



Surfcoast Chapter Newsletter

March 2020

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The President's Corner

By Colleen Miles

So, here we are in a new year! 2021 is moving right along.

We all seem to be finding our stride with these continuing "novel times." But, things are still a bit bumpy to say the least. It appears that we are having our own issues with re-entering society. Some of us are more than eager to get back to normal and others are still very unsure what normal is or will be.

This seems to continue to impact our various workplaces, especially government, as well as those of us that are also dealing with education. Things are strange!

Virtual used to be a word for the gamers. Now we continue to operate virtually. Seems odd doesn't it?

However, there is light at the end of this very long tunnel and I am so glad to be heading toward that light with all of you!

There are new options for us...new ways to plan...new ways to impact the overall and help the underserved. We get to relearn and hopefully improve the way we do things. And we are all going to be here to see it! It is a bit exciting if you think of it that way.

So, let's think of it that way. We have a brand new opportunity to excel and make things better than they were before. Maybe we were getting too complacent, too used to everything. Now we can perhaps appreciate the "new normal." Let's get started!



Thank you for your support during these "novel times." Hope to see you all soon,

Colleen Miles

Chapter President

FPZA 2019 Annual Awards

Outstanding Innovation and Design Awards:

City of Ormond Beach & DMC for Cassen Park Breakwater

Cassen Park, located just south of the Granada Bridge in Ormond Beach, is a popular and highly utilized recreational facility along the Intracoastal Waterway. The boat ramp within the park is a major point of access for boaters to the Halifax River. The timber observation/fishing pier and other waterside facilities have been severely impacted by hurricanes and other major storm events in past years and DMC designed a replacement structure for the City of Ormond Beach. Parallel to the existing observation pier, DMC designed an ADA compliant concrete floating dock system to accommodate 12 vessels. The entire area, including a new access channel, was dredged to enhance boater safety and navigation. A 7,900 square foot limestone breakwater was designed to protect the existing pier and new floating dock system from future storm surges and hurricane events.



Pictured are Alex Schumann from Ormond Beach and from DMC-Kristy Michaels, Natalie Tejada and Shailesh Patel



City of Orange City for the Holly Avenue Improvement Project

In June 2020, Orange City finished construction of a \$6.5 million dollar infrastructure improvement project located in the heart of city's historic district and CRA area. The project protects water quality in the Blue Spring basin and provides drainage, reclaimed water and sanitary sewer services to city customers. More than just a sustainable utility project, it delivers a spectacular new urban design form with the reconstruction of South Holly Avenue that connects the City's award-winning Mill Lake park to Town Hall administrative offices. The complete street includes 43 new on-street parking spaces and pedestrian crosswalks finished with decorative pavers and colored concrete. New landscaping, planters, LED light poles, benches, trash bins and an intersection medallion are the final finishing touches.

Pictured are Orange City Mayor Gary Blair and Vice Mayor Kelli Marks.

Outstanding Public Private Partnership Awards:

The Neighborhood Center of West Volusia for The Bridge Homeless Shelter

The Bridge offers a chance for those struggling with homelessness to find help to successfully navigate their reentry challenges. For several years, Volusia County has looked for ways to alleviate homelessness. In 2016, a joint effort was launched between the Neighborhood Center of West Volusia, Volusia County, all West Volusia cities, churches, businesses and civic groups to construct a new crisis shelter and day services center. The 7,152 square foot facility, called “the Bridge” includes 30 crisis center beds, a communal dining area and commercial kitchen, showers, offices and space to provide coordinated entry and case management, mental health and drug abuse counseling, medical care, haircuts, showers and laundry. The goal of this coordinated and comprehensive approach is to transition people to housing within 30-90 days. The shelter was constructed on a site owned by the City of DeLand at 421 S. Palmetto Avenue, which is also near the Neighborhood Center’s facilities. Volusia County governments agreed to fund the construction of The Bridge. Staff from the Neighborhood Center will manage the day-to-day operations while all west Volusia cities, as well as numerous businesses, churches and area stakeholders have committed to fund those operations and provide volunteer support.



Pictured is Michael Forrester
Executive Director

City of Holly Hill and Martens Charities for Pictona

Pictona of Holly Hill is the quintessential example of a successful public-private partnership. The City of Holly Hill teamed up with Martens Charities (Rainer and Julie Martens) to build a \$6.3 million pickleball and community center at Hollyland Park. The 24-court facility, including 8 covered courts, a clubhouse, and restaurant is frequently touted as the finest pickleball facility in the world. And the world will see it when the International Federation of Pickleball hosts the Bainbridge Cup at Pictona in April 2021. Pictona is also a community center sporting a Senior Activity Center, community garden, shuffleboard, croquet, bocce ball, and horseshoes. Owned by the City, the 560-member Pictona Club operates the facility.



Pictured are: Joe Forte, Holly Hill City Manager, Rainer and Julie Martens, Martens Charities, Dana Smith, Architect and Mike Weigel, Contractor

Sustainability Awards:

Duke Energy & Team Volusia for the Site Readiness Program

The Duke Energy Site Readiness program aims to identify, assess, improve and increase the awareness of sites for targeted industries. In 2020, Duke Energy partnered with the Team Volusia Economic Development Corporation (TVEDC) to assess 640 acres just west of I-4 and SR 472. Duke Energy's consulting team brought together landowners, utilities, workforce experts, planning and development professionals from Volusia County, Orange City and the City of DeLand. With the help of TVEDC, they collected extensive data on the community, workforce, physical site characteristics, utilities and planning and zoning regulations. The final report highlights the area's strengths and weaknesses, outlines a strategic development plan to make the sites more competitive and proposes target industries for TVEDC to market the sites to.

The consulting team also analyzed the site's developability and crafted two conceptual plans. The conceptual plans help align the community's vision for this area and illustrate the opportunities that exist in West Volusia County to prospective developers and companies.



Pictured are Chris Wamsatt, Team Volusia and Elizabeth Godwin, Duke Energy



City of New Smyrna Beach (NSB) for Turnbull Creek Land Preservation

At the June 23, 2020 City Commission meeting, the Commission approved an option agreement to purchase approximately 10 acres of undeveloped land fronting SR44 in NSB for \$1,200,000. This property contains part of the Turnbull Creek system that was created by the Turnbull Settlement between 1768 and 1777. This creek is listed on the National Register of Historic Places with the Department of the Interior. The City has purchased acres of land along the Turnbull Canal System to help preserve this canal and additional wetlands from being developed and preserving these lands for future generations to come. The City may construct passive trails throughout these lands so the citizens may be able to enjoy the historic canal and wildlife that thrive within the area.

Pictured is Robert Mathen, New Smyrna Beach City Planner

Outstanding Planning Study Award:

R2CTPO and Kittleson for Connected and Automated Vehicle Readiness Study

We live in exciting times as rapidly evolving technology is changing the way we travel. We also live in uncertain times, the COVID19 pandemic has demonstrated the importance of a resilient transportation system that ensures the safe and healthy movement of people and goods. The River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is preparing for these opportunities and responding to these impacts. With the assistance of Kittleson & Associates, the TPO has recently developed a Connected and Automated Vehicle Readiness Study and Technology Transition Plan to identify actions that decision makers can consider as we prepare for new technologies.



Pictured are Colleen Nicoulin, R2CTPO, Travis Hills, Kittleson and Ms. Deb Denys



Outstanding Service Award - Belinda Williams Collins

Belinda has been the Chapter's Community Service Project Chair for several years. In those years she has organized many notable service projects, such as the National Coastal Cleanup Day and a blood drive in association with VCARD. This year she went above and beyond and organized three separate service projects including a local food distribution project to assist people and families impacted by Covid19. Her focus and organizational skills are appreciated by the Chapter. Many thanks to Belinda!

Member-of-the-Year Award—Shailesh Patel

Shailesh is a long time Chapter member. He has always supported the Chapter and actively participates in Chapter events. He founded DMC in 2002. He has over 26 years of experience in the program planning, engineering and environmental consulting business and developing viable projects for private, municipal, and county entities. He has worked on numerous watershed water quality and land development projects. He is active in many technical and civic service organizations and has twice served as the President of the Florida Lake Management Society and the past Chair of the Volusia Citizens for Association for Responsible Development (VCARD).



Focus Award - Ms. Deb Denys

Ms. Denys receives this award for outstanding community involvement in promoting sound planning principles.

A champion of clean water, Ms. Denys is the past-chair of the Indian River Lagoon council and has raised the profile of the economic, environmental and cultural value of the Indian River Lagoon and Mosquito Lagoon. Her regional approach to the issue has brought individuals, local governments, agencies and businesses together. She has served on the Volusia County Council since 2013, but has been a servant of the community in many other ways throughout the 30 years of living in the area, including involvement as a licensed therapeutic foster parent, Guardian Ad Litem for the 7th Judicial Circuit, Chair of the Early Learning Coalition and R2CTPO, and serving on the Volusia County Children and Families Advisory Board, the Southwest Habitat for Humanity and the Boys and Girls Club.



**Congratulations to all the Award Winners!
Very deserving studies, projects and people!**



Special Recognition and thanks to our State Board for Sponsoring the Annual Gala and Awards. As a result of the Covid19 impact the Surfcoast Chapter hosted the state planning awards in combination with the Chapter's Annual Gala.



Congratulations to the Surfcoast Chapter (Again)!

The Chapter was awarded the
Outstanding State Chapter
for the 8th time since the Chapter reactivated in 2009.

Many thanks for the hard work of the Board of Directors, the participation of our members and the support of our sponsors!



Upcoming Events

The Chapter Board of Directors is busy planning this year's events. Some upcoming events being discussed and/or planned include the 2020 Legislative Update, a Sustainability Program-Caviar Farm Tour, Market Trends and Post Disaster Redevelopment. Our Community Service Projects are also being planned. Look for details soon.

Suggestions for an educational event please contact Mark Karet at mkaret@zevcohen.com
Community Service Project suggestions please contact Belinda Collins at collinsb@deland.org

Planners on the Move and Accomplishments

Joe Ruiz, Orange City Senior Planner has accepted the Deltona Assistant Planning Director position. We wish him much success in his new role.

Orange City welcomes Danalee Petyk as the new Senior Planner. Danalee currently works in Seminole County. Her starting date in Orange City is scheduled for April 5, 2021.

Congratulations to Kim Reading, Orange City Senior Planner. The West Volusia Historical Society honored Kim as the 2020 "Historic Preservationist of the Year" for her outstanding contributions to the preservation of the architectural heritage of West Volusia County.

Aref Joulani, Planning Director for the Town of Ponce Inlet has retired and Mike Disher, Assistant Planning Director has been promoted to replace Mr. Joulani. We wish Aref a relaxing retirement and congratulations to Mike on his new position.

Welcome to Kendall Story! She is the new Senior Planner for the City of DeLand. She was previously with the City of Lake Mary.



Platinum Sponsor

Town of Ponce Inlet

Principal Planner

Starting Salary: \$70,000, plus \$5,000 SIGNING BONUS

The Town of Ponce Inlet is seeking a creative and highly motivated Principal Planner to manage the planning and zoning division of the department. This position oversees the review of development applications and permits; prepares updates to the Town's development regulations and Comprehensive Plan; presents professional reports to elected and appointed officials; and provides exemplary customer service in a team-oriented environment. Position reports to the Director of Planning and Development.

BENEFITS: Excellent benefits package including 100% Employer Paid Health, Dental, Vision, Life, and Disability insurance coverages; and Florida State Retirement System (FRS).

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from an accredited program or related area of study, and a minimum of 5 years of progressively responsible experience in local government planning, including at least 1 year as manager; or any combination of education, training and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform the essential functions of the job. AICP certification is desired.

SKILL REQUIREMENTS: Excellent ability with written and verbal communication, organization, critical thinking, and customer service. MS Office software proficiency is required. Skills with GIS mapping and/or graphic design software are highly desired.

[Applications may be obtained in person from the Town of Ponce Inlet, 4300 S. Atlantic Avenue, Ponce Inlet, Florida 32127 or click "Download Application" on the right side of this page under "Tools".](#)

More information about this job can be found under "Attached Files".

Submit applications to the Human Resources division at kcherbano@ponce-inlet.org or to the Town of Ponce Inlet, 4300 S. Atlantic Avenue, Ponce Inlet, Florida 32127.

EOE M/F/D/V-Drug-Free Workplace. Position open until filled

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For additional information or questions regarding this message, please contact Michael Woods, Partner.



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140 South Beach Street, Suite 400
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
www.LDRGdaytona.com

Colleen Miles
386.212.1942
colleen@LDRGdaytona.com

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P.O. Box 457
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Office: 386-734-0365
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Tom Harowski, AICP
386-316-8426
tmhconsulting@cfl.rr.com

Surfcoast Chapter Officers and Directors for 2020/2021

Officers :

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 Mark Karet — Vice President
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 Becky Mendez — Treasurer
 Helen LaValley— Newsletter Editor
 Amye King — Professional Development Officer
 Scott Ashley—Immediate Past President

Directors:

Belinda Collins
 Mike Disher

Past President:

Helen LaValley
 John Thomson
 Scott McGrath

The Chapter is represented on the State FPZA Board by Helen LaValley serving as FPZA Past President. Colleen Miles and Debi LaCroix serve as Chapter Directors.

Your Contacts for 2020 /2021

<u>Name</u>	<u>Email Address</u>	<u>Board Position/ Committee Chair</u>
Colleen Miles	colleen@LDRGdaytona.com	President
Mark Karet	mkaret@zevcohen.com	Vice President/Programs
Debi LaCroix	debi.lacroix@cobbcole.com	Secretary/Bylaws
Becky Mendez	bmendez@ourorangecity.com	Treasurer/Awards
Scott Ashley	sashley@volusia.org	Immediate Past President

Board of Director Opportunities

The Board currently has 2 director positions open. All Chapter members are eligible to serve on the Board. If you are interested please send an email to surfcoastfpza@gmail.com or for more information feel free to contact Board members listed above.

The Board of Directors meet once a month at various locations around Flagler and Volusia Counties.

Treasurer’s Report

Becky Mendez, AICP — Chapter Treasurer

As of February 28, 2021, the year-to-date financial report includes a beginning balance of \$14,352.73 and an ending balance of \$14,806.83, for a net profit of \$454.10. Year-to-date 2021 revenues total \$1,102.00 and expenses total \$647.90.



Additional Contact Info:

FPZASURFCOAST.ORG
Info@fpza.org

Surfcoastfpza@gmail.com

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