

Montcalm County

P.O. Box 308
211 West Main
Stanton, Michigan
48888-0308

(989) 831-7500
Fax: (989) 831-7515

or

(616) 225-7500
Fax: (616) 225-7515
(*Greenville Service Area*)

E-Mail Address:
msue59@msu.edu

Web Site
www.msue.msu.edu/
montcalm

Office Hours:
8:30 a.m. to 12 noon
1 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Donald R. Smucker
Extension Land Use
Educator
smuckerd@msu.edu

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

Michigan State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and counties cooperating.

MSU is an affirmative-action equal opportunity employer.



Winter Educational Opportunities

Three workshops are scheduled in our county and area for government officials and others dealing with planning and zoning. They are Planning to "Prepare for the New Michigan Economy" on Tuesday, February 26; "Planning for Water Quality" on Thursday, February 28 and "Zoning Board of Appeals" Training on Tuesday, March 25.

These workshops are for local planning commissioners, elected officials, zoning administrators, professional planners, realtors, developers, lawyers and others interested in the future of Michigan and what local units of government's role will be to make that future. Additional information on the following page.

Can Joint Planning Work for Us?

Kurt Schindler, Regional Land Use Educator, presented a workshop on the use of joint planning by local government units in December. He discussed the mechanisms involved in implementing joint planning and discussed how it is being used in Michigan.

Joint planning is particularly suited for rural communities who wish to retain their rural character for the coming generations. Often these communities find themselves in the difficult situation of having to provide land uses that are unrealistic or improbable in their situation, and their neighboring jurisdictions are dealing with similar problems. Joint planning allows communities to "share" these responsibilities so that, as an example, each community does not have to provide its own area for a trailer park or light industry. In addition, joint planning makes it easier for communities to target and protect large areas of farm land or forest land without the fear of exclusionary zoning.

Joint planning can benefit by:

- ◆ Reduced costs by sharing and zoning administration fees
- ◆ Stronger defensibility of planning and zoning
- ◆ Reduced number of meetings and reviews between communities
- ◆ Shared vision of a region-minimizing conflicting land uses; stronger protection of natural resources
- ◆ Reduction of infrastructure costs

The most important factor for success is the ability to establish and maintain strong relationships between municipalities. Trust is the key ingredient to make these agreements work, and this requires frequent communication and sharing of information.

Many of the issues that your neighbors face are the characteristics of their community that they value are frequently the same as yours.

Adapted from Ryan Coffey, Newaygo County Land Use Educator

Winter Educational Workshops

Planning to Prepare for the New Economy: Smart Growth/Michigan Strategic Growth

The curriculum for this workshop will be:

- ◆ Review of Michigan historic economy and past transitions
- ◆ The current economic transition Michigan is undergoing
- ◆ What to be aware of, and to prepare for so a community can better prepare for the new economy.
- ◆ Smart Growth and Michigan Strategic Growth
- ◆ Review of the 10 Smart Growth Tenets
- ◆ Review of the three elements of “Michigan Strategic Growth”
- ◆ Example of one application: New Designs for Growth
- ◆ Review of Smart Growth Tool Kit (Smart Growth America)
- ◆ Review of Smart Growth Readiness Assessment Tool
- ◆ Review of related Extension programs (e.g., Cool Cities, etc.)

This **February 26** workshop will be held at Rogers Heights: Mecosta Township Hall, 19729 Eleven Mile Road, (rural) Big Rapids. It is scheduled for 7 to 9 p.m. and will be presented by Kurt Schindler, MSU Extension Regional Land Use Educator, who is a land use specialist providing training for local officials.

The fee for this workshop is \$55. Please register by February 18.

Planning for Water Quality

The water from your tap and in nearby lakes or streams is part of a much larger water system. Not everyone lives next to a pond or stream, but we all live in a watershed - the land area that contributes water to a specific surface water, such as a pond, lake, wetland, river, estuary or bay.

Communities can look at how they will grow and develop, and with some planning, growth can occur without jeopardizing the quality of both groundwater and surface water. This program will look at planning tools that are available for protecting water resources.

This **February 28** workshop will be held at the Montcalm Intermediate School District, 621 New Street in Stanton. It is scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m. It will be presented by MSU Extension Water Quality Extension staff.

The fee for the workshop is \$15. Please register by February 25.

Zoning Board of Appeals Training

The curriculum for this workshop will be:

1. The statutory requirements for a zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)
 - a. The Statute
 - b. ZBA duties
 - c. ZBA membership
 - d. Appeals and meetings
2. The job members of a ZBA have
 - a. Appeal of a decision of the Zoning Administrator
 - i. Text
 - ii. Map
 - b. Request a regulation variance
 - c. Request a use variance
3. The process to Make Administrative Decisions
 - a. Zoning administrator's role
 - b. Use of checklists
 - c. Consistency, doing the same thing each time
 - d. The motion and decision
4. The meeting mechanics
 - a. Rules of procedure
 - b. Open Meeting Act
 - c. Freedom of Information Act
 - d. Minutes and the record

This **March 25** workshop will be held at Rogers Heights: Mecosta Township Hall, 19729 Eleven Mile Road, (rural) Big Rapids. It is scheduled for 7 to 9 p.m. and will be presented by Kurt Schindler, MSU Extension Regional Land Use Educator, who is a land use specialist providing training for local officials.

The fee for this workshop is \$55. Please register by March 17.

The registration form for these workshops is located on the following page.

Winter Educational Workshops

REGISTRATION FORM

To register, please complete this form and send it with your check made payable to MSU Montcalm Extension for the course fee(s) to:

MSU Montcalm Extension
P.O. Box 308
Stanton, MI 48888



- February 26** - Planning to Prepare for the New Michigan Economy - \$55.
Rogers Heights: Mecosta Township Hall
- February 28** - Planning for Water Quality - \$15.
Montcalm Area Intermediate School District, Stanton
- March 25** - Zoning Board of Appeals Training - \$55.
Rogers Heights: Mecosta Township Hall

Name: _____

Title/Position: _____

Please check one:

- Planning Commission/Zoning Board Appeals Board Zoning Administrator
- Planner Elected Official Other _____

Organization/Government: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

E-mail: _____ Daytime phone (____) _____

Are you from a: Township, Village or City County Other _____

Michigan State University Extension Programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

Bringing Knowledge to Life

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

MSU MONTCALM EXTENSION
211 WEST MAIN
PO BOX 308
STANTON MI 48888