Community Development
Department

STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date:	September 10, 2024
Agenda Title:	Strong Towns Work Session
Requested Action:	Hold a Work Session
Staff Lead:	Denise Harris, Planning Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Town of Warrenton is hosting Strong Towns speaker Edward Erfurt to talk about traditional town planning principles and development patterns enriching the tapestry of placemaking. Strong Towns is a national non-profit that provides resources to communities to be financially strong and resilient. On Monday, September 9, 2024, the Town will host a community event with speaker Edward Erfurt. The September 10th work session is to allow for follow up conversation between the Town Council and Strong Towns.

BACKGROUND

The Strong Towns community event helps to kick off National Community Planning Month in October. Planners work to improve the well-being of all people living in our communities by taking a comprehensive perspective. This approach leads to safer, more resilient, more equitable, and more prosperous communities. The goal of planning is to maximize the health, safety, and economic well-being of all people living in our community. Planning involves thinking about how we can move around our community, and attract and retain thriving businesses, where we want to live, and recreation opportunities. Planning helps create communities of lasting value. This Strong Town's visit to the Town is made possible by the generous partners of the PATH Foundation and Oak View National Bank.

In Warrenton, the Town employs professional planners and Town Council appoints "citizen planners" to the Planning Commission. These Planning Commissioners review and make recommendations on land use applications; develop and update the Comprehensive Plan; and review the proposed projects in the Capital Improvement Plan as part of the annual budget adoption. The Planning Commission will also make a recommendation to the Town Council on the draft Zoning Ordinance update after public hearings.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Hold a work session.