

Inside this issue

Note from the Editor	1
The President's Corner	1
Mark Your Calendars	2
Mini Golf / Real Golf	
Member News	2
2009 Annual Awards Competition	2
Legislative News	3
Board of Directors	4

www.flparking.org



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From the Editor:



Welcome to the first edition of the FPA Newsletter for 2009. It has taken longer to publish than we wanted, but as they say, 'better late than never', right?

We want this newsletter to be a vehicle for us to communicate news in the parking industry; if you have information you would like included, please send to secretary@flparking.org. Adding more diversity and information will better serve our growing member base. We plan to have two newsletters yearly, Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter editions. The next one will be published before our Annual Conference and will contain information on the exciting happenings at the conference. Also, many of you have received invoices for 2009 FPA Membership dues (\$60.00). Our membership runs yearly January to December and dues are to be paid in the current year. Please renew your membership prior to our Annual Conference in order to receive the discounted rates, along with all the other benefits FPA brings to the industry. If you have any questions regarding your member status, contact secretary@flparking.org.

Marilyn Etheridge, FSMPS

The President's Corner



The 29th Annual FPA Conference and Trade Show was held December 3-5, 2008 at the beautiful Sanibel Harbor Resort and Spa, in Fort Myers. The conference was highly successful with over 200 attendees. A CAPP class, "Transportation Issues in Parking" was also offered and was a great addition and highlight to our conference. A special "Thanks" to our vendors and sponsors who support our conference each year.

The Carol Easterling Memorial Conference Scholarship was awarded for the first time this year to Jerry Rivera, Maintenance Crew Leader, with the City of Orlando. This scholarship will be awarded each year to a front line employee in honor and memory of Carol and her desire to educate the front-

line employees. We will keep Carol's spirit alive with us well into this new millennium.

The FPA held its annual election, resulting in numerous new board members. Bill Foster, Florida International University, moved to Past President; Pamela Corbin, City of Orlando was elected President; Diana Alarcon, City of Fort Lauderdale was elected Vice President; Luis Choter, Miami Parking Authority moved from Board Member to Treasurer; Marilyn Etheridge was elected to the Board and moved into the Secretary Position vacated by Diana; Sandra Hernandez with Miami Dade County, Jim Nixon with City of Lakeland, and Chester Escobar with Impark were all elected to Director-at-Large positions. A special welcome to our new Board Members.

We would also like to gratefully thank those individuals who served the Board so wonderfully: Sue Olley, Brian Scoggins, Debbie Hess, and Jim Ebert. These individuals will be greatly missed, but each leave a legacy of growth with the Board. FPA plans to continue with a focus on Education in 2009. Educational Seminars are tentatively slated in South Florida and Orlando. Please visit our website at flparking.org for more information on these upcoming sessions, as well as information on our Association. Email notices will also be sent to members. (Continued to page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)

Legislative Corner

Debbie Hess was FPA's Chair for the Legislative Committee, but has decided to move onto new adventures after being in the parking industry almost thirty years. Debbie did a great job and started the ball rolling in getting organizational input on legislative items and keeping the Association updated on legislation in the State of Florida.

Darlene Pfeiffer, Financial Administrator, with the City of Fort Lauderdale, has graciously volunteered to co-chair the committee with Diana Alarcon. If you would like to be a part of the committee, please contact Darlene at dpfeiffer@fortlauderdale.gov. Darlene is going to be a great asset to the committee, and we would like as much participation as possible to keep everyone informed.

Speakers

A special appreciation is extended to all of our distinguished conference speakers. A wide selection of educational sessions were presented. An extra thanks to our Keynote Speaker, Kim Jackson; Kim is always an inspiration to us in the parking industry.

The 2009 FPA Annual conference will be held at the Clearwater Beach Hilton Resort, December 2 – 4 and it promises to be a great one. More news will be forthcoming! You don't want to miss it! Theme: *"New Focus: affordability, quality, sustainability and consolidation"*. I'm sure we can all relate to this topic.

We look forward to seeing you in December! If you have any questions or need information, please contact one of our Board members. We are always glad to assist.

Member News

Jim Arnold RETIREMENT

After 24 years, 2 months and 25 days of dedicated and loyal service to the City of Tampa, I decided to turn in my RETIREMENT papers. Effective 4/24/09 I gave my Notification of Retirement. Reason for my retirement, I have accepted an offer on the east coast with the City of Port St. Lucie, FL. I will be in the Executive Department as Director of the Neighborhood Services. It has been my pleasure working for the City of Tampa for almost 25 years and I have totally enjoyed the experience, my development and long career, along with the pleasure of developing long lasting relationships and friendships with my colleagues. I wish you all well and please keep in touch when you can.

Sincerely & Respectfully,
Jim Arnold,

On-Street Enforcement Supervisor, City of Tampa.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The FPA Board of Directors met in April to start planning the upcoming 2009 "30th Anniversary" Conference. The conference is scheduled to be held at the Hilton Resort on Clearwater Beach on December 3-5. Even though many are suffering from the economic blues, we are planning and anticipating an exciting and exhilarating conference this year. We are putting together an agenda that will enable the attendees to take home information that will provide cost saving measures and

efficiencies for their organizations. We are working on a Keynote Speaker that will energize and empower us all to reinvent our surroundings to survive today's economy. In addition, Jim Nixon from Lakeland is back on the Board full force with plans for an exciting mini-golf tourney, for those that don't play 'real' golf but still want some competitive fun. Our early bird conference registration this year is only \$175 for delegate attendees and \$500 for vendors, so don't delay, mark your calendars now!

Mini Golf

Hey . . . fellow FPA people . . . guess what? . . . I'm back! Yes, Jim Nixon has returned to the FPA Board once more. And you all know what that means, right? You guessed it . . . I am going to promote this year's mini-golf tournament every chance I get!



I plan on going back to Clearwater in the next couple of weeks and visit Captain Bligh's

Landing and see what kind of deal we can get for our tournament in December. The next time you hear from me, there will be pictures of the golf course and all the information I can squeeze into one article or the website.

Any questions, comments, or if you just want to say "Hi!" – email me at jim.nixon@lakelandgov.net. HE'S BACK.....!

Real Golf!



Ok real golfers, we are negotiating with the Belleair Country Club (a private course) for our conference tournament. It is stunning and boasts of having the first golf course in Florida (est. 1897)! The famous architect, Donald Ross, re-designed the current course in 1915. Visit their website at

www.belleaircc.com. It is a unique opportunity to play on a 'members only' private golf course with majestic views of Tampa Bay. So, get your golf shoes ready – a great time is in store.

2009 Annual Awards Competition

Projects completed between June 1, 2008 and June 20, 2009 within the State of Florida

It is not too early to begin planning to submit entries for the prestigious 3rd Annual FPA Awards Competition. Eligible projects must have been completed between June 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009 and must be located within the State of Florida. Categories include: New Parking Structures;

Renovated Parking Structures; Most Innovative and/or Effective Parking System and Best Booth. All submissions must be received no later than **October 1, 2009**. Please see www.flparking.org for details and rules for the Awards Competition. We look forward to receiving your nominations!

Legislative News

The 2009 Legislative Session has come and gone. Below are some (not all) of the bills we monitored that have impacts on local governments financially or financial operations.

Court Related Services Transfer SB 2108 (Pruitt) and HB 1121 (Bogdanoff) provide for transfer of court-related services from clerks of the court to the state courts system. Specifies applicable court-related services. Provides for future repeal. Revises allocations of certain court fees. Provides for deposit of certain fees or portions of fees into the State Courts Revenue Trust Funds.

Firefighter and Police Officer Pension Plans HB 5 (Hooper) and SB 538 (Baker) modify chapters 175 and 185, Florida Statutes, relating to firefighter and police officer pension plans. The bills substantially revise the process for terminating a pension plan and significantly increase the cost to the employer when terminating a plan. In addition, the bills make numerous administrative changes to the operation of firefighter and police officer pension plans. HB 5 is in the **House Governmental Affairs Policy Committee**. SB 538 is scheduled to appear in the **Senate Community Affairs Committee Tuesday March 3, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.**

Non Homestead Property Tax Cap and First Time Homebuyers Exemption HB 97 (Domino) and SB 532 (Lynn) provide a constitutional amendment that would limit the assessment growth on commercial and residential rental property to 5% annually or the average annual percentage growth in revenues derived from the property over the previous 3 years. The bill also provides first time home buyers a property tax exemption equal to 50% of the properties just value in the first year and reduced by 20% each succeeding year. HB 97 is in the **House Military and Local Affairs Committee** and SB 532 has not received a committee reference.

1.35% Property Tax Caps HB 385 (Rivera) and SB 738 (Bennett) is a proposed constitutional amendment that would restrict the aggregate taxation of on a parcel of real property to 1.35% of the property's taxable value. This means that municipalities, counties, school boards and special districts would only be able to apply 13.5 mills to any piece of property in the aggregate. The legislature would have to pass implementing legislation to determine how the 13.5 mills would be split between the different governments. HB 385 is in the **House Military and Local Affairs Policy Committee** and SB 738 is in **Senate Community Affairs**.

Revenue Caps HB 905 (Flores) and SB 1906 (Haridopolos) propose a constitutional amendment to limit the collection of revenues by state and local government. Revenue growth for state and local governments would be capped by changes in population and inflation plus 1 percentage point. There is also a requirement that the legislature provide for an increase in the revenue limitation placed on local governments in order to comply with state and federal unfunded mandates. Neither bill has been placed on a committee agenda.

"Save Our Homes" Recapture SB 304 (Bennett) and SB 464 (Fasano) alter the application of the "Recapture" rule to real properties that are protected by Save Our Homes. SB 304 permits an increase in the assessed value of a homestead property only when there is an increase in the market value of the property. SB 464 provides that any decrease in just value will result in a decrease in assessed value and if there is no change in the just value of the property there will be no change in the assessed value of the property. Both of these bills are in the **Senate Community Affairs Committee**. **HB 1087 (Llorente) and SB 1164 (Fasano)** propose a constitutional amendment that would prevent the increase of the assessed value of a homestead property if the just value of the property has declined. HB 1087 has not received a committee reference and SB 1164 is in **Senate Community Affairs**.

Public Construction Projects SB 616 (Haridopolos) and HB 611 (Hukill) require local governments to competitively bid any project to repair, construct or improve any public building or project in excess of \$200,000. For road construction or improvement projects the threshold is \$250,000. Maintenance projects of a limited scope are exempt from the mandatory bidding requirements. SB 616 and HB 611 authorize a local government to undertake the project using its own employees and equipment if the local government 1) receives bids that are all at least 10% greater than its cost estimate for the project, 2) holds a public hearing regarding the decision to undertake the project and, 3) can prove, using full cost accounting methods and other criteria, that it can perform the project at a cost lower than the lowest qualified bidder. Airports, ports and public transit systems owned by local government entities are exempt from the competitive bid requirements. HB 611 is in the **House Roads, Bridges and Ports Policy Committee** and SB 616 is in the **Senate Community Affairs Committee**.

Social Security Numbers SB 1838 (Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee) would make Social Security Numbers (SSNs) of current and former agency employees confidential and exempt from public records disclosure, raising the standard from merely exempt. The bill also specifies that an agency may not collect a SSN unless the agency identifies in writing the specific state or federal law governing the collection, use, and release of the SSN for each purpose for which the agency collects the SSN. Additionally, the bill provides a more specific definition of "commercial activity," by tying it to federal law, to clarify when SSNs may be released to a commercial entity for commercial activity. SB 1838 has not yet been referred to a committee.

Impact Fee Moratorium SB 630 (Bennett) and HB 1129 (Grimsley) place a 3-year moratorium on impact fees. HB 1129 has not received a committee reference and SB 630 is in **Senate Community Affairs**.

Streamlined Sales Tax HB 329 (Rehwinkel Vasilinda) and SB 1134 (Lynn) revise state sales and use tax laws to meet requirements of the streamlined sales and use tax agreement. HB 329 is in the **House Economic Development Policy Committee** and SB 1134 is in the **Senate Finance and Tax Committee**.

Budget Transparency SB 594 (Aronberg), SB 1972 (Storms) and HB 971 (Hukill) require the state to establish a searchable data base for the purpose of posting all municipal, county, special district and state budgets. The bill would require municipalities to provide a link on the state-created website to the municipality's budget. SB 594 is in the **Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee**. HB 971 and SB 1972 have not received a committee reference.

Financial Audits HB 931 (Schultz) and SB 1368 (Dean) reduce the timeframe for submission of annual local government financial audits and require that a link to all local government audit reports be provided on the Department of Revenue website. SB 1368 is in **Senate Community Affairs** and HB 931 has not received a committee reference.

Revenue Limitations & Voter Approval of new taxes and fees SB 1906 (Haridopolos) and HB 1263 (Flores) to limit state and local government revenues and require voter approval of new taxes and fees.

Florida Parking Association (FPA) Celebrates 30th Anniversary

Florida Parking Association (FPA) celebrates its 30th Anniversary this year at their Annual Conference and Trade Show in Clearwater, Florida. As the Board was looking back on various historical moments of the Association, FPA Secretary Marilyn Etheridge, with her upbeat and enthusiastic attitude stated, "we've come a long way baby!" The Association has indeed made many strides over the past thirty years.

FPA was established in 1979 by a small group of parking professionals from Orlando, Tampa, and Miami. The group was meeting on parking issues

and decided that a professional parking organization would be beneficial throughout the state. With the growth in Florida and new technology on the horizon, they formed the Florida Parking Association. The first conference was held in Lake Buena Vista on the outskirts of Orlando with an attendance of less than 20 and no vendor participation. Word caught on and the Association began to grow rapidly; FPA's current membership exceeds 300.

Our most recent conference and trade show held in Sanibel, Florida had attendance exceeding 200, over 45 vendors and a Certified Administrator of

Public Parking (CAPP) session.

The mission of FPA is to promote and represent the parking industry in the State of Florida. The organization is committed to enhancing the professional image of parking and serve as a unifying force in promoting state and local legislation. Through fostering partnerships with individuals and organizations involved in the parking industry, the Association is dedicated to keeping members informed about current parking issues, while continually opening new lines of communication for our members.

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