

MARYLAND PLANNER



American Planning Association
Maryland Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Maryland Chapter of the American Planning Association

Fall, 2010

In this Issue:

- President's Message
- PlanMaryland: Hundreds of Marylanders Turned Out for Public Forums in Spring
- Cumberland Celebrates the National Road Bicentennial
- Congratulations to our New AICP Members.
- University of Maryland Community Planning Studio Project
- Planning with Children: A Call for Volunteers
- Calendar of Planning Events
- Executive Committee Contact Information

President's Message

by Jim Potter, AICP, PP



Instead of the usual litany of events, I thought I'd focus on a couple of significant ones.

The first is our forum on Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay.

The Forum will be held on **Wednesday, 27**

October, at Morgan State University's new

Student Center. This will be an important discussion of the power of Smart Growth to affect environmental benefit. As a background, the TMDL effort is court-imposed, the result of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's (CBF) lawsuit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We have confirmed speakers from EPA Region 3 in Philadelphia, Maryland Departments of Planning and Environment, and the National Center for Smart Growth. The format of the event is a hybrid of statements and facilitated discussion. Then we will have an open dialogue among speakers and attendees. The outcomes of the meeting will be the public comments on TMDL that the Chapter submits to EPA.

The other event you need to be aware of is the public participation seminar. The seminar represents an escalation of professional development. The idea is to provide detailed instruction over an entire day on how to engage community groups and other stakeholders. We are working with Ron Thomas to develop a lesson plan. Ron is a veteran of numerous high-profile public involvement projects. We hope to see you at one or both events and all the other things the Chapter is working on. Please let me leave you with an idea to ponder: **Planning means always looking up.** Feel free to comment on Facebook or GoogleGroups. 

Newsletter Editorial Team

- **Parag Agrawal**, AICP
Editor
- **Josephine Boyer**, AICP
- **Natalie Latham**, AICP
- **James Noonan**, AICP

PlanMaryland: Hundreds of Marylanders Turned Out for Public Forums in Spring

by Rich Josephson, Maryland Department of Planning

This spring, more than 600 Marylanders attended 13 public forums across the State to discuss the formation of the State's first plan for sustainable growth, development and preservation. The Maryland Department of Planning is spearheading this effort called PlanMaryland. Although such a plan has been authorized since 1974, one has never been done. Instead, growth management at the State level in recent decades has taken the form of legislation, policy and funding under the banner of smart growth. While all counties and most municipalities in Maryland are required to have comprehensive land-use plans, the State has lacked a long-term blueprint for sustainable growth.

Maryland faces significant challenges but also is presented with ample opportunities. Maryland experienced as much land development in the 30 years after the General Assembly authorized that State Growth Plan as it did in the prior 300 years. Our land-use practices of the past several decades have often been wasteful, inefficient and unsustainable. The result of unfocused growth in our communities is too much traffic congestion, degradation of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, under utilized Main Streets and fewer opportunities to walk.

One of many issues that reverberated at the forums this spring is that people are very concerned about long-term economic development and job creation. A plan for sustainable growth enhances that environment. Putting workers closer



Planning Secretary Richard Hall gave a presentation at the Salisbury Public Forum



PlanMaryland Webpage, <http://plan.maryland.gov/>

to employment, with a better mix of public transportation and affordable housing options, are prime objectives of smarter planning. Better use of existing infrastructure in roads and schools also reduces the financial burden for additional public facilities.

The success of PlanMaryland depends on hearing many different voices and points of view and crafting a plan for growth, development and

PlanMaryland public forum photographs



preservation that reflects the State’s geographic and cultural diversity. Public participation in planning has many purposes and benefits. Geographic needs and issues can often be explained best by those who live in different communities. Good ideas can -- and need to -- come from non-planners. As part of our outreach efforts, the Maryland Department of Planning has used online surveys, meetings with local planning officials, stakeholder interviews and public forums. We have reached out to college students, economic development groups, state ethnic and cultural commissions and other organizations around the State. Altogether, these discussions have formed a healthy body of material to guide and inform the planning process.

The Maryland General Assembly last year adopted 12 “Planning Visions” for local and State planning. The initial outreach process for PlanMaryland built on those adopted visions. At the forums, we sought to identify which visions were most important to people, and what is working and not working when it comes to implementing the visions. The main tool for collecting input came from interactive table discussions. As forum attendees arrived, they were seated randomly at tables of 6-8 participants. Each table was staffed by a moderator and a recorder, from among six different State agencies, to facilitate discussion and summarize people’s comments. Each session began with participants reviewing the State’s planning visions.

The participants were asked to indicate which of the 12 planning visions they thought

Continued on Page # 8

Cumberland Celebrates the National Road Bicentennial

By Dave Umling, City of Cumberland

The National Road will celebrate its 200th birthday on May 8, 2011. This highway not only transformed our nation, it also put Cumberland on the map. Stretching from downtown Cumberland to Vandalia, Illinois, this first federally-funded highway opened the west to settlement and provided a critical transportation link between the established Atlantic coast cities and the new American Frontier. For Cumberland, the road placed the city at the head of a major transportation corridor and fueled the city's subsequent development as a major regional manufacturing and transportation center. In many respects, the National Road is the forerunner of our entire Federal highway system and its construction marked the beginning of the Federal Government's strategic investments in the infrastructure that built our nation.

The City of Cumberland, in cooperation with Allegany County and a wide array of partners within the area and along the National Road, is planning to mark this bicentennial event by breaking ground on a new 12-foot tall monument at Riverside Park--adjacent to Canal Place in downtown Cumberland and within sight of the Zero Mile Marker. The monument will include a time capsule that will be sealed for another 200 years. Many of the items that will be placed in the monument's time capsule will be submitted by school children from the towns and cities between Cumberland and Wheeling, WV that were linked through the initial construction of the road. A



Stone marking the approximate location of the start of construction on the National Road.



Traffic island in which the stone is located at the beginning of Greene St. I-68 is in the background.

number of other events and activities are being contemplated for the commemoration weekend, including an antique car parade, a Black-Tie Ball, narrated tours of the original National Road corridor, special area museum events and exhibits, and other festivities.

All of these events are being coordinated to coincide with a multi-state Planning Conference during the first week of May 2011 in downtown Cumberland. This conference is being coordinated

and planned jointly by the APA Chapters in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia and will have a theme that provides a link to the National Road Bicentennial and President O’Bama’s economic recovery strategy of rebuilding our nation’s aging infrastructure. The Conference Planning Committee is working with the Downtown Cumberland Main Street Director to plan a “Night-On-The-Town” event with restaurant discounts for conference participants and other evening entertainment. Please mark your calendars now to attend these important events!



Greene St. looking westward from the marker stone

For further information on the National Road Bicentennial Commemoration, please contact David Umling at dumling@allconet.org. 

Congratulations to all of our new AICP certified planners who passed the exam in May 2010

By Jacquelyn Rouse, AICP, Maryland APA Professional Development Officer

Jamie Bridges who works in Land Use in the Transportation Division of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council; **Katherine Charbonneau** who is a Regional Program Chief with the Critical Area Commission; **Leslie Grunden** who is a Planner with Caroline County Planning and Codes Administration; **Kate McConnell** with the Loudoun County Planning Department and **Sally Nash** and **Sean O’Neill**, both of whom work in Comprehensive Planning for the City of Annapolis.

We had ten people who took the exam and six who passed it. Nationally, 648 persons took the exam and 405 passed it. Our pass rate of 60 percent was just shy of the national pass rate of 63 percent. It is interesting to note that. These pass rates are slightly lower than the two previous exams of November 2009 and May 2009.

November 2009:

National: Total number that took the exam: 656
Total pass candidates: 434
Percent pass: 66%

Maryland: Total number that took the exam: 16
Total pass candidates: 11
Percent pass: 69%

May 2009:

National: Total number that took the exam: 656
Total pass candidates: 449
Percent pass: 66%

Maryland: Total number that took the exam: 14
Total pass candidates: 9
Percent pass: 64%

University of Maryland Community Planning Studio: Exploring Food Access in Prince George's County

By Stacie West, Graduate Student, Urban Studies and Planning Program, University of Maryland

Food: it's more than just what's for dinner. The topic of food is becoming increasingly important to planners. Recently, the APA dedicated the August/September 2009 issue of *Planning* magazine to food, and the APA national conferences over the last several years have hosted various sessions about food. More comprehensive plans are addressing food issues through zoning for community gardens and urban agriculture. The problems of "food deserts" are on the minds of many planning departments.

During the summer of 2010, graduate students in the Urban Studies and Planning Program at the University of Maryland studied access to healthy food in Prince George's County. Working with faculty advisor Professor Jim Cohen and the Prince George's County Planning Department, 10 planning students used a variety of research tools to identify food deserts and explore issues in access to healthy food in three communities within the County: **Bladensburg, Capitol Heights, and Suitland**. The final studio report, linked at the end, provides an initial exploration into food deserts, and establishes a framework and suggested methodology for future research.

Maps and community surveys, including physical surveys of food outlets and surveys of shoppers, were used to identify full-service food outlets and measure food access in the three



Existing Community Garden in Suitland. Community Gardens can solve the issues of food insecurity and affordability for residents of the inner city neighborhoods.



Shoppers feel unsafe because of large and empty parking lots.

communities. Buffers were applied around full-service food outlets to demonstrate one-half mile walking distances. Portions of the communities outside of these buffers were identified as probable food deserts. Census data was used to identify vulnerable populations in the communities who likely face the greatest challenges while accessing food, namely low-income residents, the elderly, and households without cars.



Jaywalking is an example of how people deal with limited food access.

This study found most residents live in either close proximity to a full-service food outlet or own a vehicle that would enable them to purchase food outside of their immediate neighborhood. All three study areas, however, had sections that were outside of the buffers around full-service food outlets, and these sections contain some of the more vulnerable members of the communities. For example, at least 13.4% of the households outside of the buffers do not own vehicles, and likely face difficulties accessing healthy food.

The report concludes with a review of efforts to address the problems of food deserts around the country and specific recommendations for Prince George's County, including increasing the availability of healthy foods in existing corner and convenience stores and connecting the farmers in the county's Rural Tier with urban markets in the Developed Tier.

The full studio report can be accessed at: <http://arch.umd.edu/images/student-work/> 



PlanMaryland; Continued from Page #3

were most important by placing stickers on their top three on a list of the visions. After each table's top three visions were chosen, each was discussed in detail. People were asked: What's working with this vision, what's not working and what can be done to improve the situation. The table groups were also asked to offer any out-of-the-box solutions or "big ideas." Following the small group discussions, each table had a participant report out to the full audience. We later summarized the results of these group discussions in a booklet titled "**PlanMaryland: What We're Hearing**".

Residents were concerned most with sustaining a high quality of life.

Several common themes emerged from the forum discussions. Residents were concerned most with sustaining a high quality of life. They want healthy, safe and stable communities where people are working and have access to a variety of goods and services. They want clean air and water and to be able to enjoy the State's rich variety of beaches, forests, open spaces, rivers and streams. Protection of farmland, preservation of natural resources and strengthening existing cities and towns were also major themes derived from comments at the forums. Strengthening economic development was a major goal, including concentrating job growth in existing population centers and providing more affordable housing options. Maryland is a diverse state with differing concerns and interests. What we heard at the PlanMaryland Forums confirms this. Comments made at the forums in more rural areas of the State tended to focus more on preservation of small-town character and support of agriculture

and farming-related businesses. People from urban areas expressed concerns with community design and promoting transit service. Overall, participants felt that a one-size planning process would not fit all communities.

The participants at the PlanMaryland Forums mentioned repeatedly that the first of the state's 12 "Planning Visions" -- Quality of life and sustainability -- embodied all of the other visions. For purposes of the Plan, "sustainability" means that development, infrastructure, transportation and resource conservation are strategically planned and implemented to minimize consumption of fossil fuels, reduce or stabilize greenhouse gas emissions, control overuse of water supplies, production of waste, and pollution of water resources.

We've begun applying the feedback that was gathered from "Listening Sessions" that the Maryland Department of Planning held in 2008 and the PlanMaryland Public Forums during Spring 2010 to our next steps. We're now assembling a list of issues and options to achieve the goals Marylanders said are important in better preparing for sustainable growth. We're also working with sister State agencies as we prepare to assemble the first State Growth Plan. We will have another round of public outreach meetings in early 2011 as we draft the State Plan. 

Planning with Children: A Call for Volunteers

By Professor Alex Chen, Ph.D., University of Maryland



ARCHITECTURE
PLANNING &
PRESERVATION

October 2010 is National Planning Month. In celebration, the Urban Studies and Planning Program at the University of Maryland in conjunction with the Maryland APA Chapter will be engaged in an outreach effort to introduce the principles and practices of planning



to middle and high school students. Professor Alex Chen and graduate planning students, as well as volunteer planning professionals hope to visit schools throughout the State and facilitate a 90 minute planning event with groups of at least 20 students who have been identified by the school. **To date, three schools have volunteered to participate in**

Montgomery, Prince George's and Anne Arundel County. In addition, students from three high schools and two middle schools in Baltimore City will be participating.

To this end, we are asking the membership for help. We are looking for volunteers who will be able to join us during the outreach effort. We realize the difficulties in coordinating schedules, and we cannot guarantee that we will be able to match the volunteer schedule with the school schedule. Nonetheless, we hope that from a pool of volunteers we will increase our chances of matching schedules.

We have targeted the weeks of October 18 and October 25 to visit the schools. Two events have been tentatively scheduled. One in West Baltimore on Monday, October 25 from 8:30 am to 10 am; the other in Montgomery County (in the Wheaton area) on Wednesday, October 27 from 8 am to 10 am. If you would be interested in participating in this effort please free to contact me at achen@umd.edu 

2010 Samuel J. LeFrak Lecture By Michael Katz

“From Underclass to Entrepreneur: Reclaiming Poor People in America’s Cities”



Professor Michael Katz

When: Wednesday, October 13, 2010 at 8 pm

Where: School of Architecture Auditorium; University of Maryland; College Park, MD 20742

In his presentation Professor Katz will discuss the evolution of societal perceptions of the poor from the “underclass” of the late 1970s to the early 1990s, to the “entrepreneur” of the 21st century, Within this context, Dr. Katz will assess four market based strategies designed to address poverty in America.

Calendar of Planning Events



When: October 13, 2010

What: Planning, Zoning Codes and Visions – How They all Depend upon Each Other; A presentation by Rollin Stanley, Director of Montgomery County Planning Department; Sponsored by AIA Baltimore

Where: RTKL Associates Conference Center, 901 S. Bond St., Fells Point, Baltimore

For more information: <http://www.aiabalt.com/calendar.cfm>

When: October 16, 2010

What: AICP Exam Preparation Workshop

Where: Crough Center for Architectural Studies, The Catholic University of America

For more information: <http://www.marylandapa.org/events.php>

When: October 17-21, 2010

What: Planning Healthy & Child-Friendly Communities; Sponsored by International Making Cities Livable Council & City of Charleston, SC

Where: Charleston, SC, USA

For more information: www.LivableCities.org

When: October 27, 2010

What: Sustaining Places: Comprehensive Planning for the Future; 2010 AICP Symposium

Where: National Building Museum; Washington, D.C.

For more information: <http://www.planning.org/aicp/symposium/>

When: October 27, 2010

What: Total Maximum Daily Load Summit; Sponsored by Maryland APA

Where: Morgan State University Student Center

For more information: <http://www.marylandapa.org/events.php>

When: October 28-29, 2010

What: Maryland Planning Commissioners Association 2010 Annual Conference

Where: 100 S. George St., Cumberland, MD 21502

For more information: <http://www.mdp.state.md.us/>

Maryland Historic Trust Receives Preserve America Grant Will Improve Public Access to Maryland Historic Property Database

The Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) received a \$78,761 grant from the Department of Interior, National Park Service (NPS) through the Preserve America (PA) grant program, for “Improving Public Access to Maryland’s Inventory of Historic Properties,” an ambitious project to provide on-line public access to the entire Maryland inventory.

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) is a repository of information on districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of known or potential value to the prehistory, history, archeology, architecture, engineering, or culture of the State of Maryland. The inventory, has more than 12,000 archeological sites and 80,000 historic



and architectural resources.

Although there is currently limited public access to National Register information through MHT’s website, most of the records are only available internally to staff and on-site library users. Due to high expectations and increasing demand for on-line access, the grant project would provide internet access to the entire, updated library of documentation contained in the Maryland Inventory, including National Register forms, determinations of eligibility, and inventory form text, photos, and maps. The public is invited to contribute to the development of the web-user interface for the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties by visiting the Trust website at <http://mht.maryland.gov>.

Editor’s Corner: We Want to read your articles !

by Parag Agrawal, AICP



Everyday Maryland planners work on challenging and interesting projects. Our State is a national leader in smart growth and farmland preservation and I know that our Newsletter readers have much insight and expertise to share. Please consider writing articles, contributing photographs of your favorite places in the State, or submitting bulleted items that can help fellow planners in professional development. If you have hired a new employee, won an award or accepted a new voluntary position, we will like to hear from you. Just remember this Newsletter goes out to more than 600 readers and it is a great place to make an announcement. Planning articles should not exceed **2-3 pages in length (800-1200 Words)**. Smaller articles, news of ½ -1 page are also welcome. The articles and photographs can be submitted at mdapanewsletter@yahoo.com If you have any questions or ideas for expanding the publication please contact the Newsletter team at mdapanewsletter@yahoo.com

Executive Committee Contact Information

James Potter, AICP, PP	President	james.m.potter@hud.gov
Timothy Bourcier, AICP, JD	President Elect	bourciertm@yahoo.com
Alan Feinberg, AICP, RA	Vice President	feindesign@aol.com
Keisha Ransome	Secretary	kransome@kfhgroup.com
Helen Spinelli, AICP	Treasurer	HSpinelli@gac.org
Jacquelyn Rouse, AICP	PDO	jmr@annapolis.gov
Jenny Plummer-Welker, AICP	Past President	plummejl@co.cal.md.us

Members-At-Large

Parag Agrawal, AICP	Member-At-Large	pzagra00@aacounty.org
Nick Colonna, AICP	Western Maryland	ncolonna@cityoffrederick.com
Katheleen Freeman, AICP	Eastern Maryland	kfreeman@co.caroline.md.us
Jeff Jackman, AICP	Southern Maryland	jeff.jackman@co.saint-marys.md.us
Christine Wells, AICP	Metro Area	cwells@crossroads-transportation.net

Planning Schools Representatives

Sidney Wong, Ph.D. Morgan State University	Faculty Representative	sidney.wong@morgan.edu
Gladys Apolonio Morgan State University	Student Representative	gladysapolonio@gmail.com
Alex Chen, Ph.D. University of Maryland	Faculty Representative	achen@umd.edu
Stacie West University of Maryland	Student Representative	stacie.west@gmail.com

Planning Organizations Contact

Steve Allan, AICP Maryland Department of Planning	sallan@mdp.state.md.us
Mike Phipps Maryland Planning Commissioners Association	mhipps@chesapeake.net

Readers can access Maryland APA Chapter information, calendar of events, jobs, newsletter publications online by clicking at <http://www.marylandapa.org/>