

# Zoning Turns 100 – It's Time We Fixed the Technology Gap

WAPA Fall Conference 2016

Photo by Vdibrova | 123rf.com

**Adam Tegen**, EDFP

Director of Planning & Economic Development, Wisconsin Rapids

# The Technology Gap

# What is it?

1916

## Today

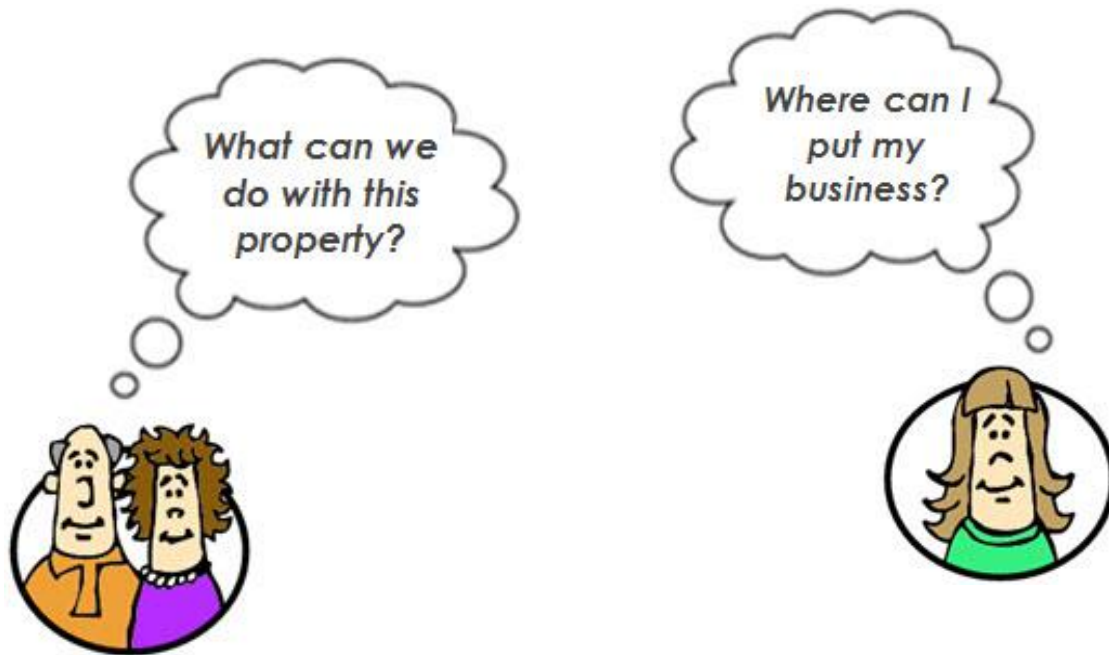
# Current State of Affairs

- Paper document (must have)
- PDF of Zoning Map and Code
- Online Text (Municode, eCode360)
- Zoning District Layer on GIS site

**Helpful,  
but not a  
complete  
solution**

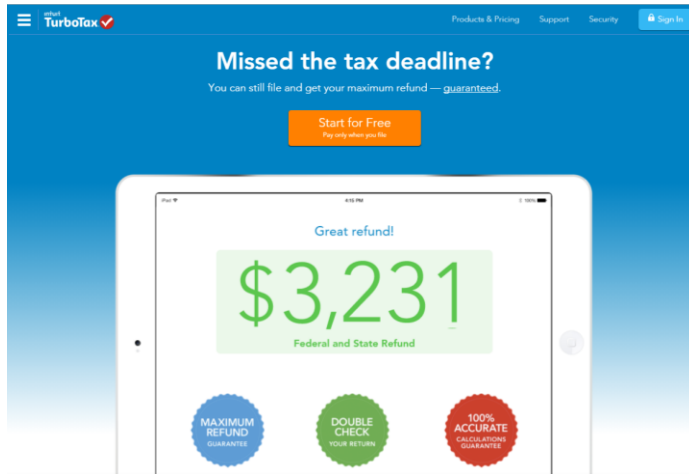
# Closing the Technology Gap

Anyone should be able to answer the most important questions, in a matter of a few clicks.



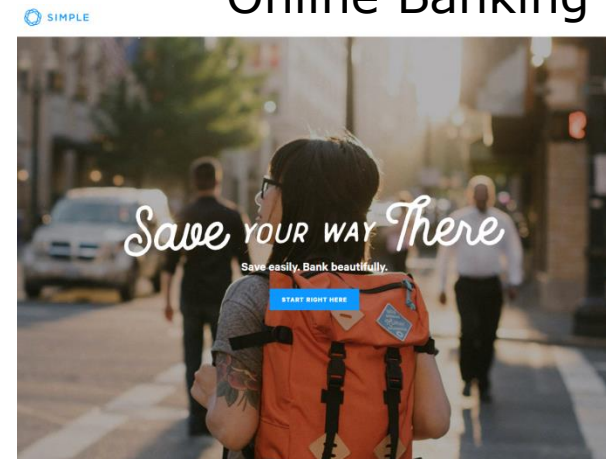
# Compare to...

## Online Tax Returns



“There’s an app for that!”

## Online Banking





# The Technology Gap

Affects a wide variety of groups

Developers

Plan  
Commissioners

Residents

Staff

Elected  
Officials

Realtors

Business  
Owners

# The Technology Gap



An "off-line" zoning code can stifle your community's economic development efforts!

# Pop Quiz

Is the Technology Gap  
something to worry about?


What do you think?



# The Technology Gap

Text

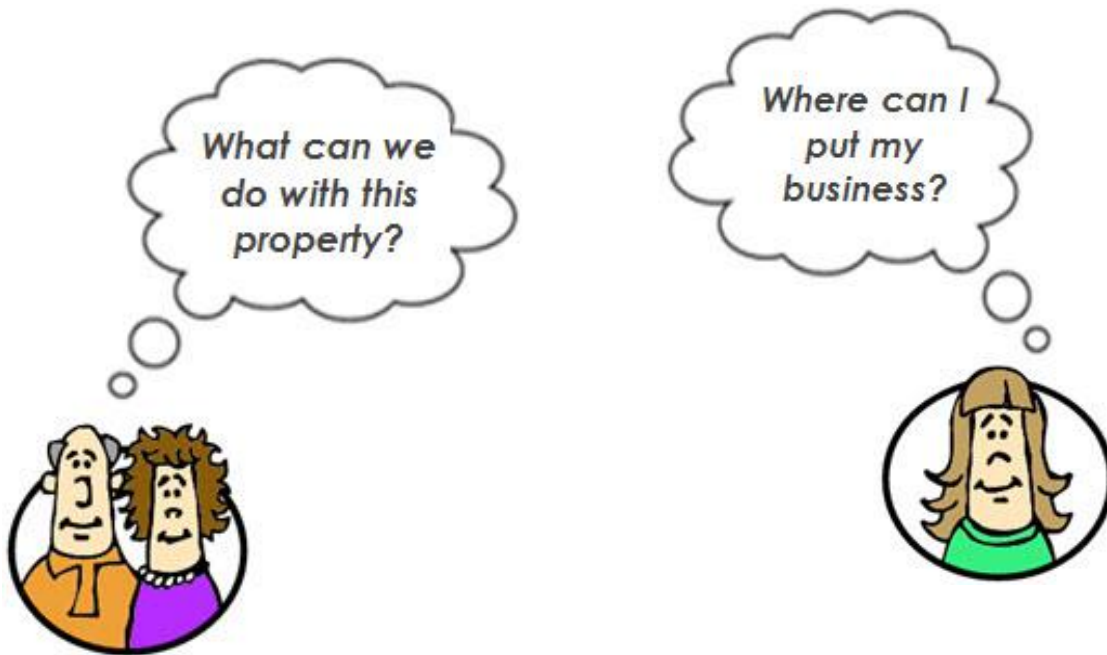
Map



# Text & Map

# Integrated Solutions

Anyone should be able to answer the most important questions, in a matter of a few clicks.



# Integrated Solutions

Some Options to Consider

# Integrated Solutions

Some Options to Consider



Photo by serezhniy | 123rf.com



# From Scratch

A top-down view of a person's hands kneading a ball of dough on a dark wooden surface. The surface is heavily dusted with white flour. In the upper right, a clear plastic bowl is filled with flour. To the left, a wooden rolling pin lies diagonally. On the right edge, a portion of a finished, crusty loaf of bread is visible. The text "From Scratch" is overlaid in white on a semi-transparent dark band across the top of the image.



# Not from Scratch






- You enjoy the process
- You like how fresh bread smells



- You like how quick it is and the results are pretty much guaranteed
- You like how fresh bread smells

# Website Build Options



Coding



Software-as-a-Service (SaaS)

# It's Just Code (from Scratch)

```
588 protected void saveEmailButton_click(object sender, EventArgs e)
589 {
590
591     BusinessTier.Insights.ApplicationAlert alert = new BusinessTier.Insights.ApplicationAlert();
592     alert.ApplicationId = CurrentRecord.RecordId;
593     alert.Email = emailValue.Value;
594     alert.CreatedDate = DateTime.Now;
595     alert.EmailType = Convert.ToInt32(emailTypeValue.Value);
596     alert.Save();
597     Response.Redirect("/insights/tables/record/record.aspx?TableId=" + CurrentLayout.LayoutId + "&RecordId=" + CurrentRecord.RecordId);
598 }
599
600 0 references
601 protected void saveCommentButton_click(object sender, EventArgs e)
602 {
603     BusinessTier.Insights.Application app = (BusinessTier.Insights.Application)CurrentRecord;
604     BusinessTier.Insights.ApplicationComment com = new BusinessTier.Insights.ApplicationComment();
605     com.ApplicationId = CurrentRecord.RecordId;
606     com.Comment = comment.Value;
607
608     com.CreatedDate = DateTime.Parse(commentDate.Value);
609     com.UserName = CurrentUser.FirstName + " " + CurrentUser.LastName;
610     com.Save();
611
612     BusinessTier.Insights.ApplicationAlerts alerts = new BusinessTier.Insights.ApplicationAlerts();
613     alerts.ReadByApplicationId(CurrentRecord.RecordId);
614
615     foreach (BusinessTier.Insights.ApplicationAlert alert in alerts)
616     {
617         StatusUpdateEmailTracking tracking = new StatusUpdateEmailTracking();
618         tracking.ApplicationAlertId = alert.ApplicationAlertId;
619         tracking.ApplicationCommentId = com.ApplicationCommentId;
620         tracking.EmailSent = false;
621         tracking.Save();
622     }
623 }
```

**User Interface - > 3,000 lines of code**

**Content Management System - > 2,700 lines**

# A Coding Truism



**Tanvi Misra** @Tanvim · 51m

Another one by @eads: coding is like plumbing. Most of the time you're fixing a leak.

Source: Twitter - June 5, 2016

Server Error in '/' Application.

Object refer

**Description:** An un  
the stack trace for mo

### Exception Details

**Source Error:**

An unhandled  
web request.  
exception can

**Stack Trace:**

```
[NullReferenceException
object.]
```

Server Error in '/' Application.

*Object reference not set to an instance of an object.*

**Description:** An unhandled exception occurred during the execution of the current web request. Please review the stack trace for more information about the error and where it originated in the code.

**Exception Details:** System.NullReferenceException: Object reference not set to an instance of an object.

**Source Error:**

```
Line 373:         <ItemTemplate>
Line 374:
Line 375:         <div style="margin-bottom: 0px;"
```



# Building a Website from Scratch

- Define purpose(s)
- Sketch a prototype
- Build site (coding)
- Add content
- Internal testing and iterations
- Formalized user testing
- Soft launch (beta release)
- Launch
- Improvements

# Software-as-a Service

Vendor supplied solution

- Cloud-based
- Vendor creates framework
- Vendor maintains framework – fixes the plumbing
- Vendor ensures security
- Municipality adds their content and pops it in the oven



# Some Website Principles

1. User-centric design
2. Mobile first
3. Anticipate new technologies
4. Know your users



## **#4 – Know Your Users**

1. Who are they?
2. What do they want to do?
3. How often will they use the site?

# Audiences



Neighbors

Something is happening that they are concerned about



Design professionals

They are hired to design a project and get it approved



Applicants

See what they can do, and get it approved



Realtors

Find information for a seller or a potential buyer



Appraisers

Find zoning classification for a specific property

## Frequency



## Neighbors



## Design professionals



## Applicants (Residents and Developers)



## Realtors






## Appraisers

**Infrequent**












## Frequent

A 5x10 grid of circles representing a 50-item test. The first three rows each have 3 filled circles, and the last two rows each have 2 filled circles, totaling 17 correct answers.


















# Who Wants What?

	Neighbors	Design Professionals	Applicants	Realtors	Appraisers
Get notified when development happens					
Receive periodic updates during review process					
Submit comments online					
View general zoning information					
View parcel-specific zoning details					
Review procedures					
Research “closed” applications					
Get application forms online					
Submit applications online					
Parcel-specific massing analysis (3-D)					






















# Who Wants What?

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Submit applications online					
Parcel-specific massing analysis (3-D)					

# Some Features In Depth

- Get notified when development happens \*
- Receive periodic updates during review process
- Submit comments online \*
- View general zoning information
- View parcel-specific zoning details \*
- Review procedures
- Research “closed” applications \*
- Get application forms online
- Submit applications online
- Parcel-specific massing analysis (3-D)

# Get notified when development happens

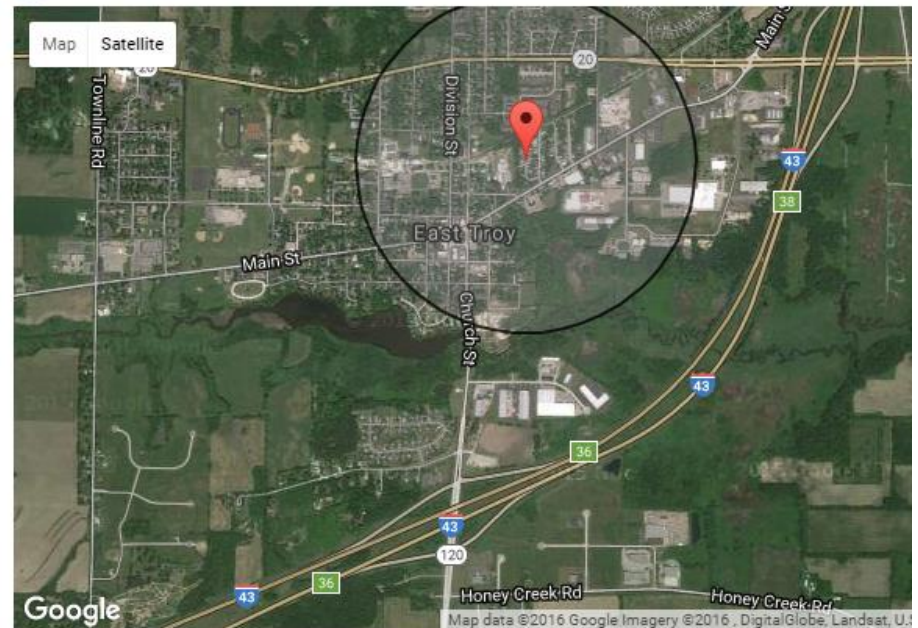
## Easy sign-up

### ① Email Address \*

### ② Select Geography

- ☐ Anywhere in the municipality
- ☒ Within a specified distance of a defined location (e.g., within 500 feet of my property)

### ③ Set Location - Grab the map marker and drag it to your desired location.



### ④ Set Distance of Search Circle

- ☐ 500 feet
- ☐ 1,000 feet
- ☒ 2,500 feet
- ☐ 1 mile
- ☐ 2 miles

# Get notified when development happens

Automated  
email with link  
to access more  
details

Hello,

The Village of East Troy just received a new development application that is located in your defined area. Basic information about the application is listed below. To view all of the details, click the Open Application link below.

If you should have any questions about this matter, you may contact me at 262-642-6255 (x1482) or by [email](#).

Sincerely,

Eileen Suhm, Administrator Clerk-Treasurer

---

[Open Application](#)

Year:	2016
Application Number:	2016-35
Date Submitted:	8/19/2016
Applicant Name:	Tim O'Leary
Procedure:	Other
Description:	Extraterritorial review of a one-lot CSM (boundary line relocation)
Location:	W2299 O'Leary Lane

Please do not reply to this email - it is not monitored. You are receiving this message because you signed up for this service. To unsubscribe, follow this link [Unsubscribe](#).

# Get notified when development happens

## Pending application details

### Zoning Code Portal | Selected Application Record



Pending



Follow Application

Although this application is subject to public review and comment, the ability to comment online has now closed.

#### Description

Conditional use for an artisan shop for a coffee roaster

#### Details

Year:	2016
Application Number:	2016-31
Applicant Name:	Amber Fox and Jeremiah Fox (operator)
Procedure:	Conditional Use
Location:	2075 Division Street
Parcel Number:	ROP 00063
Decision Body:	Village Board
Final Decision:	Pending

#### Chronology



7/26/2016  
Submittal Date



7/26/2016  
Status Update  
The Plan Commission will conduct the public hearing at their regular meeting on September 12, 2016. The meeting starts at 6:30 pm and is held at the Village Hall.



8/30/2016  
Online comment period closed



9/8/2016  
Status Update  
The staff report for the Plan Commission meeting on September 12, 2016, has been posted to the Village's zoning website.



9/12/2016  
Anticipated Decision Date

#### Documents



Application materials



Public hearing notice for September 12, 2016



Staff report for September 12, 2016



Plan Commission agenda for September 12, 2016

# Submit comments online

## Two steps

### ① Select pending application

Q Search:

Showing 1 to 5 of 5 entries

Show entries: 25 ▾

	Applicant Name ▾	Procedure ▾	Description ▾
<a href="#">Comment</a>	Honey Creek Equities 2702 LLC	Termination of Approval	Termination of conditional use approval granted in 2004/05 to Scott Meinerz
<a href="#">Comment</a>	Honey Creek Equities 2702 LLC	Termination of Approval	Termination of conditional use granted to Jason Tess and Kevin Bader in 2010 for an indoor sports training facility
<a href="#">Comment</a>	STAG East Troy LLC	Termination of Approval	Voluntary termination of 1997 conditional use approval authorizing the construction and operation of a warehouse and storage facility
<a href="#">Comment</a>	Tim O'Leary	Other	Extraterritorial review of a one-lot CSM (boundary line relocation)
<a href="#">Comment</a>	Amber Fox and Jeremiah Fox (operator)	Site Plan	Site plan/plan of operation for coffee roaster

### ② Your information

Name: \*

Address: \*

Email: \*

Message: \*

I understand that all content sent with this tool is considered a public record.

☐ Accept \*

# Submit comments online

One more  
option –  
QR Code

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**VILLAGE OF EAST TROY PLAN COMMISSION**

The Village of East Troy Plan Commission will conduct public hearings on Monday, October 13, 2014, to consider each of the following matters:

[Redacted]

Plan Commission, applicant (application 2014-20)

The Plan Commission meeting starts at 6:30 pm and is conducted in the Village Municipal Building, located at 2015 Energy Drive. The public hearings will be conducted in the order listed on the meeting agenda.


Materials for the above mentioned items may be obtained by calling Eileen Suhm, Clerk-Treasurer, at 262-642-6255. These materials are also posted on the Villages' zoning code website: <http://villageofeasttroy.insightcodeviewer.com/home.aspx>. Details are posted on the Pending Applications page. You may also

For information regarding the application, call Eileen Suhm at 262-642-6255.

All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing at the Village Municipal Building by noon on Thursday, October 9, 2014.

**Online Materials:** Additional details relating to the pending development application and public hearing may be available on the Village's zoning code website <http://villageofeasttroy.insightcodeviewer.com/home.aspx>. Details are posted on the Pending Applications page.

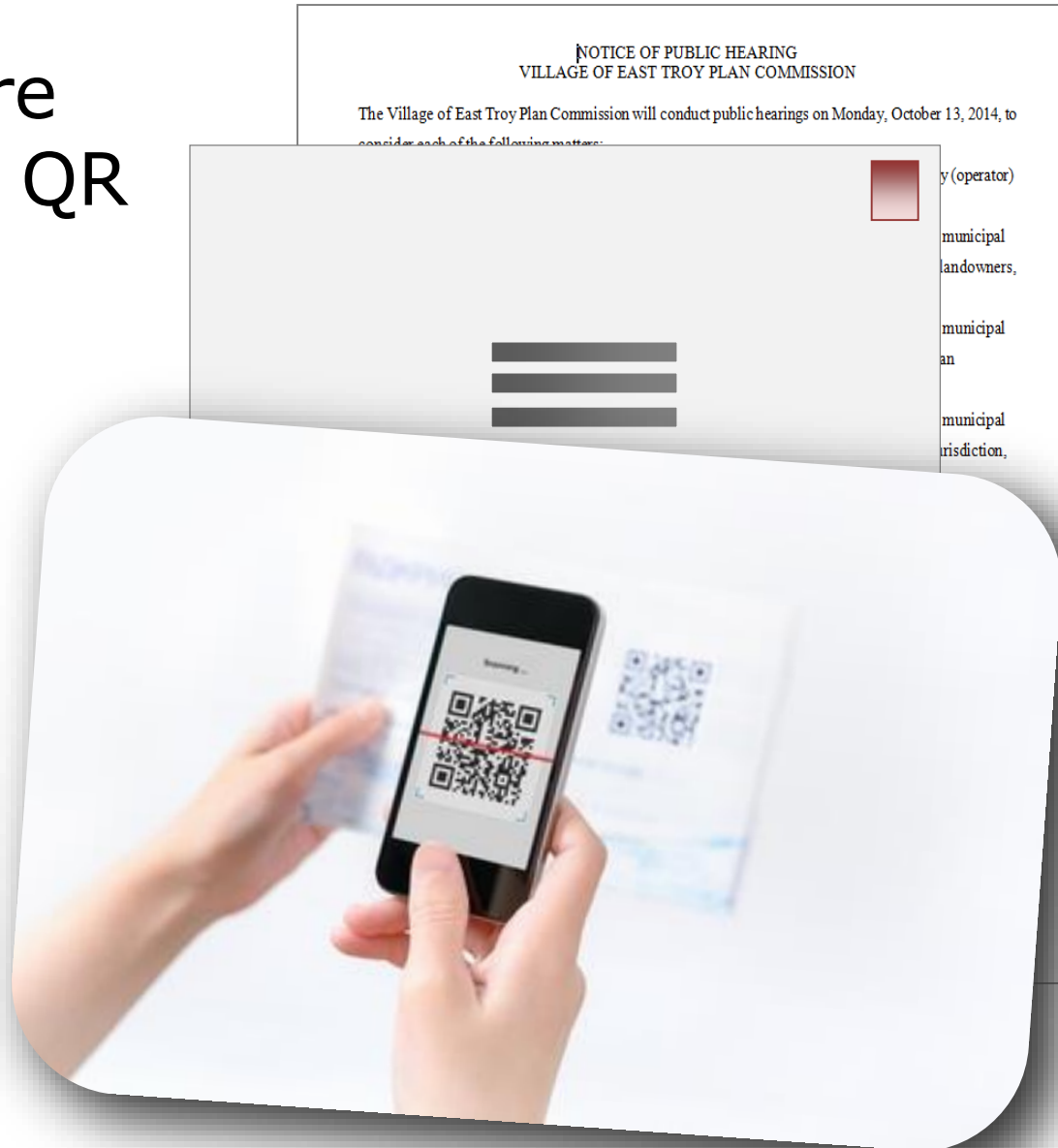
**Comments:** If you would like to submit any comments regarding the pending development application, you can either submit your comments on the Project Comments page or scan the QR code to submit comments from your mobile device. If there is more than one record, scroll through the list to find the one you are looking for.





# Submit comments online

One more  
option – QR  
code



# Submit comments online

One more  
option– QR  
code

Village of East Troy  
Project Comments

Q Search:

Applicant Name	Submitted Date	Description	State
STAG East Troy LLC	7/11/2016	Voluntary termination of 1997 conditional use approval authorizing the construction and	Wisconsin <a href="#">Select</a>
Amber Fox and Jeremiah Fox (operator)	7/26/2016		
Honey Creek Equities 2702 LLC	8/8/2016		
Honey Creek Equities 2702 LLC	8/8/2016		
Amber Fox and Jeremiah			

**Project Details**  
Name: Amber Fox and Jeremiah Fox (operator)  
Location: 2075 Division Street  
Procedure: Site Plan  
Description: Site plan/plan of operation for coffee roasting  
[Comment](#)  
[Cancel](#)

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Village of East Troy  
Project Comments

**Your Information**  
Name \*  
Address \*  
Email \*  
[Next](#)  
[Cancel](#)

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Village of East Troy  
Project Comments

**Your Comments**  
[Next](#)  
[Cancel](#)

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Village of East Troy



## Parcel details

- Zoning classification
- Dimensional standards
- Land uses that are allowed
- Procedures to move ahead with a project
- Prior development applications
- Nonconformities
- Current violations

# Parcel details – An example

## Village of East Troy.

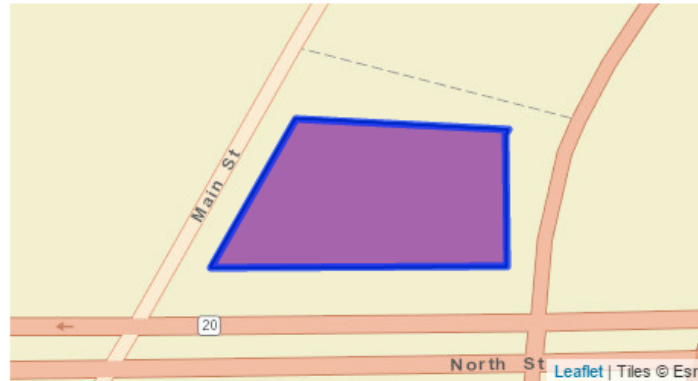
[Home](#) [Interactive Map](#) [Highlights](#) [Administration](#) [Tools](#) [Document](#)

### Zoning Code Portal | Parcel Details

**Owner:** CHAPMAN OIL INC  
**Address:** 1880 CTY TK ES EAST TROY  
**Parcel Number:** RA287200002  
**Acres:** 3.00

#### Zoning District(s)

■ HB - Highway Business



#### – Interactive Zoning Details

##### ■ HB Highway Business

–

##### District Description

+

##### Dimensional Standards

+

##### Allowable Land Uses

+

+ Development Applications (8)

+ Nonconformities (0)

[Demo](#)

# Research closed applications

## Village of East Troy.



















[Home](#) [Interactive Map](#) [Highlights](#) [Administration](#) [Tools](#) [Document](#)

### Zoning Code Portal | Closed Applications

**Statistics by Procedure**

Dataset

Map View

		#	Data Subset	Mapit
3%	Code Amendment	17		
	<a href="#">Toggle Details</a>			
11%	Conditional Use	62		
	<a href="#">Toggle Details</a>			
4%	Other	20		
	<a href="#">Toggle Details</a>			
1%	Sign Permit	8		
	<a href="#">Toggle Details</a>			
7%	Site Plan	42		
	<a href="#">Toggle Details</a>			
2%	Temporary Use Permit	9		
	<a href="#">Toggle Details</a>			
2%	Termination of Approval	11		
	<a href="#">Toggle Details</a>			
1%	Variance	5		
	<a href="#">Toggle Details</a>			
69%	Zoning Permit	391		
	<a href="#">Toggle Details</a>			

# Research closed applications

## Village of East Troy.

[Home](#) [Interactive Map](#) [Highlights](#) [Administration](#) [Tools](#) [Document](#)

### Zoning Code Portal | Closed Applications

Statistics by Procedure

**Dataset**

Map View

Filter: Year Procedure

Q Search:

Showing 1 to 25 of 572 entries

Show entries: 25

Expand	Year	Procedure	Applicant Name	Decision Body	Description	Details
▼	2016	Zoning Permit	Millennium Dream Homes LLC	Zoning Administrator	Residential duplex condos	📍
▼	2016	Zoning Permit	Millennium Dream Homes LLC	Zoning Administrator	Residential duplex condos	📍
▼	2016	Zoning Permit	Kenneth Lami	Zoning Administrator	Deck	📍
▼	2016	Zoning Permit	Nik Mlinar	Zoning Administrator	Attached rear deck and shed in rear yard	📍
▼	2016	Zoning Permit	Bielinski Homes Inc	Zoning Administrator	New single family residence with attached garage	📍
▼	2016	Zoning Permit	Bielinski Homes Inc	Zoning Administrator	New single family residence with attached garage	📍
▼	2016	Zoning Permit	O'Leary Plumbing & Heating	Zoning Administrator	Addition to existing commercial building	📍
▼	2016	Zoning Permit	Harry Strehlow	Zoning Administrator	Rebuild 9' x 14' porch	📍
▼	2016	Zoning Permit	East Troy Community School District	Zoning Administrator	New elementary school	📍
▼	2016	Zoning Permit	Robert Vanderboom	Zoning Administrator	New single family residence with attached garage	📍
▼	2016	Zoning Permit	Bielinski Homes Inc.	Zoning Administrator	New single family residence with attached garage	📍
▼	2015	Zoning Permit	Bielinski Homes Inc	Zoning Administrator	New single family residence with attached garage	📍

# Research closed applications

Village of East Troy.

Zoning Code Portal | Closed Applications

Statistics by Procedure Dataset **Map View**

**Find Application**

[Learn more](#)

① Field to Search  
Address

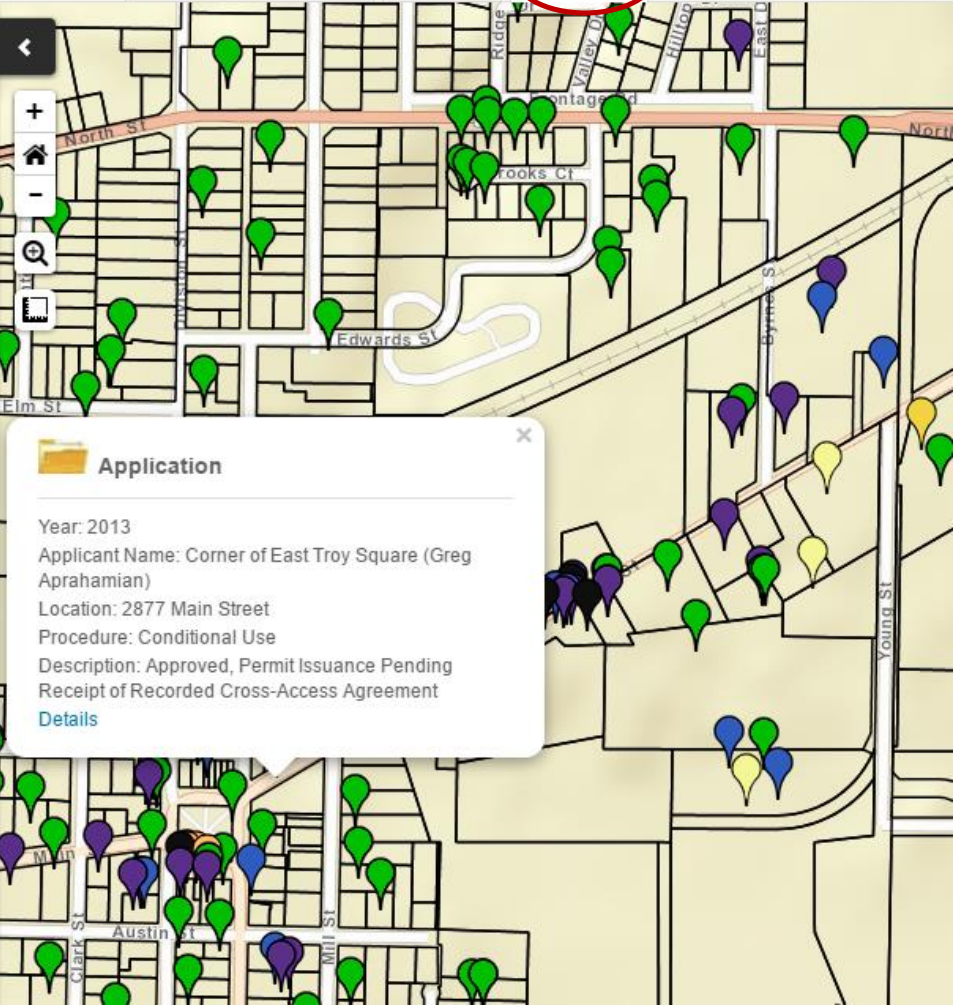
② Search String

[Search](#)

[X Clear](#)

**Application**

Year: 2013  
Applicant Name: Corner of East Troy Square (Greg Aprahamian)  
Location: 2877 Main Street  
Procedure: Conditional Use  
Description: Approved, Permit Issuance Pending  
Receipt of Recorded Cross-Access Agreement  
[Details](#)

A map of East Troy, Wisconsin, showing residential streets and property lots. Numerous colored pins (green, purple, blue, yellow) are placed on the map, indicating the locations of closed zoning applications. The map is overlaid with a grid of streets, including North St, Edwards St, Main St, Austin St, Clark St, Mill St, Young St, and East St. A red circle highlights the 'Map View' button in the top right corner of the application list. A search bar on the left side of the map allows users to find specific applications by address or search string. A detailed information box for a specific application is shown in the bottom right corner of the map area.

# An Online Zoning Code

It's not a substitute for a well-written code.

It's not a substitute for top-notch customer service.



# Proprietary Sites

Vendor builds and maintains site with  
municipal zoning content ...  
then charges users

# Zonar

gridics ZONAR

Perform days or weeks of real estate planning and zoning analysis with the click of a button

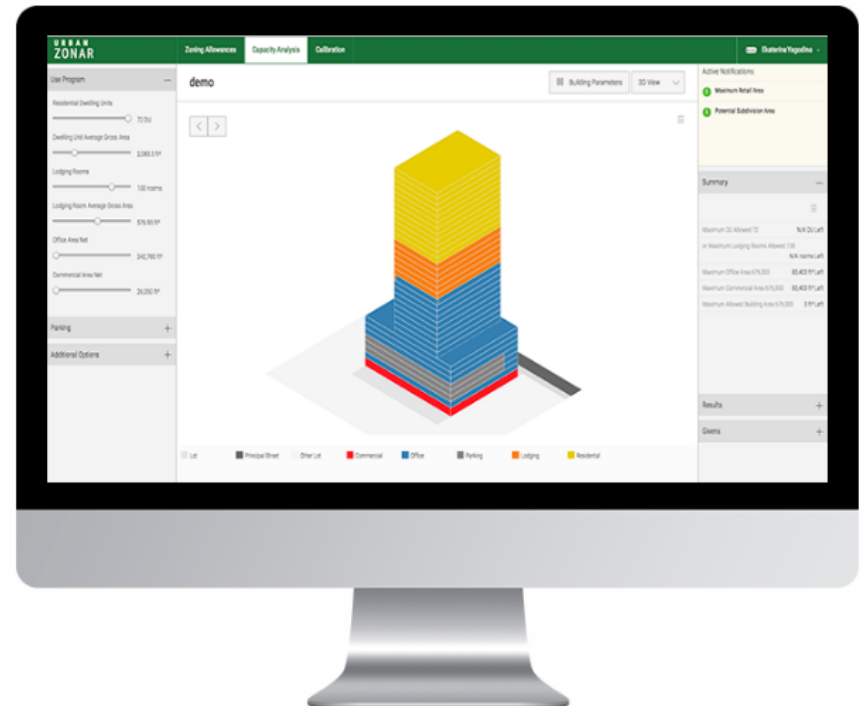
The functionality of the analysis - as well as the savings in time and money - are game changers for real estate professionals.

Developers, architects, town planners, commercial brokers, land-use attorneys, property owners and appraisers are changing the way they work forever using this next level planning tool.

Learn more about ZONAR



[Go to ZONAR >](#)



# Zonability

**zonability**

[Login](#)  
[Zoning Decoder](#) [Partners](#) [About](#)

Zonability is designed to help property owners or potential buyers get a jump start on assessing the highest and best use for that location. This is information not readily available but through our patented technology, we're able to serve very specific data at the parcel level to be used in the context of an initial evaluation. This is not something you can "google and get."



## Zonability gives you the power to:

- Envision more than the obvious potential use.
- Learn if the lot is already built out to a maximum.
- Find out use, size and height potential for next door or nearby.

## How do I get Zonability?

In Texas, you can request a Zonability Report through one of our [partners](#). For properties located outside of our Texas coverage area, just [send us](#) the address. A complete list of currently available cities can be found [here](#).

# FluxMetro



LOG IN

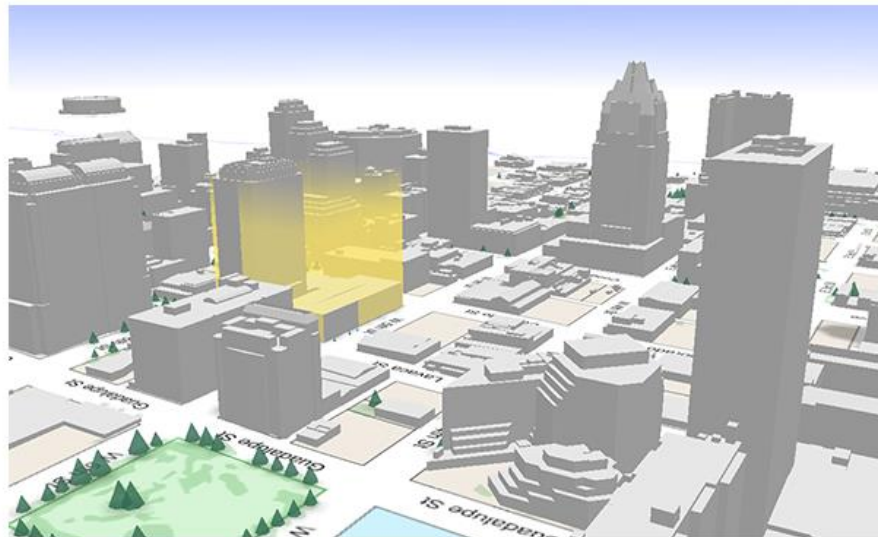
SIGN UP

A better way to visualize Austin's development code

## Visualize

Your parcel in context

An interactive 3D map of the neighborhood gives you a sense of place, situating your proposed project into the surrounding landscape.



# Open Discussion

What barriers do you see for getting your zoning online?

# A Word of Encouragement







[villageofeasttroy.zoninghub.com](http://villageofeasttroy.zoninghub.com)

# Zoning Turns 100 – It's Time We Fixed the Technology Gap

WAPA Fall Conference 2016

Photo by Vdibrova | 123rf.com

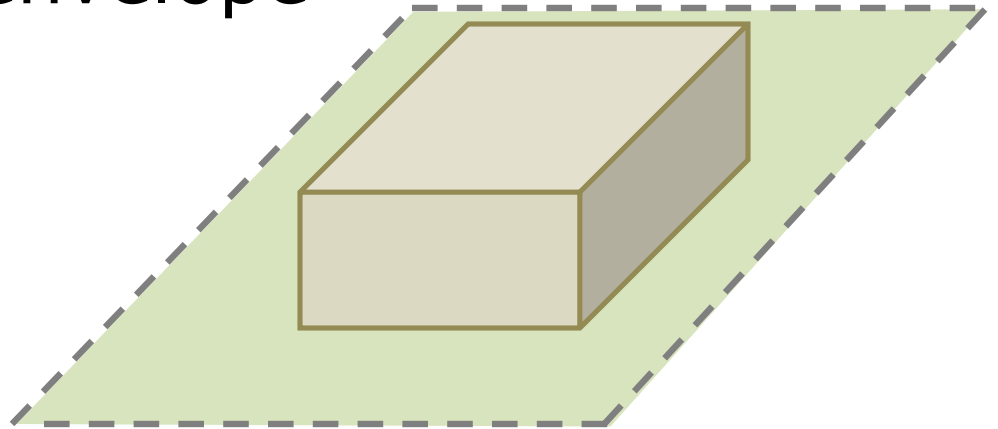
**Adam Tegen**, EDFP

Director of Planning & Economic Development, Wisconsin Rapids

## Parcel-specific massing analysis

### Dynamic Analysis

- Select a parcel
- Apply setbacks
- Display required buffer-yards
- Display building envelope
- Add buildings



# **#1 - User-Centric Design**

- Simple interface
- Graphics
- Landing pages, especially for multi-layered content
- Multi-directional navigation Users can start at various points in the site and are able to find the information they want

## #2 – Mobile First

85% of citizens expect the same or more from governmental digital services compared to commercial digital services.

Source: "Stealing a Page from the Private Sector Digital Playbook"





# #3 – Anticipate New Technologies

## Conversational Interface

“Alexa, what is the zoning for 135 Main Street?”

“Alexa, I want to open a restaurant. Where can I put it within 5 blocks of city hall?”

