



Palm Beach County Planning Congress

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PALM BEACH COUNTY PLANNING CONGRESS, MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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Hometown: Lansing, MI
Education: BA, Alma College,
Alma, Michigan, Western
Michigan University,
Grad. Level Public Administration
**One work-related
accomplishment you're proud
of:** Helping to save and
restore Mar-a-Lago.
**One Personal accomplishment
you're proud of:** Staying with an
exercise routine for two years
(and counting).
**Things you do in your spare
time:** Karaoke Singer, Euphonium
player,
Collect/Restore Classic Autos,
Bike, Read, Computers, Volunteer
in Local
Government.

WHAT'S UP NEXT?

Wellington Equestrian Festival Event

Come join your fellow Planning Congress members for a Saturday of fun and excitement at the 31st Annual Winter Equestrian Festival, the nation's premier equestrian competition! The Planning Congress has arranged for reserved seating at the Cosequin Wellington Finale, one of the outstanding hunting and jumping events during the Equestrian Festival, on Saturday, March 8th. Admission to the event is free to Planning Congress members and their guests, including children. Food and drinks (soda, beer, wine, water, etc.) will be available at a cost of \$15 for adults and \$7 for children.

The program will begin at **Noon** and include a presentation by Dean Turney on the planning issues associated with equestrian life in Palm Beach County as well as a presentation on hunting and jumping and what goes into making these events so exciting. It will be followed by a guided tour of the site prior to the start of the jumping events at 1 p.m. The jumping events will end around 4 - 4:30 p.m. Equestrians and horses from the United States, Canada, Venezuela, Argentina, France, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Germany, Ireland, New Zealand, Russia, Belgium and Denmark will be competing during this year's Winter Equestrian Festival.

You must RSVP in order to attend. To RSVP, please call **833-8767** or email **wesblackman@earthlink.net** by **noon on Wednesday, March 5th** and leave the names of those in your party, contact phone number, and the number of adults and children in your party. *If your name is not on the RSVP list at the Will Call Table when you arrive Saturday morning, you will be required to pay to enter.*

So, don't delay if you plan to attend! Also, please note that you will be charged the \$15/\$7 per person fee if you RSVP and then don't attend, since the Planning Congress will be responsible for paying for the number of RSVPs, irregardless of attendance.

Florida ranks third nationwide behind California and Texas in economic impact from the equestrian industry. Palm Beach County is in a unique position in the worldwide equestrian field and serves as a mecca of world-class show jumping, dressage and polo, all of which attract a high level of international competitors and visitors.

To date, over 1,100 businesses in 50 different business sectors have been identified that are involved in the equestrian industry in Palm Beach County.



(Wes Blackman, cont.)

Family: Only child, two parents, significant other, one Welsh Corgi.

Favorite movie: The Sound of Music.

Current Read? Reaching for Glory, by Michael Beschloss (Lyndon Johnson tapes)

In your CD player right now: Karaoke disc including "Bohemian Rhapsody", "Will it Go Round in Circles".

In His Own Words:

Have no fear, try new things, be true to yourself, don't accept others' images and expectations of you, help others better themselves, know when enough is enough, write down what you are thinking, have fun, give others joy, look for the true, good and beautiful in all things.

As a part of its comprehensive planning activities, and in recognition of the importance of this industry to the county, Palm Beach County assisted with the establishment of the Palm Beach County Equestrian Commission and co-sponsored an Equestrian Economic Summit in the late 1990's. Recently the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County created an Equestrian Activities Department to serve as a liaison and information resource for the County, government agencies, equestrian organizations and the general public. It is also tasked with identifying equestrian economic development projects to benefit the County.

This is such an important part of the economy and image of Palm Beach County, we should all make an attempt to see what it is all about.

Directions From The South: Take Lake Worth Rd. West to its terminus at South Shore Blvd. Turn North onto South Shore Blvd. to Pierson Rd. (The first intersection). Turn West onto Pierson Rd. and take the first left onto Equestrian Club Dr. Proceed to the parking area.

Directions From The North: Take Forest Hill Blvd. Westbound to South Shore Blvd. Turn Left onto South Shore and continue a few miles to Pierson Rd. Turn Right (West) onto Pierson Rd. Continue West on Pierson Rd. and Turn Left at the first road (Equestrian Club Dr.). Proceed to the parking area.

Check in at the Will Call Table at the Entrance. Once you have entered, proceed straight ahead to the Arena. The Planning Congress seating will be in the long white Special Events Tent to your left in the vicinity of the Planning Congress Banner. We will collect your \$15/\$7 when you arrive.

Direct any questions you may have to Dean Turney, (561)833-4919

LAST MONTHS PROGRAM

Science Museum Presentation

The February 20th South Florida Science Museum Tour and Lecture was absolutely fabulous. Special thanks to Susan Coughanour for the wonderful food selections, which I know were dinner for a lot of our members that night. For those of you who haven't been to the Science Museum recently, the current Florida Ice Age Exhibit is great for kids. A roaring Saber Toothed Tiger standing over its unfortunate Woolly-Mammoth prey greets you menacingly as you enter the special exhibit area. The moving displays with realistic sound effects are not for the faint hearted but provide constant entertainment for all ages. If these types of exhibits are an indication of things to come at their new location just west of Lake Lytal, they can count on several of our members becoming regular visitors.

Our talk began with a welcome by Jim Rollings, Executive Director for the Science Museum, who provided some history of the current 1961 building and the shortcomings experienced over the years. John Glidden, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Museum, explained the latest site design and floor plans for the new \$40 million futuristic Dekelbom Science Center. The new building will feature a 72 foot domed IMAX type theater at one end of the 98,000 sq.ft. three story building, which is about four times the size of the current museum. The new building will include about 30,000 sq.ft. of exhibit area with a designated 6,000 sq.ft. special feature/display area. The proposed special feature area will be as large as the total exhibit area of the current facility.

The always terrific and family favorite 8,000 gallon aquarium display will be relocated and expanded into a 85,000 gallon display with mock submarine and even a remote exploration vehicle with operative claw and camera. There also will be an expanded planetarium and 200 seat high tech filled auditorium. The north end of the proposed building is being considered for an actual radar/control tower, which will allow visitors to listen to airport radio/traffic while watching the airport activities from across Southern Boulevard. There will also be a cockpit simulator that allows people to try their hand at flying a modern jet. Rollings has been Executive Director of the Science Museum since January 1996 and has also served as Chair of the Palm Beach County Cultural Executives Committee. He

FAPA CALL FOR PAPERS

The Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association will hold their annual Conference at The Breakers in Palm Beach on Wednesday, September 3 – Saturday, September 6, 2003. Presentation proposals are due by **March 15, 2003**.

The Conference Committee is particularly interested in presentations that use **creative techniques** for presenting interesting information and issues of current relevance. For further details and format requirements visit: <http://www.floridaplanning.org>

e-mail all proposals and questions to: Garrison@palmbeach.k12.fl.us. (561) 434-8187

received the prestigious Joseph Leavitt Award from the Cultural Council for taking the science museum organization "to the next level of excellence." Prior to coming to Palm Beach County, Mr. Rollings previously served as Program Manager for the NASA-Langley Visitor Center, Development and Marketing Director for the Virginia Living Museum, and Director of the Yorktown Victory Center near Williamsburg. Mr. Glidden is a Principal in the local architectural firm of Oliver, Glidden, Spina and Partners. In addition to his four years on the Board of Trustees for the Science Museum, Mr. Glidden has also served on the Palm Beach Gardens Planning Board.

The South Florida Science Museum is located at 4802 Dreher Trail North, just north of the Dreher Park Zoo and east of I-95. It can be accessed via Summit Boulevard between Parker Avenue and Florida Mango Road.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE!

Membership Renewal & Online Newsletter

This is a friendly reminder to those of you who are Palm Beach County Planning Congress members who have not yet paid your membership renewal dues for 2003. As always, you can expect a variety of informative and timely program topics, formats, and venues of interest to our members. Our membership database is now being used to generate email mailing lists and we will be publishing our newsletters online. This is the last mailing of a printed Planning Congress newsletter. It is important we maintain up to date membership records that reflect everyone's paid membership status, postal address, and current email address. If you did not receive an email notice on Friday February 27, 2003 at 12:00 noon please email Carol Wallace at cewallace@aol.com
A limited number of printed copies will be available at regular Planning Congress events.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Citizen's Task Force Update

WOW! The Citizens' Task Force has quite a schedule lined up. It really stretches out as far as the most distant horizon. Sub-committees of the Task Force are reviewing various articles of the Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) as staff prepares changes related to the Managed Growth Tier System (MGTS) Code Revision Project. Kudos to the staff at the Code Revision Section! Word has it that some of their flex-time includes hours well past those usually considered humane.

In early March, the Task Force will begin meeting every Thursday, starting at 1 p.m., in the 4th floor conference room of the PZ&B Building (100 Australian Avenue in the Hilton Hotel complex in the northwest corner of Southern Boulevard and I-95). Come join us and see what all the fun is about! Seriously, this is a worthy effort designed to make life easier for everybody - clarifying, re-organizing, eliminating verbiage, streamlining procedures - all are goals of this ambitious project. Make sure that you have your say when it comes time to address those parts of the ULDC that you find particularly frustrating or hard-to-understand.

The Signage and General Issues Sub-committees are where I have chosen to focus. Progress is being made in both areas, with the most progress seen in the signage area so far. We are working with industry representatives to provide input on the practicality of the approaches we are using in the revision of the Sign Article. An effort is being made to be flexible while, at the same time, creating firm expectations about the amount and type of signage that can be permitted. The General Issues Sub-committee is concerned with the overall underpinning of the ULDC and the relationship between the various articles. This is one area where planners "in the trenches" can have the most impact in the day-to-day reality of working with the ULDC.

Lastly, at the February organizational meeting, I was elected Chairman of the Citizens' Task Force. I take the place of the highly capable D.J. Snapp who had served the maximum term as Chairman (two years). He assumes my previous role of Vice-Chairman. I am sure that with the number of meetings we will be having this year, we will both find ourselves at the helm depending on what else is going on with our "real job" schedules and duties. As we plow through this undertaking, don't be afraid to contact me about your concerns at: wesblackman@earthlink.net

Another way to keep abreast of the changes is to contact Aimee Craig Carlson of the Code Revision staff at either acarlson@co.palm-beach.fl.us or 233-5342 and ask to be placed on the E-mail Update List for meeting times and actions taken by the Citizens' Task Force. For more information about the Citizens' Task Force and other Hot Planning and Zoning Issues, visit www.pbcgov.com/pzb/ and click on Zoning, and then on Citizens' Task Force.

Comprehensively yours, **Wes Blackman**

Board of Directors:

President: Wes Blackman

Vice President: Susan Coughanour

Secretary: David Flinchum

Treasurer: Carol Wallace

Immediate Past President: Aimee Carlson

Board Members:

Rick Miessau, David Rafaidus, Carol Thompson

Visit us at www.pbcplanningcongress.org

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