

A PLANNING PERSPECTIVE

APA-IOWA CHAPTER
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020, ISSUE 4

Chapter Update from the APA IA Iowa President

SUBMITTED BY DYLAN MULLENIX, AICP
PRESIDENT, APA IOWA CHAPTER

Iowa Planners,

I want to thank everyone who was able to participate in the recent virtual Upper Midwest Planning Conference. We had a great turnout from APA Iowa members, and I hope you found it to be worthwhile. While I was disappointed that we could not hold an in-person conference in Des Moines as originally intended, the silver lining is that we were able to reach more members with the virtual offering and also strengthened our partnerships with the Minnesota and Wisconsin APA chapters. Looking ahead to next year, please mark your calendar's for the 2021 APA Iowa Conference to be held in Des Moines, October 13-15, 2021.

Several Iowa planners also were able to participate in the APA Policy and Advocacy Conference in September. This conference, also held virtually, focuses on federal legislation that affects planning and mixes traditional conference sessions with training on how to navigate the legislative landscape to advocate effectively. The conference also features a 'Planners' Day on the Hill' component whereby APA members meet with members of Congress and/or their staffs to discuss legislation of importance to planners. For the 2020 Planners' Day on the Hill, APA members focused on transportation reauthorization and planning-led economic recovery.

As we move to the end of the year, the APA Iowa board will begin developing its budget, work plan, and legislative agenda for 2021. If you have any questions or ideas for the board to consider as it develops these materials, please contact me or any of our board members. The current versions of these documents can all be found at <https://iowa.planning.org>.

Finally, I would like to welcome two new members to the APA Iowa board. Ashelyn Daniels joined the board in July as the new Iowa State University undergraduate program representative, replacing Julia Hertaus. Andre LaFontant was recently named the Iowa State University graduate program representative, replacing Sarah Runkel. They join Leon Begay from the University of Iowa as the board's student representatives.



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Congratulations to New AICP Members!

SUBMITTED BY DAVID WILWERDING, AICP, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, APA IOWA CHAPTER,
DWILWERDING@CITYOFJOHNSTON.COM



Congratulations to APA Iowa's three newest AICP members, Nathan Thompson, AICP, Shannon Gapp, AICP and Stephen Troskey, AICP! The three passed the AICP exam during an extended testing window in June and July.

For anyone interested in becoming AICP certified, the next testing window is in November 2020. APA Iowa does offer an AICP Exam Fee Scholarship program to offer assistance to individuals who may defer taking or are unable to take the AICP exam because of the cost. If you are interested in this scholarship requests should be made to the Iowa APA Professional Development Officer by September 25, 2020.

For more information, please contact David Wilwerding, AICP, APA Iowa Professional Development Officer at dwilwerding@cityofjohnston.com, 515-727-7775.

<https://iowa.planning.org/aicp-certification/aicp-exam-prep/>

Affordable Housing Panel

APA Iowa Chapter partnered with Iowa Commission for Latino Affairs during the APA Upper Midwest Planning Conference to bring a panel of experts addressing affordable housing challenges for minorities and low-income populations.

The five panelists included Caleb Knutson as the moderator, Ted Grevstad-Nordbrock, Johnny Alcivar, Kendyl Larson, and Julie Winter. They discussed housing issues ranging from gentrification of Des Moines, lack of funding, rural-specific challenges, and natural disaster housing response.



Iowa Public Radio attended the session and provided an overview of the panel. The ultimate takeaway from the panelists was the message that to address the issue of displacement of minority populations and to offer more affordable housing options, government officials must "confront the issues head-on." The panelists went on to say that in order to do that, communities must vote and encourage the state/federal government to invest more funding into neighborhood projects, as well as provide more incentives for developers to create affordable housing options.

PARKS AND RECREATION WHEN YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF SPACE

SUBMITTED BY BECKY BINZ, AICP, URBAN PLANNER, MSA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, INC. AND RIA HULL, AICP, SENIOR PROJECT PLANNER, MSA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, INC.

Parks and green spaces are invaluable community assets. Unfortunately, communities often run into space limitations when researching suitable locations for new parks. In high-density urban areas, space is downright scarce. In rural areas, though open space is plentiful, farmland preservation codes can prevent the conversion of agricultural land to parkland. Natural limitations including ravines, wetlands, lakes or streams are equally challenging to design around. Yet, communities are getting creative and finding ways to get more bang for their recreational buck – with resulting amenities that boost property value and attract a variety of new residents.

Pocket Parks

These small urban parks — generally under ¼-acre in size — are created on underutilized land or vacant lots.

The Sauk City, Wisconsin, Riverfront Pocket Park was originally a vacant parcel between two buildings. The park includes an ADA-accessible path, places for playing and views of the downtown and Wisconsin River.



Pop-Up Parks

Pop-up parks are temporary park spaces, often located in parking stalls or streets as extensions of sidewalks. Whether used for single events or as evolving installations, pop-up parks challenge the way communities think about public space.

Duchess Plaza is a pop-up park in downtown Wisconsin Dells, located on a closed road. This free entertainment zone features a stage for concerts, café seating and a large, three-dimensional community mural.



Stormwater Management Areas

These areas offer an opportunity for parks to coexist with wetlands, retention ponds or drainage ways in the form of trails, boardwalks or interpretive spaces.

Heron Pond in Belknap, Illinois, provides stormwater management within the Ohio River floodplain. Featuring trails and wetland boardwalks, visitors can view a variety of endangered and threatened plant and animal species up close.



CON'T: PARKS AND RECREATION WHEN YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF SPACE

Highly Inclusive Parks

Re-purposing existing space to accommodate a diverse user base, and adding both passive and active places to play, relax, eat, socialize and exercise enhances the enjoyment of public spaces for everyone.

In 2010, Lake Mirror Park in Lakeland, Florida, was transformed from a neglected green space into a 7-acre recreation destination that now accommodates large community events and invites visitors of all ages and abilities to visit.



Public-Private Partnerships

Existing businesses sometimes have underutilized open space on their properties that present an opportunity for public-private partnerships.

The Home Depot Backyard in Atlanta, Georgia, is an 11-acre multi-purpose green space that doubles as parking for sporting events while providing free, public green space on off days for community use.



When communities choose to make park and recreational assets a priority, they may very well find an abundance of opportunity and open spaces right under their nose. With a little creative thinking and collaborative partnering, these small spaces can yield huge, long-lasting rewards.

2021 & 2022 APA IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The APA Iowa Chapter is excited to host the APA Iowa Chapter Conference - "Regionalism: Planning Knows No Boundaries" in Des Moines in 2021. After going virtual this year, we look forward to an in-person event to share planning successes and best practices on October 13-15, 2021 at the Iowa Events Center. Look forward to mobile tours, progressive dinner, and networking reception in the Capital City.

Additionally, the Greater Ottumwa Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), in partnership with the Area 15 Regional Planning Commission, is looking forward to hosting the APA Iowa Chapter Annual Meeting on October 12-14, 2022. The central conference activities will be held in the Bridge View Center; however, a number of events and mobile workshops are being planned throughout the city and in other nearby communities. This will be an excellent opportunity to showcase the many planning-based revitalization efforts that have graced the City of Ottumwa over the last decade.



RECIPIENTS OF 2020 IOWA PLANNING AWARDS

Each year, the Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association asks its members to nominate plans, projects, and individuals deserving recognition by the professional organization. Award nominees can be recognized in nineteen categories ranging from public outreach to distinguished leadership.

Based on an independent review by a jury of professional planners, nine nominees have been selected to receive APA-Iowa Awards in 2020. These awards can be found below and posted on the APA-IA Chapter website at <https://iowa.planning.org/conferences-and-meetings/chapter-conference/>

Award: Advancing Diversity & Social Change

Awardee: City of Des Moines

Plan: LiveDSM

Award: Daniel Burnham Award For a Comprehensive Plan

Awardee: City of Indianola

Plan: Elevate Indianola Comprehensive Plan

Award: Distinguished Leadership Award for a Professional Planner

Awardee: Maggie Murry

Award: Economic Development Planning

Awardees: City of Bondurant

Plan: Regional Commercial Master Plan

Award: Exemplary Student Project

Awardees: Department of Community & Regional Planning at Iowa State University

Plan: Adel Downtown Plan 2020-2040

Award: Exemplary Student Project

Awardees: University of Iowa School of Planning & Public Affairs

Plan: Iowa City Automated Vehicles Adaptation & Equity Plan

Award: Implementation

Awardees: City of Fort Dodge

Plan: Des Moines River Dam Removals

Award: Transportation Planning

Awardees: City of Waukeg

Plan: Waukeg Street Design Guide

Award: Urban Design

Awardees: City of Muscatine

Plan: The Reconnecting Muscatine Project

[View YouTube videos on each awardee online.](#)



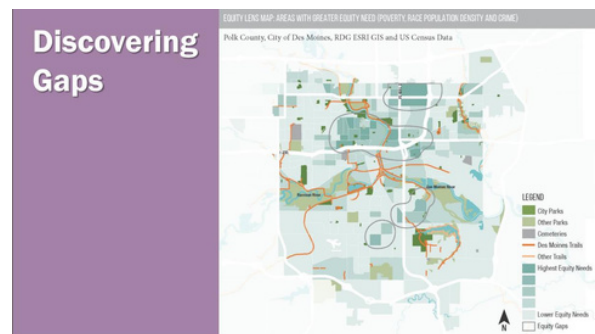
CITY OF DES MOINES, LIVEDSM

RECIPIENT OF THE ADVANCING DIVERSITY & SOCIAL CHANGE AWARD

Completed in 2018, LiveDSM provides the City of Des Moines with the first long-range plan in over twenty years to inspire the next transformative elements of the parks and open space system. Parks and trails play a very special role in people's lives, and because of this, parks and recreation departments have a duty to strive for racial and social equity in providing park and trail facilities and programming across your community.

Live DSM exemplifies unique engagement practices, sought new methods to leverage informed planning, and led with an effective planning approach connecting the plan to underrepresented groups in Des Moines. LiveDSM places equity at the forefront of the guiding principles as critical to healthy communities. One of the primary goals established in 'LiveDSM' is to provide equally accessible and available programs and facilities to all people regardless of income level, ethnicity, gender, ability, or age.

Congratulations to the City of Des Moines, the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department and the entire consultant team that helped create LiveDSM!



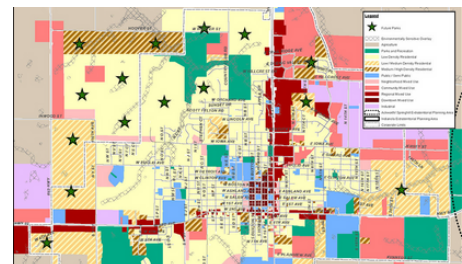
CITY OF INDIANOLA, ELEVATE INDIANOLA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

RECIPIENT OF THE DANIEL BURNHAM AWARD FOR A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

In late 2018, the City of Indianola began its journey towards updating its 2011 Comprehensive Plan. This plan was inspired by, created with, and designed for the people of Indianola. The planning process for Elevate Indianola began by creating a Project Management Team and holding and attending several community events. In addition to in-person public engagement events, an online survey using MetroQuest was distributed to the community and reached over 1,600 participants, representing over 10% of the population of Indianola.

The Elevate Indianola Comprehensive Plan was developed with the theme that this plan was for the entire community. It is truly "comprehensive" in that it addresses issues that extend beyond the direct control of the city government and the responsibility for implementation falls wider than the city hall's doors. Elevate Indianola further utilizes Iowa's Smart Planning Principles as a guide, while focusing on issues specific to Indianola.

Congratulations to the City of Indianola and the entire consultant team that helped create the Elevate Indianola Comprehensive Plan!



MAGGIE MURRAY

RECIPIENT OF THE DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR A PROFESSIONAL PLANNER

Maggie Murray is the Planning and Community Development Director for the City of Bondurant. Maggie joined the City in October of 2019, filling the newly created Planning and Community Development Director position.

Over the past year, she has streamlined the City's planning processes, provided clear guidance to the Planning and Zoning Commission on numerous important development projects, and, as the City's only planning professional, increased community's understanding and appreciation of the importance of city planning - all in an effort to best manage the rapid growth being experienced by Bondurant.

Congratulations to Maggie Murray for receiving the 2020 Distinguished Leadership Award for a Professional Planner!



CITY OF BONDURANT, REGIONAL COMMERCIAL MASTER PLAN

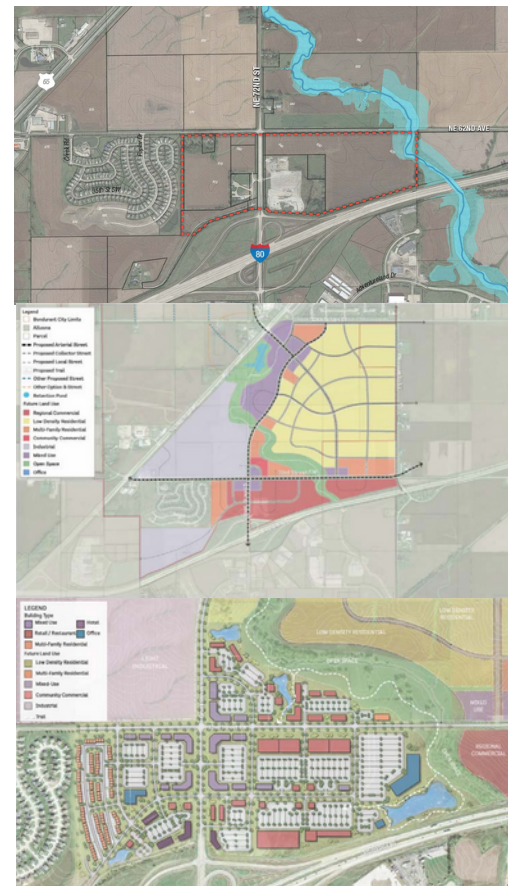
RECIPIENT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN AWARD

The Bondurant Regional Commercial Master Plan has proven to be a successful economic development tool that outlines a community-supported vision for the future of Bondurant. The study area covers a portion of Bondurant's frontage along I-80 and identifies the highest and best use of each property that also complements the existing community character.

The master plan makes clear the intent of Bondurant to develop the study area in a manner that provides ample job opportunities, new commercial activity centers and diverse residential offerings connected through a city-backed street and trail system. The design guidelines contained within the plan help ensure the development type, style and density reflect community wishes and seamlessly blend with the rest of the Bondurant.

The Regional Commercial Master Plan shows the development community that Bondurant is a strong partner for growth and development, and the plan has already helped to attract the first Amazon fulfillment center in Iowa, which will provide over 1,000 new jobs.

Congratulations to the City of Bondurant and the entire consultant team that helped create the Regional Commercial Master Plan!



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & REGIONAL PLANNING AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY, ADEL DOWNTOWN PLAN 2020-2040 RECIPIENT OF THE EXEMPLARY STUDENT PROJECT AWARD

In the fall of 2019, eleven graduate students from the Department of Community and Regional Planning at Iowa State University developed the Adel Downtown Plan 2020-2040 in their Community Planning Studio.

Some communities within the Des Moines metropolitan area are currently growing and looking for ways to enhance the quality of life for their residents. The City of Adel is one of these exceptional small towns. Located to the northwest of Des Moines, Adel is experiencing population growth, and the city wanted to create a plan to attract people to its charming downtown.

Collaboration with the City and its Chamber of Commerce started early in the summer and included four community engagement activities, making the planning process participatory and helping residents understand and embrace the plan. The final plan was adopted on March 10, 2020 by the Adel City Council, and connects aspects of the local economy and history with the surrounding built environment and a variety of recreational activities.

Congratulations to the Department of Community and Regional Planning at Iowa State University and the students and faculty that helped create the Adel Downtown Plan 2020-2040!

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, IOWA CITY AUTOMATED VEHICLES ADAPTATION & EQUITY PLAN RECIPIENT OF THE EXEMPLARY STUDENT PROJECT AWARD

Over the 2018-19 academic year, a team of four students in the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program at the University of Iowa completed an Iowa City Automated Vehicles Adaptation and Equity Plan for Iowa City.

The plan is innovative in both subject matter and scope. The Iowa City AV plan is one of very few that addresses the future impacts of automated vehicles with an emphasis on equity.

In creating the plan, the students focused not only on needs of AV technology, such as changes to parking and drop off requirements. They also identified impacts to transit service and ways for the city to move forward with transportation options that benefit all residents, not just those who can afford to purchase an AV for personal use.

Major recommendations and findings from the plan from the plan include: Use of automated neighborhood transit vehicles to act as a feeder service for a reconfigured trunk and branch transit system; Temporary vouchers for private rideshare to extend transit service hours; AV-oriented street designs and reduced parking requirements; and Enhanced pick-up/drop-off zones downtown in conjunction with parking capacity reductions.

Taken together, the recommendations form a blueprint for Iowa City to guide future development and integrate AV technology in a way that increases access and opportunity for all. Congratulations to the University of Iowa School of Planning and Public Affairs and the students and faculty that helped create the Iowa City Automated Vehicles Adaptation & Equity Plan!

CITY OF FORT DODGE, THE DES MOINES RIVER DAM REMOVALS

RECIPIENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AWARD

The Hydroelectric and Little Dam have been discussion topics in Fort Dodge for decades. Participants at several public outreach events discussed solutions to “the dam issue.” Restoring the Hydroelectric Dam, reconstructing both dams as whitewater trails, and full removals were possibilities. Although ecologic, economic, and safety benefits outweighed the consequences, the community valued easy and reliable fishing and were hesitant to see the river change. A robust public engagement plan educated river users who eventually embraced dam removal.



In 2018, Snyder and Associates designed plans to remove the dams and presented a potential funding alternative - the Des Moines River Mitigation Bank. The goal of the Des Moines River Mitigation Bank is to provide income for the City to pay for the dam removals and complete future river improvements.



In January 2019, after decades of “dam” discussion, demolition began at both dams. Material from the Hydroelectric Dam was re-purposed to stabilize the riverbanks and construct an in-river feature for recreational uses such as fishing and kayaking. Congratulations to the City of Fort Dodge and Snyder & Associates for the Des Moines River Dam Removals!

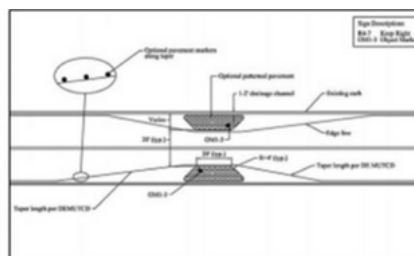
CITY OF WAUKEE, THE WAUKEE STREET DESIGN GUIDE

RECIPIENT OF THE TRANSPORTATION AWARD

Waukee is a fast-growing community that is part of the Des Moines Metro Area. With an anticipated growth rate that will double the community’s size by 2040, the City of Waukee partnered with Snyder & Associates to develop street classifications and standards to provide residents and visitors with improved mobility while also increasing the safety of all road users, motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians alike.

The City is currently implementing traffic calming elements identified in the Guide on two established Minor Collector streets to address speed concerns expressed by residents along the corridors. “Before” speed and volume data have been collected along both streets and “After” data will be collected for comparison and effectiveness of the selected treatments.

Congratulations to the City of Waukee and Snyder & Associates for the Waukee Street Design Guide!



CITY OF MUSCATINE, THE RECONNECTING MUSCATINE PROJECT RECIPIENT OF THE URBAN DESIGN AWARD

Muscatine, Iowa, is rooted in industrial beginnings that shaped the city's growth along the Mississippi River. Mississippi Drive, once a bustling boat and rail yard turned truck route, divided downtown Muscatine from the riverfront.

As the city evolved, the riverfront transformed into a regional amenity with recreational offerings and public open space but was plagued by increasing vehicular traffic and lack of connectivity to downtown. Accessibility challenges, dangerous railroad crossings, and aging infrastructure have historically plagued the 1.6-mile corridor.

Designated as a Blue Zones Project in 2014, the city established an expectation for redefining the priorities of the Mississippi riverfront. The long-term goal was to provide a safe and attractive multimodal streetscape corridor to promote economic development in downtown and encourage more pedestrian and recreational activity along the riverfront.

As part of a phased reconstruction strategy for downtown Muscatine, the city has:

- reimagined Mississippi Drive (1.6 miles),
- developed plans for the reconstruction of Grandview Avenue (2.1 miles),
- is currently reconstructing 2nd Street through the downtown core, and
- is finishing construction on the Mulberry Roundabout.

Together these projects complement one another with the goal of reconnecting Muscatine and its downtown to the Mississippi River.

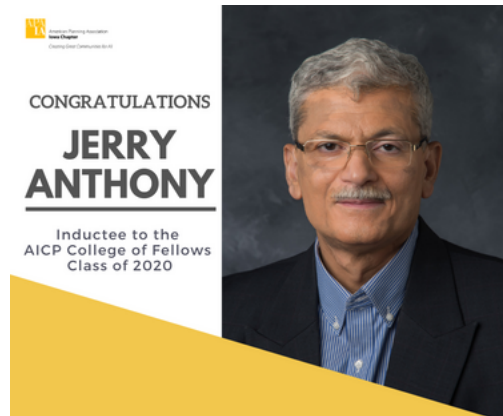
Congratulations to the City of Muscatine & Bolton and Menk for the Reconnecting Muscatine project!



JERRY ANTHONY INDUCTEE TO THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PLANNERS

The Iowa APA Planning Chapter would also like to recognize Jerry Anthony for being inducted into the AICP College of Fellows. This is the highest honor that the American Institute of Certified Planners bestows upon a member.

The honor recognizes the achievements of the professional as a model planner with significant contributions to planning and society. To read more about his career and planning profession, please visit: <https://www.planning.org/faicp/>.



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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
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DON'T MISS OUT CHECK OUT THESE OPPORTUNITIES...

JOB POSTINGS

Planning & Zoning Director

Job Type: Full Time
Location: Pella, IA
Employer: City of Pella

Climate Action Analyst

Job Type: Full Time
Location: Iowa City, IA
Employer: City of Iowa City

Community Development Director

Job Type: Full Time
Location: Algona, IA
Employer: City of Algona

Deputy Director of Development & Planning Services

Job Type: Full Time
Location: Northbrook, IL
Employer: Village of Northbrook

More openings from the region available on the APA-Iowa Chapter Website

GET INVOLVED IN APA-IOWA CHAPTER

Are you interested in getting more involved with APA-Iowa Chapter? We are always on the lookout for members to serve on the chapter board, a standing committee, or assist with temporary, short-term projects. If you are interested, please fill out this short form to understand what your interest areas are and to what degree you want to become involved.

We anticipate subcommittees will be forming around the various program areas in the strategic plan. Feel free to contact Dylan Mullenix, APA-Iowa Chapter Chapter President, if you have any questions.

CONFERENCE RECAP & SURVEY

Thank you again to everyone who participated in the APA Upper Midwest Conference: Planning & Adapting. We had a total of 579 virtual attendees. 177 of which were Iowa members!

Special thank you to the Iowa Planning Committee for switching gears from in-person to virtual halfway through the year and contributing to a dynamic and informative event.

Please take a moment to complete the online conference survey [linked here](#). This will help with planning our events in the future!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 25 - Webinar: APA Ethics Case of the Year Panel Discussion - 1.5 CM ETHICS

Nov. 8 - Webinar: Making Room for Middle Housing, lessons from Oregon - 1.5 CM

Nov. 12 - Planning on Tap: Small Town & Rural Planning - 1 CM Pending

Nov. 12 - Agrihoods Presentation, Iowa City

Nov. 15- Current Topics in Planning Law: From Cannabis to the Fast Track - 1.5 CM LAW

Dec. 10 - Planning on Tap: Technology- 1 CM Pending

Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on events and happenings.



Submit your community updates for January's newsletter by Friday, January 15th.

Fill out the form to be featured in our Planner Spotlight.