



November 2023

# Newsletter

## The President's Corner

### It's Fall 2023!

Well, another year is almost over! How the time flies! The Surfcoast Chapter has been very busy! We have hosted three (3) luncheons in the last three months. First the CRS (Community Rating Service) luncheon. Several people have commented to me that they were very impressed with the information they took away...and the food was great!

Then we held two (2) Live Local Act luncheons. One presented by Jessica Gow, Cobb Cole, providing the private sector aspect of the recent legislation.

The second, presented by Clay Ervin, Volusia County, imparting the jurisdictional viewpoint. Both were well attended, and a tremendous amount was learned. A special shoutout to Helen LaValley for pulling all three off while volunteering in the position! Thank you, Helen!

Surfcoast also participated in two (2) different community service events. One was the West Volusia Dream Center Great Grocery Giveaway held on September 9th. This provided bagged food to those in need. Several members attended and it was a very rewarding day.

The second community service event was the International Coastal Cleanup held on September 16th. This annual event is always supported by our Chapter in conjunction with VCARD and sponsors Las-

siter Transportation Group (LTG) & Cobb Cole.

Surfcoast held a Membership Appreciation event on October 13th at Big Tunas on the beachside in Daytona. Free drink coupons and appetizers were provided. Unfortunately, only a handful of members showed up...but those that did had a BLAST!

Next up for us is the upcoming election of officers. You will receive your ballot in the next few days. Please feel free to sign up for Director positions as ALL ARE WELCOME!

Along with the ballot you will receive our bylaws. We have made minor revisions which will be called out in your email. Please cast your vote for approval or denial on those as well.

Finally, we have our Annual Awards Gala on December 8th at the Halifax River Yacht Club. We have sent out Call for Entries so that all of you can nominate a project or projects meeting the various criteria. We encourage all of you to nominate a project or projects so we may reward everyone's efforts. We also sent out the Gala Flyer and Sponsorship form. We look forward to seeing all of you there!

Have a great end to 2023! Wishing you all joy and prosperity!



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## UPCOMING EVENT!!!

**December 8, 2023**  
**2023 Annual Gala and Awards Ceremony**



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING

# 15TH ANNUAL FPZA AWARDS GALA

**DECEMBER 8, 2023**  
**HALIFAX RIVER YACHT CLUB**  
**331 S. BEACH STREET**  
**DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32114**

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

\$45.00 per person includes

DINNER & OPEN BAR & MUSIC by GreenLineEntertainment

RSVP and Ticket Purchases at  
[WWW.FPZASURFCOAST.ORG](http://WWW.FPZASURFCOAST.ORG)



# 2023 CALL for ENTRIES

## FPZA Surfcoast Chapter 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards

Entry Deadline: November 17, 2023  
Awards Ceremony: December 8, 2023

### AWARD CATEGORIES

**Outstanding Innovation and Design:** This award is for the project or development that demonstrates innovation and quality design techniques. Key criteria in selecting the winner in this category will be how the project promotes interest and observance of state of the art planning and zoning practices.

**Outstanding Planning Study:** This award is given for an outstanding public report, study, written document, ordinance, planning analysis, etc. This category emphasizes results and demonstrates how innovative and state-of-the-art planning methods and practices will facilitate implementation of the plan.

**Outstanding Private and Public Partnership:** This award is for the most effective collaboration between the public and private sector in the field of planning or development. The collaboration may be in the form a planning study or analysis, land development regulations, or “brick and mortar” projects.

**Outstanding Sustainability Initiative:** This award is for the project that is leading sustainability efforts within the area of our two Counties. Sustainability practices impact how places are planned, designed, built, used, and maintained. Areas of concern include energy use and efficiency, green infrastructure, resource conservation, transportation choices and impacts, compact development, diversity, and revitalization.

**Focus Award:** This award is presented to a person who has exemplified outstanding achievement in support of the planning profession within Flagler and Volusia Counties. This award is not limited to FPZA members. FPZA Surfcoast members may suggest nominees and are requested to contact the Awards Chair by the application deadline with the name of the nominee and reasons for the nomination.

**Member of the Year:** This award is for a Surfcoast member who exemplifies outstanding achievement in support of the planning profession within Flagler and Volusia counties and has been instrumental in the continual success of the chapter. FPZA Surfcoast members may suggest nominees and are requested to contact the Awards Chair by the application deadline with the name of the nominee and reasons for the nomination.

The FPZA Awards Committee reserves the right to categorically reclassify any submittal and to award an Award of Merit, if appropriate.

# 2023 CALL for ENTRIES

## FPZA Surfcoast Chapter 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards

Entry Deadline: November 17, 2023

### EVALUATION CRITERIA

Each award entry will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Background: History or context within which the project is significant; indication of expenditure of time, type of personnel, budget, population and size of jurisdiction.

Innovativeness: Use of an original concept or refinement of an existing technique or procedure.

Effectiveness: Project/strategy impact on the subject matter.

Implementation: Project/strategy method or application to the subject matter; adaptability to changing conditions; and consideration or solutions to practical constraints.

Comprehensiveness: Scope and consideration of project/strategy in relationship to all aspects of the subject matter.

Clarity: Clearness of the award entry.

### SUBMITTAL PROCEDURES

A cover letter that states the name of the nomination, the award that is sought, the name of the recipient(s), the name, phone number, address and email of the applicant.

A brief summary to be used for ceremony purposes, if selected (100 words or less).

A narrative of the nomination which clearly demonstrates the evaluation criteria, as outlined above (1,000 words or less).

Images illustrating nomination in JPEG and MUST BE LABELED (3 or less and no more than 1 MB each).

There are no entry fees and all award entries must be submitted via email ONLY per the size requirements outlined above. Any hard copy or electronic submittals sent via mail will not be accepted.

Submit applications to [surfcoastfpza@gmail.com](mailto:surfcoastfpza@gmail.com). For more information, please contact Becky Mendez, Chapter Treasurer at (386)775-5418 or at [bmendez@orange.city.fl.gov](mailto:bmendez@orange.city.fl.gov)





## **ANNUAL AWARDS GALA SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION**

**Friday, December 8, 2023**

**Halifax River Yacht Club, Daytona Beach**

### **Overview - What your sponsorship provides to the community**

Supporting a locally active professional planning organization within Flagler and Volusia Counties

Partnering with local governments and other professional organizations with an interest in planning related issues

Networking for those interested in planning and to provide continuing professional certification opportunities for planning related professionals

Educating professionals, public, and elected / appointed officials on planning and zoning practices and issues at an affordable level

### **Benefits for all Sponsor Levels**

Company name and logo to be included on a poster board to be displayed at the annual Gala and all Chapter functions during Year 2024

Inclusion of the Company name and logo in the Awards Gala powerpoint presentations

### **Additional Benefits for each Sponsorship Level**

#### **Platinum - \$250**

Three complimentary gala tickets

Half page ad in all newsletters for 2024

#### **Gold - \$150**

Two complimentary gala tickets

Business card in all newsletters for 2024

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b><u>Contact for More Information:</u></b><br>Colleen Miles, Sponsorship Chair<br>FPZA Surfcoast Chapter<br>386-212-1942<br>Email: surfcoastfpza@gmail.com | <b><u>On-line payment:</u></b><br>Pay on-line at the store tab<br><a href="http://www.fpzasurfcoast.org">www.fpzasurfcoast.org</a> | <b><u>Mail Payment to:</u></b><br>FPZA Surfcoast Chapter<br>220 N. Beach Street #2705<br>Daytona Beach, FL 32115 |
|---|--|--|

## 2023 Community Service Projects

### Great Grocery Give Away

The first of two community service projects was held at the West Volusia Dream Center in Orange City. A group of Surfcoast chapter members participated in the 'Great Grocery Giveaway' on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. The members assisted the group with several tasks in preparation for the grocery giveaway, including filling grocery bags, giving away the bags to the people seeking grocery assistance, and directing people and traffic into the location. It was a pleasure to help out!

Members pictured are Clay Ervin, John Thomson, Helen LaValley, Tom Harowski and Joe Ruiz.



### International Coastal Clean-up

The second community service project the chapter joined VCARD for the International Coastal Cleanup. It was held at City Island in Daytona Beach on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Several of the chapter members, along with VCARD members, participated in the annual Coastal Cleanup. Lassiter Transportation Group treated the members to lunch afterwards. Many thanks to LTG!



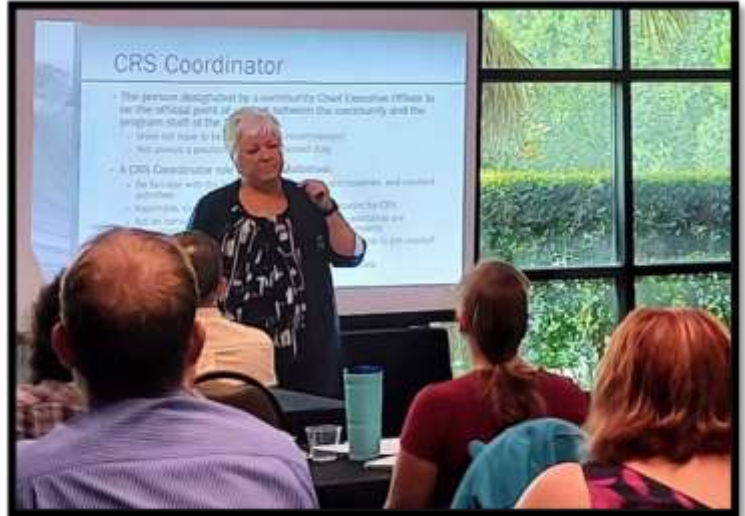
Members pictured from left to right are Kelli Cosentino, Belinda Collins, Dave Castagnacci, and John Thomson.

**Be Sure to Get Involved with Upcoming 2024 Community Service Projects!**

# Overview of Recent Chapter Events

## Community Rating System

On **August 25th**, the chapter held a lunch and learn event in Deltona. The event was held at the Deltona Center. Many thanks to the Deltona Center for providing our venue for this event. There were approximately 30 in attendance for the Community Rating System topic. Our featured speaker was Ms. Constance Bentley, who is Volusia County's Community Rating System coordinator and is a certified floodplain manager.



She provided an overview of the Community Rating System. Ms. Bentley was very knowledgeable about the topic and included explanations and tips on how a local government could increase their ratings. She also discussed how to become a Community Rating Systems Coordinator.

## Live Local Act Part One – Private Sector Perspective

On **September 28th**, the Chapter presented the Live Local Act. Ms. Gow, a local land use attorney with CobbCole, was our featured speaker. She discussed the application of the new law in regards to zoning, density and heights.

The Live Local Act, also known as SB102, is a comprehensive, statewide workforce housing strategy, designed to increase the availability of affordable housing opportunities for Florida's workforce. The "Act" amends multiple provisions of the Florida Statutes with the purpose of stimulating additional development of affordable housing in the State.





# Overview of Recent Chapter Events

## Live Local Act Part Two – Public Sector Perspective

On **October 20th**, the Chapter held Part Two for the Live Local Act, this time from the public sector perspective. Clay Ervin, the Director of the Growth and Resource Management Department for Volusia County, was our featured speaker. Clay gave an overview of the County's approach to implementing the new law. He focused on the benefits and potential road blocks for local governments inherent with ensuring that the issue of affordable housing is appropriately addressed as required by this legislative directive.



After Clay's presentation there was some thoughtful discussion with some interesting and informative back and forth from both the public planners and private sector representatives at the luncheon.



## Chapter Social

On **October 13th**, the Chapter hosted another one of its Social Gatherings. The Social is an opportunity for members to get together at a local gathering place to network and just have some fun. These events are also another opportunity for nonmembers to come and learn all about FPZA and our Chapter. This latest social occurred at the Big Tunas Beach Bar in Daytona Beach and was enjoyed by all that attended!

Those pictured from left to right are Becky and Luis Mendez, Brian Walker, and Kendall Story.





## **WELCOME NEW PLANNERS**

***The FPZA Surfcoast Chapter welcomes Joseph Barker, AICP, Senior Planner, with the City of DeBary***



***Give us a little background on where you are from, and how you arrived here.*** I was born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1993. I lived in coastal Georgia from 1998 to 2018, first on St. Simon's Island, and later on St. Marys. St. Simon's Island is filled with history, including Fort Oglethorpe. St. Marys has one of the oldest historic districts in the United States. I lived in Oklahoma from 2018 to 2020. I have worked for the City of DeBary, a rapidly budding community, since 2020.

***How did you become a planner?*** I found an internship with the City of St. Marys, Georgia through my alma mater, the College of Coastal Georgia, based in Brunswick, a city rich with history. I worked for them for two years before moving on to a full-time position in Oklahoma.

***What responses do people give when you tell them you are a planner?*** Confusion most of the time. People commonly mix up urban planning with event planning, I have found. When I explain what it actually is that I do, they're usually still confused.

***What improvements would you like to see in the community you live and work?*** I would like my community to be more walkable with more accessible public transit. I would also like for there to be a healthier and diverse housing stock.

***What is your favorite part of your job?*** Drafting and applying policy, such as Comprehensive Plans. I also enjoy using GIS software.

***What are the goals you hope to attain in your planning?*** To make my community more accessible, sustainable, and equitable.

## ***SURFCOAST MEMBERS ON THE MOVE***



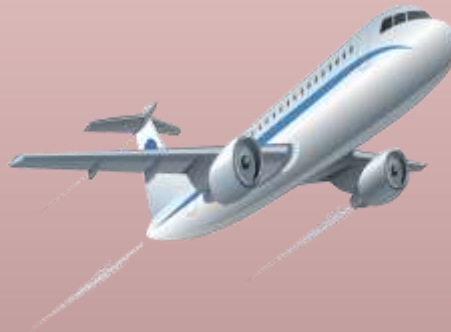
***Jessica Gow.*** Congratulations are in order for Jessica Gow who was selected as the 2023 Civic Leader Top Award Recipient as part of the recognition of Women in Business by the Daytona Beach News Journal! Jessica is an attorney with the Cobb Cole Law Firm and a recent Surfcoast Luncheon Program presenter for the Live Local Act. Way to go!

***Nashla Merced.*** Nashla has taken the position as a Senior Planner for the City of Orange City after serving as a Planner II with the City of Deltona! Congratulations with your new position!



***Danalee Petyk.*** Formerly a Senior Planner with the City of Orange City, Danalee has moved onto to the City of DeLand as a Chief Planner. Good luck with your new position!

***Joseph Ruiz.*** Joe is now the Deputy Director of the Development Services Department for Orange City. Joe was formerly the Director of the Planning and Development Services Department for the City of Deltona. Joe is also a Director with the FPZA Surfcoast Chapter. Best wishes!



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Thank you to Our 2022 Gold Sponsors!







*The Surfcoast Chapter of FPZA promotes cooperation among official planning and zoning boards or commissions, civic bodies, citizens, technicians and students interested in planning and zoning throughout Volusia County.*

### **SURFCOAST CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR 2023**

Colleen Miles \* President  
Vacant \* Vice President  
Debi LaCroix \* Secretary  
Becky Mendez, AICP \* Treasurer  
John G. Thomson, AICP Retired \* Newsletter Editor  
Vacant \* Professional Development Officer  
Scott Ashley, AICP \* Immediate Past President

### **DIRECTORS FOR 2023**

Joseph Ruiz  
Steven Bapp, AICP

### **CHAPTER STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Helen LaValley  
Colleen Miles

~ ~ ~ ~

WWW.SURFCOASTFPZA.ORG



## **Treasurer's Report**

Becky Mendez, AICP

Fiscal Year 2023 started January 1, 2023, with a beginning balance of \$17,855.98. The ending balance as of September 30, 2023, was \$14,932.80, which included \$4,033.03 in revenue and \$6,955.41 in expenses.