

PAMAGIC MATTERS

OCTOBER 2012

Proxy Geospatial Advisory Board Meeting, 10/30 @ 9am

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Come join us in Middletown on October 30 for a meeting of the Proxy Geospatial Advisory Board!!! Given the date (and how long we have been waiting for a Council) it could be a scary experience, but more fun than you had when trick-or-treating as a kid.

Throughout the last 15 years PaMAGIC has advocated and labored for the development of a GIS Council of some type for Pennsylvania. Although many different structures and forms of Council have been proposed, the stated purposes have always been some variant of:

- strategic planning
- coordinated data development
- data standards and stewardship

- exchange of ideas and information

In the Legislative Sessions of both 2009-10 and 2011-12, a coalition of organizations and individuals has developed Bills originating in the House that would create a Geospatial Advisory Board. This session's version is House Bill 1701 and it passed out of the House unanimously this past Spring. The Corbett Administration has asked for some pretty major amendments and the most steadfast coalition members have proposed some compromises. As of the date of this newsletter it is unclear whether the Bill will clear the Senate as amended and head back to the House for final passage, or simply fail to cross the finish line again.

Given the uncertainty, and the looong time waiting, we have decided to hold the opening meeting of the Pennsylvania Geospatial Advisory Board. We (including you) will either provide the fodder for the first meeting of an "official" Advisory Board or simply be the Proxy Geospatial Advisory Board (in exile) until a suitable substitute is created.

We will meet at 9 AM at the offices of DCNR's Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey.

GIS Council Powers

Compromise – Powers enumerated are:

- (1) Recommend data development priorities and interoperability standards for data sharing across agencies and all levels of government within the Commonwealth.
- (2) Monitor national and State trends, identify issues of potential interest and concern to the Commonwealth and prepare for the Governor and the General Assembly on an annual basis, or more

often if necessary, reports detailing the findings of the council.

- (3) Define and prioritize strategic opportunities where maps and spatial analysis activities could enhance the business of government and provide more cost effective services to citizens. This may include recommendations of specific geospatial technology investments in this Commonwealth.
- (4) Develop task forces as needed to formulate recommended posi-

tions or actions. The task force membership may be comprised of council members or designees appointed by the council. The council shall consider any task force recommendations at its next meeting.

President's Corner



**PAMAGIC President
Ken Juengling**

Calendar of Events

Northwest GIS Conference—October 18 & 19

Central PA GIS Day—
November 14 (FREE registration, free exhibit space)
HACC Midtown

Esri MUG 2012 Annual Conference—December 11-12

If you have an event that you would like to share with the PA GIS community, email it to our [newsletter editor](#).

Most organizations are now taking a hard look at their IT infrastructure, data, applications and procedures (if they haven't already). The reason: The Cloud. It seems that not long ago all the buzz was about this nebulous concept of "going to the cloud". What does it mean for your organization? The traditional maintenance of our systems involves maintaining operating system versions, software licenses, applications and adding additional hardware as resources are tapped out based on growing demand

(or reduced for that matter). The cloud model supports scalable solutions that, when implemented properly, scale to the demands at the time of need. Coupled with a cost model that follows the "pay for what you use" concept and there are efficiencies to be realized and savings to be had. I look forward to seeing more Pennsylvania presentations at our GIS Conference and

other regional events exhibiting what our GIS users are doing to leverage the benefits of the cloud environment.

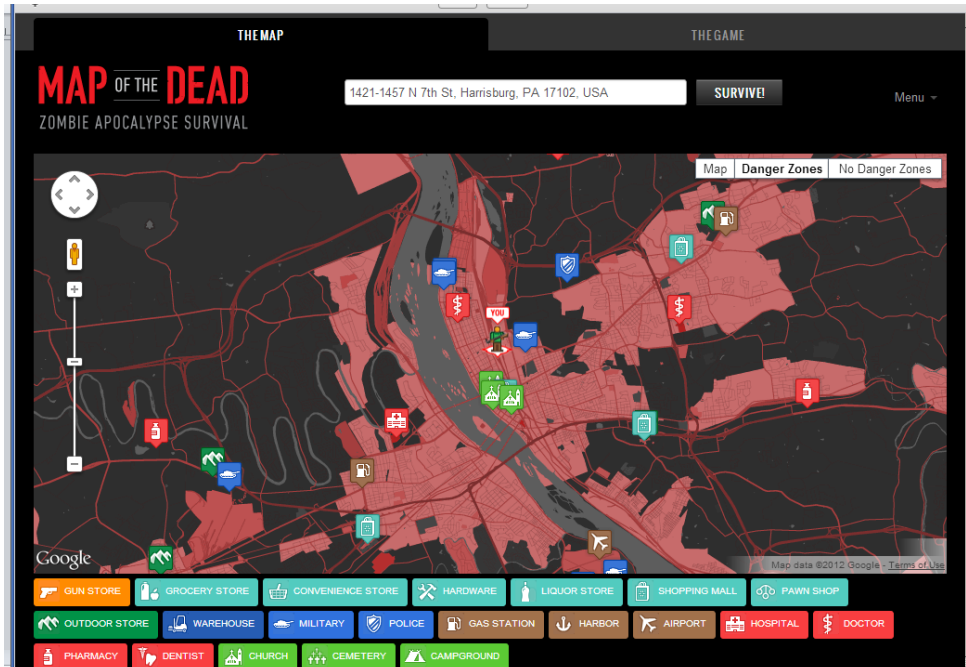


Mapping Zombies

Don't get caught being unprepared for the zombie apocalypse! Visit the [Map of the Dead](#) to find out what areas to avoid, where to find food, clothing, and

shelter (and of course ammunition!

Happy Halloween!



GIS Day, 11/14/12

On November 14, 2012, there will be a number of GIS Day events held around the country and across the state. Visit www.gisday.com to find an event near you. Some Pennsylvania events:

- Central PA GIS Day—pagisday.yolasite.com, 12pm-7pm, HACC Midtown 2, 1500 N. 3rd Street, Harrisburg, check website for schedule and exhibits
- Penn State University, Berks Campus—geared

toward Engineering and IST students

- Warren County Planning Department
- Just Us Kids—Clarksville, A workshop for early educators so as to teach them how to integrate geographical concepts into their education programs with young children and familiarize them with GIS and it's use in their centers to assess clients regions.


 The logo for GIS Day features the word "GIS" in a large, bold, black sans-serif font, followed by the word "day" in a smaller, blue, lowercase sans-serif font.

U.S. Census Update

America's Economy App

Recently, the U.S. Census Bureau releases the America's Economy App which gives economists, planners, policy makers and everyone easy and quick access to key indicators about the health of the U.S. economy via their mobile devices. The app combines statistics from the Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis and Bureau of Labor Statistics to provide a snapshot of our nation's constantly changing economy and markets. The America's Economy App includes 16 key economic indicators: unemployment rate, gross domestic product, new residential construction and international trade, just to name a few. Users will be able to set alerts to receive notifications when indicators are updated. They can also add statistical release schedules to their personal calendars. When each indicator is released, users can also share the news on both Facebook and Twitter. The app is available on Android and Apple platforms.

2011 American Community Survey 1 Year Release

On September 20, 2012 the Census Bureau will be releasing one-year estimates from the 2011 American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS produces estimates for social, economic and housing characteristics for the entire United States. Estimates will be available for all geographies with a population of 65,000 or more. The three-year ACS estimates for 2007-2009 are planned on being released on October 25, 2012 and the five-year ACS estimates covering 2007-2011 are planned on being released December 6, 2012.

2012 Economic Census

Beginning in October, more than 4 million businesses will receive 2012 Economic Census forms. The economic census provides accurate benchmark statistics that are fundamental building blocks of economic indicators, such as the gross domestic product, monthly retail sales, and the Producer Price Index. The economic census is the U.S.

Government's official five-year measure of American business and the economy. To encourage response to the 2012 Economic Census, the Census Bureau has launched business.census.gov. The economic census gives state and local governments, Congress and community leaders the information that they need to make informed decisions that shape our democracy. There will be a webinar on October 11, 2012 at 1:00 pm EST, see business.census.gov/webinar for the details.

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GPS Tune-Ups - Open Technical Support- GLONASS Post-Processing Class - New Software -
PDH Credits - Breakfast & Lunch - JOIN US! Call or click below.

Oct 30th - Akron - [To Register Click Here](#)

Oct 31st - Columbus- [To Register Click Here](#)

Dec 4th - Clarksburg - [To Register Click Here](#)

Dec 5th - Ambridge - [To Register Click Here](#)