

News Release



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

County staff announces upcoming meetings, and engaged James Island kindergarten students in community planning activities

Charleston County Council adopted a resolution declaring October 2013 as Community Planning Month during a regular meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2013. 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.

"In Charleston County we are fortunate to have many citizen planners who serve on boards and commissions that work with professional staffs in order to provide an opportunity for all citizens to be meaningfully involved in the planning process," said [Teddie E. Pryor, Charleston County Council Chairman](#). "The celebration of National Community Planning Month gives the opportunity for our County Council members to locally recognize the contributions of these individuals."

One objective of [National Community Planning Month](#) is to engage local youth in planning activities. To kickoff National Community Planning and celebrate this year's theme, "People and Places," three Charleston County planners led a discussion about community planning, then an activity about urban, suburban and rural communities with a kindergarten class at [Stiles Point Elementary School](#) on James Island. The Planners showed the students maps of Charleston County and explained how the county is divided into three areas: urban, suburban and rural. The students divided into three teams, led by a County planner, to complete an urban, suburban and rural community planning project collage. The teams then presented their completed collages to the class.

"The week we visited the school, the children's curriculum focused on community and community helpers, which we thought fit perfectly with the theme of this year's National Community Planning month, People and Places," said Jenny Werking, AICP, Planner II with Charleston County's Zoning and Planning Department. "As a team, we created collages using pictures that represented people and things you would find in each area. This is a planning tool that can also be used with adults at charrettes or planning workshops when planners want feedback from citizens of their vision for their community."

Werking led the suburban team, while the County's Zoning and Planning Department's Brandon White, AICP, Planner II, led the urban team, and Sally Brooks, ISA, Planner I, led the rural team.

"The students were so excited to learn that the County reviews and approves fun eating places and toy stores. Their hands flew up immediately to ask us questions and share their knowledge of community. The children knew so much about what makes up a community and the differences between urban, suburban and rural places, we ended up learning from them," Werking said.



The [Charleston County Zoning and Planning Department](#) has several public meetings planned for the month of October:

- **October 1, 2013:** [Council member Anna Johnson](#) hosted a community meeting with residents in the Parkers Ferry/Wiltown area, and Charleston County Zoning and Planning staff discussed planning and zoning solutions to address citizen concerns as voiced in a survey conducted in February 2013. Thirty-three residents and 10 representatives from Charleston County attended and gathered feedback on the continuing planning efforts.
- **October 2, 2013:** [Council member Colleen Condon](#) hosted a community meeting with West Ashley area residents, and Charleston County Planning staff reviewed the proposed Highway 61/Saint Andrews Overlay Zoning District.
- **October 14, 2013:** [Charleston County Planning Commission](#) meets to discuss the [Comprehensive Plan Five-Year Review](#), which includes recommendations for the Goals, Needs and Strategies of all 10 Comprehensive Plan Elements, and proposed amendments to the [Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinances](#) including Multiple Use Floating Zone, Highway 61/Saint Andrews Overlay Zoning District, Historic Preservation and Signs. The meeting is open to the public; see agenda and other meeting details online: <http://charlestoncounty.org/Departments/Planning/PlanningCommission/agendas.htm>.
- **October 14, 2013:** [Council member Anna Johnson](#) will host a community meeting on James Island, and Charleston County Planning staff will review proposed amendments to the Folly Road Corridor Overlay Zoning District Community. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Sons of Elijah Masonic Lodge (1831 Folly Road)
- **October 28, 2013:** [Council member Anna Johnson](#) will host a community meeting with residents in the Ponderosa area of West Ashley to discuss beautification, code enforcement and law enforcement matters. The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the First Assembly of God Church (2957 Savannah Highway)

County Council's resolution on Oct. 8 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.

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](#) online.

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- written by Jennie Flinn -