

# NEWSBRIEF



American Planning Association  
Virginia Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

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## Inside this issue:

President's Column	2
APA Virginia and APA North Carolina Hold Coastal Symposium in Norfolk	4
Annual Conference to be Held at Lansdowne Resort	6
APA Virginia Board Works to Improve Service to Members	7
Member News	9
In Memoriam	9
Updates from APA 2013	10

**Deadline**  
for Summer issue is  
June 24, 2013.



Country road. Photo by Ken Garrett.

## New Guidelines for Multimodal Planning in Virginia

By Vlad Gavrilovic, AICP

### What is Multimodal Planning?

Have you ever been frustrated because you can't walk to a convenience store that is only a few hundred feet away because there are no sidewalks? Or because your children can't safely ride their bikes to a school located only a mile away? Many years of building roads without facilities for walking, biking and transit have made traveling by these modes a challenge. Communities throughout Virginia and the nation are realizing a desire to have more choices in how they travel.

Road diets, Complete Streets, Livability studies, streetscape improvements – these are all efforts within the planning profession to provide viable alternatives to driving alone. Transportation planning professionals use the term multimodal to describe anything that involves more than one mode of transportation, implying that there are more travel choices than just driving.



### What are the Benefits?

When communities invest in multimodal transportation improvements, they often experience a variety of benefits:

- More transportation choices and streets that are often safer for all travelers.
- Cost-efficiency - multimodal transportation investments focus on moving more people instead of more vehicles, and can make better use of the transportation facilities we already have instead of building new ones.
- Reducing travel demand by vehicles, which in turn lessens congestion, lowers emissions, and improves air quality.
- Addressing equity and social disparities by providing more travel choices for those with physical limitations affecting mobility.
- Encouraging more daily physical activity, and providing access to a wider range of goods and services.
- Improving quality of life - streets can become places of social interaction and promote a greater sense of community pride. *Continued on page 3*

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## APA Virginia Chapter President's Column—April 2013 Edition

By *George M. Homewood, AICP*

Insanity has been famously defined by Einstein as doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. Perhaps another definition should be seeing empirical evidence of harmful change and ignoring it.

In our Commonwealth, the issues discussed at the APA North Carolina/APA Virginia Symposium on Coastal Communities and Resiliency recently—climate change and sea level rise—have become politicized. We are told that the Founding Fathers would be appalled at the attack on property rights perpetrated by government at all levels. And perhaps they would, but these same Founding Fathers also believed that science was the key to improving the human condition and that reason was among the highest forms of human pursuit. Yet there are some individuals and organizations today that see reliance on science and technology, or more particularly the future conditions being predicted by use of scientific models, as part of a global conspiracy orchestrated by the United Nations to deprive Americans of their property rights. At least one state has attempted to legislate away the forces of nature because it is not politically expedient to accept the results of empirical study.

Perhaps this is somewhat more understandable when viewed through the prism of our nation having subsidized risky behavior through the National Flood Insurance Program for more than 40 years. Even before Sandy rolled up the Atlantic coast last year, Congress had recognized that the current flood insurance premium framework was financially a disaster because premiums were far too low based on actuarial risk. The resulting change embodied in the flood insurance program reauthorization bases premiums on real risk and eliminates rate subsidies—please recall that the reason that this is a government program at all is that no private insurers were willing to write flood policies at any price—and is beginning to create a storm of protest by those whose premiums are increasing, some tenfold or

more. Unfortunately, as necessary for fiscal sanity as this change in direction is, there will be ripple effects in coastal and riverine communities. As one of the presenters at the Symposium stated, the properties that once were the cash cows of a community may soon be the money pits.

Yet too often, the prevailing attitude is to ignore the evidence of change in order to cling to the status quo because it is too uncomfortable to do otherwise.

Planners know that these issues are real and we as a profession need to be strong advocates for fact-based decision-making. It certainly is possible to make coastal resilience, climate change and sea level rise part of the public conversation, especially at the local level, without having to debate why it is occurring. We know that the cause frankly doesn't matter to us because it is nothing we can solve alone. What does matter is how we prepare our communities for the certainty that the waters are rising.

"*Improvise, Adapt and Overcome*" is the informal mantra of the U.S. Marine Corps and I suggest that it offers far more wisdom in defining how we react to climate change, coastal resiliency and sea level rise than either ignoring the issues or attempting to legislate them away.

The joint North Carolina and Virginia Chapters Symposium on Coastal Communities and Resiliency was a great success. Much of what I have written above was reinforced by the speakers and presentations there. Thanks are due to V-P of Sections Will Cockrell and the team he put together to plan and carry out the event. Thanks are also due to our sponsors for the Symposium: City of Norfolk, Clark Nexsen, Hampton Roads PDC, Kimley-Horn and Associates, and Parsons Brinkerhoff.

As part of the Symposium, we experimented with several new ways of delivering content to participants that *Continued on next page*

## President's Letter (continued)

leverage the prevalence of smart phones and tablets. Depending on the results from the survey of Symposium participants and sponsors, we likely will continue and perhaps expand the use of these applications at the Chapter's conference in July at Lansdowne. It is hoped that this will make more content available, but using far less paper in the process.

The information and application materials for our 2013 Awards have already been posted as has the call for presentations at July's conference. Plans for the conference include many more mobile workshops than we have been able to offer previously and several will be offered on Sunday. Members may want to consider spending the weekend immediately prior to the conference at the Lansdowne Resort and take advantage of the water park, spa and golf options at the favorable room rates we have been able to obtain.

Many of the Chapter's key leaders will represent Virginia at the APA Leadership Meeting and the National Delegate Assembly that precede the National Planning Conference in Chicago. We will report to you on these meetings in the coming months.

Finally, a shout-out to VCU on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the MURP program. The Bachelor's program is 42 years old this year and the Master's program is 40. Students, alumni and friends will celebrate the anniversary at the second annual Plan Off!! on 3 May 2013. Congratulations to VCU.

Thank you for your continuing support. Please let me know how your chapter can better serve you needs. ■

*George*

## New Guidelines for Multimodal Planning in Virginia (continued)

Local governments throughout Virginia are increasingly making multimodal transportation investments a priority. They are enhancing sidewalks, creating bike lanes, and expanding transit service. They are developing bike plans and pedestrian plans to provide future connections. Some, such as the City of Roanoke have even developed and adopted design guidelines for multimodal streets.

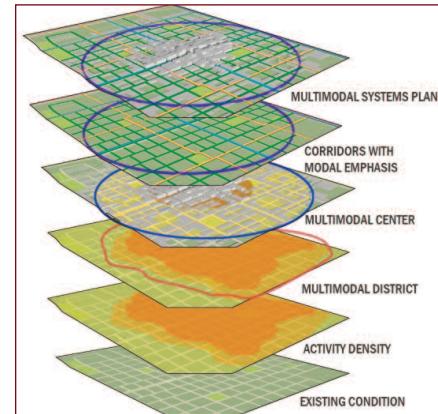
### A New Vision for Multimodal Planning in Virginia

To aid local governments in these efforts, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation is developing the **Multimodal System Design Guidelines** – a holistic framework for multimodal planning at the regional, local and corridor scale.

The Guidelines provide a step-by-step manual of best practices for identifying centers of activity, designating connected networks for all travel modes, and designing and retrofitting multimodal corridors. Communities throughout Virginia can find these Guidelines helpful in planning for connected regional transportation networks that serve all travel modes.

### Key Concepts in the Guidelines

There are a number of key concepts in the Guidelines, starting with the basic concept of a **Multimodal System Plan**, an integrated land use and multimodal transportation plan that shows key centers and corridors in a region and ensures that there is a connected circulation network for all travel modes. Typically, the development of a Multimodal Systems Plan is a mapping and analysis exercise that compiles existing plans and policies, rather than the establishment of a whole new policy framework. It assembles existing land use and transportation policies onto a single unified plan that serves as the basis for making decisions about more detailed multimodal planning at the scale of streets and centers.



The Guidelines also define **Multimodal Centers** as current or future centers of activity within a region where future growth may be targeted to provide a variety of destinations within walking distance. These centers are where good travel options and well-connected street grids are present and where transit service may be provided. In particular, these centers are areas that would most benefit from multimodal improvements, and, Continued on next page

## New Guidelines for Multimodal Planning in Virginia (continued)

given limited transportation funds, may also be target areas for multimodal investments. The Guidelines describe a series of seven Multimodal Center types, ranging from Urban Cores to Rural/Village Centers, with recommended standards, metrics and design features of each.



Finally, the Guidelines outline six types of **Multimodal Corridors**, ranging from Transit Boulevards to Local Streets. The design standards for the corridors are derived from industry standard publications such as the ITE/CNU's [Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares: A Context Sensitive Approach](#). They are also correlated to the VDOT [Road Design Manual](#), so that they meet or exceed all VDOT road standards. The Guidelines outline a flexible process for designing multimodal street cross sections based on **Modal Emphasis**. Modal Emphasis is the designation of one or more travel modes that should be emphasized in the design of the cross section for a given corridor, and is ultimately derived from the Multimodal System Plan. Modal Emphasis means that a travel mode may be emphasized on a corridor through certain design features but that other modes are still accommodated in some fashion.

This process of applying modal emphasis lets road designers customize a corridor for the specific needs of the emphasized modes, while still accommodating other travel modes, allowing the corridor to fulfill its function in the overall Multimodal Systems Plan.

### Implementing the Guidelines

By planning comprehensively, from the Multimodal System Plan down to the design of each element of a corridor, the Guidelines can help ensure that the multimodal investments we make are for the right projects in the right places, making it easier to walk, bike or take

transit for our daily trips. One of the additional benefits of publishing and implementing the Multimodal System Design Guidelines is to start to standardize the planning language, concepts and best practices that are used throughout Virginia toward a more unified approach statewide. In the coming months, DRPT will be working with VDOT to implement the Guidelines by making them an optional set of standards for use in urban areas according to the Road Design Manual. The Guidelines are currently in a final draft form and can be reviewed on the DRPT website at:

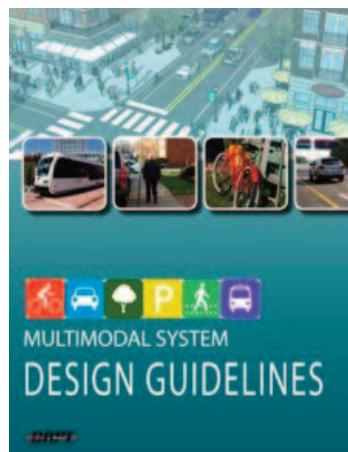
**[www.drpt.virginia.gov/activities/MultimodalSystemDesignGuidelines.aspx](http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/activities/MultimodalSystemDesignGuidelines.aspx)**

If you have any questions about the Guidelines, please feel free to contact Amy Inman, DRPT Manager of Transit Planning (amy.inman@drpt.virginia.gov, 804-225-3207), or Vlad Gavrilovic, Consultant Team Project Manager (vlad@citiesthatwork.com, 434-296-2554x300). ■

## APA Virginia and APA North Carolina Hold Coastal Symposium in Norfolk

By Anne Ducey-Ortiz, AICP

More than 80 planners from eastern Virginia and North Carolina gathered together on Friday, March 22, 2013, to participate in an all-day symposium aimed at providing planners and local officials a working knowledge of planning tools and policies to help address increasing coastal threats. The theme of the day – making sound coastal policies happen. The Half Moon Cruise and Celebration Center in Norfolk provided the perfect backdrop to discuss issues of flooding and community resiliency. While the group enjoyed clear sunny views of the harbor and surrounding waterfront, George Homewood, AICP, APA Virginia Chapter President and Assistant Director of Planning and Community Development for the City of Norfolk, welcomed us with a joke about March Madness while showing a sobering image of the same venue surrounded by water during a flood event.



In his keynote address, Norfolk Assistant City Manager Ron Williams, Jr., also welcomed everyone to this vibrant, but vulnerable city and discussed the city's strategies for handling coastal threats and Continued on next page

## Coastal Symposium in Norfolk (continued)

Half Moone. Photo by Lina Adams.



flooding. He described the concept of mitigation before disaster and noted the nearby flood wall, which not only protects downtown but also provided for redevelopment of the waterfront. The city has a four prong strategy to handle recurrent flooding – plan, prepare, mitigate and communicate. The strategy is implemented across departments through biweekly meetings and collaboration. More information about the city's program can be found on their website: [www.norfolk.gov/flooding](http://www.norfolk.gov/flooding).

Norfolk has also developed partnerships outside the region and even outside the country. Mr. Williams shared a lesson learned from one notable partner, the Dutch Embassy - "learn to live with water." This theme and that of multiple disciplines working concurrently to address coastal issues was echoed throughout the day by other speakers.

The next two speakers addressed the national perspective on the science and threats of coastal storms, sea level rise and shoreline erosion. Dr. Carl Hershner from William and Mary's Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) gave a clear and succinct overview of the science demonstrating that sea level rise is accelerating. Based on various models and predictions, we can expect a three to five foot rise in water levels by 2100. There are multiple scientifically based reasons for this forecast. Several other trends in climate and weather events that impact future land use and natural resources were also discussed as they related to future land use and resource planning.

Dr. Tim Beatley from the University of Virginia continued the conversation by describing many examples of communities that have acknowledged these trends and are using a variety of options to respond to them. He defined the term "resilience" as being flexible - bending but not breaking - reiterating the concept of

living with the water. In contrast to Dr. Hershner's presentation of graphs and charts, Dr. Beatley showed many pictures from around the world of communities that have attempted to be resilient. His examples ranged from costly and potentially environmentally damaging structural armoring such as Project Moses in Venice to abandonment of vulnerable neighborhoods such as the Brownswood subdivision in Baytown, Texas. He described innovative ideas such as "softer edges" surrounding cities rather than the hardened shorelines we currently see; floating food production; water plazas to serve both as storm water management and community parks; and, "passive survivability" after a storm event. He talked about resilience in buildings realized by designing structures to withstand flooding, as well as social resilience achieved by having the social capacity to handle flood events through neighborhood captains or Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) programs. Even evacuation routes need to be carefully considered and reconsidered – two ideas of interest were hurricane evacuation bus routes and vertical evacuation. In closing, he brought the discussion back to the need to plan long-term. Planners typically plan for the next 20 to 30 years, but we also need to be planning for the next 100 years, like in 2100 when sea level will be at least 3 to 5 feet higher.

I never tire of hearing Skip Styles, Executive Director from Wetlands Watch, talk about the issues of sea level rise and coastal flooding. His down to earth and energetic presentation of the economic realities arising from these issues and the potential impacts on local governments and coastal residents make you almost forget that his group's main mission is to preserve equally vulnerable wetland habitats. Wetlands Watch has done a tremendous job bringing the issue of sea level rise and flooding to *Continued on next page*



## Coastal Symposium in Norfolk (continued)

the forefront in Hampton Roads and Virginia as a whole, and their organization will continue to be an important partner in implementing resilience in the region.

Virginia's Coastal Policy Clinic at the William and Mary Law School is a new partner on the scene of coastal issues. Director Shana Jones described the clinic's role in doing legal research and policy analysis on coastal issues and issue spotting. She described four main legal tenets related to coastal policies in Virginia: the Dillon Rule, takings, torts and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Regarding takings, Ms. Jones outlined a very interesting case involving flooding and a lawsuit filed against VDOT for damages resulting from their actions and lack of maintenance. Planners in the room will be carefully watching the outcome of this lawsuit, *Livingston vs. VDOT*, as it could have significant implications on future policy.

Following a lunch filled with good food and even better conversations, we enjoyed a compelling presentation entitled *Planning for Post Disaster Recovery* from Dr. Gavin Smith, Executive Director of UNC Center for the Study of Natural Hazards and Disasters. Disasters can be episodic or slow onset events, but, regardless of how and when they occur, communities need to plan for them. Natural hazards are part of nature and we need to plan with them in mind, just like other aspects of nature. Dr. Smith is a strong advocate for scenario-based planning using the "what if" model. What if an area gets destroyed? Should it be rebuilt? The scenario should address funding, policy and technical assistance. Through his vast experiences dealing with disasters in multiple states throughout the country, including Mississippi's recovery from Katrina, he sees a large disconnect between federal programs and how local governments work. As a local planner involved with FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, as well as having family impacted by "super storm" Sandy in New York, this sentiment resonated strongly with me. However, despite planners' frustration with emergency management programs and policies, Dr. Smith is a strong advocate for land use planners being very involved in and working with emergency managers on pre and post disaster recovery plans. He provided case studies from Mississippi and Florida demonstrating how planners could play a vital role in recovery and risk reduction. He invited interested planners attending the APA National Convention in Chicago to join the Hazards Committee that is being formed by APA.

The day concluded with two panel discussions focused on local planners' role in addressing the issue of sea level rise and recurrent flooding. First regional planners from Virginia, consisting of Lewis Lawrence of the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission (PDC), Ben McFarland from Hampton Roads PDC and Curtis Smith from Accomack-Northampton PDC, answered questions

moderated by Will Cockrell, APA VA Section Director and the organizer of the day's event. North Carolina panelists Brian Roth, Mayor of Plymouth, North Carolina, Andrew Garman, Director of Community Development in the Town of Duck, and William G. (Greg) Loy, Planning Director of Kill Devil Hills, provided an even more local perspective. These two sessions provided the audience the opportunity to hear first-hand examples of some of the issues discussed earlier in the day and to interact with planners working to implement some of the policies and practices for resiliency in their region and communities.

George closed the meeting with a reminder that planners are advocates for fact-based decision making. The Symposium exposed us to multiple facts, ideas and resources to offer that advocacy in our communities. It also provided opportunities to connect with other practicing planners, advocates and researchers and develop partnerships across multiple disciplines as we work to learn to live with water, both now and in the future. ■



## Annual Conference to be Held at Lansdowne Resort

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

What are you doing this summer? Consider for a trip to northern Virginia for the APA Virginia annual conference, to be held at the Lansdowne Report, July 21 to 24. Conference registration, which will open soon, will be \$450 for APA Virginia members, with great rates for lodging from Lansdowne Resort at the unheard of rate of \$149.00 a night, including resort fees. Don't forget that because the conference will be in July, you may be able to split your costs over two budget cycles and avoid the sweltering heat off the mountain, so be on the lookout for registration to open.

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

### Preconference: Sunday, July 21

The Host Committee is working Continued on next page

## 2013 Annual Conference (continued)

up a wide variety of pre-conference mobile workshops, walking and biking tours to get you familiar with the area.

### **Opening Day: Monday, July 22**

Attend a full day of training, including a plenary session in the morning followed by a rousing slide presentation from your APA Virginia Board members that will lead right into a keynote address on the conference theme: The Changing Face and Aging of America. Keep a watchful eye on the website for the announcement of the keynote and any other special speakers or guests. The afternoon will host two mobile workshops and breakout sessions, followed by our traditional welcome reception to allow attendees to reconnect with colleagues and enjoy the beauty of the resort.



### **Tuesday, July 23**

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

### **Enjoy Lansdowne Resort: Wednesday, July 24**

We will wrap up on Wednesday with a half-day program that allows everyone to take in the scenery and enjoy a relaxed lunch at Lansdowne or at one of the area restaurants before heading out to enjoy all that northern Virginia has to offer.

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

The AAA Four-Diamond honors are not awarded to just any resort. For each year of its existence, Lansdowne Resort has earned this designation and is widely-recognized as the premier Mid-Atlantic hospitality provider. The resort and its accommodating staff have unlocked the secret to combining quality service, attention to detail and commitment to its guests. Situated along the bluffs of the Potomac River, the resort is home to one of the most acclaimed and respected IACC-certified conference centers in the U.S., and seeks to provide all the quality meeting and leisure amenities you come to expect from a full-service resort. ■



## **APA Virginia Board Works to Improve Service to Members**

*By Ben I. Wales, AICP, Secretary*

The Board of Directors continues to work to improve services to members. The following is some of the latest news from the Board...

- The Chapter's By-laws Committee is continuing to consider necessary amendments to the Chapter's by-laws. This Committee is considering important changes that will help improve the way the Chapter is run, including the possibility of aligning of the our election cycles with APA National and creating a 'President-Elect' position on the Board of Directors. The Committee will finalize its recommendations in the coming months for Board's review.
- The Chapter's student representatives, Daniel Messplay and Margot Elton, continue to explore ways to engage our student members and ensure they are being served by the Chapter. Some of their recent work has involved reaching

out to students and professors within the state's planning programs, working towards hosting a student symposium and evaluating ways to connect students with potential employers. Daniel and Margot are also exploring new means of reaching student members and the use of latest social media to provide updates, blogs and video blogs.

- Nicole Thompson, chair of the Chapter's Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee (ECDC), welcomed Susan Segura to the ECDC. Nicole is looking forward to Susan's help with making updates to the ECDC's webpage and creating more of a resource to Committee and Chapter members. The ECDC is considering revisions to its mission statement and is discussing the use of a new name that will help reflect the definition of diversity.
- The ECDC is working towards hosting a 'Creative Class Symposium'. The symposium is *Continued on next page*

## APA Virginia Works to Improve Service (continued)

anticipated to take place in Hampton in November, 2013. Look out for more news about this in emails from the Chapter and on the Chapters website.

- Not content with his efforts in helping arrange the successful 2013 Coastal Symposium in March, the Chapter's Vice President of Sections, Will Cockrell, AICP, is continuing to work with our Section Directors to help organize more Section Events. This involves regular conference calls with all Section Directors to discuss opportunities for providing interesting and educational events for Chapter members. Look out for Section Events on the 'Events' page of the Chapter's website – they are a great way to learn about topical aspects of planning and meet fellow planners. To find out what Section you are in or to find out more about your section and upcoming events, contact Will ([vpsections@apavirginia.org](mailto:vpsections@apavirginia.org)), who will put you in touch with your section directors.
- Under the guidance of Past President Jeryl Phillips, AICP, the Chapter is close to publication of *The Greater Commonwealth – Stories about Planning and Places in Virginia*. It is hoped this compilation of 12 stories, based on submittals received from Chapter members, can be issued to each Chapter member at this year's Conference and made available on the Chapter's website.
- The Board has discussed creating a page on the Chapter website to make members aware of assistance needed in the running of the Chapter. If you're keen to help out and want to know more about the work the Chapter provides, please watch this space or contact Chapter President George Homewood, AICP ([president@apavirginia.org](mailto:president@apavirginia.org) ).
- After several years of great service, Susan McCulloch has stepped down as Newsbrief co-editor. Despite losing Susan from the Newsbrief team, we're pleased to say she will continue to serve the Chapter as co-director of the Southside Section.
- The Young Planners Committee co-chairs, Emily Ruf and Garet Prior continue to explore ways to engage more of the Chapter's younger members, aged 35 and younger. Emily and Garet are currently preparing a draft survey for issuance to Chapter members to help direct their efforts and help the Chapter provide a better service to its young planners.
- The Chapter's new 'E-News and Events' newsletter, 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 McGgettigan, AICP ([vpexternalaffairs@apavirginia.org](mailto:vpexternalaffairs@apavirginia.org)).
- The Chapter's social media reach is continuing to expand. Chapter members are receiving up to the minute

news through the Facebook page (Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association) and Twitter feed (APA\_Virginia). If you haven't already done so, please 'like' or 'follow' us!

- The Board is continuing its preparations for the 2013 Annual Conference at Lansdowne Resort! The Board's March quarterly meeting took place at the Resort, allowing Board members to tour the facility and the various rooms and spaces that will be available to us during the Conference. The Resort surely is impressive and in a beautiful setting. During its quarterly meeting the Board discussed and reviewed numerous aspects of the event, including:
  - The conference theme this year – The Changing Face and Aging of America.
  - A draft conference schedule, painstakingly prepared by Vice President of Chapter Affairs Earl Anderson, AICP, and Central Section Director Andy Boenau, AICP.
  - Opportunities within the conference schedule for networking and section meetings or committee meetings.
  - The conference budget, including target revenue and a detailed analysis of anticipated expenses.
  - The use of the 'Guidebook' app to allow members to access conference details, including session schedules, speakers' bios and contact information, and sessions members plan to attend.
  - Conference sponsorship, including various sponsorship levels, and sponsorship targets to be met.
  - The scheduling of mobile workshops covering topics and activities specific to the region.
  - Ensuring the conference will again be 'family friendly'. The Lansdowne Resort has lots of fun activities and facilities available for families and will be hiring its own activities manager for the summer.
- A conference session allowing each Board member to provide a summary of their position's roles and responsibilities, helping make members more aware of what services and opportunities may be available from the Chapter.

The Hosting Committee is continuing its efforts to finalize arrangements for the conference and ensure that this year's event will be the huge success we all envision...no pressure guys!

Continued on next page

## Board Members Work to Improve Service (continued)

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. ■

## Member News

Fredericksburg has selected **Charles R. Johnston**, AICP, as its new planning director, effective April 15, 2013. Mr. Johnston was chosen from a group of 53 applicants from 23 states. Mr. Johnston has a strong background in historic preservation and land conservation. He currently serves as the planning director in Calvert County, Maryland. Prior to his employment in Calvert County, Mr. Johnston served as the planning director in Clarke County for over twenty years. He has experience working in departments of various sizes, including the communities of Winchester, Virginia; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Aurora, Colorado; and Hanover, Virginia.

Mr. Johnston holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign and a Master of City and Regional Planning degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Design. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, an accredited member of the Congress for New Urbanism and an associate member of the Urban Land Institute.

**Nathan Macek**, AICP, has been appointed as member of the Alexandria Planning Commission. Macek previously served as chair of the city's Waterfront Commission, which was actively involved in the development of Alexandria's Waterfront Small Area Plan, a long-range vision to invigorate the city's Potomac riverfront. He was a member of the citizen Waterfront Plan Work Group that reviewed the plan and provided detailed recommendations to City Council, co-authoring its final report. He also authored Alexandria's successful nomination of King Street for APA's Great Streets program in 2011. Professionally, he is a Principal Consultant with Parsons Brinckerhoff specializing in financial planning for major transit and highway projects.

On April 4, 2013, localities, firms, organizations, and individuals from across Virginia were recognized during the Virginia Downtown Development Association's 28th Annual Awards of Excellence Program held in Petersburg, Virginia. Among those receiving awards were the co-chairs of APA Virginia's Young Planners Group. **Garet Prior** received the Award of Merit - Student Commercial Revitalization Plans and Streetscapes for the Downtown Development & Revitalization Plan for the city of Hopewell. **Emily Ruf** received the Award of Excellence – Student Commercial Revitalization Plans and Streetscapes for "Engaging a Living History: A Corridor Improvement Plan for East Grace Street, Richmond." Congratulations Garet and Emily! ■



Garet receives VDDA Award.

## In Memoriam

**Patrick Kane**, a community planner who was instrumental in the development of Reston and was still concerned about the area 50 years later, died on March 5, 2013, at age 77.



Kane founded his own planning firm, KRS Associates, in Reston in 1966. In 1973, he formed The Corporation for Community Development, which was a consortium of firms and individuals working on planning projects. Among these projects were A Future of Tysons Corner, prepared for TYTRAN; a plan for the downtown area of the Town of Herndon; and an assessment of the reinvestment potential of the Lake Anne in Reston.

Kane's papers about the planning and development of Reston from 1967-2002 are part of the library at George Mason University where he was an adjunct professor.

Kane was the founding president of the Reston Board of Commerce and chair of the Chamber from 1982-86. He was chosen as Lord Fairfax by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 2010 for his contributions to the community. (Courtesy: Reston Patch)

## Jonathan Lee Pickett

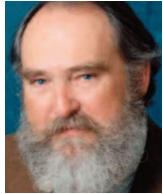
Jonathan Lee Pickett died February 25, 2013. He had served as Director of Planning and Community Development of Prince Edward County since 1990. He was the chairman of the Community Policy Management Team, which oversees services for at-risk youth and families in Prince Edward. Continued on next page

## In Memoriam (continued)

County. Jonathan was also the Director of Emergency Services and worked closely with the first responders and public safety officials of the county. He also served as head of emergency management services and waste management services during that time.

Mr. Pickett was a graduate of Virginia Tech and Virginia Commonwealth University. In his spare time, he enjoyed fishing, traveling, and spending time with his family. (Courtesy: Richmond Times-Dispatch)

**Charles Taft Peters, Jr.**, who retired in 1997 as director of the Richmond Department of Planning and Community Development, died January 29, 2013. His contributions to the city included:



- The Virginia BioTechnology Research Park;
- restoration of the city canal system, including a Bosher's Dam project that installed "fish ladders" that restored their ability to migrate upstream to spawn;
- a plan to have the James River designated one of the nation's first 10 Heritage Rivers;
- a \$52 million riverfront initiative including creation of a turning basin at 14th Street, a riverwalk and combined sewer overflow pipeline that spurred commercial and residential development;
- the Project One downtown rehabilitation effort that brought the city the Richmond Marriott and the Greater Richmond Convention Center, an Omni Hotel, a floodwall, a rehabilitated Jefferson Hotel, Tobacco Row apartments and more parking; and
- the 6th Street Marketplace.

Mr. Peters earned a bachelor's degree in city planning in 1967 from the University of Virginia School of Architecture. He later studied public administration at the Frank Batten Graduate School of Leadership and Public Policy at UVA. He served as a planner with the Virginia Division of State Planning and Community Affairs and later as a consultant to the division, before he joined coming to work for the city of Richmond. He also helped found the Richmond Better Housing Coalition and chaired the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority. ■  
(Courtesy: Richmond Times-Dispatch)

## Updates from APA 2013



*By Rodger Lentz, AICP  
APA Board of Directors, Region 2*

As I sit on the Tarmac at Chicago O'Hare, I thought it was a good time to give an update on the happenings at APA. Lovely weather for a flight today!

The leadership meetings held as part of the national conference were productive and engaging. Lots of collaboration over the 2 days including a continued emphasis on Division and Chapter collaboration. The aging of our population and what it means to planning and planners is still a hot topic and one that Divisions and Chapters are working together on to determine best practices and share lessons learned. Keep your eye on the APA web site as information becomes available. Here are some resources that are already available - [www.planning.org/resources/ontheradar/aging/agingbibliography.htm](http://www.planning.org/resources/ontheradar/aging/agingbibliography.htm).

**Have news that you would like to share?**

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

For those of you studying to become a certified planner there are a couple of items to be aware of. First, the exam refresh process is just about completed. This is a process, completed every few years, where outdated questions are deleted from the question pool and replaced with new questions reflective of current knowledge needed by practicing planners. In addition, new web based exam prep products are forthcoming. APA staff is also producing a mobile platform exam prep product. Keep your eye out for these changes and new products later this year.

If you haven't seen it yet, check out Planning Magazine's new digital format. You should be getting monthly emails announcing when the magazine is available for download. I really enjoy being able to read it while on a plane or other down times when I can catch up on my reading list. See the list of available digital magazines here: [www.planning.org/planning/digital/previous.htm](http://www.planning.org/planning/digital/previous.htm).

Another new development for certified planners is the Urban Design Specialty Continued on next page

## 2013 APA Updates (continued)

Certification. This new specialty certification will be explored and developed as the next in the series which already includes Transportation and Environmental specialties.

### Here are a few other items to be aware of:

1. APA has updated its Mobile APP for smart phones and tablets. One of the best features is the daily news feed which highlights news stories from around the country with planning related themes. It also includes job listings, links to APA social media and provides your CM statistics.  
<http://www.planning.org/policy/economicrecovery>.
2. There has been much talk about APA's nationwide poll on people's attitudes and knowledge of planning. While it was done about a year ago, the findings are still relevant for our work. Job creation, protecting water quality and protecting neighborhoods are all important and relevant issues for respondents. Overwhelmingly, people support planning, no matter their political or demographic background. I encourage you to review or re-review the survey findings. Use these findings in your conversations about planning.  
<http://www.planning.org/multimedia/blogs>.
3. The APA web site includes several blogs that might interest you. Topic areas include Sustaining Places, Disaster Recovery, and Policy News. You can catch the blogs at this link -  
<http://www.planning.org/multimedia/blogs>.
4. If you are not an APA Division member, I encourage you to look into the offerings. Divisions are a way to get deeper into topics important to you whether your interests are sustainability, diversity, the environment, small towns, economic development and many others. At just \$25 per year, Divisions are a great way to

connect with like minded planners. I really enjoyed attending Division events at the conference and find their newsletters informative. Many have web or Facebook pages to allow online collaboration. You can find more about Divisions here -  
<http://www.planning.org/divisions>.

5. A renewed emphasis on Community Planning Assistance Teams is coming from the AICP Commission. These are an opportunity for communities to attract national planning leaders to their communities to develop specific strategies and ideas for a specific issue in your area. It is also an opportunity for you to volunteer your services and give back to the profession. You can find more about CPATs and sign up to be a volunteer or apply for CPAT assistance here -  
<http://www.planning.org/communityassistance/teams>.

For those that attended the Chicago conference, I hope you are reinvigorated and brought home new ideas. For those that couldn't attend, I hope you will make plans to attend a Chapter conference. APA Chapters do outstanding work and produce terrific conferences! I hope you will consider sponsoring a session or finding other ways to volunteer.

Finally, APA President Mitch Silver, AICP handed over the gavel to Bill Anderson, AICP. Mitch did an outstanding job raising the profile of planning and planners around the country. We also said goodbye to AICP President Anna Breinich, AICP and welcomed Lee Brown, FAICP as the new President of AICP. Anna did an terrific job improving the CPAT program and developing the idea for building an APA mentoring program. While we say goodbye to two outstanding leaders I am looking forward to working with both Bill and Lee on the APA Board over the next two years. ■

## 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!*



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Spring time in Virginia. Photo by chaoswallpapers.com.



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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.*

**2013 NEWSBRIEF SCHEDULE**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Deadline for Articles to Editor</b>	<b>Distribution to Members</b>
Summer	June 24	July 15
Fall	Sept 25	Oct 21