Stephen N. Cassin, AICP has been an agent of change and accomplishment since he joined Macomb County in 2002. As we prepare to wish him a healthy and happy retirement, we take a moment to share some of the achievements of the Macomb County Department of Planning & Economic Development under his leadership.

- Oversaw the activities that led to the development of the 24-mile Macomb Orchard Trail.
- Created and coordinated Focus Macomb, an economic development action group comprised of more than 100 community leaders that examined issues surrounding transportation, education, government and human services. The groundswell created led to the voter-approved conversion to an executive form of government.
- Worked with Al Lorenzo, then-president of Macomb Community College, to recruit a powerful committee of hospital CEOs, doctors and educators to lobby Michigan State University trustees to place a satellite campus of the MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine at Macomb's University Center.
- Secured federal funding to launch the Macomb-Oakland University INCubator.
- Partnered with officials from Sterling Heights to turn a vacant training/day care center into Velocity, a center for economic collaboration. Tenants include Macomb-OU INCubator, Michigan Defense Center and Michigan Small Business Development Center.
- Secured $1.6 million from the EPA to redevelop brownfield sites.
- Developed Prime Properties, a portal for companies interested in expanding in Macomb County.
- Assisted County Executive Mark Hackel in launching the Blue Economy Initiative to capitalize on and protect Macomb's natural resources. Results include the creation of the HEART Freshwater Center in partnership with Macomb Community College, Wayne State University and Huron-Clinton Metroparks; the Lake St. Clair Tourism Initiative; and the Sprint and Splash Tournament of Races.
- Worked closely with Utica officials to attract a sports and entertainment investor to the city. The new Jimmy John's Field, scheduled to host its first opening day in the spring of 2016, will house the independent United Shore Professional Baseball League.
- When the Macomb County Library closed during a budget crisis, Cassin helped the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped find a new home with the Clinton-Macomb Public Library.
- Tapped special funds through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to make the downtown Mount Clemens campus of Oakland University possible.

Cassin served as a board member for Automation Alley, Greater Detroit Foreign Trade Zone and Macomb-OU INCubator. He received the Automation Alley Member of the Year Award in 2009 and was the 2013 recipient of the Michigan Association of Planning President's Award. He was appointed by Gov. Granholm to the Michigan Finance Authority and is a past president of the Michigan Society of Planners.

Cassin plans to continue as an adjunct instructor for Oakland University and will work as a consultant for a planning firm.

"I leave this department in very good hands. I am proud of our staff's devotion to excellence. Any success I may be credited with is due to the hard work of everyone here," said Cassin.
Congratulations Steve Cassin on your retirement!