

# NEWSBRIEF



American Planning Association  
Virginia Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Virginia Chapter of the  
American Planning Association

FALL 2008



## TOOLS AND BEST PRACTICES: SMARTCODE WORKSHOP ANNOUNCED

**By Hazel Borys, Managing  
Principal PlaceMakers, LLC**

*Editor's Note: Last winter we ran an article by LSL Planning, Inc on form based codes and the opportunities such codes have for designing new communities. This month we look specifically at one such option, the SmartCode. The SmartCode was released by Duany Plater-Zyberk And Company (DPZ) in 2003, after two decades of research and implementation. The code is open source and free of charge at [www.smartcodecentral.com](http://www.smartcodecentral.com).*

Growing concerns about climate change and rising energy costs are adding a sense of urgency to community planning that moves away from auto-centric sprawl and towards compact, walkable,

mixed-use neighborhoods. Old-style, use-based regulatory approaches are barriers to making that transition. The form-based SmartCode provides a template for sustainability, in addition to encouraging new development that fits with a community's character and that expands options for businesses and residents.

In November, a SmartCode Workshop will be held in Charleston, SC (Nov. 20-22, 2008) featuring a public lecture by Andres Duany. Duany will kick-off the workshop with an evening lecture on the Theory of the Transect. Sessions will include ones on Smart Code Basics and Getting It Done in Your Community. The workshop is proposed to dig deeply into

lessons learned and best practices for implementation. (For registration information go to [www.smartcodecomplete.com](http://www.smartcodecomplete.com)) CM credit is available.

### What is the SmartCode?

The SmartCode is a model form-based unified land development ordinance designed to create walkable neighborhoods with the full range of the rural-urban transect. The SmartCode was originally developed by Duany, Plater-Zyberk and Co. and includes the following elements:

**Model Code** – The SmartCode is a model code, with metrics designed to create a generic

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## YOUTH PLANNERS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN HAMPTON

**By Joseph Curtis, AICP  
APA Virginia, ECDC Co-Chair**

The Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee sponsored a Diversity Breakfast in Hampton in August focusing on age diversity and profiling the Youth Planners Program in the City of Hampton. The Youth Planner position was created in 1997 and it is a paid position with the City of Hampton's Planning Department. The City of Hampton has a long history with initiatives on the behalf of youth; however the Planning Commission realized that it was making decisions that affected the youth of the City with no youth input. Thus, the Youth Planner position was born.

The first real success of the Youth Planners was the proposed playground at Aberdeen Elementary. The City budgeted a large sum of money for a

modern playground with swing sets and other elements. However, a focus group with elementary school student determined that what the children really wanted...was a huge pile of dirt. The elementary school scrapped its original plans and built...a pile of dirt. The students were happy and the City saved thousands. Another success story that is credited to the Youth Planners is the changing of bicycle laws. The Youth Planners were credited in part for allowing bicycles on sidewalks as opposed to streets.

At the breakfast, youth planners, Anna Hogg, Danielle Phillips, and Michael Bock discussed several of their initiatives. Among them, their crown jewel, the \$2.8 million Teen Center. The facility that has been on the books for 15 years and the youth planners are committed to seeing it

through to completion. "We want to make sure it's a success," says Anna Hogg, a Hampton High senior. "So we're taking the marketing effort."

Other Youth Planner responsibilities include reporting to the Planning Commission and interacting with other City Departments. The

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - JERYL ROSE PHILLIPS, AICP

Greetings APA Virginia...

As I write this it's October and we are celebrating National Community Planning Month and Community Planning Month in Virginia! According to this morning's paper, I am apparently about to experience in a few days a moment only such a celebration could bring— along with the Planning Commission Chair and the Planning Director, it will be my honor as your President to receive my City's Proclamation of Community Planning Month in a City Council Chamber expected to be filled with 100+ guns rights activists toting unconcealed weapons and who are pretty mad at my employer. Despite our successful efforts to get the Governor's and Mayor's attention for this celebration, I'm not sure whether I should be happy or crying. I just hope they calm down by the public hearing for our 2030 Comprehensive Plan in two years.

It is my pleasure to be serving you until June 2010, side by side with such an experienced, energetic, and fun Board of Directors and other Chapter leaders. Following a transition meeting in June, outgoing Board members left mighty big shoes to fill. But, we all got right to work in our new or continuing positions, thinking about what we wanted to accomplish over the next two years and planning the next Annual Meeting in March 2009 in Williamsburg, for which I'm pleased to report at press time we have received over 45 session proposals. During a two-day retreat in September, we conducted a SWOT analysis of leadership efforts, and Chapter accomplishments and opportunities, as a way to refocus on and update the Chapter's Mission Statement and Strategic Plan through

2010. Heavy on our minds were how to best respond to new mandates from APA and how to help our AICP members with Certification Maintenance (CM), through December 2009 and beyond. To implement the Strategic Plan, a two-year work plan and budget were drafted.

A member of APA's Young Planners Group (YPG) Task Force also joined us for a discussion about what APA and Chapters can do to better engage this demographic of our membership (defined as just out of school or a few years out but not yet in managerial positions) and to keep them; likewise, and perhaps more importantly, what they can do for APA and Chapters. It was a rude awakening to realize I can no longer officially consider myself "young"!

Key decisions made at the retreat include: a commitment to keep the 2009 Annual Meeting registration cost as low as possible to improve accessibility in a fiscal year of unprecedented economic upheaval and likely drastic travel and training budget cuts, yet still provide a quality program and networking opportunity with our partners at the Virginia Association of Zoning Officials (VAZO); redrawing the Chapter's Section boundaries to bring Section activities and CM credit opportunities closer to home; renewing the contracts with our Chapter Administrator and Legislative Consultant for services well rendered; raising the bar for the Chapter's Website and *Newsbrief* as the main information media for our members; really thinking outside of the box on how to improve our member services to meaningfully connect with and involve our students, university faculty, young

planners, Planning Directors Committee, and FAICPs in helping us realize the objectives set forth in the draft Strategic Plan; and looking for opportunities to better reflect APA's Development Plan in our Chapter's Strategic Plan and work plans. We remain committed to leadership in ethnic and cultural diversity and making great communities happen through professional development and planning advocacy. Upon approval, the 2008-2010 Strategic Plan and Budget will be posted to the Website and included in the next issue of *Newsbrief*, in an effort to be more transparent in our work and accountable to our members.

We are over 1,500 members strong and we are making a difference in the communities and Commonwealth in which we work. Celebrate planning accomplishments and share your passion with your children or the young people you meet. Who knows, you might just open their eyes to see the world around them in a new way and, one day, they too may want to be a part of Making Great Communities Happen.

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**APA OCT**

2008

**National  
Community  
Planning  
Month**

National Community  
Planning Month  
October 2008  
Green Communities  
[www.planning.org/ncpm](http://www.planning.org/ncpm)

## YOUTH PLANNERS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN HAMPTON (CONTINUED)

innovation of having younger citizens on the planning staff has taken the Youth Planners across the country. Current and past Youth Planners been able to travel to many cities (including New Orleans, Washington, and Little Rock) to talk about the program.

The Youth Planners gave an excellent presentation and brought up the fact that youth planning is catching interest across the county. Unfortunately, poor advertising by the ECDC prevented high attendance at the event. However, ECDC is working with Hampton Youth Planners for another

presentation in November as part of a Hampton Roads Section Meeting. Watch the APA Virginia listserv for more details or contact Joseph Curtis or Leon Hughes at [ecdc@vapanning.org](mailto:ecdc@vapanning.org).

### Hampton planners enjoy breakfast hosted by the APA Virginia Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee



*(From left, Donald Whipple, Chris Dyser, Michael Bock (youth planner), Mike Hayes and Danielle Phillips (youth planner)*



*(From left Michael Bock (youth planner), Mike Hayes, Danielle Phillips (youth planner) and Anna Hogg (youth planner)*

## AICP UPDATE

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

Congratulations to the Fourteen Virginia Chapter members who passed the AICP exam administered this past May.

David Beniamino  
Christina Gilkeson  
Marian Harders  
Jennifer Harris  
Michael Hayes  
Rebecca Jablon  
Maribeth Mills  
Julie Morris  
Paul Nabti  
Andrew Pickard  
James Randolph  
Makayah Royal  
Tianyao Sun  
Ben Wales

Middleburg  
Roanoke  
Falls Church

Hampton  
Alexandria  
Roanoke  
Vienna  
Fairfax  
Chesapeake  
Courtland  
Herndon  
Arlington  
Reston

### Interested in CM Opportunities In Virginia?

You can search by state at APA's Certification Maintenance Program website:  
<http://www.planning.org/cm/foraicpmembers.htm>. Click on "Find Upcoming CM Event" and then log-in with your APA password. Click on the "Search" button at the top of the page, then click on Virginia in the map box. Please note that the APA Audio/Web Conference sessions are not listed, as they are available nationally.

For more information about AICP, the exam and Certification Maintenance, see <http://www.vapanning.org/m/aicp.cfm>. 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@vapanning.org](mailto:aicp@vapanning.org).



## HAMPTON ROADS SECTION NEWS

**By Joseph Curtis, AICP  
APA Virginia Treasurer**

The Hampton Roads Section was honored to have Brandon Currence speak at our Design Trends Lecture Series over the summer. The session was held at the Hampton Veterans Conference Room at the Ruppert Sargent City Administration Building in Hampton and attracted members from around the State. Currence gave a stunning presentation, based on his forthcoming book, *Bypassing America* about the growth and the decline of downtown America during the 1940s and 1950s. Currence is known locally for work

on new-urbanist developments such as Port Warwick, Huntington Pointe, and St. Luke's Village in Hampton Roads. As always, this session was eligible for CM credit. Don't miss the next opportunity!

The Section Directors apologize for the postponing of the September Hampton Roads section meeting. We hope to have Sandra Benson (Northampton County) and Jim McGowan (Accomack County) speak to the Hampton Roads section in the near future.

APA Virginia is working with the Hampton Roads Planning District

Commission in making the 2008-09 APA Audio/Web Conference sessions available to all interested planners. The HRPDC will hold these sessions at their offices in Chesapeake. For more information, contact Amy Jordan, Section Director, or Joseph Curtis at [tidewaterdirector@vapanning.org](mailto:tidewaterdirector@vapanning.org). And if you have comments or suggestions, or would like to help us in our efforts, please contact us at [tidewaterdirector@vapanning.org](mailto:tidewaterdirector@vapanning.org).

## VIRGINIA AND THE NATION CELEBRATE NATIONAL COMMUNITY PLANNING MONTH IN OCTOBER

**By Jeryl R. Phillips, AICP  
APA Virginia, President**

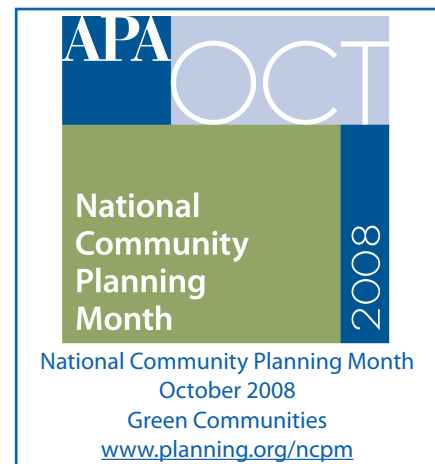
Each year APA, its members, Chapters, Divisions, and professional institute, AICP, sponsor National Community Planning Month (NCPM) to raise the visibility of the important role of planners and planning in communities across the U.S. Planners address both the existing and future needs of a community. This year's theme, **Green Communities**, recognizes the role planners have in helping ensure our communities are environmentally-friendly and sustainable. From alternative energy sources to reducing automobile dependence, planners can have key role in changing how our communities work, function, and impact the earth.

APA Virginia has also been promoting NCPM here at home. Using the NCPM Model Proclamation, we asked Governor Timothy Kaine to issue a proclamation declaring October as Community Planning Month in Virginia - and, he did! We also encouraged members to ask their local governing body to issue a proclamation or plan a special event using this year's theme or nominate a neighborhood, street or public space to APA's Great Places in

America Program. Several Chapter members also volunteered to ask their local to air PSAs created by APA.

At press time, we were aware of the following celebrations. Gloucester County sponsored a photo contest and created library displays. Citizens were asked to submit photos of what they love most about the County and what should be preserved for the future. Winning photographs will be displayed on the cover of the County's quarterly publication, and top entries will also be displayed in the County's libraries. Planning displays were placed in libraries, including books for children and adults as well as the County's current comprehensive plan and adopted amendments. New Kent County and the City of Norfolk issued proclamations. UVA's Department of Urban and Environmental Planning in the School of Architecture sponsored a special lecture in honor of the month's celebration.

If you were successful in getting a proclamation issued or if your community hosted a special event, we'd like to hear about it and post it on our Website. Send details and photos to [pr@planning.org](mailto:pr@planning.org).



## TOOLS AND BEST PRACTICES: SMARTCODE WORKSHOP ANNOUNCED (CONTINUED)

medium-sized American city structured into walkable neighborhoods. It is meant to be locally customized by professional planners, architects and attorneys.

**Form-Based** – The SmartCode is a form-based code. Conventional Euclidean zoning regulates land development with the most emphasis on controlling land use. Form-based zoning has been developed over the last twenty years to overcome the problems of sprawl created by use-based codes.

### Unified Land Development

**Regulation** – The SmartCode is a unified land development code that can include zoning, subdivision regulations, urban design, signage, landscaping, and basic architectural standards.

**Walkable Neighborhoods** – One of the basic principals in the SmartCode is that towns and cities should be structured as a series of walkable neighborhoods. Walkable neighborhoods require a mix of land uses (residential, office, and retail), public spaces with a sense of enclosure to create “outdoor rooms”, and pedestrian-oriented transportation design.

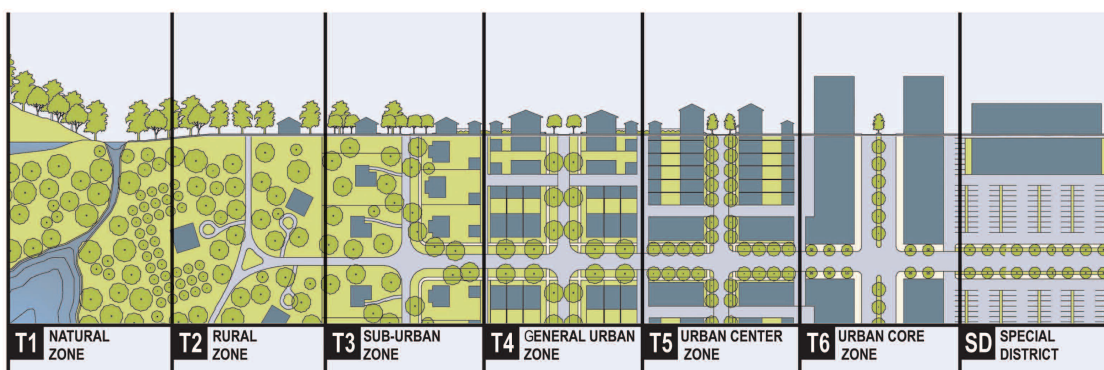
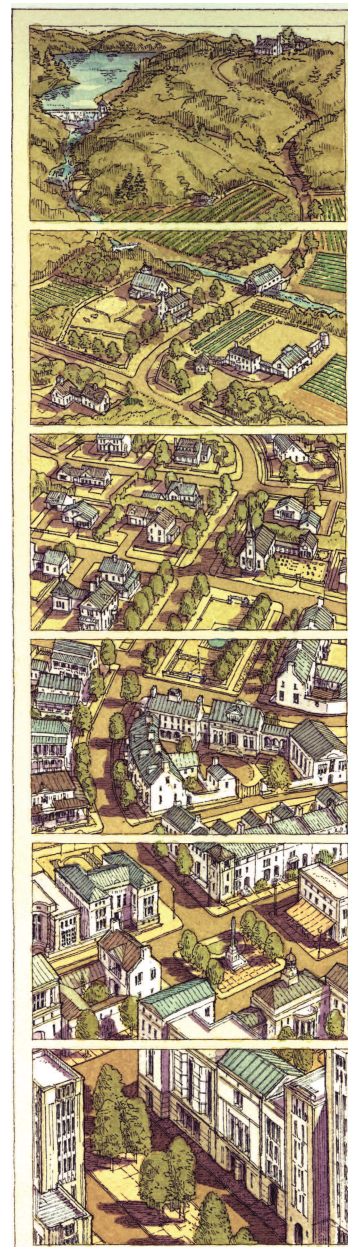
**Rural-Urban Transect** – The zones within the SmartCode are designed

to create complete human habitats ranging from the very rural to the very urban. Where conventional zoning categories are based on different land uses, SmartCode zoning categories are based on their rural-urban character. All categories

within the SmartCode allow some mix of uses. SmartCode zoning categories ensure that a community offers a full diversity of building types, thoroughfare types, and civic space types, and that each has appropriate characteristics for its location.

*Hazel Borys is a managing principal with PlaceMakers, LLC, an international traditional town planning and development advisory firm. A collection of seven partners, PlaceMakers has built their company around a shared affinity for the urban design principles that have stood the test of time – and the beautifully diverse places they’ve fostered. PlaceMakers offers traditional town planning, coding and architectural pattern books; and often focuses on the challenges of implementation and the associated marketing strategies that have proven most effective.*

*(Continued on page 6)*



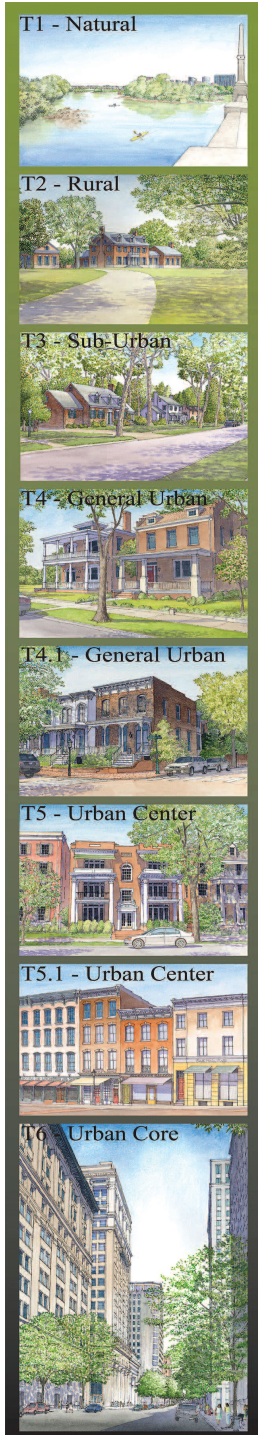
All Pictures Credit: Urban-Rural Transect, Duany Plater-Zyberk and Co. (DPZ)



## TOOLS AND BEST PRACTICES: SMARTCODE WORKSHOP ANNOUNCED (CONTINUED)

The following is a list of SmartCode implementation options adapted from the SmartCode Client Manual, prepared by Hurley-Franks & Associates (September 2007). NEWSBRIEF is interested in which of these options Virginia communities are using to adopt various form based code and TND initiatives. Email the editor at [NewsbriefEditor@vapanning.org](mailto:NewsbriefEditor@vapanning.org) and we will publish the results in the next issue of Newsbrief.

	Description	Pros/Cons
Mandatory/Exclusive (mapped at time of adoption)	The SmartCode is the exclusive and mandatory land development code in all or part of the locality.	<p><b>Pros</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires TND development, prevents unwanted development patterns, only 1 system of standards to maintain.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cons</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can generate heavy political opposition; pressure to water down the code; Staff/Officials must learn new system.</li> </ul>
Parallel (mapped at time of adoption)	The previously existing Euclidean zoning code and the SmartCode are both mapped and available.	<p><b>Pros</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides alternative development options/flexibility, less political pressure, incremental approach to adoption, more time to learn new code.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cons</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optional code means it may never be used; does not require TND development; Staff/Officials must be familiar with two different kinds of standards.</li> </ul>
Floating Zone (not mapped at time of adoption)	The SmartCode is adopted, but no regulating plans are mapped. To use a SmartCode the land must be rezoned and a regulating plan adopted with the rezoning.	<p><b>Pros</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not require mapping sectors and transects at the time of adoption; provides an option for developers wanting to create a TND, less political pressure; incremental approach to adoption.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cons</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optional code means it may never be used; does not require TND development; Staff/Officials must be familiar with two different standards of development.</li> </ul>
Use Added to Existing Zone (change to code only, no change to zoning code)	The SmartCode provisions are added as a by-right or conditional use within existing zone(s).	<p><b>Pros</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides an option for developers who want to create TND, less political pressure; incremental approach to adoption.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cons</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optional code means it may never be used; does not require TND development; Staff/Officials must be familiar with different standards of development; location of existing zones may not match desired locations for SmartCode provisions.</li> </ul>



*Credit: Richmond, VA  
Transect, Dover, Kohl &  
Partners*

## ECDC UPDATE: APA BOARD MEMBER MITCH SILVER SPEAKS AT UVA

**By Joseph Curtis, AICP  
Co-Chair, Ethnic and Cultural  
Diversity Committee**

Fall 2008 is an exciting time for the Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee. A strategic planning meeting in Glen Allen two months ago set the course for the coming year. The first ECDC event took place in Hampton on 23 August with a presentation by the Youth Planners at the City of Hampton. Hampton's Youth Planner program is an award-winning local planning initiative and the first of its kind in the nation.

October's signature event took place in Charlottesville as Mitchell Silver spoke to the Student Planning Association at the University of Virginia. Silver, who is currently Director of Planning for the City of Raleigh, North Carolina is also on the American Planning Association Board and is working on a number of projects. In particular, Silver is involved with the APA Membership Committee's Diversity Sub-Task Force and the new Young Ambassador's program. The Ambassador Program, similar to the Education Initiative started

by the ECDC two years ago, calls for volunteers in the planning profession to introduce Planning to high school and college students.

Future events with the ECDC include happy hours and lectures in all areas including more events in western Virginia. Of course, we will still have our signature Diversity Breakfasts throughout the Commonwealth. To learn more about ECDC events or for comments and suggestions, contact Leon Hughes, ECDC Chair or Joseph Curtis at [ecdc@vapanning.org](mailto:ecdc@vapanning.org)!

## EDITOR'S NOTES – WANTED: ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION!

**By Elizabeth S. Via, AICP  
[newsbriefeditor@vapanning.org](mailto:newsbriefeditor@vapanning.org)**

In September, the Board of APA Virginia made the decision to increase *NEWSBRIEF* from an 8-page, two color publication to a 12-page, full color publication. It was also determined that the publication would continue to be printed quarterly. The Board also confirmed the direction the publication was going in terms of design and color though the design will continue to evolve over the next couple issues as we play with colors, fonts and column widths within the new branding guidelines set by National APA.

Now I need copy! Below is the upcoming publication schedule for 2009. The first two issues are pre-set

with the annual conference and the awards but the summer and fall issues are wide open and in need of both lead and secondary articles. A lead article needs to be 4 to 6 pages with graphics attached (not imbedded) illustrating the concept, issue or project being discussed. Secondary articles should be 2 to 4 pages and may also include graphics. Subject matter is obviously planning-related but can range from an overview of a recently completed project or process that you think has applicability elsewhere or a scholarly piece on a current trend or issue. Opinion pieces may also be submitted if they relate to an issue at hand. As an example we have been tracking the rise of form based codes in the last couple issues of *NEWSBRIEF* and will next publish an architect's musings on

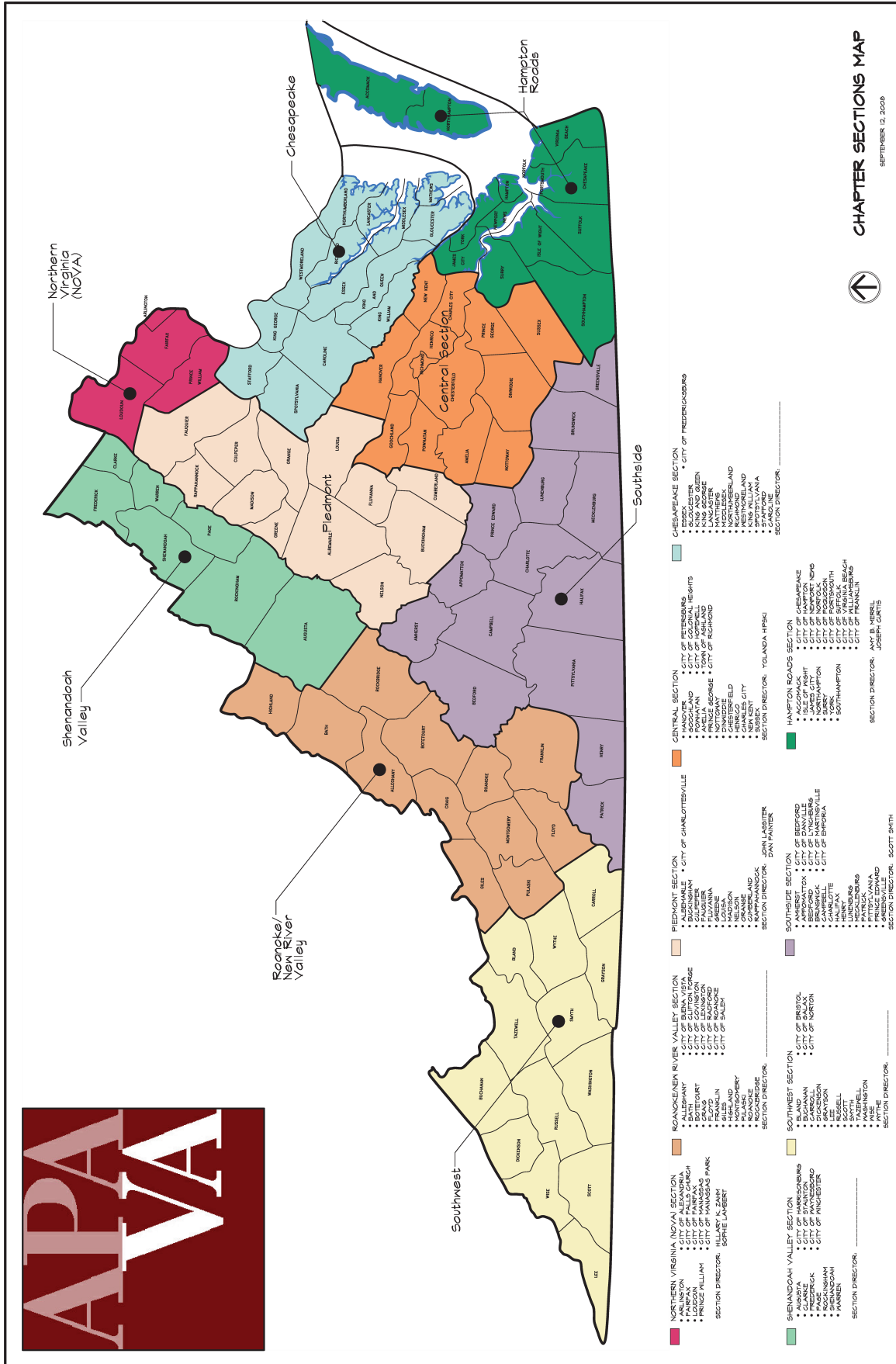
why traditional patterns of development must also translate into traditional architecture. Do you also have a point of view on the rise of form based codes? Send it in.

Students are particularly encouraged to take advantage of a publication opportunity with an overview of a project or paper. These can be submitted individually or jointly authored with a professor or by a class. And lastly, your current editor has an urban bias so in the absence of submissions that is what you will get! If you have any questions or ideas for expanding the publication please contact me at [newsbriefeditor@vapanning.org](mailto:newsbriefeditor@vapanning.org).

### 2009 NEWSBRIEF SCHEDULE

Issue	Distribution to Members	Deadline for Articles to Editor
Winter - Conference Preview Issue	Jan. 1	Dec. 2
Spring - Award Issue	April 1	March 1
Summer	July 1	June 1
Fall	Oct. 1	Sept. 1

**Editorial Policy** *Newsbrief* accepts planning related submissions from APA VA members and nonmembers. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for clarity and length. Authors are encouraged to share draft articles with their employers prior to submission if the article relates to their work. Submissions are accepted on a voluntary basis only. Permission to reprint or reproduce in whole or in part is granted with appropriate citing.



**New APA Virginia Sections Map**  
Credit: Yolanda Hipski, Resource International LTD



## APA FORMS YOUNG PLANNERS TASK FORCE

**By Megan Cummings, AICP  
Chair, APA Young Planners Group**

In between the students and the upper-management professionals, there's a cross-section of APA members who are relatively new to full-time planning work. They are the leaders of tomorrow, and they are often from different generations than the leaders of today. In the summer of 2007, APA President Bob Hunter commissioned a geographically diverse task force of 15 planners in their 20s and early 30s to serve as the Young Planners Group. The YPG is an advisory group to the APA Board with an eye and an ear toward issues of importance to young planners. After several conference calls, we developed a report to the APA Board of Directors which identifies needs, strategies, and other things vital to the future of APA and the next generation of leaders. We also hosted a session at the 2008

national conference in Las Vegas to present the findings of the report. The discussion following the presentation was lively, insightful, and inspiring.

Part of our charge is to identify ways to get young planners more involved in the profession both in leadership roles and among our local chapters and sections. There are many ways young planners can become more involved in their profession. Contact your chapter president and let them know you would be interested in organizing lunch 'n

learns, helping at the state conference, updating the website, or serving on a committee. The YPG's also see a greater role for networking within our generation to discuss issues important to us such as career development, moving into management positions, and balancing careers and families.

We want to hear from you! If you are interested in helping to shape the future of the planning profession, if you want to be more involved, or if you want to be a part of a support group for young professionals like you, let us know. Some of our goals for the upcoming year include organizing a mentoring program, forming local and regional groups of young planners, and finding ways to be more active in national APA programming and policy decisions. Feel free to contact me (plannermegan@hotmail.com) or your Chapter President Jeryl Philips and let us know if you are interested in becoming more involved. We can't wait to hear from you.

(Copies of the report are available at <http://planning.org/features/2008/newprofessionals.htm>)

## APA VIRGINIA REDEFINES SECTIONS

**By Dan Painter, AICP  
APA Virginia Vice President,  
Sections**

The APA-VA Board of Directors approved new chapter section configurations by adopting a new sections map at their Board Retreat on September 12-13, 2008. This was the culmination of more than a year-long period of working on the map. Yolanda Hipski, Section Director for the Central Section, was the driving force that saw this project through from beginning to end.

The need for revising the sections had been voiced by Chapter members for a long time leading

up the start of the process. Often cited reasons for undertaking this task included little to no relationship or similarity between towns, cities and counties within a particular section and that some sections were so large that made it difficult for members to travel to events within a section. Many members provided comments into the various drafts of the map and these helped to arrive at the final configuration.

The Virginia Chapter has, for many years, been divided into six (6) sections. Under the new map, the chapter is divided into nine (9) sections. The new map places a greater emphasis on the sections

and more local programming in order to assist members with professional development and networking activities, including additional CM offerings for AICP members.

Directors are needed for some sections including the Roanoke/New River Section, the Piedmont Section, and the Shenandoah Section. If you are a member of any of these sections and would like to volunteer to be a section director or desire information about being a section director then please contact Dan Painter AICP at 703-430-7500 or at [dpainter@atcsplc.com](mailto:dpainter@atcsplc.com).

## WHAT'S NEW – VIRGINIA PLANNERS ON THE MOVE!

**By Dan Painter, AICP**  
**APA Virginia Vice President, Sections**

More news from Leesburg! **BRIAN BOUCHER** was named deputy director of the town's Planning and Zoning Department over the summer. Boucher was the town's zoning administrator for 12 years and was promoted as part of the Town's reorganization of its planning and development functions.

**MICHAEL COLLINS, AICP**, who wrote in the last issue of Newsbrief of the on-going relationship between the Town and County of Orange, has resigned as the director of community development for the Town of Orange to accept an offer to work for the City of Richmond as the Division Director of Comprehensive Planning and Preservation. Mike leaves a host of interesting projects behind to pursue his interest in sustainable urban design.

Last issue we reported that **ANN DUCEY-ORTIZ, AICP** had been named the interim planning director in Gloucester County. In THIS issue we are pleased to announce that Ann has been given that job full-time. Congratulations Ann!

**JULIELEN SARVER, AICP**, has opened the Richmond office of Sarver Housing Group, Inc., affordable housing developers and consultants. SHG has over 20 years experience in developing housing in North Carolina and is looking forward to working in Virginia. Prior to settling in Richmond, Juliellen previously was an Associate planner with EDAW at their Alexandria, VA office. You can visit Juliellen at [www.sarverhousinggroup.com](http://www.sarverhousinggroup.com).

**TRACEY SHIFLETT, AICP**, has moved to the top of the local government food chain, accepting a position as Town Manager of Clifton Forge, VA. Tracey is well-known on the chapter listserve and has worked for the towns of Pulaski and Rocky Mount, the City of Buena Vista and Fluvanna County.

County Administrator **DOUGLAS P. STANLY** (another former planner!) announced after we had gone to press last summer that he was appointing **TARYN G. LOGAN**, a Front Royal native, to succeed him as Planning Director for Warren County. Taryn has been with the County since 2001 and most recently served as the Deputy Planning Director.

The Shenandoah County Board of Supervisors announced in September the hiring of **BRANDON P. DAVIS**, a native of Bedford, Va who also served as that city's planner/zoning official until accepting the Shenandoah job.

And if you are looking for Mathews County Planning Director **SHARON WILLIAMS**, she's not there! Sources tell us she is now the Planning Director in Prince George County.

**ELISABETH ISKRA** has accepted the position of Executive Director of Abingdon Main Street, Inc. effective in June, 2008. Prior to joining Main Street, Elisabeth was a planner and grant writer for the Mount Rogers PDC in Marion, VA.

**MARK G. RINALDI, AICP** has joined Bush Construction Corporation in Williamsburg as Vice President of Development. Rinaldi, a native of Yorktown, is also the Chairman of the James City County Economic Development Authority and a member of the Board of Directors for the Williamsburg Land Conservancy.

**DEBORAH BRUCKMAN, AICP**, is returning from Winchester Kentucky to take a senior planning position with Prince William County. We think she missed us! Or she couldn't get KY Wildcats tickets. One or the other!

**TOM CHRISTOFFEL, AICP**, a senior planner with the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission was invited last spring to present a paper, "Local-Regional Community and Political Geography" at the Regional Studies Association International Conference in Prague, Czech Republic. Christoffel blogs about his thoughts on regionalism at [www.regionalintelligence.com](http://www.regionalintelligence.com).

*Editors Note: Member announcements should be emailed to the Newsbrief Editor at [newsbriefeditor@vapanning.org](mailto:newsbriefeditor@vapanning.org) as soon as they happen for inclusion in the next available issue. We like news and reserve the right to have a little fun in this section! We promise to be staid and proper everywhere else! L.V.*



## THE CLARENDON-WILSON BOULEVARD DESIGNATED ONE OF 10 GREAT STREETS IN AMERICA BY THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING (APA)

### By the American Planning Association

For the second year in a row a Virginia community has been recognized by APA as one of the nation's Great Streets through APA's Great Places in America program. This month, the APA announced that the Clarendon-Wilson Corridor in Arlington, Virginia had been so recognized. Great Places exemplify exceptional character and highlight the role planners and planning play in creating communities of lasting value. As stated on the APA's website, the corridor was chosen as one of 10 Great Streets in America for its history and transition into a compact "urban village" with street-level shops, restaurants, nightclubs and upper-story offices and residences. It's a place where nearly 20 percent of residents don't own a car and 50 percent walk, bike, or use transit to get to work. The history of these two boulevards – which meet in the heart of downtown Clarendon before continuing eastward and dividing into parallel, one-way streets – demonstrates how active local government and committed business owners and residents used planning and smart growth practices to take advantage of, and effect, change. The results – including above-average use of Metro, less reliance on automobiles, mixed-use development, increased density, and reduced carbon footprint – are some of the reasons APA stated on the website that they named Wilson and Clarendon Boulevards between the Court House and Clarendon Metro stations among the Great Streets in America for 2008. In 2007, the APA chose Monument Avenue, Richmond to receive the award.



*Credit – Arlington Economic Development  
New Street-level Shops in Clarendon, Arlington, Virginia*



*Credit – Arlington Economic Development  
Clarendon Celebrates Designation as a Great Street*





American Planning Association  
**Virginia Chapter**

*Making Great Communities Happen*

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**[www.colonialwilliamsburg.com](http://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com)**

\*Exciting News: VAPA's 2009 Annual Conference will be  
Held Jointly with VAZO Spring Meeting Enabling  
Registrants will be able to Attend Both Conferences!