



Palm Beach County Planning Congress

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PALM BEACH COUNTY PLANNING CONGRESS, MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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Members are encouraged to submit news for the Newsletter by 5pm, the first Monday of each month to scoughan@sfwmd.gov

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

Riviera Beach Community Redevelopment

**An Evening with CRA Assistant Executive Director
Dr. Rockfeler Herisse And Planning and Zoning
Administrator Judith Thomas**

Thursday, June 19, 2003 at 2001 Broadway (Bank of America Building)
5:30 p.m. Meet and Greet - CRA Offices
6:00 p.m. Bus Tour and Presentation

In an effort to uphold Riviera Beach's aim to be "The Best Waterfront City in which to work, live and play," the City of Riviera Beach is currently experiencing a surge in new development on both the mainland and the island. There are a number of new development projects underway that are expected to provide a boost to the City's revenue base. Approximately three years ago, the City unveiled an ambitious redevelopment plan estimated at \$500 million to improve the waterfront along the Lake Worth Lagoon and to relocate U.S. 1 500 feet to the west.

A multi-disciplinary team was retained by the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) to create a Redevelopment Plan that would provide direction and achievable goals for the City. The redevelopment area is comprised of 858 acres and includes the Port of Palm Beach and portions of Singer Island. It is bound on the south and north by the Skypass Bridge and Silver Beach Boulevard, respectively. While there have been numerous plans prepared by the City in the past that have failed, the new Redevelopment Plan is thought to be better because it takes a comprehensive approach to some of the failures from the past. The new plan takes into account improved infrastructure, parks, recreation centers, transportation, marinas, housing, environmental concerns, and various cultural elements.

As Assistant Executive Director of the CRA, Dr. Rockfeler P. Herisse is responsible for the day to day oversight of the agency staff and consultants, monitors it operational budget, supervises all programs of and grant applications by the agency, coordinates service delivery from a 14-member consultant team, provides oversight for budget preparation, fiscal planning, and communications of the agency. Over the past eight years, Dr. Herisse has worked, lived and traveled in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean and most recently served as Chief of Party on a \$1.5 million Leadership Development training project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development in Bamako, Mali. Dr. Herisse earned his doctorate at Michigan State University, his master's at Pennsylvania State University, and his bachelor's at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Judith Thomas, A.I.C.P., has served as the Planning and Zoning Administrator for the City of Riviera Beach for the last four years. Prior to joining the City, she was in private consulting for a number of municipalities throughout the

Maggie Barszekowski

SPOTLIGHT (cont.)

Hometown: Hyde Park, N.Y.

Education: Masters of Urban & Regional Planning at University of Florida

One Work-related Accomplishment

You Are Proud Of: Starting my own business, Planning In-site & Design, Inc. (planningin-site.com)

One Personal Accomplishment You

Are Proud Of: Being the poster girl for the Bethesda Stroke Recovery Program (literally)

Things You Do In Your Spare Time:

Garden & presently, reading "A User's Guide To the Brain, by John J. Ratey, MD

Family: Husband - Larry; Children - Jessica ,6 Jackie 4; Guinness the Wonder Dog; Kittens - Sun Star and Missy

Favorite Movie: To Kill a Mockingbird

Favorite Book: Heinlein's "Time Enough for Love"

What's In Your CD Player Now? "The Memory of Trees" by Enya and "Raffi in Concert"

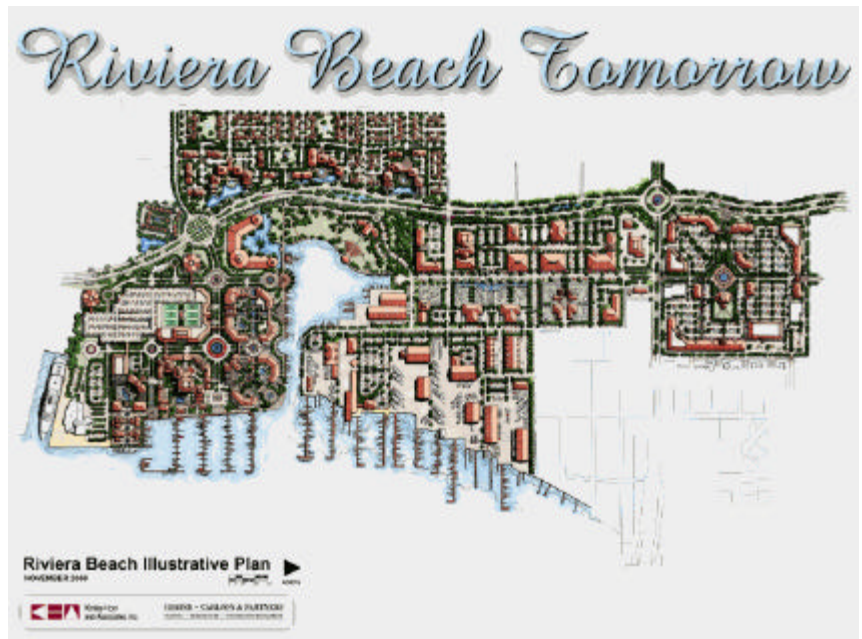
In Her Own Words: The Planning Congress profiled me in a previous life, but the newsletter fizzled before being published. My last name was Noonan then, and I lived on a sailboat in downtown West Palm. That was just before Haney Frakes introduced me to a Sun-Sentinel reporter who was writing about Haney's salary. The introduction eventually led to my name change, and (according to Congress friends) my falling off the face of the earth (working in Broward & Dade Counties).

This past year I've experienced the success of my first year in business for myself, survived the death of my parents (a month apart), and watched my 6-year old graduate from kindergarten. I've come to realize, life's like sailing. When the wind blows hard, hold on tight & it'll take you farther than you thought you could've gone.

I'm now looking forward to a New York vacation, followed by the Gibbs Seminar at Harvard.

state of Florida ranging from the Florida Keys to the Panhandle. Judith is also a long-term member of the Planning Congress.

Make plans now to take advantage of this invitation from the City of Riviera Beach and its Community Redevelopment Agency to tour the redevelopment area and see for yourself the exciting activities that are occurring in the City. You can also visit their web site at www.rivierabeachcra.org for more information and pictures about their plans.



Directions to the CRA Offices in Riviera Beach: Exit I-95 at Blue Heron Boulevard and head east to U.S. 1 (Broadway). Turn right and go south on Broadway to 20th Street. The Bank of America (BOA) Building is located on the northwest corner of 20th Street and Broadway and will be on your right. Park in the rear of the BOA Building and walk along 20th Street to the front entrance of the building. The CRA offices are located on the third floor of the building.

Date: June 19, 2003
What: Bus tour and lecture
Where: 2001 Broadway (Bank of America building)
Time: 5:30 p.m. - Meet and Greet
6:00 p.m. - Bus Tour and Presentation
R.S.V.P.: By 6:00 p.m., Monday, June 16th.

Please call Wes Blackman at 833-8767, Ext. 245 or email him at: wesblackman@earthlink.net.

Also, please note that the bus tour will begin PROMPTLY at 6:00p.m., so don't be late!)

NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME! to the following new/renewing members since our May Newsletter...

Marc Bruner (PBC Solid Waste Authority), Lorraine Cuppi (PBC PBZ), Andrew Hertel (PBC PBZ), Ellen Owens (PBC PBZ), Jill Quigley (Carter & Burgess, Inc.), Russell Scott (Urban Design Studio).

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Legislative Update

Tentatively scheduled for Thursday, July 24th. Join us for a lively discussion of the 2003 Legislative Session(s) by several members of our local Legislative Delegation. Hear their prognostications on what we can also expect next legislative session. Look for a special email announcement once our speakers, date, and location are confirmed.

Annual Family Picnic & Challenge Volleyball Tournament

Saturday, August 23rd – Noon to Dusk. Co-sponsored this year by the Palm Beach County Planning Congress and the Treasure Coast Section, Florida Chapter, American Planning Association (FAPA). It will be held at the new Ocean Cay Park located at the southeast corner of Marcinski Road and US 1 (just north of the pier and about 1/2 mile north of Loggerhead Park) at the Jupiter/Juno Beach city limits. The Park also fronts on A1A with easy access to the beach. We have already reserved the large pavilion and the adjacent Volleyball courts!

Rather than the Planning Congress – FAPA Challenge Softball Game we've held in the past, we thought we'd try something different this year – a Volleyball Tournament!! It's not too soon to start putting your team together!

Criteria: Common Interest (all planners, architects, attorneys, engineers, same company or agency office, etc.); Minimum 5 members; Maximum 7 Members; Coed (at least one player must be of the opposite sex); No more than two players 6 ft. tall or taller (*Note: Credentials will be checked!*) Call Dave Flinchum at (561) 233-5230 with your team name, members' names, and a contact name and email and/or phone number.

Join us for some good food, great fun, and a chance to relax and chill out just before the State APA Convention at the Breakers in Palm Beach. Look more details on the tournament, food & drink, costs (minimal), etc. in next month's newsletter.

Palm Beach County Convention Center Tour

5:30 p.m., Thursday, September 18th. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss out on this opportunity for a special "behind the scenes" tour of the new Palm Beach County Convention Center that is scheduled for completion this fall.

Since it will still be under construction, please note the following: no children allowed, you will need to sign a waiver prior to the tour, you will need to be able to climb stairs (no elevator access will be available at this time), hard hats will be handed out, long pants are recommended, and closed toe, leather type shoes (no sneakers; but they do not need to be steel toed) will be required.

BOARD MEETING

The next Planning Congress Board Meeting will be held Monday, June 2nd, 5:30 - 6:30pm, at the 121st Bomb Squadron, Southern Blvd. *Suggestions, comments, and questions* about programs and other items are welcome. Contact our President, Wes Blackman, 833-8767, Ext. 245 or wesblackman@earthlink.net.

Keysfest 2003 @ The Breezy Palms

Friday, October 3rd – Monday, October 6th. Near MM 80 in Islamorada. Don't delay in making your reservations – or you might miss out on all the fun! For more information, see the Keysfest article in our May Newsletter or visit our web site at www.pbcplanningcongress.org/special/keysfest.html. For those of you who may not have been there before, Breezy Palms has a variety of accommodations, including hotel rooms, efficiencies, bungalows and one and two bedroom poolside and oceanside rooms ranging in price from \$60 to \$185 per night. For more information and pictures, visit their web site at www.breezypalms.com or call (305) 664-2361. When making your reservations, be sure to mention that you are with the Palm Beach County Planning Congress to get the special rates.

2003 EVENT SCHEDULE

| DATE | SCHEDULED EVENT |
|------------------------|--|
| January 6, Monday | Philippe Pierre Cousteau |
| February 20, Thursday | South Florida Science Museum Expansion |
| March 8, Saturday | Winter Equestrian Festival |
| April 24, Thursday | Robert Gibb Lecture at Abacoa |
| May 22, Thursday | Trump International Golf Course Clubhouse Tour |
| June 19, Thursday | Riviera Beach Redevelopment Program Discussion and Mobile Tour |
| July 24, Thursday | <i>Legislative Update (Tentative)</i> |
| August 23, Saturday | Annual Family Picnic – Ocean Cay Park, Juno Beach/Jupiter |
| September 18, Thursday | Convention Center Tour |
| October 3 – 6 | Keysfest - Breezy Palms Resort, Islamorada |
| November 1, Saturday | Glades All-Day Agricultural Bus Tour |
| December | Annual Holiday Party |

JOB POSTINGS

Planner Planner II and Site Planner I, Palm Beach County Planning, Zoning and Building Department, Zoning Division. The Planner II position is in the Architectural/Building Permit Review Section. Please contact David Flinchum at 233-5230 for more information about the Planner II position.

Planner II, Administration Section of the Community Services Department. For more information on all these jobs, please visit the Palm Beach County Job Postings web site at www.pbcgov.com/erp/Jobs.

Two (2) GIS positions available: Senior Geographer in the Regulatory Information Management Division and Senior Geographer Associate in the Land Acquisition Department, The South Florida Water Management District. For more information visit their web site at www.sfwmd.gov/caree/gisopp.html.

LAST MONTH'S EVENT

Trump International Golf Club



On Thursday, May 21st, over 100 Planning Congress members were treated to a behind the scenes look at the Trump International Golf Course Clubhouse. Despite a torrential rainstorm, the clubhouse was filled, and guests enjoyed a buffet, open bar and deserts prepared by professional chefs worthy of championship status. Thank goodness for the valet parking - their good humor in spite of the rain was catching! The main dining room overlooks the 18th

hole with spectacular views of the two waterfalls, picturesque lake, and sprawling green manicured landscape. In between rain showers, some members strolled the veranda and glimpsed a life often reserved for royalty and the social elite.



Wes Blackman, Planning Congress President, conducted tours through the trophy hall, club room, locker rooms, and even the showers. The ornate cast stone, venetian stucco and marble floors of the grand foyer were nearly completed leaving just enough of the raw work exposed so attendees could view the workmanship that is often hidden.



Memberships, to what is one of the most beautiful championship courses, cost a \$350,000 initiation fee and \$10,000 per year in annual dues. Are you thinking what I'm thinking, door prize for this year's Holiday Party?! Oh Ya!

Thanks Mr. T. !!!

MOVERS & SHAPERS

Pramod (P.K.) Sharma, one of the founding members of the Palm Beach County Planning Congress, recently celebrated his 30th Anniversary with the South Florida Water Management District. P.K., as he is known by those at the District and the numerous local governments throughout South Florida that he has worked with over the years, was the first professional Planner hired by the District (as well as any of the other water management districts at the time). When he was originally hired on April 30, 1973 to coordinate the District's comprehensive plan review functions, it was shortly after the 1972 State Comprehensive Plan Act had been passed and long before the Local Government Comprehensive Planning Act was finally passed in 1985. Over the years, P.K. has never strayed far from his original mission and has been a major point of consistency in the District's comprehensive planning program through numerous reorganizations! Over the years he has had the opportunity to work with every one of the 143 local governments (16 counties, 126 cities, and the Reedy Creek Improvement District) that are located within the boundaries of the South Florida Water Management District. There isn't any type of comprehensive plan issue or amendment that P.K. hasn't seen and dealt with at one time or another!

(P.K. Sharma, continued from page 4) And, for those of you with *long.... memories*, one of P.K.'s first assignments at the District was to work on a special report for the Division of State Planning (the precursor agency to the Department of Community Affairs when it was located within the old Florida Department of Administration) to help determine whether or not the Western C-51 Basin should be declared an Area of Critical State Concern due to the proposed C-51 Backpumping Plan by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE). After 30 years, a portion of that area (south of Southern Boulevard and just east of WCA 1 (aka as the Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge) is now part of the STA 1-E Project currently under construction by the COE.

P.K. is originally from Nepal and ultimately ended up in Florida by way of India, Israel, and Texas. He earned his degree in Architecture and Urban Planning in 1968 and the first AICP certified planner at the District. His planning and architectural legacy is being carried on by his son, who graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Architecture and is now working in England.

HAPPENINGS

Wednesday, June 11th – Friday, June 13th - Florida Association for Water Quality Control (FAWQC). 2003 Annual Conference. “Water is the Key in 2003” The Registry Resort, Naples. For more information, visit their web site at www.fawqc.com

Wednesday, July 9th – Friday, July 11th – Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies, Inc. (FLERA) 2003 Annual Conference. Jupiter Beach Resort. For more information, visit their web site at www.flera.org or contact Jon Van Arnam at (561) 233-2454 or jvanarna@co.palm-beach.fl.us.

Thursday, July 31st – Saturday, August 2nd - Florida Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects. Annual State Conference. Marriott Harbor Beach Resort, Ft. Lauderdale (1-800-222-6543). For additional conference information and to register on line, visit their web site at www.flasla.org or call 1-800 860-4599, Ext. 9. Continuing Education Credits will be available for licensure renewal, but early registration is encouraged as seating is limited. Please remember to bring both your professional and driver's licenses to attend the scheduled CEC courses.

Wednesday, September 3rd – Saturday, September 6th - Florida Chapter, American Planning Association, 2003 Annual Conference. The Breakers, Palm Beach. For more information, visit their web site at www.floridaplanning.org or call the FAPA State Office in Tallahassee at 1-850-201-3272.

Wednesday, September 24th – Friday, September 26th – Annual Florida Government EXPO 2003. Tampa Convention Center. Sponsored by the State of Florida and the Department of Management Services. For more information about exhibits, sponsors, workshops, and/or attendance, visit their web site at www.floridagovernmentexpo.com.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDERS

- ❑ If any of your contact information (agency/firm name, job position, postal/email addresses, phone/fax numbers, etc.) has changed, please be sure to contact our Vice President, Susan Coughanour, at scoughan@sfwmd.gov or (561) 682-6519 promptly so we can update our records.
 - ❑ The 2003 Membership Directory is being finalized this month and we want to be sure we include your most current information.
 - ❑ Look for an email from us later this month with your assigned membership number - it will serve as your password and allow you to log onto the Planning Congress web site, access member only features, and review your directory information. If you have any questions about your membership dues, please contact our Treasurer, Carol Wallace, at cwallace@aol.com.
 - ❑ And, as always, please share this newsletter and our web site information (www.pbcplanningcongress.org) with any of your colleagues who may be interested in the Planning Congress and its activities.
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Board of Directors:

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Visit us at www.pbcplanningcongress.org

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