

NOTICE & AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE

MONROE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

DATE and TIME: Wednesday, **December 14, 2016** at 7:30 p.m.
PLACE: Monroe County Courthouse Annex
Board of Commissioners' Committee Room
125 E. Second Street
Monroe, MI 48161

Members unable to attend this meeting; please notify Ryan Simmons at 240-7382; or at 240-7017 after 7:00 p.m. on the night of the meeting. Agenda Materials are available 24 hours prior to the meeting at the Monroe County Website, www.co.monroe.mi.us.
Government > Departments/Offices > Board of Commissioners > County Boards and Commissions > Planning Commission.

1. **Determine Quorum and Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Adopt/Revise Agenda**
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the November 2016 Meeting**
5. **Call to the Public**
6. **Communications: Correspondence & Information**
 - A. Correspondence
 - 1.
 - B. Information
 1. SEMCOG – Regional Update – November 21, 2016
 2. Healthy Herald – December 2016
 3. Monroe County Museum – Grapevine Newsletter
 4. Monroe County Health Department – Christmas Tree Recycling News Release
7. **Old Business:**
 - A. Partners in Planning Update
 1. Frenchtown Charter Township Recreation Plan – **Verbal Report**
 - B. Monroe County Remonumentation Program – **Verbal Report**
8. **New Business**
 - A. Consent Agenda*
9. **Budget & Finance**
 - A. Update on future staffing needs – **Verbal Report**
10. **Committee Member's/Director's Report**
 - A. Lake Erie Transit Commissioner Report – **Patrick Miller**
 - B. Monroe County Parks and Recreation Commission Report – **Floreine Mentel**

C. Monroe County Road Commission Report – **Scott Assenmacher**

11. Other Items from Members

12. Next Meeting is Scheduled for **January 11, 2017** at 7:30 p.m.

13. Adjournment

*Last-minute items not appearing on this agenda may come before the Monroe County Planning Commission in the form of amendments that will be available to the public at the Planning Commission meeting. Recommendations stated in staff reports are not final, and may be changed or overturned by a vote of the Planning Commission. Planning Commission policy prohibits staff from discussing recommendations with applicants or other members of the public prior to the Planning Commission meeting. Anyone may comment on cases by appearing in person at the meeting, or by submitting written comments to the Planning Commission before the meeting.

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MONROE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

- DATE and TIME:** November 9, 2016, at 7:30 p.m.
- PLACE:** Monroe County Courthouse Annex
Board of Commissioners' Committee Room
125 East Second Street
Monroe, MI 48161
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mary Webb, Chairman; Scott Assenmacher; Mark Brant; Dan Brooks; Rebecca Curley; Floreine Mentel; Larry See, Jr.; Herb Smith; Mike Sperling; Gary Wilmoth
- MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Patrick Miller
- MCPC STAFF PRESENT:** Rob Peven, Planning Director; Lee Markham, Planner; Ryan Simmons, Planner
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Carol Beldean, Mike Beldean, Gary Depa, Betty J. Hess, James Hess, Lisa Okasinski, John P. Sledge Jr.

1. Chairman Webb called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and the Commission proceeded to transact business.
2. Chairman Webb led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Adopt/Revise Agenda – Motion by Mr. Smith, supported by Mrs. Mentel, to adopt the proposed agenda.
MOTION CARRIED
4. Approval of the Minutes of the October 2016 Meeting

Motion by Mr. See, supported by Mrs. Curley, to accept the minutes of the October 2016 meeting as submitted and to place them on file.
MOTION CARRIED
5. Call to the Public – No member of the public wished to speak at this time.
6. Correspondence & Information
 - A. Correspondence
 1. Notice from Exeter Township regarding the adoption of their Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
 2. Letter to Chairman Webb from Lisa M. Okasinski regarding Ash Township rezoning case #200.1-11-16-31.
 3. Letter to Monroe County Planning Commission from Michael Beldean regarding Ash Township rezoning case #200.1-11-16-31.
 - B. Information
 1. Michigan Association of Conservation Districts announces “Farmers taking Action to Protect Water Quality in Western Lake Erie Basin” grant project – Press Release – Mr. Peven stated that this grant is mostly for projects in the headwaters of the River Raisin in Lenawee County. Chairman Webb stated that this grant will be good for Monroe County as well.
 2. Healthy Herald – Monroe County Health Department – November 2016
 3. SEMCOG Regional Update – October 2016
 4. Semscope – Fall 2016
 5. The Open Road – Monroe County Road Commission – Sep Oct 2016

Motion by Mrs. Mentel, supported by Mr. Sperling, to accept the Correspondence and Information and to place them on file.

MOTION CARRIED

7. Old Business:

A. Partners in Planning Update

1. Frenchtown Charter Township Recreation Plan – Mr. Peven stated that there was a meeting in the Township a couple of weeks ago where they went over the results of the survey. He stated that they updated their goals and objectives based upon the results of the survey and based upon what the Township felt were other deficiencies in their park system. He stated that he will put together a draft plan for the Township in time for their December meeting.

B. Monroe County Remonumentation Program – Mr. Peven presented a table showing what each county in the State is getting this year for their grant. He stated that the County is getting about \$62,000, which is up about \$4,000 from the 2016 grant. He stated that each section corner costs about \$1,000 so they should be able to do four more for next year.

C. Approval of Reappointments to the Monroe County Planning Commission – Mr. Peven stated that the Board of Commissioners has reappointed Commissioners Assenmacher, Mentel, See and Sperling.

8. New Business

A. Consent Agenda

TOWNSHIP ZONING REVIEWS

200.1-11 -16-31 Ash Township (map)

This is an official request to change the zoning on a parcel totaling approximately 4.4 acres from C-2, General Service District to C-3, Heavy Commercial District. The purpose of the rezoning is to expand the existing general contractor business adjacent to the south for the purpose of storing aggregate, topsoil and building materials on the site. The parcel is located north of Sigler Road at the southwest corner of Indian Trail Road and Telegraph Road.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Monroe County Planning Commission advise the Ash Township Board that it recommends denial of the proposed zoning change request, as the expansion of the current C-3, Heavy Commercial use could have the potential to create a nuisance for neighboring residential properties to the north and west of the subject property. Staff feels that this rezoning could potentially be justified if the applicant proposes conditional zoning terms that would ensure that an expansion of the C-3, Heavy Commercial use at this site does not create a nuisance to neighboring residential properties.

Mr. Simmons read through Staff's review of the case and explained their rationale for recommending denial of the rezoning. Mr. Assenmacher asked what the zoning for the existing construction business to the south of the site is. Mr. Simmons apologized that it was not indicated on the attached zoning map and replied that the property to the south is zoned C-3.

Mr. Assenmacher asked Staff if they knew the reason why the Township's Planning Commission recommended approval for the rezoning. Mr. Simmons replied that it's not indicated in the draft meeting minutes received from the Township, but that there was a split vote among the Township's planning commissioners. Mr. Simmons stated that there was also a recommendation from the Township's planning consultant for approval of the rezoning, as the site is designated Commercial in the Township Master Plan, and that this designation is not in agreement with our County Comprehensive Plan's designation.

Mr. Markham read a letter from Mike Beldean, a neighbor living adjacent to the site, which was against the rezoning and specifically mentioned the noise and dust currently coming from the site.

John Sledge, a neighbor living adjacent to the site, also spoke against the rezoning. He stated that somebody else besides the applicant owns the subject property. He mentioned the noise coming from the site and decreasing property values. He stated that the applicant does not live near the property and does not know how the property is affecting neighboring properties. He stated that he was concerned that a C-3 classification could allow the applicant to put in something like a heavy-duty shop and he is concerned because Indian Trail Dr. has many residences.

Betty Hess, a neighbor living near the site, spoke against the rezoning, stating that she lives one house away from the property and that her husband has heart issues. She stated that there is continual noise coming from the site. She stated that she is not as concerned about what is happening now with the property but what might happen in the future, stating that the applicant has expressed his interest in purchasing even more adjacent property and that she would then be adjacent to it. She stated that the property does not have good eye appeal, and expressed her concerns regarding Township blight enforcement.

James Hess spoke against the rezoning and stated that the applicant has alternate areas where he could set up his business, and stated that the site creates too much dirt in the air. He stated that he has no problem with the applicant making a profit, but that residents should not have to accept this.

Lisa Okasinski, an attorney representing some of the homeowners living near the site, spoke against the rezoning. She answered Mr. Assenmacher's question about the Township Planning Commission's rationale for recommending approval of the rezoning, stating that the Commissioners who voted for the rezoning were not voting for the use of the property but rather for the commercial zoning classification. She mentioned the letter that she submitted to the Planning Commission, and stated that she thought that the applicant's proposed use of the property was important, as he does not plan on using the property for the same use as his current C-3 property to the south. She stated that he is currently screening dirt on the property and that this is not even an allowed use in the C-3 District, and that this activity is what is creating most of the noise and dust. She stated that the applicant has done nothing to demonstrate that, if the property is rezoned, that it will not create a nuisance to neighboring properties. She stated that there is a picture on the final page of her letter that shows the piles of dirt on the property adjacent to the street. Finally, she stated that the rezoning should be considered only when the applicant has proposed uses that would be consistent with a C-3 zoning classification.

Motion by Mr. Brant, supported by Mr. Assenmacher, to recommend denial of the rezoning application for this case.

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Peven stated to the public in attendance that the County Planning Commission's decision and Staff's review of the rezoning would be mailed to the Township tomorrow. Chairman Webb thanked the public for attending the meeting.

200.1-11 -16-32

Ash Township (map)

This is an official request to change the zoning on a parcel totaling approximately 7.24 acres from AG, Agricultural District to C-3, Heavy Commercial District. The purpose of the rezoning is to locate an office, shop and truck and trailer parking lot on the site. The parcel is located on the east side of Telegraph Road south of Carleton-Rockwood Road.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Monroe County Planning Commission advise the Ash Township Board that it recommends approval of the proposed zoning change request, as the rezoning would be in character with adjacent commercial land uses to the north and west of the property and would further develop commercially the Telegraph Road/Carleton-Rockwood Road intersection, and for the other reasons stated above.

200.1-11 -16-33 Frenchtown Township (text)

Frenchtown Charter Township is proposing to amend Articles 7, 8, 19 and 23 of its Zoning Ordinance. These articles pertain to the following: Wording in the Zoning Ordinance referring to pool fences in the A, Agricultural District, and the Single Family Residential Districts and the GM, General Manufacturing District would be repealed, as these fences are now regulated by the Township's new ordinance regarding fences that was passed in August 2016.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Monroe County Planning Commission advise the Frenchtown Charter Township Board that it recommends approval of the proposed amendments for the reasons stated above.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

TOWNSHIP ZONING REVIEW

200.1- 11-16-34 Ida Township (text)

Ida Township is proposing to amend Articles 4 and 6 of its Zoning Ordinance. These amendments pertain to self-storage facilities within the Township.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Monroe County Planning Commission advise the Ida Township Board that it recommends approval of the proposed amendments for the reasons stated above.

Motion by Mr. Brant, supported by Mr. Brooks, to accept the Consent Agenda and the additional case from the Summary of Amendments to the Agenda, but to pull Case #200.1-11-16-31 from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Mr. Assenmacher brought up a typographical error in the recommendation for Case #200.1-11-16-33 on the agenda, but noted that the typo was not in Staff's write-up of the case. Chairman Webb asked Staff to take note of and to correct the error.

MOTION CARRIED

B. Notice of Raisinville Township's Intent to prepare a master plan – Mr. Peven stated that this notice is on Page 43 of the Agenda packet.

Mr. Brooks asked what the penalty is for being in violation of a township ordinance. Mr. Wilmoth stated that most townships do not have the staff or resources to pursue violations of a township ordinance. Mr. Peven stated that townships can fine people and take them to court for being in violation of an ordinance and that fines add up each day that the ordinance is being violated, but that there is a limit to these fines. He stated that each zoning ordinance has a section regarding violations and penalties and what the procedure is, but that there needs to be an enforcement officer.

9. Budget & Finance

- A. 2017 Approved Planning Commission Budget – Mr. Peven stated that the budget was approved by the County Board and he presented a table of the budget to the Planning Commissioners again. Chairman Webb mentioned the write-up of the Planning Department/Commission’s functions on the opposite page. Mr. Peven stated that a write-up of each department’s functions is part of the budget submission process for all of the county departments.

10. Committee Member’s / Director’s Report

- A. Lake Erie Transit (LET) Commissioner Report – Dr. Miller was not present. Mrs. Mentel stated that she was not at the meeting earlier but stated that the main issue was the regional transit millage failing in metro Detroit. If it had passed then LET would have had to add personnel, but that they will know more about where they stand by the December meeting. Mr. Peven mentioned that this may be good for LET as SMART currently does some accounting and grant administration tasks for LET.
- B. Monroe County Parks and Recreation Commission Report – Mrs. Mentel stated that there was not a November meeting of the Commission.
- C. Monroe County Road Commission Report – Mr. Assenmacher stated that the MCRC will be meeting with the Townships regarding 2017 projects in the next couple months. He stated that night crews will be starting up November 28th to deal with potential snow and ice issues. He stated that there is a tentative Federal Aid Committee meeting scheduled for December 14th. Mr. Assenmacher stated that he would like to hear from any of the Commissioners about any topics that they are interested in. He mentioned that Ida West Road is nice and that they got MDOT to help with some safety mitigation in the form of raised pavement markings through a three-mile section of the road. He stated that there may be more safety mitigation measures included in construction projects in the future. Chairman Webb mentioned some raised reflectors on War Road that she saw. Mr. Assenmacher stated that these are temporary and used when the MCRC performs chip seals.

Mr. Assenmacher stated that there is funding at the state level for road improvements at problematic railroad crossings. He stated that these crossings are a challenge for the County as there are so many of them. He asked the Commissioners if they would note to him any crossings that they know of that need improvements to their crossing conditions. Mr. Peven asked if this applied to paved or unpaved roads. Mr. Assenmacher stated that most likely the program would go towards paved roads as they were prioritizing money towards crossings with high average daily traffic. Mr. Sperling mentioned the crossing on Ida Center Road. Mrs. Mentel asked about the reflectors at Cole Road and Macomb Street. Mr. Assenmacher stated that these are temporary reflectors that will eventually be removed.

11. Other Items from Members

- A. Chairman Webb stated that she is concerned about the Planning Commission’s search for a new director and stated that she researched what her responsibility is in the search for a director. She stated that after talking to a County Commissioner that, eventually, she decided to make an appointment with Mike Bosanac. She stated that she had a very good talk with him and that Mr. Bosanac mentioned that they are exploring the possibility of sharing the cost of a planning director with other entities, possibly with the City of Monroe. She stated that this would help in sharing information between the City and County, as well. She stated that she stressed to Mr. Bosanac the importance of having a County Planning Commission and a director to support the Commission. She stated that both Mr. Markham and Mr. Peven are planning on leaving the Department, with Mr. Markham to resign at the end of this year, but that Mr. Peven will remain active at least until a new director is fully functional.

Mr. Peven stated that he and Mr. Markham have been part-time since they retired back in 2010. He stated that he let Mr. Bosanac know back in June when they began the budget process that he and Mr. Markham were thinking of leaving at the end of the year. He stated that he and Mr. Bosanac have been meeting with the Monroe City Manager about possible joint staffing arrangements. He stated that hiring a full-time director to replace two part-time employees is an option, but that it would have more of an impact on the budget due to the higher wages and

benefits that would need to be paid to that person. He stated that the City of Monroe is also short staffed and currently contracts out their zoning and site plan reviews to a consultant. He also mentioned that the City's GIS employee may also be retiring soon and mentioned that the County already contracts out its IT department to the City. He stated that he could not find a model of a city and county sharing a planning director and could only find examples of counties contracting out planning services to townships similar to our current Partners-in-Planning program. He stated that he is supposed to get back to Mr. Bosanac about what his recommendation is and that first he wanted to discuss it with Chairman Webb and the Commission at the meeting tonight.

Chairman Webb stressed that it is important to have the Planning Commission secure as there are a couple of Township plans that we need to review in the next few months. Mr. Wilmoth suggested that Mr. Brant bring it up at the next Board of Commissioners agenda meeting. Mr. Brant stated that he would and that he and Mr. Wilmoth should make an effort to remind Mr. Bosanac of the issue of finding a planning director, and that once a plan with the City is decided upon and once Mr. Peven's plans are finalized, then an RFP with qualifications for a new director can be put out.

Mr. Assenmacher asked how the City of Monroe currently handles its planning. Mr. Brant replied that they used to have a planning department, but that now rezonings are contracted out to Beckett & Raeder because they are short staffed and did not want to pay a full-time employee. Mr. Assenmacher asked if we are in the same situation. Mr. Brant replied that, in contrast, the County would like somebody in-house with an office at either the City or County and that this person's duties would be split between the two. Mr. Sperling asked if it would be somebody within the County. Chairman Webb stated that this would be good but that the person needs to be qualified. She noted that Jeff Green was named Community Development Director for the City of Monroe this week.

Mrs. Mentel asked what would happen with Mr. Simmons in the transition. Chairman Webb stated that she hoped that he would remain as a planner as he goes to many meetings for the Commission. Mr. Simmons noted that he would also be responsible for Mr. Markham's current duties once he leaves, as well. Once again, Chairman Webb stated that a situation where somebody comes in once a month or every other month to check in on the Department will not work. Mr. Wilmoth stated that the only problem that he could see would be upgrading the budget.

- B. Mr. Brant stated that the County Board is looking for applicants in order to make an appointment to the Road Commission. He stated that the deadline to apply is either November 10 or November 11. He and Mr. Wilmoth agreed that they would like to see the Road Commission be representative of the entire county. Mr. Peven asked if the current Commissioner is eligible to reapply. Mr. Brant stated that he is but that they have not heard from him yet. Mr. Peven asked if he was one of the elected Commissioners. Mr. Brant replied that he was elected but that now the Road Commissioner positions are appointments.
- C. Chairman Webb stated that she spoke to Dennis Meyer and Doug Darling about Mr. Assenmacher's comments at the last Planning Commission meeting about muddy roads. She stated that they are going to address this issue once all of the farming is over.
- D. Mrs. Mentel asked about whether Jeff Boudrie would be able to perform GIS duties for the City of Monroe, as well. Mr. Peven replied that Mr. Boudrie would need help as there are a lot of parcels in the City. He stated that the current GIS person is within the Engineering Department and it is not a shared GIS with other City departments. Mrs. Mentel asked if Mr. Peven would stay on into 2017 if necessary. Mr. Peven stated that he would like to and that Mr. Bosanac supports him working reduced hours in helping with a transition, and that he would need to eventually train someone else to perform his current duties. Mr. Assenmacher asked if there would be a conflict of interest if we shared a director and there was a case within the Monroe city limits. Mr. Brant replied that we do not review City zoning cases.

**Minutes of the November 9, 2016
Monroe County Planning Commission Meeting**

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13. Adjournment: Motion by Mr. Brant, supported by Mr. Sperling, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting concluded at 8:50 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

MEETING ADJOURNED

:rds



November 21, 2016

Volume 22, No.23

SEMCOG Executive Committee meets December 9

SEMCOG's Executive Committee meets on Friday, December 9, 2016, at 1 p.m. in SEMCOG's office at 1001 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1400, Detroit, MI 48226.

The Executive Committee is requested to approve:

- SEMCOG's *2017-2018 Legislative Policy Platform*;
- an amendment to 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP);
- Water Resources Plan policies for source water protection and extraction/distribution of oil and gas; and
- SEMCOG's revised *Financial Management Manual*.

The meeting will also include an update on Regional Development Forecast Task Force activities and the debut of a new SEMCOG promotional video, "Developing Regional Solutions."

Executive Committee members will receive an agenda one week prior to the meeting.

Contact: [Michael Spence](#), SEMCOG Executive Office.

SEMCOG/MAC Education Reform Task Force to address Career Technical Education

Next meeting is December 7, 9 a.m.

The fourth meeting of the SEMCOG/MAC Education Reform Task Force, scheduled for December 7, 2016 at 9 a.m., will focus on Career Technical Education (CTE). CTE is one of the most effective career pathway programs available to students. It provides students with the academic and technical skills, knowledge, and training in 16 career clusters. While CTE focuses on preparing students for workplace success by connecting academics with real-world application, more than 75 percent of high school students who graduate from high school with CTE training, continue into higher education. CTE is more than vocational education. It provides technical and work-ready training for some of the fastest-growing industries in Michigan.

Read SEMCOG's blog on the topic: [Career Technical Education – Not the same old Voc Ed](#).

The Task Force meeting will feature education and business perspectives on CTE, with presentations from representatives of Ford Motor Company, Michigan Department of Education, Wayne RESA, Macomb Community College, and Utica Schools.

[Register](#) for this meeting on SEMCOG's website, or contact [Kenneasha Williams](#), 313-300-9350.

Contact: [Susan Krichbaum](#), Metropolitan Affairs Coalition.

SEMCOG invites public comment on amendment to FY 2017-2020 TIP and 2040 RTP

SEMCOG announces the public comment period for an amendment to the FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The [proposed amendment](#) includes 14 additions, eight deletions, and seven cost modifications in the TIP and RTP. The proposed amendment includes a variety of work to pavement, traffic operations, bridge, transit, and pedestrian/bicycle facilities across Southeast Michigan. View the [public notice](#) and please share with your residents.

Contact: SEMCOG [Information Center](#).

SEMCOG call for projects: Transportation Alternatives Program

\$5 million available through TAP for FY 2018

SEMCOG recently issued a [call for projects](#) for the fiscal year (FY) 2018 [Transportation Alternatives Program \(TAP\)](#). TAP is a competitive grant program that funds projects such as bicycle facilities, shared-use paths, and streetscape improvements that improve pedestrian safety, transportation-related environmental mitigation (including green infrastructure), and safe routes to school. It is expected that \$5 million will be available for FY 2018. Learn more about TAP, including information on eligibility and competitiveness criteria, project selection process, and best practices for applying for funds and implementing projects, at SEMCOG's January 13, 2017 [SEMCOG University workshop](#).

Contact: [Brian Pawlik](#), SEMCOG Plan Implementation.

Iron Belle Trail grant funding available from MDNR

Proposals due January 9

SEMCOG works with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to facilitate planning and implementation of [Michigan's Iron Belle Trail](#), a statewide system of hiking and biking trails between Detroit and the Upper Peninsula. MDNR recently [announced](#) that a third round of grant funding is available for communities and organizations working on sections of trail along the proposed routes. Eligible projects for funding include engineering and design assistance, construction assistance, and purchase and installation of Iron Belle signs. SEMCOG is providing technical assistance with grant applications, and proposals are due January 9, 2017.

Contact: [Tyler Klifman](#), SEMCOG Plan Implementation.

\$26 million available for Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants

Applications due January 13

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced a Request for Applications for \$26 million in [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative \(GLRI\) grants](#) for FY 2016 and FY 2017. Investments made through this funding will support restoring and protecting the Great Lakes. It is expected that this funding will be awarded to approximately 56 projects in the [seven eligibility categories](#), including invasive species management and nonpoint source pollution reduction. Applications are due January 13, 2017.

Contact: [Bill Parkus](#), SEMCOG Plan Implementation.

New on www.semco.org: SEMCOG Site Explorer map series

SEMCOG has launched a new online map series to highlight areas of economic opportunities within Southeast Michigan. [The Site Explorer map series](#) was developed to provide economic developers a starting point to identify properties near railroads, railyards, and cargo airports; and locate vacant land. The maps allow

users to explore areas within our region that are accessible to the above assets, search for locations, and view information about nonresidential buildings and properties.

The need for this map series was identified by SEMCOG's Economic Development Task Force. These maps can help advance a number of the strategies in the [Partnering for Prosperity](#) economic development plan. SEMCOG members provided guidance and feedback at a number of public meetings, including a SEMCOG University and a General Assembly meeting. We plan to add additional layers to this map series in the future.

Contact: [Chad Misiuk](#), SEMCOG Data Analysis.

SEMCOG Think Regional, Act Local blog: A summary of recent posts

Don't miss any more; [subscribe here](#)

We invite you to subscribe to SEMCOG's blog. You will receive email notification when a new one is posted. Here's a sampling of what we've posted lately.

[Apprenticeships: The other 4-year degree](#) – Last week was National Apprenticeship Week and events in Southeast Michigan raised awareness of this other four-year degree.

[Stop, pause, and celebrate our Great Lakes](#)—Celebrating the efforts of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to protect and restore the Great Lakes, the largest system of fresh water on the planet and an invaluable asset of our region.

Contact: [Sue Stetler](#), SEMCOG Communications.

Small Business Saturday: How is your community participating?

Small Business Saturday® is November 26, 2016. As always, it's the Saturday after Thanksgiving! This has become an important day for supporting small businesses in local communities. The [U.S. Small Business Administration](#) calls this "a day to celebrate and support small businesses and all they do for their communities." The first Small Business Saturday was in 2010; the following year, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution in support for Small Business Saturday. Each year since, this holiday tradition has become increasingly popular.

[Partnering for Prosperity](#), SEMCOG's regional economic development plan, points out that small businesses contribute to a community's quality of life and economy. At the October General Assembly workshop on supporting business growth, Westland Mayor William Wild, recent co-chair of the SEMCOG/MAC Economic Development Task Force, indicated that the [City of Westland](#) actively promotes Small Business Saturday. "This event underscores the importance of small businesses to our local economy. Studies have found that when shopping dollars are spent locally, more money stays with the community, which helps with the building of parks and libraries and funding of public safety."

[Oakland County](#) has an innovative new program where holiday shoppers making purchases at any small business in Oakland County could win \$5,000. Numerous other communities throughout Southeast Michigan are also promoting Small Business Saturday. For example, several events are being held in the City of Detroit, including [Grandmont Rosedale](#), [Livernois Avenue of Fashion](#), [Shop Detroit Build Bazaar @ One Campus Martius](#), [Wyandotte](#) and [Howell](#) are also supporting Small Business Saturday events. More information is available at [shops-small.com](#).

Tell us about how your community will be celebrating Small Business Saturday!

Contact: [Kevin Johnson](#), SEMCOG Plan Implementation.

New partnership opportunity: Metro Detroit Nature Network

Local communities and organizations are encouraged to join the Metro Detroit Nature Network (MDNN), a developing partnership of regional stakeholders to promote natural resources and outdoor recreation in Southeast Michigan. As part of MDNN's steering committee, SEMCOG has joined federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as private, non-profit, and educational partners to develop and sign a partnership agreement that reflects the group's shared vision, that *all people in the region have access to and actively steward nature and promote ecosystem sustainability*. Through strengthened collaboration, MDNN

aims to engage diverse stakeholders, leverage resources as a network, and maximize the collective results of the partners' work.

Contact: [Tyler Klifman](#), SEMCOG Plan Implementation.

Creative and innovative: C.U. Downtown

C.U. Downtown is a partnership program between Cleary University and the Howell Main Street/DDA that provides an educational experience for Cleary marketing students while promoting the businesses and happenings that make downtown Howell a great place to work, live, play, and stay. The program is built around a 10-week marketing curriculum.

Students manage various social media platforms – Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube– posting content covering everything from businesses, architecture, history, and community happenings. The students research and interact with downtown businesses, as well as Howell Main Street Inc./DDA, using their findings to provide a fresh perspective of downtown Howell.

Cleary University Professor Robert Bellenir, noted, “Our goal is that Cleary students get real world experience with the daily ups-and-downs of working on client projects. “Students will gain hands-on problem solving experience that will be beneficial for any position they take on as an entrepreneur or in corporate America.”

Contact: [Cathleen Edgerly](#), Howell Main Street DDA Director.

State issues annual Inflation Rate Multiplier bulletin for assessors and equalization directors

The Michigan Department of Treasury (DOT) recently released its [2017 Inflation Rate Multiplier bulletin](#) for use by local governments to determine their Capped Value and “Headlee” Millage Reduction Fraction formulas for the upcoming fiscal year. Based on statutory requirements, DOT has calculated the 2017 Inflation Rate Multiplier at 1.009. Capped Value and “Headlee” Calculation formulas are provided in the document, as well as a history of Inflation Rate Multipliers since the start of Proposal A in 1995.

The impact of the Headlee Amendment on Michigan’s local governments is the focus of the two most recent installments in SEMCOG’s *By the Numbers* blog series, [Michigan’s recovery is blocked](#) and [How economic development influences local government revenues](#). *By the Numbers* evaluates the finances of Michigan local governments, primarily through the use of U.S. Census reports on Local Government Revenues and Expenditures by Type of Government, and State and Local Government Revenues and Expenditures.

Contact: [Michael Spence](#), SEMCOG Executive Office.

SEMCOG in the News

SEMCOG Deputy Executive Director, Carmine Palombo, was a recent guest on “Eye on Oakland,” hosted by Chuck Moss and Dave Potts. He discussed a myriad of topics related to SEMCOG work and Southeast Michigan. Watch it [now](#).

Contact: [Sue Stetler](#), SEMCOG Communications.



New resource: MeL Business

The Michigan eLibrary’s business portal, MeL Business, contains subscription research content at no cost for Michigan residents, and a gateway that strategically supports economic development efforts, as well as a video series that targets how libraries and business-support organizations use MeL. Noted State

Superintendent Brian Whiston, "Our library resources are providing greater customer services and helping Michigan continue to improve its economic growth, MeL.org's online Business Gateway is an exciting advance in assisting Michigan's job providers." Take a [look](#).

Michigan Association of Planning hosts Transportation Bonanza 8 on December 1

Better Together: Building Bridges (and roads and bike paths and transit) is scheduled for December 1, 2016, from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at the Lansing Center. Early registration is \$70; the workshop has six AICP CM credits, six Professional Engineer continuing education credits, and six Master Citizen Planner continuing education credits. For additional information and to register, click [here](#).

SEMNews

The 10th annual *eCities* event honoring its 2016 communities recognized from across Michigan was held earlier this month at the University of Michigan-Dearborn College of Business. *eCities* is an annual research study that examines community-level factors that influence entrepreneurship, economic development, and job growth. The project's focus is to learn and share the best practices to attract entrepreneurial development and create business growth. These SEMCOG members were recognized by *eCities* in 2016: **Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor Township, Dearborn, Dexter, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Madison Heights, Mount Clemens, Northville Township, Novi, Oak Park, Pittsfield Township, Plymouth Township, Romulus, Trenton, West Bloomfield Township, Wixom, and Ypsilanti.**

Auburn Hills and **Livonia** recently received planning awards from the Michigan Association of Planning – Auburn Hills for their 2015 Industrial Analysis, and Livonia for Bike/Walk Livonia.

Important reminders

Have you followed us on social media? Check us out! [Twitter](#) • [Facebook](#) • [LinkedIn](#)

Have you subscribed to SEMCOG's Think Regional, Act Local blog? Do it [now!](#)

SEMCOG - Southeast Michigan Council of Governments • 1001 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1400, Detroit, Michigan 48226
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If you wish to no longer receive Regional Update, please [Opt-Out here](#).

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SEMCOG is a regional planning partnership of governmental units serving 4.7 million people in the seven-county region of Southeast Michigan striving to enhance the region's quality of life. Regional Update is a publication of SEMCOG, financed through funds from state and federal grants and dues from member communities.

Rod Green, Chairperson • Trustee, Superior Charter Township
Kathleen Lomako, Executive Director
Susan L. Stetler, Editor





Happy Holidays



**Grocery Store
Tour
Monroe Meijer**



Date: January 25, 2017

Location:

**1700 N. Telegraph Rd
Monroe**

Time: 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Pre-register please.
Space is limited

For more info on Live
Well. Be Well.

Programs and events,
call:

734-240-7800

or email

LiveWell_BeWell@
monroemi.org

How do I prevent holiday stress?

Are your expectations for the holidays realistic? Asking yourself this question is the first step to managing holiday stress. Make a list of what you expect from yourself and your family during the holidays. Hidden within these expectations you might find your potential holiday stressors—the things specific to you that can cause stress.

Try Deep Breathing

1. Find a quiet place to sit or lie down and close your eyes.
2. Put one hand on your belly. Be sure your arm is relaxed.
3. As you breathe in (inhale) slowly, gently let your stomach expand like you have a balloon in your belly, feel your lungs fill with air, breathe in for a 4-8 count
4. As you breathe out (exhale) let your belly relax. Gently let all the air out of your lungs and let your belly flatten for a 4-8 count.

**Adult/Child CPR/
AED Class
December 28th
10:00am—12:00pm
Call to register
Cost—\$25.00**

Mall Walk & Talk
Have your blood sugar
checked before
and after walking
at the Mall of
Monroe.
December 21st
8:00am—10:00am





Robert Peven <robert_peven@monroemi.org>

Monroe County Museum's Grapevine

1 message

Andy Clark <andy_clark@monroemi.org>
To: All County Employees <allcounty@monroemi.org>

Mon, Dec 5, 2016 at 1:35 PM

Monroe County Museum's Grapevine: The Ho-Ho-Holidays Edition

Christmas Tree Festival

December is here and that means it is time for the Monroe County Christmas Tree Festival. Now in its 38th year, the Christmas Tree Festival features trees and wreaths from organizations across the county all through the month. During your visit, vote for your favorite tree or wreath and help them win a prize courtesy of Sieb Plumbing and Heating and the Friends of the Monroe County Historical Museum. Voting ends December 30th.

Holiday Village

A few weeks ago, a large holiday village collection was donated to the museum. The village - nicknamed Peltierville - will be on display through the end of the year in our South Lobby. Check it out during your visit.

Upcoming Events

Our special holiday programs have already started. During the first weekend in December we hosted our first ever Ugly Sweater Contest and Nutcracker Crafts. Here are the rest of our activities for December:

Decorative Papercutting Demonstration - December 8th - 7 pm

Artist Mary Gaynier leads a papercutting demonstration. Kits will be available for purchase. This event is free, but seating is limited. Please call 734.240.7780 or email history@monroemi.org to reserve your spot.

Holiday Open House - December 10th - 1 pm to 4.30 pm

Join us for an afternoon of holiday activities. At 1 pm Monroe County Community College's Prelude Choir will perform followed by a Holiday Magic Show by magician Gordon Russ at 2 pm. Beginning at 3 pm, that "jolly old elf," St. Nicholas, will be available to visit with children until 4.30 pm.

Introduction to Fiber Arts - December 15th - 6.30 pm to 8 pm

Our new winter hands-on series focuses on knitting, crocheting, embroidering, quilting, and more!

Frenchtown Fiddlers' Holiday Show and Holiday Papercrafts - December 17th - 1 pm to 3 pm

Our final day of holiday crafts also includes a performance by the Frenchtown Fiddlers, an ensemble of stringed instrument students from Monroe County, from 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm.

Please note: All events are free and include light refreshments.

Holiday Closures

The Monroe County Museum will be closed December 24th, 25th, 31st, and January 1st.

About *the Monroe County Museum*

Founded in 1939, the Monroe County Museum joined the County of Monroe in the late 1960s and has grown to include Papermill School (home of the Martha Barker Country Store exhibit), Territorial Park (which includes the Navarre-Anderson Trading Post, Cookhouse, replica bake oven, and replica French Barn), and Eby Log House. We also partner with Post 142 of the Vietnam Veterans of America to assist in the operations of the Vietnam Veterans Museum.

The Monroe County Museum, located at 126 South Monroe Street, Monroe, Michigan 48161, is open daily, year round except for major holidays. The grounds of Territorial Park are open all year and the buildings are open seasonally from the first weekend in June to the first weekend in October. Admission to our sites is free for Monroe County residents. There is a suggested donation for non-residents of \$5 for adults and \$3.00 for students and seniors. The Vietnam Veterans Museum is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 12 pm to 4 pm, May through September.

For additional information on programs or exhibits, please call 734.240.7780, or visit MonroeCountyMuseum.com or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Andrew Clark
Director

Monroe County Museum
126 South Monroe Street
Monroe, Michigan 48161

Phone: 734.240.7781
Website: MonroeCountyMuseum.com
Facebook: [Facebook.com/MonroeMuseums](https://www.facebook.com/MonroeMuseums)
Twitter: [@MonroeCoMuseum](https://twitter.com/MonroeCoMuseum)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Dan Rock (734) 240-7909

MONROE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Green Holidays and Christmas Tree Recycling

Monroe, MI, December 6, 2016 – The Monroe County Recycling & Green Community Program provides tips for a green holiday and announces Christmas Tree Recycling Opportunities

Christmas time is upon us, that time of year when people traditionally buy presents for family and friends. The Christmas season also leads to an increase in the amount of waste generated. It is estimated, in the period between Thanksgiving and New Year's, American households generate 25% more waste. That's about 1 million extra tons of trash each year. That is all the boxes, wrapping paper, instructions, bubble wrap, ribbons, tinsel and cards that get ripped off and then discarded. There are many ways you can give without filling another landfill and celebrate the holiday season while protecting the environment.

- Give a gift of a shared family experience - Instead of spending \$400 on an Xbox, you could give your family a hot air balloon ride, a train ride to a fun destination, or a family trip to an amusement park.
- Give a certificate for a much-needed service, such as a massage, fancy homemade dinner, house-cleaning or babysitting; or for a day out such as golfing.
- Give donations to an environmental organization, charitable group or animal shelter.
- Shop for gifts at antique stores, estate sales or flea markets, since one person's trash is another's treasure.
- Don't forget the rechargeable batteries for electronic items, and to recycle any unwanted electronics. Visit www.co.monroe.mi.us/recycling for information on the county's e-waste and battery recycling programs.
- For kids, start a savings account or give stocks and bonds. It's fun to watch money grow and it teaches children the value of financial conservation.
- Buy a gift certificate to a local nursery for a tree to be planted in the spring together.
- When shopping, bring your own shopping bags or consolidate your purchases into one bag rather than getting a new bag at each store on your shopping rounds.
- If you are shopping through catalogs or on-line, choose gifts that are easy to ship and won't require excessive packaging.
- **Don't forget to recycle your Christmas Tree at one of the following collection sites:**
 - Bedford Township – Carr Park, 9240 Lewis Ave, Temperance – 734.847.6791
 - Berlin Charter Township Hall – 8000 Swan View Drive, Newport – 734.586.2187
 - Ida Township Hall – 3016 Lewis Avenue, Ida – 734.269.3045
 - Monroe Charter Township Hall – 4925 West Dunbar Road, Monroe – 734.241.5501

The Monroe County Recycling & Green Community Program, the Monroe County Road Commission and participating local municipalities offer this service free of charge to all Monroe County Residents. All tinsel and decorations must be removed from the tree prior to depositing it at one of the above sites. Please call the numbers listed for each site for times and additional information. **Christmas trees will be accepted December 26, 2016 through January 10, 2017.**

For more information on the Recycling and Green Community Programs please contact:
Dan Rock Recycling and Green Community Program Coordinator
(734) 240-7909 or Dan_Rock@monroemi.org

C O N S E N T A G E N D A
Monroe County Planning Commission
Regular Meeting – December 14, 2016

CASE NUMBER TOWNSHIP ZONING REVIEWS

200.1-12-16-35 Frenchtown Township (map)

This is an official request to change the zoning on three parcels totaling approximately 274.822 acres from A, Agricultural District and C-3, Highway Commercial District to PUD, Planned Unit Development District, with underlying zoning classifications of C-3, Highway Commercial, OS, Office Service District and A, Agricultural District. The purpose of the rezoning is to construct a new campus for Monroe Regional Hospital, along with associated medical and commercial uses. The parcel is located on the south side of North Dixie Highway east of the I-75 interchange.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Monroe County Planning Commission advise the Frenchtown Charter Township Board that it recommends approval of the proposed zoning change request, as it would have a positive impact upon economic development and public health in Monroe County. Staff does have concerns regarding traffic and sewer infrastructure that we feel should be addressed by the applicant and the Township.

200.1-12-16-36 Ash Township Name (map)

This is an official request to change the zoning on a parcel totaling approximately 0.58 acres from AG, Agricultural District to C-2, General Service District. The purpose of the rezoning is to continue to use the site as a bar and restaurant. The parcel is located on west side of Telegraph Road north of Labo Road.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Monroe County Planning Commission advise the Ash Township Board that it recommends approval of the proposed zoning change request, as the rezoning would bring the property into conformance with its current land use, and the rezoning would not be inconsistent with the commercial zoning and land use of several of the nearby properties along Telegraph Road.

200.1-12-16-37 Whiteford Township Name (text)

Whiteford Township is submitting its 2016 Whiteford Township Draft Zoning Ordinance for review. The proposed ordinance is an update of the Whiteford Township Zoning Ordinance, which was last adopted in 2003 and has been amended several times since then.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Monroe County Planning Commission advise the Whiteford Township Board that it recommends sending the Whiteford Township Zoning Ordinance back to the Whiteford Township Planning Commission for further review of the provisions for agricultural land within the Ordinance.

200.1-12-16-38 Bedford Township (map)

This is an official request to change the zoning on a parcel totaling approximately 0.48 acres from C-1, Local Business District to R-2A, One-Family Residential District. The purpose of the rezoning is to bring the residential use of the parcel into conformance with the Zoning Ordinance. The parcel is located on the west side of Whiteford Center Road between Section Road and Hill Drive.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Monroe County Planning Commission advise the Bedford Township Board that it recommends approval of the proposed zoning change request, as the rezoning is in agreement with the Monroe County Comprehensive Plan, the Bedford Township Master Plan and with adjacent land uses, and for the other reasons stated above.

OTHER REVIEWS

200.3-12-16-2 Frenchtown Charter Township Master Plan

Frenchtown Charter Township has released a copy of their 2016 Master Plan for review and comment. The 2016 Master Plan consists of three sections: the Land Use Plan, the Transportation Plan, and the Background Data, which consist of census information, the results of public outreach and surveys and a summary of the 2013 Resilient Monroe joint planning effort with the City of Monroe and Monroe Charter Township.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Monroe County Planning Commission submit the above comments to Frenchtown Charter Township.