

From: Betsey Krumholz, General Manager,
[Planning Commissioners Journal](#),
pcjoffice@gmail.com, 802.864.9083
To: APA Chpt. Newsletter Editors & Others
Subject: Circle the USA with Our Editor
Date: May 6, 2009



During the Summer of 2007, Planning Commissioners Journal Editor [Wayne Senville](#) had the opportunity to meet with over 100 planners, planning commissioners, local officials, and citizen activists [during a six-week trip](#) across America on U.S. Route 50. This offered him the chance to better understand and report on key planning-related issues facing more than two dozen communities.



Senville recently returned from the first leg of what will be a 2 to 3 year endeavor to “Circle the U.S.A.” Once again, he will be reporting on local planning success stories, and how communities -- large and small -- are working to solve challenge land use related issues. As Senville notes, “we can all benefit by hearing what’s worked in different communities, and why.”

[Our new CircleTheUSA.com web blog](#) already includes more than a dozen reports from this first leg of Senville’s travels -- which began in the small town of Richford, Vermont, continued through upstate New York and Pennsylvania, and ended in Hudson, Ohio.

We encourage you to take a look at these reports, as they cover some quite interesting topics:

- [Main Street Mill: “The Perfect Trifecta”](#): How a mix of commercial, residential, and health care uses have come together as part of the rehabilitation of a former mill building in a remote small town
- [Wrestling a Yankee](#): How a regional planning commission in southern Vermont is positioning itself in a controversial re-licensing of a nuclear power plant.
- [Downtown Housing -Minus Parking +Plus Commercial](#): Why Saratoga Springs has eliminated parking requirements from its downtown, while mandating ground floor commercial or office uses.
- [A “Utility Player” Among Planners](#): On the role of planning in small rural county in upstate New York.
- [Who's Planning?](#): A look at who’s taking the lead in planning major projects in northeastern Pennsylvania.
- [For the Love of Steam](#): Making use of volunteers in supporting a national park in downtown Scranton.
- [Punching Through the Walls](#): How Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, is planning to reconnect its riverfront to its downtown.
- [College & Community](#): A positive example of how a college can engage its students and faculty in supporting the community and its economic future.
- [Gateway Art](#): How entering town can be an “artistic” experience.
- [A Planner Must Be Flexible](#): A reminder on the benefits of flexibility from a suburban planning director.

- [Audacious ... or Realistic?](#): That's the question facing Cleveland as it embarks on an ambitious strategy to deal with vacant lands and abandoned housing.
- [Hudson's Star Attraction](#): How a new library building is anchoring the extension of Hudson, Ohio's main street district.

In early June, Senville will be traveling from Cleveland to Chicago via southern Michigan and northern Indiana on the second leg of Circle the USA, and then visiting communities in Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota this Fall, as he heads northwest. Next Spring, he'll resume by visiting with planners and planning commissioners in North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, and Washington State, followed by a leg that will take him through Oregon and parts of California.

The best way to keep connected will be to follow Senville's postings on: www.CircleTheUSA.com, and by signing up for email updates. We'll also be using social networking tools, including [LinkedIn](#); our Planning Commissioners Journal Circle the USA Facebook page; and [Twitter](#) (follow hashtag: #cusa) to keep you up-to-date. If you have any questions or ideas, or might be interesting in meeting with Senville, please get in touch. Email: pcjoffice@gmail.com, or call: 802-864-9083.

We would appreciate your posting material from the above Press Release, or including the following brief text in your newsletter and on your chapter or organization's web page. We have posted images, including our logo, at: <http://drop.io/circletheusa>
Feel free also to use screenshots or copy any of Senville's photos from the blog (we can also email you higher resolution copies of any specific photo you would like to use).

Planning Commissioners Journal Editor Wayne Senville just returned from a fascinating week on the road -- the first leg of his planned "**Circle the USA**" travels. His reports on the Web blog www.circletheusa.com are based on interviews with local planners and others about challenging local land use and planning issues, and also include a wide range of photos and video clips. You'll read about many fascinating topics, while being introduced to some terrific people who care deeply about their communities. The best way to keep up (and to find out where he's going next) is to follow the blog at: www.CircleTheUSA.com.