October 2017

Engage Residents to Make Comp Plans Rock

October is National Community Planning Month. In recognition we brought together three planners to reflect on how engaging residents in planning leads to better Comprehensive Plans. Read what they have to say on our blog or listen to our Heart & Soul Talks: Create Comp Plans that Rock With Resident Input.
It's National Community Planning Month. Get residents on board with Comp Plans that rock...and win awards!

11/15/2017

How Community Engagement Helped Make an Award Winning Town Plan

Free Heart & Soul Talk on Civil Discourse

Don't miss this timely and insightful call on advancing civil discourse in your town. This call features nationally-recognized expert in the field, Carolyn J. Lukensmeyer, Ph.D., executive director, National Institute for Civil Discourse and Mayor Thom Harnett of Gardiner, Maine, who has led the way in welcoming new residents and embracing the value they bring to this small town, sometimes in the face of protest.

Listen to the Heart & Soul Talks: Bridge Divides with Discourse that's Civil recorded on September 28.
Make Philanthropy Matter for the Long Run

Increasingly, philanthropic organizations are thinking more broadly about how to support systemic change in local communities. On this call, you’ll hear how three foundations are investing in long-term transformation using Community Heart & Soul®, the Orton Family Foundation’s community development model.

Heart & Soul Talks: How Transformational Philanthropy Leads to Big Impact, Thursday, Nov. 30, 1-2 p.m., Free!
(If you can't join us on the call, register and we will send the recording when it's available.)

Presented in partnership with: COUNCIL on FOUNDATIONS

Register now
It's National Community Planning Month. Get residents on board with Comp Plans that rock...and win awards!

Organizations in OH, ME Win AARP Grants

Congratulations to residents of McComb, Ohio, and Bethel, Maine! Organizations in those Heart & Soul®, communities won Community Challenge Grants from AARP.

Organizations in McComb and Bethel were among 88 selected to receive grants from a pool of nearly 1,200 applications from across the country.

The McComb Economic Development Organization received $20,000 for drinking fountains, benches and equipment for individuals with special needs in local parks. The Bethel Region Age Friendly Initiative received $5,100 for a fall prevention and home safety program for seniors. Both organizations have been partners in their community’s Heart & Soul projects.

Read more

Balancing Tradition with a New Economy

The Mahoosuc Heart & Soul project comprises four towns in western Maine—Bethel, Greenwood, Newry, and Woodstock. Bethel (pop. 2,600) is the largest
of the towns and serves as the service hub. The charming New England village prides itself on its independently-owned inns, restaurants, and shops. Changes in the local economy as it shifted from wood products manufacturing to tourism along with the advent of a chain discount store, are driving a conversation about how to best plan for the future in a way that balances tradition with the new economy.

Read about the project in this blog post by local resident Amy Chapman.