



'VCARD DEVELOPMENTS'

March 31, 2008

Directing the Future of Florida's Water Supplies ...By VCARD Chair Joel Ivey

Florida's struggle with water issues has peaked to a new level, and it is evident that changes are on the horizon – both in developing future water supplies and conservation.

Planners with the St. Johns River Water Management District have spent many years studying the best alternatives for supplying water to the district's 18 counties while protecting our greatest natural resource and the overall environment. Recognizing a need to curtail withdrawals from the underground aquifer, they have identified "**alternative**" water supplies – especially surface water and seawater – as the driving forces to Florida's future.

Within the next five years, municipalities must prove they are progressing with such alternative supply plans and begin cutting the amount of water they pump from the ground.

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In this direction, I encourage everyone to look at progress being made with a project (largely focused on **Flagler County**) to develop a **desalination facility** that will provide potable water to all of Flagler's local governments and DeLand – as well as parts of Marion, St. Johns and Volusia counties. All of these local governments are participating in the **Coquina Coast Desalination Water Supply Project**, a cooperative that has financial backing from the water district and hopes to build a massive regional purification plant within the next decade.

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But the water district's "alternative" initiative also has tough battles ahead. Seminole officials have been trying to proceed with a large-scale facility to extract water from the **St. Johns River** for irrigation and eventually potable use, possibly serving parts of Volusia as well. But the plan is being challenged by citizen groups as well as Jacksonville jurisdictions to where the St. Johns River flows downstream. They fear the pumping will put the river off-balance, harming wildlife and habitats. Their concerns are leading the water district to further study potential impacts from surface water plants.

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No one can argue that future impacts need to be understood before we embark on a new direction for water supplies, drastically changing our methods for quenching the thirst of future populations. But we also must realize that there has to be some "alternatives" incorporated into Florida's future water supply planning. ... **continued on next page ...**

... Alternative Water Supplies ... by Joel Ivey (continued from page 1)

Florida (and many other parts of our nation) will continue to grow in population and we can't overly impact an underground treasure (the aquifer) that helps sustain Florida's environment – especially wetlands and springs -- that in turn are a life source for tons of wildlife.

Surface water has been used extensively as a potable resource throughout the United States – and even as close as Brevard County where the St. Johns River has been used as a source of water for almost 50 years. We need to study both the successes and glitches of these facilities for direction in planning our future plants.

We also must get serious about **water conservation** – both as individuals and local governments. Many local governments have adopted productive water conservation ordinances. But many of these municipalities need a better commitment to enforcement. And those that don't yet have these laws need to join the program. As everyone participating on VCARD's new Green Committee knows ... *the need for us to conserve is not going away!*

In closing, I congratulate ... welcome ... and wish good luck to **Lindsay Roberts**, new executive director for the **Water Authority of Volusia** (WAV), the agency responsible for coordinating the management of water resources throughout Volusia. In our community, Lindsay is known as the director of the Volusia / Flagler County Coalition for the Homeless, a position she is leaving for the WAV job. But prior to the coalition, Lindsay was executive director for the California Water Environment Association as well as numerous other utility and economic development positions in California.

... Lindsay assumes the position from **Mary Swiderski**, who has worked hard as WAV's interim director for the past eight months. Mary also serves as executive director for the Volusia Council of Governments (VCOG), the agency responsible for advancing Volusia's 'Smart Growth' initiative -- which complements responsible water supply planning as well.

... Lindsay, Mary, WAV and VCOG have challenging but also rewarding tasks ahead. And their success will be a major asset to Volusia's future growth and development. I encourage all members to keep informed of their initiatives and advise VCARD's leadership however our association can assist them. *Joel.*

~~ GROWTH MANAGEMENT ~~

Central Florida's ongoing **MYREGION.ORG** program to promote regionally-cooperative and smart growth planning is moving toward implementation. Members of the **East Central Florida Regional Planning Council** (ECFRPC) have begun updating the **strategic regional policy plan** for central Florida that is used by the agency as a guide when reviewing comprehensive plans and major developments within central Florida's local governments. And they particularly are referring to input gathered through myregion.org community workshops as a main resource in updating the regional policies.

... Within the past two years, myregion.org representatives conducted a visioning project known as "**How Shall We Grow?**" Through numerous community workshops, a vast amount of public input was gathered to craft desirable and coordinated growth patterns for seven central Florida counties: Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole and Volusia. Four themes – known as the "Four C's" – surfaced from this community input: **Conservation** of green areas; **Countryside**, to preserve rural areas surrounding growth centers; **Centers**, to promote growth in existing and appropriate concentrated areas; and **Corridors** to connect the centers with roads and transit.

... regional policy plan update and myregion.org ... continued from page 2

... The myregion.org planners then crafted a “*Central Florida Growth Vision*” built around six principles to be used by local governments to carry out the “Four C’s” themes. Those principles are: • preserve open space, recreational areas, farmland, water resources, and significant environmental areas • provide a variety of transportation choices • foster distinct, attractive and safe places to live • encourage a diverse globally-competitive regional economy • create a range of obtainable housing opportunities and choices • build communities with educational, health care and cultural amenities. The myregion.org planners also have published a “*Policy Implementation Toolbox*” to help local governments with this process. Call VCARD for a copy of the Growth Vision, explaining the principles and toolbox – methods also being used as references for updating the Central Florida Regional Policy Plan.

... Another myregion.org project (originated several years ago) looks at ways to preserve central Florida’s valuable environmental areas. This project resulted in a map of “**Natural Resources of Regional Significance**,” particularly identifying seven areas as central Florida “environmental jewels” that should be preserved. Two of these “environmental jewels” are in Volusia – the **Indian River Lagoon** that extends from southeast Volusia to Jupiter; and an **environmental corridor** that extends through central Volusia County. The others can be accessed through the myregion.org web site. Planners with the ECFRPC are working to incorporate this map into the updated strategic regional plan as well.

NOTE: Development professionals, landowners and local government representatives should **keep informed of this regional planning process** – as it will impact local governments’ comprehensive planning as well as future development – particularly in rural areas. More public workshops will be conducted as part of the year-long process. Call VCARD for details and updates.

A **FLORIDA PLANNING TOOLBOX** is being distributed by the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) in conjunction with Atlantic University’s Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions (CUES). The toolbox provides examples of planning techniques for local governments to **build better communities** with sustainable economies; protect environmental lands; conserve agricultural and coastal areas; promote infill and redevelopment; and plan transportation improvements. Call VCARD for instructions on downloading a free copy of the toolbox.

VCARD’s **GREEN DEVELOPMENT** Committee is making much progress with its objective to help Flagler and Volusia local governments **draft land code and building standards** that promote conservation of energy and resources (water, air quality and recyclable materials)

... Committee members are working with Volusia County government planners to draft a **Green Development Ordinance**, creating standards and procedures for green land planning and design; engineering and architecture; energy efficiency; water conservation; indoor air quality; and recycling of demolition and construction waste materials. A **May 14 seminar** is being coordinated with **Daytona Beach College** on ‘**Overcoming Regulatory Barriers To Green Development.**’ Presenters at this program will help government and private professionals address various solutions to obstacles in implementing green programs – such as conflicts with code regulations, interior and exterior design limitations, and local government and citizen perceptions **Green Development Report ... continued on page 4**

... VCARD Green Development Committee ... continued from page 3 ...

... All VCARD members and local government representatives are encouraged to join this initiative and participate in regular committee meetings that are attended by a wide variety of public and private planning professionals and elected officials.

... VCARD also has created an **electronic library of materials and resources** related to green development and construction. Call VCARD to be added to the library or committee e-mail membership lists.

... Congratulations to the City of **DeLand** and **Greg Blose** (Volusia Home Builders Association) who worked to incorporate a **building permit fee reduction** into the city's rate schedule for structures that pass certain green building standards.

... SPECIAL NOTE ... Progress with VCARD's green initiative also will be the focus of an **April 10 Volusia County Council workshop** – along with other smart growth programs of the Volusia Council of Governments (VCOG). The workshop will be at 9 a.m. in the county center's council chambers, DeLand.

F.Y.I. ... Orange County is the first municipality to obtain **gold level designation** under the **Florida Green Building Council's Green Local Government Certification program**. Here's what county officials did to obtain the status: offered green products to the public (such as reusable shopping bags and tire pressure gauges); instituted a green building awards program; created a geographical information system (GIS) with sustainability indicators to assist in community and environmental planning; fulfilled certain criteria in fleet management; and added energy saving investments into the county convention center.

Proponents of Florida's **HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY** (HD) initiative failed to gain enough signatures on their petition to place a major growth management question on the November, 2008 ballot. The HD referendum called for changing the state's constitution to require that all future local government land use amendments be approved by voters within the municipality. The HD backers likely will try to gain the necessary 611,000 signatures to place the question on the 2010 ballot – as well as promoting similar voter initiatives within individual Florida municipalities – such as one being pushed by a group in **Daytona Beach** known as **STAND** (Striving Towards A New Daytona). Call VCARD for details about this initiative.

... ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATES ...

Amendments to the existing rules governing the leasing of state-owned (sovereign) **SUBMERGED LANDS** are being proposed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) which could significantly **increase the amount of lease fees** for existing and future **marinas and waterfront developments**.

... The proposed changes would substantially overhaul the method for calculating fees for the use of these submerged lands, affecting both existing and future lessees in the development and expansion of facilities such as marinas, yacht clubs and private multi-family docking structures. As currently proposed, facilities having as much as 89 percent of their wet slips open to the public could be deemed a "private" facility and thus subject to the revised rates that could be as much as 200 percent higher for private projects.

... The FDEP has conducted public workshops on the proposed rule amendments and currently is reviewing the comments in preparation for consideration and approval by Gov. Charlie Crist and his Cabinet, possibly as early as June.

... Special thanks to **Todd Sumner** (Greenberg-Traurig Law Firm) for keeping VCARD updated on this proposed state amendment. Call VCARD for a copy of the current draft.

~~ **TRANSPORTATION NEWS** ~~

Volusia County and DeBary governments have hired a consultant to craft **transit-oriented development concepts** to help promote and steer development surrounding upcoming stations of the new central Florida **COMMUTER RAIL**. Using existing CSX tracks, the rail eventually will extend from Poinciana near Kissimmee to DeLand. Construction of the first phase soon will be underway, connecting DeBary with downtown Orlando.

... A **Commuter Rail Commission** has been created by the four impacted county governments and the City of Orlando to monitor the progress and address issues related to the rail system – such as promoting residential and retail centers around the rail stations.

Volusia County transportation planners have begun an annual update of the **FIVE YEAR ROAD PROGRAM**. They have scheduled a Wednesday, **April 9 workshop with interested VCARD members** to explain this process and gain input about the program that includes the county's anticipated transportation improvements during the next five years.

... The workshop will be from 2 – 4 p.m. in the Daytona Beach Chamber of Commerce (City Island), 126 East Orange Avenue, Daytona Beach. *Please RSVP to VCARD Director David Castagnacci (dave@daytonachamber.com) if you plan to attend. "It is important that we know your local road priorities, development plans in your area, economic interests, utility expansion plans and other factors which may impact road priorities or design,"* County Public Works Director George Recktenwald has advised VCARD members.

Construction of a controversial **Interstate 95 interchange at Pioneer Trail near NEW SMYRNA BEACH** won't move forward any time in the foreseeable future. New Smyrna Beach officials have been urging Volusia's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to remove the proposed interchange from the county's longrange transportation program, citing concerns about the environment and potential excessive development that the interchange could facilitate. They were encouraged with a recent transportation-needs study that predicted the interchange wouldn't have a major impact in improving the area's traffic issues.

... However, some officials in neighboring Port Orange want the interchange to stay on the longrange planning program, noting that it could help accommodate future traffic issues. And once the project is deleted from the program, it would be difficult and expensive to resubmit in later years. At a recent meeting, MPO board members decided to keep the interchange on the longrange planning program, but delete it as a "priority project," thus greatly decreasing the chance that funding will be made available for a number of years. The MPO board includes representatives from all of the local governments within Volusia and coastal Flagler.

Officials from Flagler County's local governments are exploring the feasibility of creating Flagler's own **METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION** to work with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in planning the county's transportation improvement programs (i.e. roads, bridges, bike paths and sidewalks, transit systems).

... Throughout the nation, MPOs assist with transportation planning for metro areas larger than 50,000 residents, a population threshold that Flagler has surpassed in recent years.

... Based on the last US census, Flagler Beach and Beverly Beach were incorporated into Volusia's metropolitan area for transportation planning. So they now have representatives on the Volusia MPO Board, as do all of Volusia's municipalities. However, some Flagler officials feel a Flagler MPO would better represent the county's transportation funding needs. Creation of the new agency would involve approval through state government.

... **LAND CODE UPDATES** ...

Separate VCARD and FCARD committees have been meeting regularly with planners from **Daytona Beach and Palm Coast** as they work to update their **development codes**. Members are encouraged to call VCARD if you would like to be involved in either project.

... **DAYTONA BEACH** planners are addressing the major project in phases. As part of the first phase, consultants with **Ivey Planning Group** are helping city planners draft proposed amendments potentially addressing topics such as non-conforming uses; planned developments; landscape architect certification; **density bonuses** and **beachside heights** (making them conform to new comp plan and overlay district provisions). A new **dock ordinance** (pending for more than two years) also could be adopted. Among other things, this ordinance sets standards for allocation of boat slips to waterfront properties.

... Daytona commissioners also are considering a separate land code amendment that requires **planning board review after the redevelopment board's review** of projects larger than 20,000 square feet within Daytona's redevelopment districts. Currently such projects only are reviewed by the redevelopment board -- unless appealed to the city commission. Commission appeals also are allowed under the revised review process.

... Our association's Flagler Chapter (FCARD) has made much progress with **PALM COAST** planners as they overhaul the city's entire land code. **Charlie Faulkner** (Faulkner & Associates) and **Jason Gambone** (SeaGate Communities) have led FCARD's effort to review updated drafts of the code and prepare input, much of which was incorporated into the final version, now being reviewed by the planning and land development regulation board. Formal adoption by the city council should be forthcoming within the next two months.

... **FLAGLER COUNTY** officials also have initiated a comprehensive review of land use and development issues for potential changes to the comp plan and land development code.

~~ **VOLUSIA NEWS** ~~

... **IMPACT FEES** ...

Volusia County's **SCHOOL IMPACT FEES** automatically increase to \$8,547 effective April 1 (about \$2,500 higher), based on impact fee ordinance provisions for phased-in rate adjustments. At the same time, school board officials are studying a recent report from a school **impact fee advisory committee** that recommends **major fee reductions** as well as tiered fee rates based on the type of residence (single family, multi-family, mobile home). The board will address the proposed fee rate changes within the next several months.

... Meanwhile, responsibility for adoption and implementation of revised **school impact fee** programs and rate schedules has been turned over to the Volusia County School Board by the county council. Previously, the school board would conduct studies of the impact fee rates and propose adjustments. However, formal revisions were decided by the county council. In delegating this authority, county officials reasoned that school officials are better versed on school financing issues, requirements and needs.

... **PORT ORANGE** is the most recent city reviewing potential adjustments to impact fee rate schedules, particularly proposing significant hikes to **road impact fees**. **Sans Lassiter**, chair of VCARD's Transportation Committee, has identified concerns with the city's road impact fee study and proposed new fee rates. His input is being addressed by city officials prior to adoption of the revised fees. Call VCARD for a copy of the Port Orange impact fee report or Sans' communication to city leaders.

... **Volusia News ... continued from page 6 ...**

A committee of the Volusia **GROWTH MANAGEMENT COMMISSION** (VGMC) is reviewing comments received during the past several months that recommend changes to improve the agency's rules and process for reviewing local governments' comprehensive plan amendments. The suggested changes have been submitted by private citizens and development professionals as well as local government and school officials. They address issues ranging from VGMC board appointments and selection of VGMC consultants – to VGMC comp plan review procedures and time lines.

... Created by voter referendum, the unique VGMC was incorporated into Volusia County's charter more than 20 years ago. Representing all Volusia municipalities and the school board, members are responsible for reviewing all local governments' proposed comp plan amendments to assure they are consistent with the comp plans of neighboring municipalities.

... As part of this VGMC review process, the Volusia Council of Governments (VCOG) -- also representative of all Volusia governments and the school board -- is proposing that the VGMC be prohibited from challenging a local government's comp plan amendment whose approval already has been negotiated with adjoining local governments.

... The VGMC committee is conducting public workshops on the recommended changes before drafting a list of proposals to be considered by the full VGMC and then submitted to the county council for adoption. Call VCARD for a workshop schedule or copy of the proposed revisions that have been submitted by interested parties.

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F.Y.I. ... Volusia County's new director of growth and resource management is **Greg Stubbs**, who previously served as Deltona's director of planning and development services. **Kelli McGee** has been promoted to county government planning director.

County government is considering new regulations on **AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES** for **farm ponds** (used for livestock watering) and **tailwater recovery systems**, facilities for storing and transporting leftover runoff water that is reused for farm irrigation. The new regulations include permit application fees, as well as certain development guidelines. Call VCARD for a copy of the draft.

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Monthly **DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY REPORTS** are published by the cities of **Ormond Beach and Port Orange**, supplying updates about the status of commercial and residential developments being planned or already underway – from site plan review to construction. Call VCARD if you would like to be added to the electronic mailing lists for these publications.

ORMOND BEACH officials have updated regulations for camouflaged **telecommunication towers**, mainly in regard to definitions and specifications on their use in various zoning districts. Call VCARD for a copy.

HOLLY HILL's new city manager is **Tim Harbuck**, previously the city's building official and a 27-year employee of Holly Hill. Manager Harbuck replaces Joe Forte who resigned recently to take an administrative position with Seminole County government.

... The structure of Holly Hill's development services department is being revised by designating City Planner **Doug Gutierrez** as community development director.

DAYTONA BEACH's "Visioning Report" has been endorsed by city leaders after more than a year of workshops and review by a citizens' steering committee. The report covers topics ranging from planning, land use and infrastructure to quality of life, environment, government and education. The visioning initiative could lead to changes in the city's comprehensive plan and land code. Call VCARD for a copy of the report.

... Various **other Volusia and Flagler governments** also are moving forward with "visioning plans" and associated **upgrades to their comprehensive plans** -- including Flagler and Volusia county governments; New Smyrna Beach; Palm Coast, Oak Hill; Ormond Beach; Ponce Inlet; and Port Orange. Call VCARD for details on the progress of any government.

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Densities for about 17 acres of valuable **beachside land** are being debated in **NEW SMYRNA BEACH**. City officials propose to down-zone the tracts for single family and duplex development to prevent the properties from later converting into high-rise condominiums that impact the existing single family neighborhoods. A down-zoning plan has been tentatively approved. But a final decision is pending, giving interested landowners and residents time to negotiate a potential compromise, higher densities within at least some of the properties.

New Smyrna Beach's land code has been amended, extending the time allowed for final plat approval to two years from the date of planning and zoning board approval, and changing the time allowed for extensions from one year to six months.

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A team of planners and interested citizens is working on a management plan to promote and preserve environmental and cultural structures and sites along more than 100 miles of west Volusia roadways that are part of the **RIVER OF LAKES HERITAGE CORRIDOR**. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has approved the Corridor Advocacy Group's (CAG) application for scenic highway designation along about 45 miles of US17 and US17-92 (from the St. Johns River to the Putnam County line). The initiative also includes numerous roads that branch from the highway through 15 towns and communities – Enterprise's Lakeshore Drive; CR4139 through Lake Helen and Cassadaga; SR44 through DeLand; SR11 between DeLand and Barberville; and CR3 through DeLeon Springs and Pierson.

... A consultant is helping to draft the management plan that also could promote standards to assure that future developments maintain the aesthetics and character of the scenic corridor.

... The CAG's web site www.river-of-lakes.com explains the initiative – as well as maps of the route, and sites and attractions within the corridor territory.

DELTONA and Volusia County officials have drafted **land use maps** to steer the types of future development within about 4,000 acres along SR415 toward **Osteen**, a rural unincorporated community east of Deltona. The two governments' planners have been working on the land use plan for two years, prompted by objections to Deltona's annexation of rural properties surrounding SR415 and extending toward Osteen. Some residents and county officials fear the subsequent residential and commercial development could encroach on the rural community's character. The new maps are an attempt to manage the growth by designating areas for commercial or residential development.

DELAND officials have adopted land code amendments regarding tree protection rules; site plan review procedures; and stormwater management.

~~ FLAGLER REPORT ~~

Despite the economic downturn, Flagler maintains the **high growth rankings** that it has been garnering during the past five years. A recent US Census Bureau report lists Flagler as **Florida's fastest growing county** between July 2006 and July 2007; and the **nation's sixth fastest growing county** between that time period – the only Florida county in the top 10 nationally. From 2003-2005, Flagler ranked as the nation's top county in growth, but has slipped in recent years, although still maintaining a top-ten status.

... Ironically, Flagler County also was recently distinguished as having Florida's **highest unemployment rate**, mainly due to the past two years' significant decrease in development and construction.

A 2007 annual report has been published by **PALM COAST's** community development department. The report summarizes **growth and development trends** within the city's particular geographic areas. It is geared to help Palm Coast officials project and service future growth with adequate infrastructure and facilities. The report's data covers general demographics, population estimates / projections, residential and non-residential development (construction completed, building permits issued, developments approved, and existing vacant lots), status of major developments, and information to benefit the planning of school facilities. Call VCARD to obtain a copy of this annual report.

Congratulations to **Catherine Robinson** who was elected mayor of **BUNNELL** in the January 29 election. Mayor Robinson previously served as the city's vice mayor and has been a city commissioner for 13 years. Mayor Robinson replaces Joann King who served as Bunnell mayor since 1994. (Term limits were added to the city's charter in 2004, prohibiting Ms. King from seeking re-election.)

... **Daisy Henry** and **Elbert Tucker** also were elected to the Bunnell City Commission.

BUNNELL's controversial proposed **rural land use amendment** continues being opposed by planners with the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Bunnell officials have been trying to resolve DCA planners' objections to the city's proposed density increases for vast agricultural areas that have been annexed into the city during the past several years. DCA officials say that increasing densities to one unit per acre (*instead of the current one unit per five acres density*) would promote urban sprawl and harm environmentally sensitive areas. They also have questioned Bunnell's ability to service the increased development.

... Bunnell officials worked more than a year to craft a revised land use amendment proposal that addressed the DCA's initial concerns and included proposed planning and services to preserve the environment and accommodate the growth. But DCA planners also have objected to the revised plan, saying it still would lead to sprawl. So Bunnell planners again are attempting to negotiate the problem areas.

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**BEVERLY BEACH's** sewage treatment will be greatly improved with a new wastewater management facility that county government has announced plans to build. Beverly Beach leaders have been trying to resolve the coastal town's sewage treatment problem for the past four years. Once complete, the plant also could facilitate servicing some surrounding areas.

~~ **VCARD / FCARD NEWS** ~~

**James A. Stowers**, an attorney in the land use department of **Cobb Cole**, has been certified by the US Green Building Council (USGBC) as a **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional** (LEED AP).

... LEED APs are building professionals who have demonstrated a thorough understanding of green building practices and principles and the LEED rating systems. Stowers is the first attorney in Volusia County to achieve the LEED AP certification.

... The LEED Green Building Rating System is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings. Projects receive one point toward certification when a LEED AP is part of the project team.

... Stowers received his J.D. from the University Of Florida Levin College Of Law and a Master of Arts in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Florida.

**Atlas Design Group's** focus on sustainable and low impact design philosophies was highlighted in a recent article of *The City Of Palm Coast Business Journal*. The Palm Coast-headquartered firm specializes in civil engineering and land planning.

The **ECS Group of Companies** is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Based in Chantilly, VA, the firm has grown to include branches throughout the Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, Carolinas, Illinois, Texas and Florida, including a new Lakeland office at 4175 S. Pipkin Road, Suite 104. The firm's Orlando location is 2815 Directors Row, Suite 500, Orlando, FL 32809 Phone: 407-859-8378 FAX: 407-859-9599 [www.ecslimited.com](http://www.ecslimited.com) ECS specializes in geotechnical, construction materials, environmental and facilities services.

**Ellis & Associates, Inc.** has been selected for contracts with St. Johns County and the Clay County School District -- providing services related to environmental, geotechnical and materials testing. Incorporated in 1970, E&A has more than 120 employees in a Georgia office and three Florida locations, including Ormond Beach. *The Jacksonville Business Journal* ranked E&A as one of the 50 *Fastest Growing Private Companies* in north Florida.

The central Florida-based environmental consulting and specialty engineering firm, **Nodarse & Associates, Inc.**, has been awarded a three-year contract to provide district-wide services for Seminole County public schools. Leading the effort for Nodarse is Professional Geologist **Mark Mulligan**, P.G.; and Environmental Engineer **Debra Harrington**, P.E.

The **PBSJ Foundation, Inc.** recently presented a \$50,000 check to the City of Orlando to assist with the *Parramore Kidz Zone (PKZ)*, a city program that links needy children from the Parramore neighborhood with educational opportunities.

... PBS&J provides infrastructure planning, engineering, construction management, architecture and program management services to public and private clients. The firm is ranked by *Engineering News-Record* as 25<sup>th</sup> among the nation's top consulting firms.

... The firm has been re-selected as one of two general consultants to help deliver the \$5 billion, five-year work program for Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE). PBS&J has served as FTE's general consultant since 1988.

... **Chuck Bell**, PE, PSM, has joined PBS&J as a senior project manager in the firm's civic engineering group. Mr. Bell has 20 years of land development experience in central Florida, including serving as project manager for the Baldwin Park redevelopment project in Orlando.

**... VCARD/FCARD Membership News ... continued from page 10**

Congratulations to **Lynn McCoy (Harpster Engineering & Surveying)** who recently was honored with the *Claire D. Hunter Leadership Award* from the Ormond Beach Chamber of Commerce. Lynn was honored for his community service and participation with VCARD, Ormond Beach city and chamber of commerce committees, and the Halifax River Yacht Club. ... Lynn recently was elected chairman of Ormond Beach's Planning Board for the next two years and he also is vice commodore of the Halifax River Yacht Club. He serves on the board of directors for both the Ormond Beach Chamber of Commerce and Ormond Main Street redevelopment agency.

**VCARD HEROES!** ... VCARD Members **Rob Merrell** (Cobb Cole Law Firm), **Andy Dance** (Andrew S. Dance & Associates) and **Curt Wimpee** (Atlas Design Group) were honored at a recent awards ceremony of the **Bunnell City Commission** for their **"heroic effort"** in rescuing Flagler County Doctor John Canakaris (also a member of the Flagler County Planning Board) who was trapped in his sinking, overturned car after it slid into a stormwater pond outside the county government services building. The accident occurred after a planning board meeting last October.

... At the awards ceremony, city and law enforcement officials praised the men's bravery for rushing into the pond in the dark of night, without knowing its depth ... or contents.

... Bunnell officials presented certificates to the VCARD rescue team along with Bunnell Police Sgt. Randy Burke who also helped with the rescue.

**Don't Forget!** VCARD's **GOLF TOURNAMENT 2008 is Friday, May 2**, beginning with a 1 p.m. 'shotgun' start at Victoria Hills Golf Club, DeLand

**... VCARD's last tournament was a sell-out** and a limited number of player slots are available for May 2. Call VCARD for information about player, foursome, or sponsorship reservations. We also welcome member firms to donate specialty items for tournament door prizes or player tote bags ... **a great way to promote your company!**

... Aside from benefitting our association, this year's tournament is raising funds for the **Stewart Marchman Center's Vince Carter Sanctuary**, a rehabilitation facility under construction in Bunnell to aid substance abuse patients.

... We thank Title Sponsor **Ajax Building Corporation** and the hard-working Tournament Committee, chaired by **Tony Bazile** (Sliger & Assoc.) and **John Wickert** (NAI Realvest).

Here is a list of **VCARD's other scheduled events** throughout 2008:

- **Wednesday, May 14** -- **'Overcoming Regulatory Barriers To Green Development,'** 9 a.m. to noon (lunch afterward) a program being co-sponsored with **Daytona Beach College** at the college's new Mori Hosseini Center on the Daytona Beach campus. *Details on page 3.*
- **Wednesday, June 4** -- VCARD's **Annual Awards and Installation Banquet**, 6:30 – 9 p.m., Sunset Harbor Yacht Club and Conference Center, 861 Ballough Road, Daytona Beach. Featuring a relaxed evening of *Perfect Martini Jazz!*
- **Wednesday, September 17** – VCARD's 22<sup>nd</sup> **Annual Icebreaker Reception**, 5 – 8 p.m., The Clubhouse at LPGA International, 1000 Champions Drive, Daytona Beach.
- **Thursday, October 2** – VCARD's **annual lunch workshop** with the Volusia County Council, noon to 1 p.m., county administration center, DeLand.