b>Meredith Pavlick Warren</b>	Blacksburg
<b>Matthew Ebinger</b>	New Kent	<b>Benito Perez</b>	Chesapeake
<b>Melanie Fosnaught</b>	Alexandria	<b>Kimberly Rybold</b>	Fairfax
<b>David Freeman</b>	Norfolk	<b>Michael Spaeth</b>	Fairfax
<b>Cassie Gorman</b>	Alexandria	<b>Sandra Stallman</b>	Fairfax
<b>Tevya Griffin</b>	Richmond	<b>Erin Strulson</b>	Richmond
<b>Philip Kempf</b>	Richmond	<b>Melissa Thackston</b>	Charlottesville
<b>Abdelkader Labidi</b>	Norfolk	<b>Linda Woods</b>	Norfolk

AICP members - don't let the December 31st end of the 2010-11 Certification Maintenance (CM) Program reporting period catch you by surprise. See what the Virginia Chapter has listed regarding new free or low cost CM credit opportunities. Check out the regularly updated AICP page at the APA Virginia Chapter website:

<http://apavirginia.org/member-resources/aicp>.

If you have questions about AICP, or want to be added to the Virginia Chapter's semi-monthly AICP exam or Certification Maintenance update e-mail lists, please contact me at (804) 748-1970 or [aicp@apavirginia.org](mailto:aicp@apavirginia.org).

*Congratulations!* ✨



# eConference: Planning Healthy and Child-Friendly Communities

[www.livablecities.org/conferences/econference](http://www.livablecities.org/conferences/econference)

This eConference brings together outstanding leaders, expert professionals and scholars renowned for their breadth of vision and depth of experience. Audio presentations, transcripts of keynote speeches, slides and papers presented at the 48th International Making Cities Livable Conference are now available online. This is an invaluable resource for your city, firm or university – insightful strategies, knowledge and tools to guide healthy and child-friendly planning policies.

Register for the eConference and listen to, review or download all the presentations. To register, please create a user account at [www.livablecities.org/user/register](http://www.livablecities.org/user/register). You will be emailed a temporary password that you will need to change the first time you login. Then, visit the eConference page in the Conferences menu and register for the Conference.

**Registration is \$495. Access is available until May 31.**  
**For more info contact: [Suzanne.Lennard@LivableCities.org](mailto:Suzanne.Lennard@LivableCities.org)**

## PRESENTATIONS INCLUDE

### Health and the Built Environment

Health Effects of the Built Environment. Planning Healthy & Child-Friendly Communities in Germany. Using Health Impact Assessment to Promote Healthy Community Design. Do Fast Food Restaurants Cluster Around High Schools? Greenspace & Health: the Evidence. Innovative Ways that Local Government can be a Catalyst for Building Health into Community Design. Neighborhood Influences on the Physical Activity of Low-income, African American Children: A Qualitative Perspective. Systems, Policies and Environments for Childhood Obesity Prevention. Urban Landscape Pattern & Childhood Obesity.

### Healthy Transportation Planning & Livable Streets

Planning for Bicycles in Germany. Planning for Bicycles & Pedestrians in Columbia, MO. Child- & Youth-Friendly Land Use & Transport Planning Guideline. Bicyclists & Public Transit in Downtown Salt Lake City. Child Streets. Designing an Urban Schoolyard/Public Park. Kid-Friendly TODs. Portland's Livability Investments: Improving a City that Works for Children. Public Health, Land Use & Transit Planning. Safe Routes to School. School Location & Student Travel: Analysis of Factors Affecting Mode Choice in Three Metropolitan Areas. Sculpting Public Place from Car Space. The Downtown Raleigh Renaissance – Creating Livable Streets.

### Children and the Urban Environment

City of Discovery. Contribution of Open Spaces to Quality of Life & Urban Sustainability. Designing the City for Play: Safe, Everyday Places for Children. From the Social Game into the Big World. Noisette: Crafting a Walkable New American City. Place Making – “My Mum said I have to run around and stuff...” An Inquiry to Child-Friendly Neighborhoods. What do Children Need from Community? Social Life, Health & the Built Environment. Yes, in My Neighborhood.

### Children & Nature

Why Children Need Nature. Designing for Play in Nature. A Playground's Not Enough: Playscapes as an Emerging Paradigm in Park Planning. A Grassroots Effort to Renew the Schoolyard: The Learning Garden. Asheville's K-12 School Green Retrofit Initiative. Natural Play & Narrative. Nature Experience in Pre-School Outdoor Play Areas. We Grew It! Enrichment through Sustainable Gardening in Elementary School.

### Children & Youth Participate in Planning

Engaging San Diego Youth to Assess Neighborhoods & Advocate for Policy/Environmental Change. Youth Leaders for Walkable Communities. Reimagining Urban Form & Educational Reform. Investing in Youth Health through the Built Environment. Youth Independent Mobility & Access to Public Space.

### Planning & Urban Design Challenges

Drivability, Walkability and Public Space: Making Dubai More Livable. Form-Based Codes for Old Urbanism. Green Building, Green Neighbourhoods: A Subtropical Urban Design Handbook for Planners. Re-envisioning the Office Park: Transition from Suburban Development to a Multi-Use Neighborhood. The Slum: Coming to a Suburb Near You? Transforming Auto-centric Communities into Walkable Neighborhoods.

**And many more...**

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- **Randall Arendt**, FRTPI, Landscape/Conservation Planner, Narragansett, RI
- **Perry Bigelow**, Founder, President, The Bigelow Group Inc., Aurora, IL
- **Robert Cervero**, Professor, City & Regional Planning, Univ. of CA, Berkeley, CA
- **Andrew L. Dannenberg**, MD, MPH, Assoc. Dir. Nat. Center Env. Health, CDC, Atlanta, GA
- **Reid Ewing**, Ph.D., Professor, City & Metro Planning, Univ. of Utah
- **Lawrence Frank**, Ph.D., CIP, ASLA, Bombadier Chair in Sust. Transportation, Univ. of British Columbia
- **Richard Gilbert**, Consultant on Urban Issues, Toronto, Canada
- **Darwin Hindman**, Former Mayor, City of Columbia, MO
- **Richard J. Jackson**, MD MPH, Professor, Chair, Dept. of Env. Health Sciences, UCLA
- **Cliff Johnson**, Exec. Director, NLC Institute for Youth, Education & Families
- **Stephen R. Kellert**, Ph.D., Tweedy/Ordway Professor of Soc. Ecol., Co-Dir, Hixon Ctr. for Urban Ecol., Yale Sch. of Forestry & Env Studies
- **John L. Knott, Jr.**, Co-founder, President, The Noisette Company, N. Charleston, SC
- **Lamine Mahdjoubi**, Ph.D., Faculty Built Env., Univ. of the West of England, Bristol, UK
- **Robin C. Moore**, Director, Natl. Learning Inst., Prof. of Land Arch, NC State Univ, Raleigh, NC
- **Joseph P. Riley, Jr.**, Mayor, City of Charleston, SC
- **Charles Royer**, Former Mayor of Seattle, President, Inst. for Community Change, Seattle, WA
- **Ian Thomas**, Exec. Director, PedNet Coalition
- **Sven von Ungern-Sternberg**, Former Governor of South Baden, Germany

**PLUS 70 ADDITIONAL PRESENTERS!**



## ECDC Selects New Chair

*By Joseph Curtis, AICP*

After a lengthy search process, the Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee is pleased to announce that Nicole Thompson, Director of Economic Development for King George County, has agreed to serve as Interim Chair. Nicole, who has also been with ECDC since its inception, has extensive economic development experience, having worked in the Cities of Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Fairfax in the Commonwealth. Nicole is excited about the opportunity to run the ECDC and is looking forward to bringing new and exciting events to APA Virginia members. Please look for more announcements about future ECDC events and the ECDC Diversity Summit at the 2011 state conference in Wintergreen this summer.

The ECDC would like to thank B. Leon Hughes for his service as a Co-Chair for the Committee. Serving alongside Joseph Curtis, Leon has been a member of the ECDC since its inception. Leon remains active in the committee, but feels it is time to for new leadership.

"I want to express thanks to the ECDC members for their efforts and continued commitment to championing diversity in the planning profession," said Hughes. He also wanted to thank the members of the APA Virginia Board of Directors for the support they have provided the ECDC. "The accomplishments of the ECDC are not possible without a vision and willingness of the Board to embrace the efforts of the ECDC," he added.

## Section Updates

### *Northern Virginia Section*

The Northern Virginia Section is attempting to reach more people by updating its membership records. A uniform email address is used to disseminate information to section members and an updated list of contact information for those interested in participating is the Section's next goal. All those interested in receiving information regarding Northern Virginia Section activities are asked to contact Hillary Zahm at [vapanova@gmail.com](mailto:vapanova@gmail.com).



Above: Hilton Village

### *Hampton Roads Section*

*By Joseph Curtis, AICP*

The next Hampton Roads Section meeting will be hosted by the City of Virginia Beach. The staff of the City's Strategic Growth Area Office led by Barry Frankenfield will present the progress of SGAs as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan. Located in the Virginia Beach Town Center, the SGA Office supports the Economic Development and Planning departments in the creation of areas with compact mixed land uses conducive to alternative transportation systems. More information may be found on the City's website, and it would certainly be worthwhile to attend the Section Meeting tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2011. An application for 1.5-2 CM credits is pending.

Also in the works is a presentation and site visit to the Historic Hilton Village in Newport News. Don't miss an opportunity to learn more about the area chosen by APA as one of 2009's Great Places in America. That year, Hilton Village was among ten places honored as the nation's best neighborhoods, one of the three major categories for recognition under the Great Places program. Please monitor the Listserv and the Hampton Roads Section on the APA website for dates and times.

## Get Involved!

If you'd like to participate in your local section's activities and outings, please visit the APA-Virginia Sections web page at <http://apavirginia.org/member-resources/sections>.

There you will find a helpful map and list of the sections so you can find the one closest to you. If you already know your section and want to receive notices for activities planned in your area, please make sure to provide current contact information to your section director. Section activities are a fun and easy way to meet other planners and often earn CM credits while you do it. *Come join us!*

## Members on the Move and Other News

Roanoke County Planner and Greenways Coordinator **Janet Scheid** retired in December 2010 after 22 years.

Scheid came to the Roanoke Valley in 1989, moving from the Research Triangle Park area of North Carolina where she had been working almost a decade for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Scheid joined the county's planning department as a junior planner and worked her way up to chief planner before moving into the greenways coordinator job in 2008. She also has been active with the Western Virginia Land Trust since its inception in 1996 and is its president.

In January 2011, **Gregg Zody** took the helm as Orange County's planning director. Zody earned degrees in planning from both Virginia Commonwealth University and Virginia Tech. He last served as planning director for Monroe County, Indiana, home of Bloomington and Indiana University. Prior to that, he worked for the New River Valley Planning District Commission from 1996 to 1999.

A new year brought a new job for **Tim Wilson**. Wilson has been hired as Bedford County's new director of community planning and development. He was the former planning director for Nags Head, North Carolina, and previously served as planning and community development director for Middlesex County, Virginia. Another Virginia PDC alum, Wilson also worked for the Southside PDC prior to that.

**Lauren Murphy**, the Town of Purcellville's senior planner and interim head of the Planning and Zoning Department, has left the town to take a planning position in the Community Information and Outreach Division of Loudon County's Department of Planning. She assumed her new position in February 2011.

After more than 24 years as executive director of the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission (MPPDC), **Dan Kavanagh** retired on March 1, 2011.

During Kavanagh's tenure at MPPDC, regional initiatives were implemented to address a number of issues. The MPPDC helped introduce GIS mapping technology to the region, acquired grants, assisted with implementation of the Chesapeake Bay Act, and provided technical assistance to its nine member communities. Most noteworthy of the regional solutions implemented under Kavanagh were the formation of the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority, which works to enhance access to region's waterways, and the creation of the Middle Peninsula Regional Airport in King and Queen County, which has improved air access to the area.

Under Kavanagh, the MPPDC also helped bring the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) to the Middle Peninsula and fostered the Virginia Peninsulas Public Service Authority (VPPSA) as a regional solution to trash disposal.

**Lewis Lawrence**, Director of Regional Planning, is now serving as interim executive director of MPPDC.

The town of Front Royal will soon be looking for a new director of planning and zoning. **Bruce N. Drummond** will retire from the position effective June 1, 2011. Drummond was first hired by the town as a planner and zoning official in 2006, and was then promoted to senior planner in 2008 before being named director of planning and zoning in 2009.

**Elizabeth R. Friel**, AICP, has been named Assistant Executive Director of the Williamsburg Land Conservancy. In addition, Liz continues to teach college courses and serve as Vice President for External Affairs for APA Virginia.



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## *A Letter from the Treasurer*

Dear APA Virginia Members:

In July 2008, the Board of Directors adopted a new 5-year Chapter Development Plan containing the following Strategic Objectives:

- Help Planners Plan
- Help Virginia Plan
- Make Planning and Planners Matter
- Meet Membership Needs
- Get Members Involved and Support APA

Ever since, each board has prepared a two-year work plan and adopted budgets it felt were necessary and reasonable to help the Chapter accomplish these objectives during its term, with the assistance of other volunteer leaders, our paid contractors and our Chapter Administrator. As a result of this commitment, which builds on years of prior planning and accomplishments, our Chapter is vibrant and award-winning!

The Chapter's FY11 Budget is \$129,150. The following is an overview so you can see where our Chapter revenue comes from and how it is being allocated to implement the Chapter Development Plan. The budget is posted on our website. If you have any comment or suggestions about the APA Virginia budget, please contact me at [treasurer@apavirginia.org](mailto:treasurer@apavirginia.org).

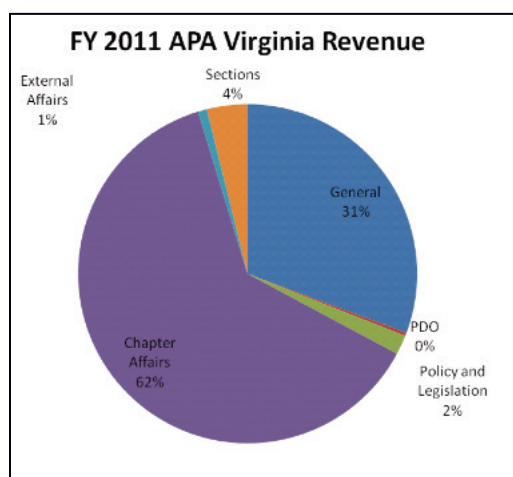


Joseph Curtis, AICP  
Treasurer



## Virginia Chapter Budget, FY 2011

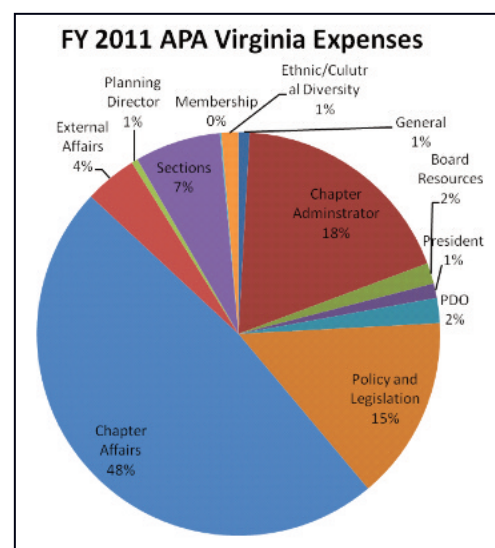
Chapter revenue is identified as general income and by area of board member responsibility. General income comes from APA Chapter dues (\$45) and Chapter-Only dues (\$50), comprising only 31% of our anticipated revenue. General revenue has been decreasing since 2008, due to both membership processing fees APA began charging to the chapters and a slight decline in membership as employers have pulled back on renewing APA membership dues, either cutting it altogether or by restricting payment to AICP members only. The majority of our anticipated revenue comes from the chapter conference (Chapter Affairs). Other anticipated revenue will come from regional symposia registration fees and sponsorships (Sections), job postings and advertising on our website and in Newsbrief (External Affairs), sale of AICP Exam Study Guides (PDO: Professional Development Officer), and grants and sponsorships in support of our Legislative & Policy Program (Policy & Legislation).



On the expense side of the budget, the largest portion of anticipated expenses is allocated to the annual conference at 48% (Chapter Affairs). This includes costs associated with presenting the Chapter Awards Program and the Diversity Forum during the conference. As a volunteer-led organization, we couldn't survive without a part-time paid chapter administrator to help us with our day-to-day administrative operations and provide board and event planning support, among many other things. These contracted services comprise 18% of the budget, and credit card processing fees are also allocated to this budget area. Fifteen percent of our Chapter expenses are now allocated to supporting a very robust Policy and Legislative Program, providing us with more capacity to engage at the state and federal levels, the latter in support of APA's Legislative and Policy Agenda. Support for our section activities and regional symposia comprises 7% of our expenditures. Other budgeted expenses include

website hosting and maintenance fees and Newsbrief production (4%); annual CM registration fee to enable the Chapter to offer CM credit for professional development events, AICP exam study guide purchase, and other PDO training and activities (2%); board support and resources (2%); Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee (1%); president's travel to national leadership meetings and discretionary expenses (1%); Planning Directors Section workshops for planning students (1%); and general expenses for savings and insurance (1%).

Because our revenues have been declining, we are doing whatever we can to tighten our belts and reduce operating expenses, yet maintain and build reserves in case the rough seas become even rougher. But rest assured—we remain committed to furthering our Strategic Objectives and providing you with the resources you need to help you succeed as a Virginia planner by offering innovative and relevant section meetings, the annual conference, a continued presence in Richmond and Washington on legislative and policy affairs, discussion forums via the listserv, timely and relevant material on the chapter website and in our quarterly newsletter, Newsbrief, and through our newest venture, regional symposia. Don't forget we also have a APA CM Webinar CD loan program as well. These resources will help keep you informed, and, in most cases, will also give you low- or no-cost opportunities for Certification Maintenance credits. Of course, we don't want to lose you as an APA member, but if you or your employer can no longer afford it, Chapter-Only membership is available for \$50.



## Board Has Quick Start to 2011

*By Ben Wales, AICP  
Secretary*

Your APA Virginia Board of Directors has had a busy start to 2011. Here are some highlights from their Quarterly Meeting in March...



- Following the hugely successful Regional Symposium 2010 in Luray, the Vice President of Sections will be issuing a call for symposium proposals for 2011/12 from potential host sections.
- The 2011 Annual Conference will be held at Wintergreen Resort, July 20-22, and preparations are underway to make this a dynamic professional development and networking event that is also family-friendly given the time of year. The Board is hopeful that our student and academic membership will be well represented and a university reception is being planned for students and alumni. The Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee will also host another Diversity Forum with a keynote speaker.
- Numerous nominations have been received for Chapter's annual awards program. These nominations are being considered by the Chapter's Awards Jury. Award winners will be notified during the first week of May and will receive their awards during the awards luncheon at the Annual Conference.
- A discounted speaker registration fee policy for all APA Virginia events was adopted.
- After careful consideration, the Board decided that all future annual conferences will be held in the summer during the third week of July. Historically, the annual conference has typically been held in the spring. A summer conference date will avoid competition with the APA National Conference and the busy fall conference season and should afford greater opportunity for local government planners to attend at the outset of a new fiscal year.
- Based on the recommendations of a committee appointed in December by the Chapter President and chaired by the AICP Professional Development Officer, an updated Chapter FAICP Nomination Policy and Process was adopted. It sets forth the Chapter's policy on serving as official nominator for selected Chapter member FAICP applicants. The Board wanted to have an updated policy in place for the upcoming 2012 AICP College of Fellows nomination cycle. A new FAICP Advisory Committee, to be comprised in part by Chapter FAICP members, will be appointed this spring to conduct a call for potential nominees and make recommendations to the Board for nomination endorsement.
- Look out for upcoming Section events on the Chapter website's 'Events' page. The Events page is constantly being updated. Attendance at these events is a great way to meet and network with local planners and obtain CM credits.
- Up to the minute Virginia APA news is available on our Twitter feed (APA\_Virginia). Recent photos of Chapter events and photos from our Chapter's planners can be viewed on our Flickr page ([www.flickr.com/groups/apavirginia](http://www.flickr.com/groups/apavirginia)).
- If you're interested in seeing what other matters the Board is discussing, please visit the 'Leadership/Board' page of the Virginia APA website, which provides a link to Board meeting agendas and minutes. Contact me at [secretary@apavirginia.org](mailto:secretary@apavirginia.org) with any questions.



## SAVE THE DATE!

APA Virginia's  
Annual Conference  
July 20-22  
2011

Wintergreen Resort  
[www.wintergreenresort.com](http://www.wintergreenresort.com)

See page 6 of this issue for more information.

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## ADVANCED SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION (ASC) PROGRAM

Just as physicians need to demonstrate their expertise and knowledge within specialized fields of medicine, so too do planners in specialized fields of planning. This is what the ASC program does – provides the opportunity for AICP-certified planners to demonstrate expertise and leadership in their specialization, while grounded in the profession's comprehensive perspective and point of view. The following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) provide an overview of the ASC program.

**Find more information at [www.planning.org/asc](http://www.planning.org/asc).**



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**2011 NEWSBRIEF SCHEDULE**

Issue	Deadline for Articles to Editor	Distribution to Members
Summer	June 3	July 11
Fall	Sept 2	Oct 10