

News Release



October 20, 2016
Release Number: 4094

Council Recognizes Citizen Participation in Local Planning Efforts as Part of National Community Planning Month

Charleston County Council adopted a resolution declaring October 2016 as Community Planning Month on Thursday, Oct. 13, 2016. The month of October is designated by the [American Planning Association](#) as [National Community Planning Month](#) to publicly recognize the members of planning commissions, citizen planners and the professional planners in the U.S. for their dedication to making the quality of communities and the environment better.

Each year, a theme is identified to help a community highlight an aspect of planning. This year, the theme is civic engagement. The theme underscores the necessity of engaging the public, elected official and key leaders in discussions that shape the future of our region. Thoughtful, local planning cannot happen without meaningful civic engagement.



“The Zoning and Planning Department does more than process permits and administer the Zoning and Land Development Regulations ordinance and the Comprehensive Plan, said Zoning and Planning Director Joel Evans. This year we are particularly proud of our staff for their long hours in the Emergency Operations Center in their efforts to support our community during Hurricane Matthew.”

County Council’s resolution on Oct. 13 recognized that:

- change is constant and affects all of Charleston County and the Tri-County Region; and
- community planning and plans can help manage this change in a way that provides better choices for how people work and live; and
- community planning provides an opportunity for all residents to be meaningfully involved in making choices that determine the future of their community; and
- the full benefits of planning requires public officials and citizens who understand, support, and demand excellence in planning and plan implementation; and
- the month of October is designated as National Community Planning Month throughout the United States of America and its territories, and
- The American Planning Association and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners, endorse National Community Planning Month as an opportunity to highlight the contributions sound planning and plan implementation make to the quality of our settlements and environment; and
- the celebration of National Community Planning 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 Charleston County; and
- we recognize the many valuable contributions made by professional community and regional planners of Charleston County and extend our heartfelt thanks for the continued commitment to public service by these professionals.

One objective of [National Community Planning Month](#) is to engage local youth in planning activities. On Oct. 28, Planning Staff will lead a discussion about community planning, and then conduct a site plan activity with a third grade class at [Stiles Point Elementary School](#) on James Island. The third grade curriculum is focused on learning about South Carolina geography: the study of the land, water, plants, animals, and people of a place and how these things are linked together. We will review what they are currently learning in geography and conclude the discussion with an activity focusing on this year’s civic engagement theme. This summer the old Stiles Point Elementary School was demolished. We are going to

ask students to envision what they would like to see in that open space, and then they will sketch their ideas on an actual site plan of the school property.

“This is a planning tool used at planning workshops when staff wants to engage citizens and get feedback on their vision for their community,” said Jenny Werking, AICP, Planner II with Charleston County’s Zoning and Planning Department. “We are looking forward to the students acting as citizen planners and sharing their creative ideas with us and the class.”

To celebrate [National Community Planning Month](#) and follow current and future planning efforts, “like” the Charleston County Zoning & Planning Department’s [Facebook page](#) or visit the [Charleston County Zoning & Planning Department website](#).

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