

THE PALMETTO PLANNER

APA
SC
American Planning Association
South Carolina Chapter
Making Great Communities Happen

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President's Message

Special points of interest:

National Impact Fee Roundtable

Public Tree Management Grant Funds Available

SCAPA 2008 Summer Conference

SCAPA 2008 Fall Conference

SCAPA Elections

I hope everyone is having a productive 2008 so far. The news since late last year has focused on the national downturn in the economy almost as much as the race for President. Reductions in housing starts and sales, sub-prime mortgage foreclosures, increasing oil prices, the decreasing value of the dollar, federal tax rebates and the

President's economic stimulus initiatives have surpassed cable news coverage of the war in Iraq. The economic conditions, however, don't seem to be affecting South Carolina as much as other parts of the country. The *Wall Street Journal* recently reported dramatic increases in home values in North Augusta and I've read that the Columbia area is growing at a faster rate than a majority of medium-sized metropolitan areas in the US. Some South Carolina communities, however, are experiencing a modest economic slowdown. The work of managing growth continues under both scenarios. The type of work may change but the workload doesn't.

2007 was a very productive year for SCAPA:

Three excellent conferences were convened with record attendance.

All three conferences were approved for South Carolina continuing education credits.

The summer and fall conferences were ap-

proved by APA for AICP Certification Maintenance credits.

SCAPA membership increased to more than 540, the largest it's ever been.

The General Assembly did not enact anticipated regulatory takings legislation.

The Legislature did, however, amend the Local Government Comprehensive Planning Act through the adoption of the Priority Investment Act. Additional elements are now mandated for inclusion in local government comprehensive plans.

The 2008 Spring Conference, Zoning Management: Process Procedures and Tools, was held in Newberry on March 7 and was very well attended. The Newberry Firehouse, an excellent facility, had standing room only for many of the sessions. The 2008 Summer Conference is scheduled for June 27 in North Augusta. We look forward to another good turnout.

State required continuing education programs for local planning and zoning officials and staff are now well established. Most board members and commissioners have completed the six hour orientation training and are now working on the annual three hour requirement. SCAPA has been instrumental in providing continuing education and



SCAPA conferences are approved for state continuing education credit. The South Carolina Association of Counties and the South Carolina Municipal Association continue to offer periodic training. Additionally, a number of COGs are convening training sessions utilizing APA produced training CDs.

Mandatory education requirements for citizen planners and staff, while time consuming, is intended to improve local government land use decision making. The question that remains is how significant an effect it will have on the quality of planning and land development regulation in the state. When and how that might ever be measured are additional questions. In any event SCAPA will continue to be involved.

The APA National Conference will be in Las Vegas at the end of this month and sixty SCAPA members have registered. It will be interesting for those of us who haven't seen the changes Las Vegas over the last few years to observe the effects of very rapid growth.

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Don't Miss the American Planning Association's 100th National Planning Conference Sunday, April 27 through Thursday, May 1, 2008 Las Vegas/ Paris and Bally's Hotel

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Does APA have your correct information?

The Palmetto Planner is distributed electronically. It is of utmost importance that your email address in the APA record is up to date. All members can access their APA profiles and make changes online. These changes become effective immediately (mailed or faxed changes requiring manual entry will take longer to appear). To access your APA profile go to www.planning.org/myprofile. Enter your APA ID (from the Planning magazine mailing label or invoice) and password (click on "create new password" if you have forgotten it or do not have one). If you need assistance contact Webmaster@planning.org.



For more information, please contact Tyson Smith, Chair of the National Impact Fee Roundtable, at tsmith@planningandlaw.com or visit www.impactfee.org.



Grant Funds Available For Public Tree Management

P.O. Box 21707 Columbia SC 29221

March 10, 2008

The South Carolina Forestry Commission, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, is pleased to announce that funds have been appropriated for the 2008 Community Forestry Financial Assistance Program. This is a *reimbursable*, matching grant program to provide funding for projects that improve the management, conservation and maintenance of trees in our communities. The funding cycle for this program is July 14, 2008 through July 13, 2009.

Funding this year for the Community Forestry Grant Program will be focused on, but not limited to, the following areas:

- Performing community or county-wide forest / tree resource assessments
- Performing public tree inventories and developing assessment-based management plans
- Developing or revising local government zoning ordinances regarding trees
- Utilizing professional expertise to manage public trees
- Enhancing the technical skills of public tree managers via training & continuing education

Through this program, local units of government including counties, cities and towns, non-profit organizations and educational institutions of higher learning are eligible to apply for funding to enhance their community forest. This year, approximately \$240,000 will be awarded statewide for projects that will help communities with the management of their public tree resource. For an overview of the Community Forestry Grant Program see the enclosed brochure.

To obtain a 2008 Application & Guidelines Packet, visit the "Community Forestry" webpage at www.trees.sc.gov/urban.htm to download the document. If you would prefer to receive an Application & Guidelines Packet by mail, please return the enclosed *application & guidelines packet response card* **immediately**.

The SC Forestry Commission will hold two free Grant Writing Workshops in Columbia, on April 23 and April 24, 2008. If you or someone in your organization would like to attend, please return the enclosed *grant writing workshop registration form* **immediately**.

To be considered for funding, completed grant applications must be *received* at the Forestry Commission headquarters on May 21, 2008. Therefore, we urge you to return your response card and workshop registration form as soon as possible to allow adequate time to develop a strong, well written proposal. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (803) 896-8846 or gfreeman@forestry.state.sc.us.

Gloria Freeman
Grant Assistance Administrator

AICP News

SCAPA would like to congratulate the following for passing the 2007 AICP Exam.

Russell Byrd
Nicole DeSantis
Shawn Kiernan
Peter Knudsen
Francis Limbaker
Mary Douglas Neal
Jennifer Rigby
Aaron Rucker
Elizabeth Shaw
Rodney Tucker
Norman Wright

Please look out for more information to follow on the 2008 AICP Exam Prep Course offered by SCAPA starting this summer. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Monroe at smonroe@cityofspartanburg.org.

Stephanie D Monroe, AICP
City of Spartanburg
Planning Director
PO Box 1749
Spartanburg, SC 29304

Continued Presidents Message

Legislative activity that affects local government planning and the profession has been relatively minor this year. There have, however, been several bills introduced that could significantly affect local government operations. One proposal is the "Taxpayer Protection Act" that suggests a number of changes to municipal annexation procedures. A coalition led by the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League is evaluating the changes. City and county officials will surely have differing views on some of the issues and will share valid concerns. Statutory changes which may be generated by perceived annexation abuses in one part of the state may not be necessary in other parts of the state and could unintentionally impede the successful implementation of both city and county comprehensive plans.

Enjoy the spring weather and I'll look forward to seeing you in North Augusta in June. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

Sincerely,
Skip

SCAPA.ORG UPDATE

The SCAPA website has gone through a major change thanks to our webmaster Ernie Boughman, AICP, Senior Project Manager for BP Barber. The website is hosted by the Appalachian COG and they have provided valuable technical support. Please make sure you log on and check out the new design.

SCAPA ELECTIONS

It is time once again to elect new SCAPA officers for 2009 and 2010. Elections will be held for Director-at-Large (two seats), Secretary/Treasurer, and President-Elect. If you would like to nominate someone for any of these positions or would like more information, please contact Phil Lindler, AICP at (864) 942-8636 or phil@co.greenwood.sc.us. The election will be held in September and the new officers announced at the Fall Conference. Look for more information to follow via email and on the website in the coming weeks.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Chapter Only Membership

APA is now offering Chapter Only memberships. You can join SCAPA much like the Associate memberships in the past only APA will be billing members annually and forwarding the information and fees to each individual chapter. If you would like to join please go to the APA website under membership.

Benefits of a chapter only membership include:

- Reduced rates to all SCAPA conference
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Training Workshops
- Participation on SCAPA committees

All current Associate Memberships have been transferred to APA and will continue in affect until the expiration date. APA will send a renewal notice.

For more information contact:

Pat Collins

jpcol44@bellsouth.net

South Carolina Education Requirements

The State of South Carolina requires appointed planning and zoning officials and professional employees to receive orientation training on an annual basis. New officials and employees must receive an initial six hours or training with a minimum of three additional hours per year thereafter.

The South Carolina Planning Enabling Education Advisory Committee was established to oversee this program. Additional information including exemption qualifications, training opportunities and programs, meeting information, and committee membership can be obtained from their website: www.scpeac.org

SC Planning Education Advisory Committee

South Carolina Code requires the formation of a State Advisory Committee on Educational Requirements for Local Government Planning or Zoning Official and Employees (SAC). These five members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate are charged with:

- Compiling and distributing a list of approved orientation and continuing education programs that satisfy the educational requirements in

Section 6-29-1340;

- Determining categories of persons with advanced degrees, training, or experience that are eligible for exemption from the educational requirements in Section 6-29-1340; and
- Making an annual report to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representative that provides a detailed account of the advisory

committee's activities, expenses, collected fees & determinations concerning approved education programs and categories of exemption.

More information provided at: www.scpeac.org

2008 SCAPA Conferences

SCAPA in North Augusta

Mark your calendar for June 27 as SCAPA will host a one-day conference on the banks of the Savannah River in North Augusta. Come see the dramatic direction that the Town is taking for its future. Plan to bring your walking shoes and even your bike as opportunities will be available to tour the community. Information concerning the conference will be provided to the membership in May and on our website at www.scapa.org.

SCAPA Fall Conference

The SCAPA Fall Conference will be held October 16 and 17 at the Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort on Pawley's Island. Located between Myrtle Beach and Georgetown, the venue will provide a relaxing atmosphere for our annual conference. Conference sessions are being developed at this time. If you are interested in assisting the membership committee with the conference, please contact Phil Lindler, AICP at 864.942.8636 or phil@co.greenwood.sc.us. Also, keep checking www.scapa.org to find out the latest information on the conference!

SCAPA would like to welcome the following new members.

Henry Bailey	Sumter, SC
Thomas Britton, AICP	Johnsonville, SC
Chris Brownlee	Columbia, SC
Maryellyn Cannizzaro	Columbia, SC
Susan Cutter	Columbia, SC
Susan Fox	Charleston, SC
Carl Frederick	Columbia, SC
Robert Frost	Lexington, SC
Geraldine George	Florence, SC
William Gilbert	Greenwood, SC
Robert Guild	Columbia, SC
Tobe Holmes	Rock Hill, SC
George Hood	Ridgeland, SC
Alice Howard	Beaufort, SC
Mark James	Columbia, SC
Joseph Kocy	Columbia, SC
Eva Lunder	Summerville, SC
George Mc Gregor, AICP	Sumter, SC
Laurence Meisner, AICP	Beaufort, SC
Carlether Nesbmith	Nesmith, SC
Joanne Ochal	Pawley's Island, SC
Brenda Oliver	Columbia, SC
Nathan Powell	Columbia, SC
Renee Proctor	Florence, SC
Elizabeth Runey	N. Charleston, SC
Ronald Scott	Lexington, SC
Bradley Strader, AICP	Beverly Hills, MI
David Tedder	Beaufort, SC
Kevin Tolloty	Spartanburg, SC

Get Great Exposure for One Low Price Advertise in the Palmetto Planner and on the SCAPA webpage for one low fee.

The Palmetto Planner is a quarterly publication of the South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association with over 475 members. The newsletter provides information on current planning topics, chapter conferences and activities and job opportunities.

Advertisement space in the Palmetto Planner and the SCAPA webpage is available on a yearly basis.

The fee for a Business Card Advertisement is \$200.00 per year.

For further information contact Pat Collins at 864-221-1433 or email jpcol44@bellsouth.net

Got a Job to Post?

*To post a job ad on both the
webpage and in the newsletter*

*contact Pat Collins at
jpcol44.bellsouth.net*

The fee is \$50.00

Clemson University MCRP Program Update

SCAPA Update
Clemson University MCRP Program
Barry Nocks

2008 is a year of transition for the Clemson Planning Program. Jim London, the program director for the past few years has become an associate dean in the College. Barry Nocks stepped down from the associate dean position and will become program director when he returns from his semester sabbatical. During the spring semester, Dr. Mickey Lauria, immediate past president of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, is serving as program director. The good news is that classes, projects and theses continue!

Tyrone Williams is completing his term as head of the SCAPA student chapter, and he will be succeeded by current first year student Leigh Woods. We expect to have nine MCRP graduates in May, with four more expected in August. These students have summer and internship experience and possess a number of valuable skills. Please contact Patty McNulty at 864-656-3926 or pmcnult@clemson.edu for contact information. Of course, you may also contact any faculty member about these students.

Honors and Awards ceremonies for the College will be held in early April. The recipients of these awards in the MCRP program are:

Citation in City and Regional Planning

First Year Award.....Ida L. Wood, Mt. Pleasant, SC

The Edward L. Falk Citation

for MeritSarah A. Simmons, Jonesboro, GA

Citation in City and Regional Planning

Second Year Award.....Kristopher L. Kurjiaka, Danbury, CT

.....Courtney C. St. John, Egg Harbor Township, NJ

Faculty Award

Second Year Student.....Christopher A. Hnatin, Weaverville, NC

American Institute of

Certified Planners Award.....Carla M. Bridges, Columbia, SC

The recipients of the Debbie Lieu and Michael Mitchum Memorial Scholarships will be announced at the Fall SCAPA meeting. Carla Bridges, the AICP award winner this year, was the first Debbie Lieu Scholarship recipient in 2007.

Last month, a site visit team from the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) visited Clemson as part of our regular accreditation cycle. Jim London led the faculty and students in assembling an excellent self-study and hosted the visitors February 17-20. They identified a number of strengths and made some suggestions for continued improvements in the program. Jim and I will meet with the PAB in the Fall to review the report, at which time they will make a determination regarding our re-accreditation. Thanks to SCAPA officers and members who came up to Clemson to meet with the site visit team.

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THE PALMETTO PLANNER

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The PALMETTO PLANNER is the official newsletter of the South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association. Newsletter contributions are encouraged from SCAPA members and others. Material selected for publication may be edited to conform to space or other requirements. Please email contributions to the Newsletter to jpcol44@bellsouth.net. Articles published in the Palmetto Planner should be no more than 750 words. Please include your name, organization, and contact information.



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