

# NEWSBRIEF



American Planning Association  
Virginia Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Virginia Chapter of the  
American Planning Association



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## Deadline

for winter issue is  
December 21, 2012.

## Sustainable Reuse: Renovations and Additions to Historic Row House Bring New Life to Old Town Alexandria

By Jonathan Moore, Public Affairs Consultant



Photo by Anice Hoachlander, Hoachlander Davis Photography

Planning and preservation is alive and well in Alexandria's historic Old Town District with recent renovations and additions to a commercial property at 532 N. Washington St. ("532").

The building is part of a row of townhomes anchoring the north end of Old Town's commercial corridor. Cole & Denny Incorporated (C&D), the architects for this project, took the original 1920's-era two-story beige-brick row house and joined it with a new red brick infill structure of matching size and scale. From the exterior, the new addition appears as a stand-alone structure, but on the interior it is seamlessly connected to the original building.

532 is part of a row of semi-detached structures anchoring Old Town's historic North End, a commercial gateway situated on Washington Street, the route itself a continuation of the George Washington Memorial Parkway through the heart of

Alexandria's historic core. This mixed area of historic and new developments encompasses residential, retail, and business venues. Situated on a corner lot, its total scale is reduced in comparison with several adjacent larger structures, but still subject to local planning, zoning, and contextual requirements of a larger-scale project. C&D worked extensively with Alexandria's Department of Planning and Zoning, in concert with the city's Board of Architectural Review (BAR) — the third oldest board of its type in the country — to ensure site and structures complied with renovation requirements in one of the city's two nationally-designated historic districts. According to C&D Principal John Cole, RA, 532's highly visible location influenced the scope of its renovation and infill addition. Working with city planners was an integral part of this process as his design team rehabilitated the existing 1920s-era structure, expanded its structural footprint within existing property limits, and employed a design extending the visual context of adjacent rowhouses along North Washington Street's 500 block. "Working with Alexandria's planning and zoning staff and BAR was essential in order for our project to meet city standards, which maintain Old Town's carefully proscribed appearance," Cole adds. Infill placement, elevation treatments, and other code upgrades were also necessary as the original building had been vacant for several years. Continued on page 4

Falling Spring Falls Outside of Covington Virginia. Photo by Maresa Pryor.



## APA Virginia Chapter President's Column— October 2012 Edition

By George M. Homewood, AICP

What a great chapter conference we had at Wintergreen in July! Thanks are due to Earl Anderson, AICP, and his (too small) committee for an outstanding job well done. Please start planning now to participate in our 2013 Conference 22-24 July at Lansdowne Resort in Loudoun County near Ashburn and Leesburg. The theme next year is “The Changing Face and Aging of America” and it is not too early to begin thinking about session proposals that expand on this theme. And volunteers are needed to help with conference planning and logistics, including mobile workshops and local activities—just let Earl know of your willingness to help.

Your Board has been very active since the 2012 Conference. We developed our biennial Work Plan over the weekend after the conference and then adopted the Chapter's annual budget tied to the Work Plan at the Board's September meeting. Unfortunately, as part of the budgeting process your Board has taken the difficult step of raising member dues by \$5 annually. The decision was not unanimous, is not taken lightly by anyone on your Board and was only done after all other options were exhausted; however at the end, a majority of the Board felt it was a necessary and fiscally prudent step. This was combined with the personal commitment of each member of the Board to redouble our efforts to dramatically increase the revenues derived from sponsorships and non-member resources.

I am very excited that APA Virginia now has a Young Planners Group! Under the dynamic and enthusiastic leadership of Co-Chairs Emily Ruf and Gareth Prior, both recent VCU grads, the YPG has developed a multi-year plan of meaningful engagement with our young (defined as age 35 and under) planners along with outreach to young professionals in allied organizations. Expect to hear more about the YPG in the months and years to come.

One of the more enlightening events at our recent conference was the ECDC Reception. We made a fun game of going around the

table to see who knew what “ECDC” means. My personal favorite—albeit incorrect—was Expect a Copious Drinking Confab. Perhaps the reception's free drink tickets led to that conclusion! Hopefully most Chapter members are aware that our Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee is one of the pioneers of a focused approach on diversity within APA and thus is a source of pride for the Chapter. But, to paraphrase what one member said, ECDC needs to be viewed as being just as relevant for straight white males as for anyone and everyone else in the Chapter. That is a point very well taken and in that vein, I ask all Chapter members to recognize that we planners have an ethical responsibility and moral obligation to ensure that all the diverse elements in our communities are considered in the planning process and that the plans that result serve all.

Our AICP CM Ethics sessions frequently focus on the things we should not do or should not be perceived as doing. It seems to me that in all the case studies of how to avoid conflicts of interest and improper influence, we may at times lose sight of the things we should do, including advocating for those who are under-represented in the process. If planners are to be the guardians of the future, we need to be certain that we have tried to envision it as a future that works for all who live, work, shop and play in our communities.

October is National Community Planning Month. Governor McDonnell has recognized the month in Virginia and offered his thanks to the volunteer and professional planners serving communities across the Commonwealth. Please consider if you have not already done so, scheduling an event or publishing an article or visiting a school to showcase how planning contributes daily to improving the lives of Virginians and the communities in which they live and work.

Thanks again for your support. ■

George

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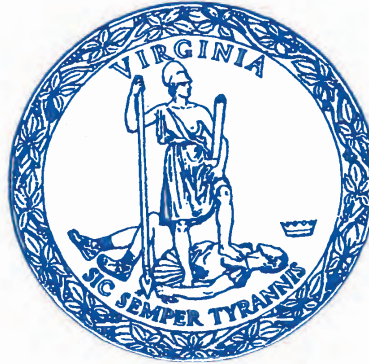
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## CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

*By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:*

### COMMUNITY PLANNING MONTH

**WHEREAS**, change is constant and affects all Virginia cities, towns, suburbs, counties, and rural areas; and

**WHEREAS**, community planning and plans can help manage this change in a way that provides better choices for how people work and live; and

**WHEREAS**, community planning provides an opportunity for all residents to be meaningfully involved in making choices that determine the future of their community; and

**WHEREAS**, the full benefits of planning requires public officials and citizens who understand, support, and demand excellence in planning and plan implementation; and

**WHEREAS**, the month of October is designated as *National Community Planning Month* throughout the United States of America and its territories; and

**WHEREAS**, this month gives us the opportunity to publicly recognize the participation and dedication of the members of planning commissions and other citizen planners who have contributed their time and expertise to the improvement of the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize the many valuable contributions made by professional community and regional planners of the Commonwealth and extend our heartfelt thanks for the continued commitment to public service by these professionals;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize October 2012 as **COMMUNITY PLANNING MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



  
Governor

  
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Sustainable Reuse: Renovations and Additions to Historic Row (continued)

Architects and planners reviewed the property’s entire scale to enhance landscaping along two main thoroughfares, also using greenery to buffer a rear alleyway. A major design objective was avoiding encroachment on the appearance of adjacent buildings, while retaining the context of 532’s original appearance. Collaborative efforts of the planning / design team played a crucial role. “Planning concepts for historic renovations should avoid conjectural features,” says Catherine Miliaras, AICP, an urban planner with the city’s Historic Preservation Section. “It’s always preferable working from historic documents whenever available.” Fortunately, early photos of 532 were documented and archived, and their availability came in handy when C&D and city planners recreated a porch and stairway along the original building’s front facade. Removed during an earlier remodeling phase, the front porch and stairway was rebuilt to specifications matching the original entrance, thus achieving the BAR’s desire for the property to “anchor the corner” in conformance with other buildings along North Washington Street.

Site planning ranged from acquisition of special use permits and right-of-way easements, to a comprehensive storm water management plan mitigating phosphate runoff in to the ecologically sensitive Chesapeake Bay Watershed. City planners also worked with C&D architects to secure a Parking Reduction Special Use Permit, part of a comprehensive transportation plan certifying availability of sufficient on-street parking, thus negating a need to add new on-site parking spaces. This permit also encourages 532’s tenants to use various forms of mass transit when possible, as the property is conveniently located along major bus routes, and is a mile or less from two Metro subway stations.

Showcasing sustainable reuse of an existing structure, the property now provides three levels of office space totaling 5,626 sq. ft., a 100% increase from the original town home’s 2,227 square footage. This was achieved with minimal impact on the property’s overall scale. Below-ground and first floor levels are reserved for commercial tenants in both original and   
Continued on next page



Photos by Anice Hoachlander, Hoachlander Davis Photography

## Sustainable Reuse: Renovations and Additions to Historic Row (continued)

infill structures, while the top floor is occupied by the building's owners, who relocated from Arlington to Old Town Alexandria for closer access to expanding business opportunities near Potomac Yards, Crystal City, and Reagan National Airport.

Planning and code elements upgrading 532's interior features include new HVAC and electrical systems, wood floors, and energy-efficient lighting and windows. "Light well" space on the south side of the infill addition allows sharing of daylight window access with a neighboring structure. ADA-compliant features have been installed at the rear parking lot entrance — officially designated as the main entrance as dictated by accessibility code requirements — including a lift providing direct access to the main level. "From a planning and design perspective, our overall approach was making sure this building respected the character of its immediate surroundings, while facilitating pedestrian and automobile access," Cole adds.

On October 13, 2011, this renovated property was officially recognized with a City of Alexandria Beautification Award, specifically noting the building's design and landscape features, including visibility from the public right-of-way, green-space elements, and visual enhancement of the neighborhood. Accepting this award from Alexandria Vice Mayor Kerry J. Donley, John Cole said, "it is encouraging that the Alexandria Beautification Program recognizes the built environment for its contributions to the overall city landscape. This combination of landscape and architectural design is part of Old Town's unique visual appeal, and are key elements defining the history and character of the Washington Street corridor."

Cole believes successful outcomes with this type of project are based on good communication with planning staff and project client, where all parties agree with design objectives before work begins. "A project of this type involving part renovation, part new construction, means the design team must engage with local planning staff early on," he adds. "It allows architects to better serve

their client while adhering to local zoning ordinances, architectural character objectives, and life-safety codes. Negating any of these steps risks running up additional time and cost which detract from overall project goals." Catherine Miliaras agrees. "Though buildings evolve over time, and their functions vary with different tenants, their outer shell and property characteristics still define a specific area. With Old Town, commercial and residential structures must convey the unique historic character of a town which was once a thriving seaport, and now must retain its identity in the shadow of the Nation's Capital."

The building's owner is pleased with the outcome. "The architect's floor plan and use of natural sunlight provides our tenants with increased work space and reduced energy costs," says Henry Chan. "Our highly visible location in a unique part of town is an added attraction." As the primary property owner, he views 532's renovation as a long-term investment. The building's first tenant, a yoga studio, began occupying space in early 2012.

*Cole & Denny Incorporated is a full-service architectural, planning and interior design firm with a diverse portfolio of new construction, addition, and renovation work. Its clients range from state, local, and federal agencies to churches, corporations, educational institutions, and homeowners. The firm's expertise also includes space planning, historic preservation, interior design, and facilities evaluation and modernization. For more information, please contact John Cole or Mike Detomo at 703-684-5994. Their e-mail addresses are [jcole@coleanddenny.com](mailto:jcole@coleanddenny.com), and [mdetomo@coleanddenny.com](mailto:mdetomo@coleanddenny.com).*

*Catherine Miliaras, AICP, is an urban planner in the Historic Preservation Section of Alexandria's Department of Planning and Zoning. She can be reached at 703-746-3834, or via e-mail: [catherine.miliaras@alexandriava.gov](mailto:catherine.miliaras@alexandriava.gov).*

*Contributor Jonathan Moore can be reached at (703) 299-9091. ■*

## 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!*

# Another Successful Annual Conference at Wintergreen

By Earl Anderson, AICP, Vice President of Chapter Affairs



Photo by Susan McCulloch

The survey responses for the 2012 APA Virginia Annual Conference show that many enjoyed the conference and loved the wonderful setting of the mountains. The conference was our opportunity to share successes from around the state and nation and

to teach lessons learned from a variety of planning specialties. Additionally, the location at Wintergreen Resort provided a place where everyone was sequestered together and allowed for many networking opportunities.

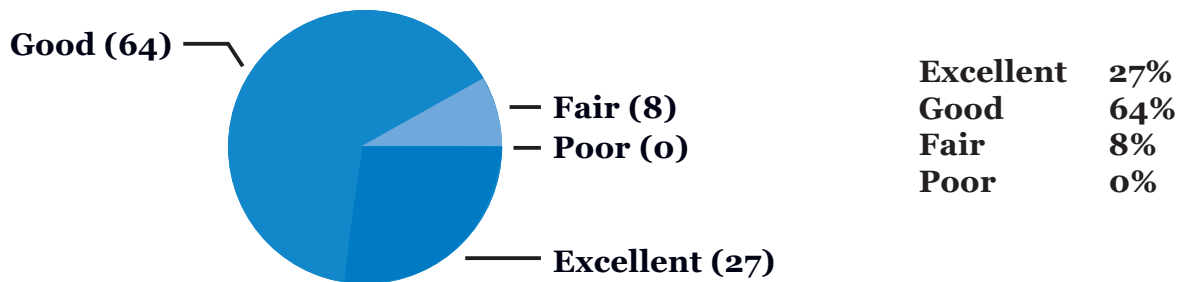
Attendees were happy with the content, organization, and presentation of sessions with some of the same comments we have gotten in the past, asking that future conferences use less slideshow presentations and include more interactive/hands-on sessions. Many thought the sessions were timely and had relevant topics to what they did on a day-to-day basis. However, attendees commented on how they got plenty of exercise with the many stairs that led

back and forth between session rooms. Additionally, attendees stated they would like to see more variety in the types of sessions that are presented at the conference, with specific calls for topics on urban issues, transportation, suburban realities and challenges, social media, along with practical skill based sessions.

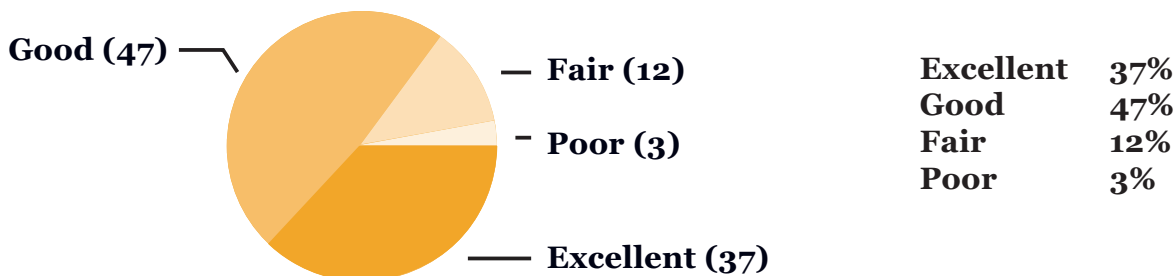
The location at Wintergreen Resort received both positive and negative comments from attendees. Many noted that they had trouble getting from their rooms to the conference area, as well as mentioning that there were too many stairs and a need for better wayfinding. Others felt the location was beautiful and provided them with a focused atmosphere.

Attendees felt the conference was successful, even with the rain delay. Many thanks were given to the organizers, sponsors, and presenters. One commenter stated, "The get-away character of a place like Wintergreen is conducive to relaxing and learning in a causal environment. Having everyone together is great for building relationships and forming new ones." We hope that you will join us in 2013 as we move the conference out of the mountains and to northern Virginia at Lansdowne Resort July 22-24, 2013. See you there! ■

## What was your opinion on the Content of Sessions?



## What was your opinion of the Wintergreen Resort conference facilities?



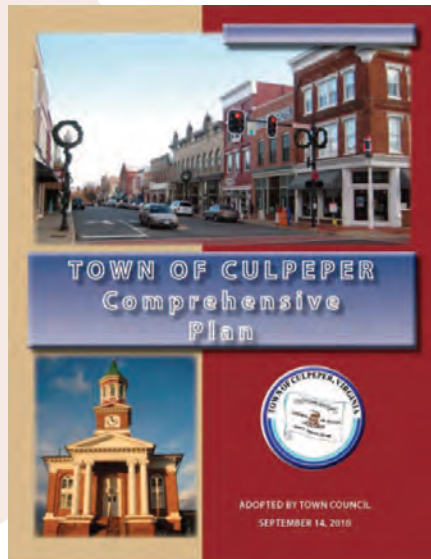
# APA Virginia Hands Out Planning Awards for 2012

*By Newsbrief staff*

During the 2012 Annual Conference, APA Virginia handed out its planning awards for this year. Winning projects featured strategies for integrating design, arts and culture, and history into planning efforts. Plans are thoughtfully adapted to the localities and regions they are meant to serve, and include stakeholders from all corners of their communities. Long-time planners and students just entering the profession are honored for a lifetime of service or for new ways of thinking about old issues.

For a complete list of award winners, visit the Chapter's website at:  
<http://apavirginia.org/documents/awards/2012-awards-summary>

## Outstanding Plan Award-Town of Culpeper - Comprehensive Plan



The Awards Committee was particularly impressed with how the Community Character element of this plan details the aesthetic and functional design characteristics of the town and establishes them as the underpinnings for the Town's land use management.



Above: (L-R) George Homewood, AICP, Patrick Mulhern, AICP, Director of Planning and Community Development, Maxie Brown, ACIP, CZA, Zoning Administrator, and Wayne Cilimberg

## Outstanding Plan Award-Plan Element - Arts and Cultural Plan, City of Roanoke



The Awards Committee was impressed by the clear rationale and methodology used to link neighborhood arts and cultural assets to the overall economic vitality of the city.



Above: (L-R) George Homewood, AICP, Frederick Gusler, AICP, Senior Planner, and Wayne Cilimberg

2012 Annual Awards (continued)

## **Planning Innovation Award-Education** **Urban Development Area Planning Assistance Program** **Virginia Department of Transportation**

The “*Urban Development Area Planning Assistance Program*” was rolled out in 2009 in response to the previously enacted 2007 Urban Development Area legislation. The \$3 million grant program, administered by VDOT’s Transportation & Mobility Planning Division, offers an exemplary model of state and local cooperation to promote smart growth land-use planning in 32 jurisdictions throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.



Above: (L-R) George Homewood, AICP, Deana Rhodeside, Rhodeside and Harwell, Marsha Fiol, VDOT, Vladimir Gavrilovic, AICP, Renaissance Planning Group, Todd Gordon, AICP, The Cox Company, and Wayne Cilimberg, Awards Committee Chair

## **Student Planning Award** **Giving Voice: African American Walking Tour** **Falls Church and Fairfax County, Virginia Tech, Alexandria**



The Awards Committee admired the professional quality of the final project and sensitivity the students took to acknowledge and meet their client’s standards resulting in a truly transformative experience for both the client and student participants.

Left: (L-R) George Homewood, AICP, Professor Elizabeth Morton, Chris Winnike, Catherine Spoehr, and Wayne Cilimberg



2012 Annual Awards (continued)

### **Student Planning Award-Honorable Mention - Habitat That, Charlottesville, University of Virginia**



The students did a very professional job of branding the Habitat store, making it more attractive to students, and making general consumers more aware of it. The Habitat store liked the new slogan so much that they immediately incorporated into Store newsletters, radio announcements, and marketing materials.

Left: (L-R) George Homewood, AICP, Professor Daphne Spain, and Wayne Cilimberg

### **Student Planning Award-Honorable Mention Sustainable Business Opportunities for Floyd County Virginia Tech, Blacksburg**



The Fall 2009 Economic Development Studio led by John Provo, the Director of the Virginia Tech Office of Economic Development, students were tasked with identifying new business opportunities for Floyd County, Virginia. This report was very comprehensive with a professional level market analysis and very thoughtful recommendations.

Left: (L-R) George Homewood, AICP, Mel Jones, Patrick O'Brien, and Wayne Cilimberg

2012 Annual Awards (continued)



Professional Planner  
Robert E. Brosnan



Legislator of the Year  
Senator John C. Miller



Award of Appreciation for  
Legislative Efforts  
Delegate Thomas Davis Rust,  
PE, AICP



Outstanding Students  
University of Virginia  
Graduate Student-  
Holly Hendrix  
Undergraduate Student-  
Kate Bird (pictured)



Outstanding Students  
Virginia Tech-Blacksburg  
Graduate Student-  
Melissa Zilke  
Undergraduate Student-  
Aaron Maertins (pictured)

Outstanding Student  
Virginia Tech Alexandria  
Graduate Student-  
Lauren Bulka

Outstanding Students  
Virginia Commonwealth University



Graduate Student-  
Mark Hill



Undergraduate Student-  
Susan Segura

## 2012 APA Virginia Membership Survey

By Andy Sorrell, AICP, CZA, Membership Director

During the summer of 2012, Chapter members were asked to participate in the biannual Chapter Membership Survey. The response rate for the survey was approximately 25% (364/1460) which was lower than the 36% of Chapter members that responded in 2010. Approximately 70% of respondents work in the public sector and 22% in the private sector, with about two thirds being members of AICP and most of those who are not yet members (of AICP) desire to become ones.

The Chapter's Executive Board uses feedback from the membership survey when updating the Chapter Work Plan which details the action items the Chapter desires to accomplish in the next two years. The latest Work Plan has just been adopted and runs through 2014. The survey is also used to gain knowledge of the interest levels of current activities and to compare results from the last membership survey completed in 2010.

New this year was the use of "word clouds" to pull out major ideas from open-ended questions where respondents had the opportunity to let us know specific thoughts. As can be seen in the summary presentation, the word clouds really helped show what Chapter members find important. Several main themes emerged from the review of the survey. These are called out below:

- Doing fine with legislative work and CM credits
- Continued need and strong desire for local section events and networking opportunities
- Continued need to forge stronger ties with affiliated groups
- Website needs to be updated more frequently
- Better outreach/involvement needed for and from students and universities
- Many want to see a more regular electronic newsletter
- Many said that to see planning in a better light, the public needs to see planning success stories and its positive impact on local economies
- Current Top Chapter Activities:
  1. Annual Conference
  2. Communications
  3. CM / AICP prep

**The bottom line? Members want a greater focus on smaller local section events and more frequent Chapter communications.**



If you would like a more detailed look at survey responses, please take a look at the detailed membership survey results below. If you have any questions, please contact Andy Sorrell, APA VA Membership Director at [membership@apavirginia.org](mailto:membership@apavirginia.org). ■

*View the Detailed Membership Survey here:*  
<http://apavirginia.org/documents/board/2012-membership-survey/view>

## Report from Planner's Day on the Hill 2012

*Emily Gibson, Vice President for Legislative and Policy Affairs*



Virginia Chapter members (pictured above, left to right) Sakura Namioka, AICP, Emily Gibson, Glenn Larson, AICP, and George Homewood, AICP, represented the Commonwealth at APA Planners Day on the Hill on Tuesday, October 2, 2012. The day began with a briefing from Jason Jordan, APA Director of Policy and Government Affairs, and Continued on next page

## Planner's Day on the Hill (continued)

insight into the state of the debate heading into the lame duck session. Stephanie Vance, Advocacy "Guru" with Advocacy Associates, provided the attendees with guidance on how to make the most of their trip to Capitol Hill.

With the uncertainty related to the pending vote on sequestration during the lame duck session beginning in November, chapter members from all over the nation spoke with their elected officials about supporting responsible funding levels for CDBG in FY 2013, support for Choice Neighborhoods, and the importance to both the public and private sector of the American Community Survey. The informational handouts shared by planners on Capitol Hill during Planner's Day on the Hill can be accessed on the Virginia Chapter's Legislative and Policy page.

Between morning visits to the offices of the Senate and afternoon visits to the offices of House members, APA held a congressional lunch program featuring David Skillman, Legislative Director for Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), speaking on the planning implications of the pending tax reform debate.



Above (L-R): Delegate Rust and APA Virginia President George Homewood along with session moderator, Stephen Villavaso, FAICP)

## 2012 Federal Policy and Program Briefing

Fiscal issues and transportation were two of the main topics during the 2012 Federal Policy and Program Briefing (FPPB) held in Crystal City by APA on September 30th and October 1st. The briefing kicked off with an outlook from Jared Bernstein with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities called "Building the Recovery and Navigating the Fiscal Cliff." Robin Rather shared her thoughts on public attitudes based on the recent APA survey on planning in America. Rather pointed out that in this time of general uncertainty throughout the nation, citizens are craving positive change and planners are critical to that because they help communities visualize the future.

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) was signed into law in July and took effect on October 1st. Though many speakers at the FPPB provided an outlook on what this means for the future of transportation, former Congressman James Oberstar (D-MN) gave his perspective on where the nation has been since ISTEA and TEA-21. Oberstar was instrumental in each of these during his 36 years in the House of Representatives. He remains a champion for biking and transit, noting that at the turn of the century one could easily take a passenger rail car from New York directly to Chicago, but the nation's transportation focus (and funding) has shifted to car and air travel since that time.

The 2012 FPPB ended with a session entitled "Advancing Planning at the State Capitol" and two faces familiar to APA Virginia were the session's speakers. Virginia Chapter member Delegate Tom Rust, AICP, who represents Virginia's 86th District in the House of Delegates, spoke to planners from the various chapters about what they can do to effectively communicate at their state capitols.

Most state legislatures are like

Virginia in that they operate part-time, but Rust emphasized that during session is not the best time to speak to members about policy issues important to you and your organization. Both of the bills that Delegate Rust carried for APA VA in the past started as concepts while the General Assembly wasn't meeting in Richmond.

George Homewood, AICP, APA Virginia President and past Vice President of Legislative Policy and Affairs, spoke about what chapters can do to work with members of state legislatures. In addition to being a resource they can turn to for policy questions on issues related to planning, it is important to recognize those members who promote planning as a positive influence in their communities.

Are you interested in being part of APA Virginia's Legislative Committee?  
Visit <http://apavirginia.org/member-resources/legislative-policy/legislative-committee>



# 2013 Legislative Agenda

Members of the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association are committed to economic prosperity in the Commonwealth. Planning provides opportunities for Virginians to look into the future and provide a long-term vision for their communities. Also available on the Chapter's Legislative Page at: <http://apavirginia.org/member-resources/legislative-policy>

## Planning & Zoning

### Aquaculture

The Chapter supports policies of the Commonwealth which preserve the economic vitality of the Virginia aquaculture industry while maintaining appropriate land use authority to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth. Local restrictions upon the conduct of aquaculture taking place within the waters of the Commonwealth should be reasonable and minimize limitations on the expansion of aquaculture options and opportunities in the Commonwealth. The seafood processing often associated with aquaculture is an industrial operation that may be incompatible with the peaceful enjoyment of nearby residential uses and the protection of private property values. Thus, localities must be vested with appropriate authority to protect residential communities (regardless of how they may be zoned) from the encroachment of seafood processing associated with aquaculture and to also provide options and opportunities for aquaculture to remain a viable industry- for the health of the economy and the environment.

### Cash Proffers

The Chapter opposes any effort to establish state-mandated caps on development fees and proffers, including caps on water and sewer fees, review fees, and existing or prospective proffers; however, the Chapter would not oppose a requirement that fees be based on actual and anticipated costs in each locality and providing that the rational basis for such actual and anticipated costs be established by each locality by ordinance in setting the fees or proffers.

### Universal Design

The Chapter supports legislative and administrative actions to encourage the development and promotion of building standards to incorporate practices for the built environment which provide for usability by all people, enhance "aging-in-place" and promote livability. Universal Design practices and Visitability Design principles are two approaches.

### Local Foods

The Chapter supports existing legislative authority which allows localities to provide for or expand upon making local foods available to benefit their residents and the local economy.

## Infrastructure and Community Development

### Lifecycle Costing

The Chapter supports extending the requirement to consider the lifecycle costs of public investments to all state agencies and institutions.

### Transportation System

The Chapter encourages the Governor and the General Assembly to identify a sufficient, reliable and sustainable funding mechanism for current and future transportation, necessary to support the Commonwealth's economy. Failure to address growing demands across all modes of transportation is a significant threat to Virginia's economic health.

Continued on next page

Legislative Agenda (continued)

**Other**

Local Planning Authority	The Chapter opposes any legislation that reduces the authority of local government for planning, zoning, subdivision, resource protection, neighborhood preservation and local redevelopment.
Budget Reductions to Planning	The Chapter opposes State budget actions that inhibit the ability of the Commonwealth and its local governments to provide for the health, well-being and prosperity of its present and future members.
Short-Term Economic “Fixes”	The Chapter opposes legislation that fails to consider the long-term impacts to the Commonwealth and simply focuses on economic benefit in the short-term. This includes impacts to employment, the environment, and communities as a whole.



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**VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION**

**OUR MISSION:**

We promote planning as the foundation for effectively addressing the physical, economic and social changes taking place in Virginia. The Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA Virginia) is committed to increasing awareness about planning's many benefits, and enhancing its practice throughout the Commonwealth.

**WHO WE ARE:**

APA Virginia is over 1,500 practicing professionals from the public and private sector, as well as academics and students. The American Planning Association (APA) is a nonprofit public interest and research organization committed to urban, suburban, regional, and rural planning. APA and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), advance the art and science of planning to meet the needs of people and society.

**MAKING GREAT COMMUNITIES HAPPEN:**

APA Virginia will support state-level planning policies that make Virginia and its communities the best place to live, work and play. Sound planning offers a key to making Virginia the best place it can be for all Virginians. Every region requires planning that promotes good jobs in livable communities. Faster growing regions have the added need for planning that recognizes pressures that are unprecedented in Virginia's history. Good planning actively involves the people of a community in the process; it combines their input on what is "valuable" for a good community with the technical facts brought by professionals and scientists. Sound planning includes an understanding of the differences between technical and value judgments and blends both appropriately to recommend a direction that moves a community toward the best place it can be for its citizens.

**For more information on APA Virginia's legislative perspective, contact:**

Emily Gibson, Vice-President of Legislative and Policy Affairs at: [legislation@apavirginia.org](mailto:legislation@apavirginia.org)  
Legislative Consultant, Eldon James at: [eldon@eldonjamesassociates.com](mailto:eldon@eldonjamesassociates.com)

## New APA Virginia Board Gets to Work

*By Ben Wales, AICP, Secretary*

It has been a busy summer for your new APA Board of Directors! Here are some highlights from recent Board meetings...

- The 2012 APA Virginia Annual Conference, held over July 18th to the 20th at the Wintergreen Resort, was a great success! Thanks to all those who attended and contributed to making it such an informative and memorable event. Thanks also to those who completed the conference survey, which has provided some important feedback.
- The Board has already received a summary of the conference survey results from our Vice President of Chapter Affairs and has discussed several areas of the conference that were very successful and others where changes could be made. The survey results will aid preparations for the 2013 annual conference, which will be hosted by the Lansdowne Resort from July 22nd – 24th.
- The Board's biennial transition retreat took place on the Friday and Saturday immediately following the annual conference. This important gathering involved both the current Board members and those transitioning out of positions at the conclusion of their two-year terms. In addition to allowing those Board members entering new positions to gather information and knowledge from their predecessors, the retreat also allowed important discussion about the Chapter's goals and objectives over the next two years. At the transition retreat, the Board welcomed its newest members Stephen White, AICP (Vice President of External Affairs), and Margot Elton (Student Representative). Mr. White subsequently had to step down from the Board due to other commitments. The Board selected David McGettigan, AICP, Planner III with Prince William County, to serve his term. Welcome David!
- At its quarterly meeting in September the Board voted to adopt a Financial Year 2013 Chapter Budget. Our Chapter Treasurer, Joseph Curtis, AICP, again did a fine job preparing the budget and guiding the Board's detailed review and discussion.
- The Chapter continues to explore opportunities for communicating with its members. You should by now have seen the Chapter's new 'E-News and Events' newsletter, which is being distributed to all members by email on a monthly basis. The newsletter will help communicate news and details of upcoming events between the quarterly editions of Newsbrief. If you have not received a copy of E-News and Events, please contact our Vice President of External Affairs, David McGettigan ([vpexternalaffairs@apavirginia.org](mailto:vpexternalaffairs@apavirginia.org)).
- To help consider potential changes to the Chapter's bylaws, the Board has established a By-laws Committee. On the list of possible changes to be assessed is the aligning of the Chapter and APA National election cycles and the creation of a 'President-elect' position on the Board of Directors.
- In September, the Board adopted the Chapter's Legislative and Policy Committee's 2013 legislative agenda. The agenda includes what the Committee determined to be the most appropriate issues for the Chapter to emphasize in the 2013 Session of the General Assembly. For a copy of the legislative agenda and additional information, please contact Emily Gibson, Vice President for Legislative and Policy Affairs ([legislation@apavirginia.org](mailto:legislation@apavirginia.org)).
- In an effort to help engage more of the Chapter's younger members, the Board has created a committee that will consider how best to involve our members aged 35 and younger. The committee will take direction from APA's Young Planners Group Initiative Report, "Blueprint for Change" and set out a strategy for establishing a Young Planners Group. Emily Ruf and Garret Prior are serving as Co-Chairs of this effort.
- The Board is continuing to explore opportunities for co-sponsored events with other organizations. The Chapter will be co-hosting an event during the APA Fall Leadership Meetings/Federal Policy Program with the APA Maryland and APA National Capital Chapters.

Continued on next page

## New APA Virginia Board Gets to Work (continued)

- The Chapter continues to move towards publication of its project, The Greater Commonwealth – Stories about Planning and Places in Virginia. This compilation of 12 stories, based on submittals received from Chapter members, is anticipated to be published in October – the 2012 National Community Planning Month. The various stories relay how planners have worked with communities of different types on different topics to make noticeable and positive community impacts.
- The Chapter’s Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee (ECDC) has been busy developing a work plan for the coming year. Look out for details of an upcoming symposium being co-hosted by the ECDC Committee and Hampton Roads Section.
- Look out for Section Events on the ‘Events’ page of the Chapter’s website. Section directors are working hard to schedule events and we have many planned over the coming months, most of which will provide those valuable CM credits. To find out what Section you are in or to find out more about your section and upcoming events, contact our Vice President of Sections, Will Cockrell, AICP ([vpsections@apavirginia.org](mailto:vpsections@apavirginia.org)) who will put you in touch with your section directors.
- Up to the minute Virginia APA news is now available on our Facebook page (Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association) and Twitter feed ([APA\\_Virginia](https://twitter.com/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 to see 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. Please contact me at [secretary@apavirginia.org](mailto:secretary@apavirginia.org) with any questions.

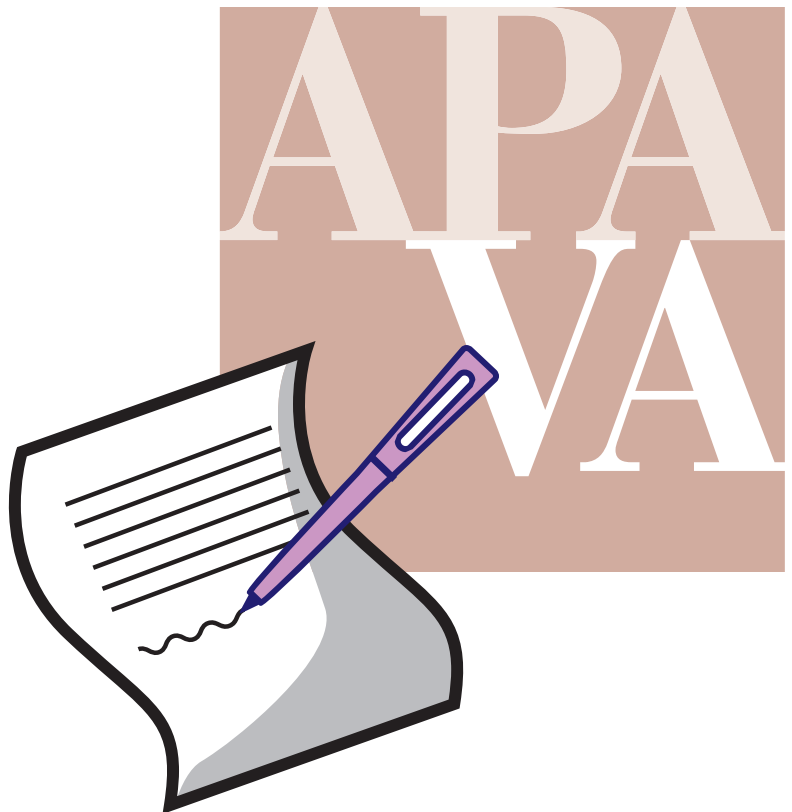
## Board Adopts 2012-2014 Work Plan

The newly installed APA Virginia Board recently adopted its 2012-2014 Work Plan, the document that will guide the activities of the Chapter over the next two years. The new Work Plan is based on the adopted 2008-2013 Chapter Development Plan. These documents set out the Chapter’s broad objectives during the Board’s term (to June 2014) and specific steps to be taken to achieve these objectives. The Work Plan will also be used at each Board quarterly meeting to measure the Board’s progress in meeting its objectives.

The 2012-2014 Work Plan’s strategic objectives are designed to help planners plan, to help the Commonwealth plan (primarily through the work of the Legislative and Policy Committee), to ensure that planning and planners matter, to meet the needs of the membership and get planners involved, support the APA, and to maximize operation efficiency at the Chapter level. The Board will begin work on the 2013-2018 Chapter Development Plan over the winter.

Copies of the adopted Work Plan and Chapter Development Plan can be found on the Chapter’s website at

[http://apavirginia.org/documents/board/ChapterBoardWorkPlan20122014\\_ObjectivesActionsTimeframes.pdf](http://apavirginia.org/documents/board/ChapterBoardWorkPlan20122014_ObjectivesActionsTimeframes.pdf). ■





## Section News

### Central Section Tackles PARK(ing) Day

APA Virginia's Central Section (Richmond Region), in association with VASLA, tackled their first PARK(ing) Day – a phenomenon occurring across the country—on September 21, 2012. In coordination with the City of Richmond, some parking spaces near the Virginia Commonwealth University campus were turned into parklets for the day to create new public green spaces. Andy Boenau with Timmons Group in Richmond spearheaded this effort. Andy also serves as co-section director.



Photo by Andy Boenau

### What is PARK(ing) Day?

PARK(ing) Day is an annual worldwide event where artists, designers and citizens transform metered parking spots into temporary public parks. Think of it as guerrilla urbanism. It is an opportunity to show some civic pride in an area originally intended for people – city streets. Temporary parks can be as simple as a plastic chair and a book. Some are far more elaborate. The flexible, open-source nature is part of what makes this event so popular.

### Why did Richmond participating in PARK(ing) Day?

RVA, as it is affectionately called, is home to planners, architects, and other designers who (1) love their city and (2) love anything resembling a festival or fair. The mission of PARK(ing) Day aligns nicely with Richmond Mayor Dwight Jones' goal of elevating Richmond as a top tier city through walkability and sustainability initiatives. APA-Virginia organized and sponsored the event with some key support from ASLA-Virginia. Be sure to check out the online photo gallery to see how the inaugural event turned out! (Visit <http://flic.kr/s/aHsjCdXqs4>)

### Where can I learn more about PARK(ing) Day?

The official website, [parkingday.org](http://parkingday.org), is a great resource and features an interactive Google Map marking scheduled events across the world. The site also includes some basic safety tips and frequently asked questions.

Continued on next page

## Section Events Schedule, 2012 – 2013

Date	Time	Location	Section	Description	CM Credits	Partner Organizations
Nov. 7, 2012	4:00pm – 5:30pm	Charlottesville	Piedmont	Audio Conference – Ethics and Food Systems Planning	1.5	City of Charlottesville
Dec. 5, 2012	4:00pm – 5:30pm	Roanoke	Roanoke	Audio Conference – Design Guidelines for Historic Neighborhoods Lecture	1.0	Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission
Jan. 16, 2013	4:00pm – 5:30pm	Roanoke	Roanoke	Audio Conference – Zoning for Small-Scale Businesses	1.5	Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission
Jan. 16, 2013	4:00pm – 5:30pm	Charlottesville	Piedmont	Audio Conference – Zoning for Small-Scale Businesses	1.5	City of Charlottesville
Feb. 13, 2013	4:00pm – 5:30pm	Charlottesville	Piedmont	Audio Conference – Fracking and Resource Extraction and Community Planning	1.5	City of Charlottesville
Mar. 13, 2013	4:00pm – 5:00pm	Roanoke	Roanoke	Audio Conference – Environmental Systems, Assessment, and Carrying Capacity Lecture	1.0	Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission
Mar. 15, 2013	4:00pm – 5:00pm	Roanoke	Roanoke	Audio Conference – Rethinking the Role of the Urban Freeway Lecture	1.0	Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission
June 5, 2013	4:00pm – 5:30pm	Charlottesville	Piedmont	Audio Conference – Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning	1.5	City of Charlottesville
June 26, 2013	4:00pm – 5:00pm	Roanoke	Roanoke	Audio Conference – 2013 Planning Law Review	1.5	Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission
June 26, 2013	4:00pm – 5:00pm	Charlottesville	Piedmont	Audio Conference – 2013 Planning Law Review	1.5	City of Charlottesville

## Virginia APA Goes Young!

By *Garet S. Prior*

Are you under the age of 35 or just young at heart? Well, then the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association now has a group for you. The newly formed Young Planners Group is looking to address the needs and issues of “young” planners, through encouraging online communication, collaboration, and networking opportunities.

The co-chairs of this new committee are Garet Prior and Emily Ruf. Each is a recent MURP graduate from Virginia Commonwealth University and centered out of the Central Virginia-Hampton Roads regions. Using best practices from other APA YPG chapters, the first steps will be to set up a contacts database and poll you, learned planners of all ages, on what issues and needs you would like to see addressed. Therefore, be on the look-out for an upcoming YPG survey within the next month, and get ready to

complete it with all your hopes and dreams so that we can have the best YPG in the nation.

Additionally, one of the main concerns from YPGs around the nation is addressing the issue of including those who want to be involved, but are over 35. Well, YPG Virginia has a solution to that, all are included. Even though the focus of the programming and leadership of this committee will always be a post-collegiate under 35-year old planner, events will encourage cross-generational and inter-field collaboration and networking. As you will see in the upcoming YPG survey, you will be asked to list other professional groups (geography, environmental science, engineering, micro-finance, social work, law, etc.) in your area that would overlap with elements of the planning field.

In conclusion, if you are interested in being involved in VA-APA YPG (nice acronym) then feel free to send an email ([ypg@apavirginia.org](mailto:ypg@apavirginia.org)), or provide your information on the upcoming survey and indicate your level of interest. Thanks for reading this and hope to hear from you soon! ■

## AICP Update

*Elizabeth R. Friel, AICP, AICP Professional Development Officer*

A new ethics overview presentation geared toward planning commissioners has been created, entitled, “Being Ethical: A Primer for the Planning Commissioner”. This session was given for the 2012 Plan Virginia Commonwealth Land Use and Zoning Conference on



October 9, 2012. This conference is primarily geared toward planning commissioners and board of zoning appeals members. Thank you to Mike Chandler for the invitation to this great conference and training opportunity.

APA Virginia is a member of the Planning Webcast Series, a co-op comprised of APA Chapters and Divisions that provides cost-free webcasts to a national audience. More than 400 planners from Virginia and across the county participated in an excellent webinar September 28 - Housing and Transportation for the Boomers and Beyond led by Jana Lynott and Rodney Harrell of the Public Policy Institute of AARP. Thank you Jana and Rodney. Be sure to check out <http://www.utah-apa.org/webcasts> for additional free webcasts. There are webcasts offering Law and Ethics credits offered before the end of 2012!

Several recent American Planning Association Virginia Section Events have applied for and received full Certification Maintenance credits. Thanks to all who organized and presented. If you participated, be sure to log in your credits. These are the sessions:

- Checking Out the Chicks in Norfolk
- Coming and Going on the Columbia Pike
- McMillan Sand Filtration Site: A Transformation
- Changing Petworth Walking Tour

Finally the next AICP exam window is coming up November 5 – 19, 2012. Check out the exam review resources at <http://www.planning.org/certification/>. For more information on educational opportunities, contact Liz at [pdo@vapanning.org](mailto:pdo@vapanning.org). ■



## Get Involved!

See page 5 to find out how you can get involved with your local section's activities and outings!

## Student News

*By Margot Elton, UVA Student Representative*

### UVA

The Department of Urban and Environmental Planning at UVA is gearing up for a full 2012-2013 school year! This year, we welcomed two new faculty members to the department: Suzanne Morse Moomaw joined us to head our Housing and Community Development concentration, and Ellen Bassett joined us from Portland to lead the Land Use and Growth Management concentration. We're very excited to have them both on board.

Our Student Planning Association is already in full swing, planning social events for planning students, department field trips, a student lecture series that will foster interdisciplinary activity between the four disciplines in our school (architecture, landscape architecture, and architectural history join us in the School of Architecture), and our key event, the 100-Mile local food Thanksgiving. To learn more about local food this fall, we will be visiting heritage food festivals, apple festivals, learning to make applesauce and can foods for the winter, and perhaps even make our own cheese. We'll be putting out a cookbook in conjunction with our 100-Mile Thanksgiving event, complete with information, resources, and recipes for local food—stay tuned for more information on that!

This fall UVA is also hosting a Rachel Carson exhibit, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Silent Spring. The Planning department is excited to be able to explore more about this important environmentalist through photographic, cinematic, and text exhibits. If you're in the Charlottesville area between September 23rd and October 20th, come over to the Architecture school and check out the exhibit!

### VCU

The MURP's at VCU have a couple of exciting events coming soon! We are working to revitalize URPSA (Urban and Regional Planning Student Association) and bring something more to the students involved in the association. Each month we have one big event of which URPSA will participate. For the month of September, Richmond is sponsoring what is known as “RVA Park(ing) Day.” This has opened an opportunity for the community to utilize parking areas as “open space,” and some of our students plan to attend as part of URPSA. Apart from our monthly events, we like to have a couple of social events throughout the month that allows the first year and second year students to interact and network. Other students will be joining together to attend conferences throughout the semester. URPSA students are also working as a liaison for Continued on next page

planners who come from other universities or abroad to speak and/or hold seminars. Overall, we are working hard to provide a positive experience to students in the MURP program at VCU and continue to use URPSA as a foundation for that.

## Virginia Tech- Blacksburg Campus

The Virginia Tech Graduate Urban Affairs and Planning Association, known as GUAPA, is an organization that provides a creative and professional environment for graduate students to collaborate with peers, faculty, other departments, and the public and private sectors throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. GUAPA provides the resources and support necessary for members to achieve their academic and professional goals while at Virginia Tech. This organization harnesses student engagement at the Graduate level through regional and national conference participation, monthly guest speaker lectures, academic research development, as well as social and professional networking opportunities.

Our students have been very active within the community and abroad so far this semester. Patrick Burke, a second year graduate student, will be traveling to Macedonia as part of his Peace Corps thesis option in the Master's program at VT. Jeffery Cucinotta and Steven Wingate, two other graduate students in the program, also have an international focus. Cucinotta is examining affordable housing in Mexico City and comparing the cost of living to the areas available on the peripheries in various municipalities. Wingate will be taking a deeper look at cities with high profiles of crimes such as sex trafficking and child labor. He is specifically interested in comparing urban designs and certain types of crime activity within the United States and Europe. We are very proud of our students in their international research and hope to share more information about their progress in the quarterly newsletter.

For more information about our program or students, please find us on Facebook and join our group! ■

## Member News and Notes

**Bruce Dotson** retired from the University of Virginia in May 2012 after 34 years as a faculty member, twice serving as Chair of the Department of Urban and Environmental Planning as well as Associate Dean, and for a brief time Acting Dean, of the School of Architecture. Bruce was the lead faculty member in the Land Use and Growth Management concentration of the Master of Urban and Environmental Planning program. In the early 1980's he served on the VAPA Board and

was the founding editor of Planning in Virginia, the chapter's magazine that was published for a number of years before the web era. While at UVA, Bruce served for many years as the Assistant Director of the Institute for Environmental Negotiation assisting local governments, state agencies, developers and community group to resolve a wide variety of issues through consensus seeking processes. Always active in local planning issues, he currently serves as the at-large member of the Albemarle County Planning Commission and as a member of the county's Acquisition of Conservation Easement Committee as well as its Public Recreation Facilities Authority. Professor Tim Beatley succeeds Bruce as Chair of the Department.

After 21 years of service, **Brent Nielson, AICP**, retired from the Chesapeake Planning Department at the end of August. As Chesapeake's Planning Director, Brent was instrumental in establishing a number of planning initiatives including a major update to the City's Comprehensive Plan, the City's Growth Management program, a comprehensive revision to the City's Zoning Ordinance, and partnerships with the U.S. Navy to address development encroachment. Prior to coming to Chesapeake, Brent served as the Planning Director for Westminster, Colorado and as a planner in Virginia Beach. Brent holds a Master of Science in Urban Planning from the University of Arizona and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Minnesota, Morris. Congratulations, Brent!

The Middlesex County Board of Supervisors recently voted to appoint **Matthew Lee Walker** as the new County Administrator. Matt began his work in Middlesex on November 1, 2012, replacing long time administrator Charles Culley who left in April to accept a similar position in Caroline County. Matt had served as Bath County Administrator since August 2011. Before taking the position in Bath, he served for three years in Middlesex County as the Director of Community Development and has a total of eighteen years of experience in local government positions in several Virginia communities. He has an undergraduate degree from James Madison University and holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Bret Schardein, CZA**, has been named Deputy County Administrator for Cumberland County. Bret has been the county's Planning Director since 2011 and will continue that role in addition to his new duties. ■

**Got any news you'd like to share?**

Email us at [newsbriefeditor@apavirginia.org](mailto:newsbriefeditor@apavirginia.org).

# New Fall Workshops Reserve Your Space Now!



## **Evaluating and Conserving Natural Assets: Maximizing conservation potential in the developing landscape for abundant recreation, clean water, clean air, wildlife, beautiful vistas, and strong economies.**

This is a hands-on planning and mapping workshop for local governments, conservation groups, land trusts and developers who want to create communities that are healthy both ecologically and economically!

This workshop will demonstrate how to use readily available tools to evaluate your locality or development plan to ensure that you have the best strategy possible for creating a resilient community. You will learn practical methods for using the best data to determine when, where and how to grow while still having a vibrant, green and beautiful community. Redevelopment and re-greening of the already built environment will also be covered. Case examples and methods will be provided for all types of development patterns from wildlands, to rural areas to suburbs and cities!

Plan to attend this one-day workshop to learn how to apply new design and planning tools for maximizing both economic and ecological values. This workshop is targeted to development and design professionals, local government staff, conservation groups, and anyone who wants to create greener designs that consume less of the landscape, while

creating healthier and more beautiful communities. Local government and elected and appointed officials are also welcome to attend. Space is limited to the first 40 registrants at each meeting so register today! A registration fee of \$20.00 includes lunch and unlimited coffee. Each participant will also receive a free copy of the new GIC Guide to Conserving Natural and Cultural Assets.

**The Green Infrastructure Center presents two workshops.** Each workshop will be similar but will feature data from the local region. Pick just one workshop to attend. Participants are encouraged to attend the workshop closest to them for convenience, however they may attend any location. **All workshops are held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Pre-registration is required within 7 days prior to the workshop date.** A fee of \$20.00 made payable to the GIC covers all expenses for lunch and beverages. Credit card payments may be made on line at <http://www.gicinc.org/donate.htm> but the registration form must also be sent to GIC. Participants can download and fill in the registration form and email it to [kline@gicinc.org](mailto:kline@gicinc.org) or mail it with a check for \$20.00 to: GIC, P.O. Box 317, Charlottesville VA 22902.

### **Northern Virginia Region November 2**

co-sponsored by Fauquier County  
at the John Barton Payne Building  
2 Courthouse Sq, Warrenton, VA 20186

### **Richmond Region November 29**

at the University of Richmond - Jepson Alumni  
Center Rosenbaum Conference Room  
28 Westhampton Way, Richmond, VA 23173

**To view the agendas for each event, visit**  
<http://gicinc.org/events.htm>



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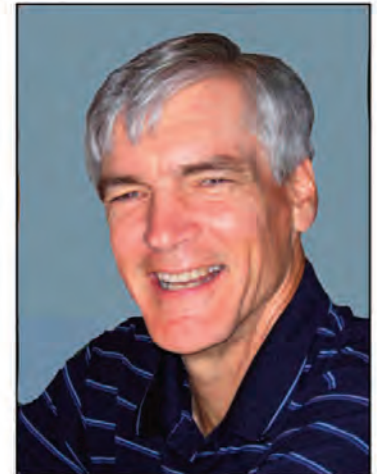
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## Herd Planning & Design Celebrates 20-Year Anniversary



Celebrating 20 years in business this October, I want to thank all of my clients and colleagues for your support throughout my years of planning consulting.

It's been an honor and a privilege to have served more than 70 local governments in Virginia, preparing and facilitating comprehensive plans, land use regulations, and other projects - and I'm hoping for another 20 years! **Thank you all!**



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Photo by William Billard.



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*The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of APA Virginia or its Board of Directors.*

**2012 NEWSBRIEF SCHEDULE**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Deadline for Articles to Editor</b>	<b>Distribution to Members</b>
Winter	December 21	January 21