

APA-NJ NEWS RELEASE

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PLANNERS RECOGNIZE DOWNTOWN FRENCHTOWN AS A GREAT PLACE IN NEW JERSEY FOR 2012

Frenchtown's downtown has been named a *Great Place in New Jersey* by the American Planning Association-New Jersey Chapter (APA-NJ).

"Downtown Frenchtown is the kind of place that people look for when they take to Hunterdon County's scenic byways," said Mayor Warren Cooper. "With its Delaware River town, turn-of-the-century culture, the downtown is to be enjoyed at length, a place where curiosity is rewarded with an array of things to see and do."

"A quarter century ago, downtown Frenchtown was revitalized by a grant that funded new sidewalks, street paving and a small grant program to rehabilitate the mixed-use properties and commercial buildings," said APA-NJ President Charles Latini, Jr., AICP. "Property owners in other parts of the Borough were inspired to remove the old asbestos shingles, aluminum and brick-cote siding from their buildings to reveal the hidden treasures."

"It's easy to understand why Frenchtown enjoys a growing tourist trade," said Linda E. Wills, AICP, APA-NJ Great Places Committee Chair and one of this year's Great Places in New Jersey judges. "The Borough reaps the benefits of preserving its many historic buildings, which include the downtown's charming shops, restaurants, and residences."

"We are pleased to recognize eight special and unique places around New Jersey," said Latini. "From historic Downtown Bordentown on the Delaware River and the relatively new Pier Village on the Long Branch beach front to Broad Street in Hopewell Borough and Church Street in Montclair, our 2012 Great Places reflect a tremendous amount of history, diversity and economic vitality. We hope that they inspire other communities to envision, plan and create their own great places."

Great Places offer better choices for where and how people work and live. They are enjoyable, safe and desirable, places where people want to live, work and visit every day. New Jersey's great streets, neighborhoods and public spaces are defined by many criteria, including architectural features, accessibility, functionality and community activity.

Great Places in New Jersey is just one of the ways that APA-NJ will celebrate Community Planning Month in October (www.njplanning.org). Community Planning Month is designed to recognize and celebrate the many residents, officials, and professionals who contribute to making great communities.

The 2012 Great Places in New Jersey designees, listed below, are not ranked. Additional details about each are available at www.njplanning.org.

2012 Great Neighborhoods

Downtown Bordentown in Bordentown City, Burlington County
Downtown Frenchtown in Frenchtown Borough, Hunterdon County
Pier Village in Long Branch City, Monmouth County

2012 Great Streets

Broad Street in Hopewell Borough, Mercer County
Church Street in Montclair City, Essex County

2012 Great Public Spaces

Grove Street Plaza in Jersey City, Hudson County
Waverly & Lincoln Places in Madison Borough, Morris County
Historic Perth Amboy Waterfront in Perth Amboy City, Middlesex County

The American Planning Association-New Jersey Chapter is a not-for-profit educational organization that provides leadership in the development of vital communities. APA-NJ and its parent organization, the American Planning Association (APA), are dedicated to advancing the art, science and profession of good planning -- physical, economic, and social -- so as to create communities that offer better choices for where and how people work and live. Members of APA help create communities of lasting value and encourage civic leaders, business interests and citizens to play a meaningful role in creating communities that enrich people's lives. For more information, visit www.planning.org and www.njplanning.org.