Planner Briefs

by Jeff Merz, AICP and Planner with AECOM

Parting Shots

Source: Congress for the New Urbanism

Points for Planners to Ponder

On Cities
“For the first time in history, more people live in cities than in rural areas. And the United Nations projects that by 2050 nearly two-thirds of the world’s 9.7 billion people will be urban. Today, nearly 80 percent of Americans live in metropolitan areas. But it’s a demographic shift that’s ongoing. New York City, Los Angeles and Chicago, the nation’s three largest, each produce more economic output than all but six states, according to the nonprofit United States Conference of Mayors. It’s the age of urban ascendance. But it’s also an age of urban/rural discord, no better demonstrated than during the campaign season of 2016. In an ever-flatter world, big cities often identify more with urban counterparts halfway across the globe than they do with rural leaders just down the road”.
Source: Governing Magazine
On Gerrymandering

**Word History:** In 1812, as governor of Massachusetts, Elbridge Gerry signed a bill authorizing the revision of voting districts in his state. Members of Gerry’s party redrew them in order to secure their representation in the state senate, and out of Gerry’s home county, Essex County, they carved an unlikely-looking district with the shape of a salamander. According to one version of the coining of gerrymander, the shape of the district attracted the eye of the painter Gilbert Stuart, who noticed it on a map in a newspaper editor’s office. Stuart decorated the outline of the district with a head, wings, and claws and then said to the editor, "That will do for a salamander!" "Gerrymander!" came the reply. The image created by Stuart first appeared in the March 26, 1812, edition of the Boston Gazette, where it was accompanied by the following title: The Gerrymander. A New Species of Monster, which appeared in the Essex South District in Jan. 1812. The new word gerrymander caught on instantly—within the same year gerrymander is also recorded as a verb.

*Source: freedictionary.com*

**Gerrymandering 2016**

North Carolina’s 12 Congressional District

Maryland’s 3rd Congressional District (the Praying Mantis)
“I couldn’t help but share the picture of the APA planners shower below. It is located in the Wai Kai Lagoon that is part of the Hoakalei Development at the end of Keone’ule Boulevard in Ewa Beach. The Lagoon fronts the ocean and was originally designed to be a marina, but the original plan was amended to keep the lagoon landlocked and border it with retail stores, condominiums, restaurants, and a hotel”.