

VISIONS

A photograph of four women standing outdoors on a paved area next to a palm tree. The woman on the far left is wearing a bright pink short-sleeved blouse and black pants. The woman next to her is wearing a blue suit jacket and a matching blue skirt. The woman in the center is wearing a colorful striped short-sleeved top and black pants. The woman on the far right is wearing a black blazer over a black skirt. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. In the background, there is a palm tree, a paved road, and a building.

Future of the Region Edition 2003

The Winners:

The McIntosh

The Goldner

Breaking Ground on a New Era

A publication of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

Convening the region for 41 years

MISSION STATEMENT

To serve our citizens and member governments by providing a forum to foster communication, coordination and collaboration in identifying and addressing issues and needs regionally.

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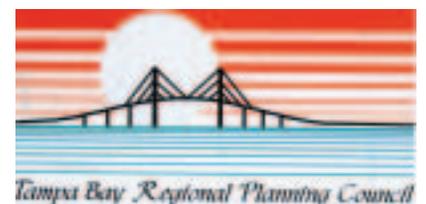
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BREAKING GROUND ON A NEW ERA

A 25,000-square-foot facility, under construction in Pinellas Park, will soon be home to the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and its tenant, Help A Child, Inc.

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is breaking ground on a new era! On May 12, 2003, TBRPC Council Members and staff, City of Pinellas Park officials and staff of Help A Child, Inc., gathered at the site of the future home of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC).

The TBRPC has leased office space for 27 years from Koger Equity, Inc. Two years ago, with anticipation of a lease renewal, the Council began to look at various ownership options.

“This project has encompassed three Chairmanships and will be completed with a fourth,” said TBRPC Chair, Commissioner Barbara Sheen Todd. “This process began under the leadership of former Mayor Pat Whitesel, of the City of Palmetto, and continued with the leadership of former Councilman Jerry King, of the City of Temple Terrace. It has been a pleasure for me to continue with this important endeavor.” Commissioner Steve Simon of Pasco County will oversee the project to completion in January 2004.

Located in Gateway Corporate Centre Park, the 25,000 square foot facility will be home to the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and its tenant, Help A Child, Inc.

“We are very excited about the project and the many partners which have made the new facility a reality,” said Executive Director Manny Pumariega. “This project would not have been possible without the support of our member governments. We are also grateful to our new neighbors, the City of Pinellas Park and our new tenants, Help A Child, Inc.” ❖





At a glance

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council will occupy 10,400 sq. ft
 Help A Child, Inc. will lease approximately 14,000 sq. ft.
 On-site parking for approximately 150
 Boardroom capacity of up to 150 with retractable walls for two separate meeting facilities
 Additional Executive Boardroom
 Separate public access to Boardroom to allow for public usage.

Key players

Real Estate Broker:	Colliers Arnold, Inc.
Financed by:	Northern Trust
Civil Engineer:	Northside Engineering
General Contractor:	Gary Sepsi
Architects:	Hoffman and Associates Harvard, Jolly, Clees, Toppe
Contractor:	Bandes Construction Company, Inc.

At the ground-breaking: Opposite page, top – Current TBRPC members and officers join former TBRPC chairs Pat Whitesel and Jerry King; below – Officials of the City of Pinellas Park join current Mayor William Mischler and former Mayor and TBRPC Chair Armand “Sandy” Burke in the celebration; This page, top – TBRPC staff and Executive Director Manny Pumariega; center – Help A Child, Inc. Staff and Executive Director Ms. Patsy Buker; below Project consultants join Roger Tucker, TBRPC counsel.

THE McINTOSH AWARD

This year's principal Future of the Region award winner is the dynamic renaissance of Clearwater's North Greenwood, a community whose time is long from passed.

The Charles A. McIntosh, Jr Award of Distinction this year goes to a model of innovation, the North Greenwood community in Clearwater, which is in the process of being transformed.

And in the process, it has been a model for public-private partnerships both in spirit and financially.

It was a neighborhood that was lagging economically, with a run-down apartment complex and little aesthetic or cultural landmarks. Now an attractive village is rising like flowers in springtime.

First there's the North Greenwood Recreation and Aquatic Complex, a state-of-the-art fitness facility with a double gymnasium, fitness center, teen lounge, recording studio and a popular water playground featuring a water slide and diving area as well as a competition-ready pool.

Add to that a new library, opened in mid-January 2003 with soaring architectural features, as well as an African-American collection, a computer training and a meeting room for 100 people. More than \$100,000 in private donations showed the private as well as public commitment to the \$1.3- million project.

Nearly completed is the renovation of the North Greenwood Apartments, a Key West-style rehab of 1950s apartments that makes a mark as a polished neighborhood. The renovations come courtesy of a partnership between Bank of America and Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services. At a cost of \$14-million, 192 units are being completely renovated.

And also nearing completion is another very public improvement, the transformation of N. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. The main thoroughfare of the neighborhood all but invites residents to put on their sneakers and walk the lovely street, enhanced by lush landscaping, decorative street lights, an elegant roundabout that slows traffic, better sidewalks and benches to give the invited pedestrians a break.

Part of the reason the change is so dramatic is all these projects came to fruition within the same two-year period, and they interconnect, notes Ken Sides an engineer for



At a North Greenwood median, City of Clearwater development services officials Jeff Kronschnabl, left, and Bob Hall, right, flank from left: Roxanne Amoroso, Bank of America; W. Pearl Johnson, chairwoman of Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. board; Marybeth Storts, Bank of America; and Isay Gulley, CNHS president and CEO.

Tying the separate elements of housing, streetscapes and recreation, "sends a message of community rebirth."

– Isay Gulley, President, CEO of Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc.



McIntosh Winner: North Greenwood, Clearwater.

the city of Clearwater who managed the traffic-calming project.

The apartments are more inviting to families, who would take advantage of the library and recreation center. By making an intersection easier on pedestrians that slowed traffic down, "the children, most of whom live north of the intersection, can reach the library and the recreation center that are to the south of the intersection.

"The idea was to provide safe crossings," Sides said.

Isay Gulley, president and CEO of Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services (CNHS), noted that by tying the separate elements of housing, streetscapes and recreation, "it sends a message of community rebirth." Though she can recall the headaches of road closures and having to shuffle tenants around while the apartments were being renovated, she can recommend to other agencies that the payoff of a dramatic change seemingly all at once is worth the trouble.

"It's a lot of challenges that come with the impact of so many things at once, but the reward when it was all done, oh, everyone just welcomed the change," Gulley said.

"And the greatest part about having them close together

is you can get excited about the newness of it. At the same time all the partners can take part and all feel proud and take credit for their part in it."

The change in the neighborhood is getting noticed on a national level as well. In May, CNHS won a coveted \$50,000 grant from the Fannie Mae Foundation for leading the effort to revamp the Greenwood Apartments. The Maxwell Award of Excellence was given to six nonprofit housing agencies this year. CNHS' prize was for "affordable housing preservation."

It's the kind of redevelopment that is more than paint and sidewalks, it's changing a neighborhood mind-set, said long-time resident Lillie Henry, 47, who was among the determined group of neighbors who helped push the changes.

"It seems like a bright shiny day when you walk around the neighborhood now," Henry said. "It's like the colors are different."

Now she is working on her neighbors to fix up their houses and yards to match the community's newfound pride.

"We still have a long way to go," Henry said, "but you have to crawl before you can walk." ❖

THE GOLDNER AWARD

The Herman W. Goldner Award winner, County Commissioner Bob Stewart, has been fulfilling for decades what he believes in: “You can make a difference in the community.”

The scene could not have been better scripted by a Hollywood writer: Bob Stewart, Pinellas County commissioner, receives the very first award for regional leadership, an award named for former four-term St. Petersburg Mayor Herman Goldner, who was also founder of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.

And Goldner, now retired to Virginia Beach, Va., sat in the audience as Stewart was so honored. These two old political allies, and older friends, were there to celebrate the council’s 40th year and Stewart’s inaugural award.

Goldner and Stewart have ancient roots, by Pinellas County standards. It was Goldner’s campaign for the U.S. Senate Republican primary, in the late 1960s, that first lured Stewart into politics. At the time, Stewart was director of public relations for Florida Presbyterian (now Eckerd) College.

“Herman was my attorney,” Stewart recalls. “I asked for a leave of absence so I could work on his campaign.”

Goldner lost. “We fought an uphill battle and didn’t prevail,” Stewart recalls. “That sort of got me into politics. It made me very frustrated to see a man of intelligence and integrity fighting a campaign in a partisan structure.

“Herman had a regional perspective on issues that wasn’t very popular then,” Stewart notes. “It had a great influence on my outlook and my participation in the policy arena.”

Stewart has successfully enjoyed several careers so far in his life. Before coming to St. Petersburg, he worked three years with Rollins College in Orlando, and then was an on-air reporter for an Orlando TV station, even a sportswriter for the *Orlando Sentinel*.

Once Stewart began his 36-year political career, he hasn’t looked back. He was first elected to the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners in 1994. In November 2000, he was re-



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Stewart has held a variety of assignments and board appointments – from chairing the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to participating in the county’s 2010 Visioning Task Force to chairing the Tampa Bay Water Authority.

Stewart served as a member of the St. Petersburg City Council from 1985 to 1994, including two years as vice mayor. He has served as past chair of both the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and the Area Agency on Aging.

He is even known as “Mr. Baseball” for his efforts in pursuit of Tropicana Field and the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. He could also be called “Mr. Orchestra” and “Mr. Suncoast Tiger Bay Club” since he helped found both.



As former president and CEO of the St. Petersburg Family YMCA, Stewart spent a decade as vice president of marketing for Landmark Union Trust Bank (now Bank of America).

In all that time, Stewart widened his perspective of his community. His view is regional, not provincial. "In one sense, you're elected by constituents in a specific county to serve the needs of that county," he notes. But often, your decisions involve multi-communities. As chair of the Tampa Bay Water Authority, for example, Stewart must meet and negotiate with officials from a number of municipal and county entities.

"Sometimes you have to take positions that aren't necessarily popular with the home-based constituents in order to provide service for the region," he says. For example, the newly opened \$110-million desalination plant will benefit an entire region of the west coast of Florida while providing 25-million gallons of potable water a day.

So how does he manage to do all this? "It's just a matter of managing your time and making a commitment to these things," he observes..

Stewart says he has enough on



his plate right at the moment. There is the ongoing challenge of "battling issues with the (state) Legislature that gives us unfunded mandates. I'm not looking for other mountains to climb. I've got plenty of hills to work with."

And there's never really a sense of closure in politics, Stewart acknowledges. "Issues always pile up behind you. (But) you can make a difference in the life of a community. You are helping to create these priorities and seeing these priorities completed.

"That's the special thing. I think that's what drives me." ❖



HONORING NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT

The winners at the 11th annual Future of The Region Awards are making innovative changes that are elevating the quality of life in the Tampa Bay region.

Mark DeLillo likes to think of Tampa Bay Harvest (TBH), as a charity of “foodraisers not fundraisers.”

With 1,130 local volunteers scouting out leftover or sale-dated food from grocery stores, hospitals, schools, restaurants and hotels, it’s all about feeding the hungry. Fruit, vegetables, baked goods, even banquet meals headed for the Dumpster now heap the plates of the area’s homeless and poor.

DeLillo, a board member for the Tampa Bay chapter of the international charity, is just happy to know food isn’t going to waste. “We’re so unique because we’re not begging for money, but instead taking food that would otherwise go in

the garbage and getting it to the people who need it the most,” DeLillo. “There are thousands and thousands of hungry people out there.”

Volunteers deliver the items – often perishable – with pizza-delivery speed to 200 local charities that serve the needy. That’s 36 million pounds delivered since 1989, when TBH was founded in the Tampa Bay area. Their efforts earned them a first-place Future of the Region community service award from the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.

Tampa Bay Harvest was one of six organizations honored at the 11th annual awards ceremony, which honored notable achievement in resource planning and management in the Tampa Bay area.

Other first-place winners included Tampa Bay Water lauded for its Master Water Plan – a drinking water supply plan that shifts supply to areas of greatest need – and the Southwest Florida Water Management District, which took home high honors for a water conservation kit that also teaches K-3 students better reading skills.

This year’s event, a luncheon, was held at the historic Belleview Biltmore Resort and Spa in Clearwater. Presentations were made by Pasco County Commissioner, Steve Simon, who kept the audience laughing as plaques were presented and pictures snapped.

DeLillo decided to enter the competition as a way of getting the word out about his organization – one of the “best kept secrets” locally.

A Future of the Region award is important because it sheds light on his charity. Hiring a public relations specialist is simply out of the question, he said. To stay within its budget, TBH has only one paid staffer, a full-time executive director, who works from home.

It is essentially a “virtual organization,” with no office, secretary or overhead. All services go directly to the needy. Their largest donor is Publix.

DeLillo, who serves on the all-volunteer 20-member board of directors, is a commercial insurance broker by trade. He estimates the value of the salvaged food at \$1.50 a pound. That’s about \$7 million yearly that would have otherwise been spent to purchase food for the hungry.

He hopes that the money saved



Community Service Winner: Tampa Bay Harvest.

will help pay for the kinds of services local charities need the most: schooling, job-training, day care and medical care. Whatever you do, he says, don't write them a check. "If somebody walked up and said here's \$100, I'd tell them to drive to Publix and buy a bag of food."



A few of this year's Future of the Region Award winners also included:

Bloomingtondale Biology Honors Tampa Bay Restoration Project:

On April 12, 2002, a team of Bloomingtondale High School biology honor students planted the 100,000th plug of *Spartina alterniflora* – also known as smooth cordgrass – into Tampa Bay.

"We happen to be in a unique place – a coastal community in an environmentally sensitive state," says science teacher Charles Tommelleo, who along with fellow science teachers, Mike DePaul and Diane Huber run the school's popular science program.

"Rather than just learning



Environmental Winner: Bloomingtondale High School.

through books, students also learn by application," he says. "There's a tie there, a link, when you're putting your own (effort) into the bay."

The project, which has spanned a decade and involved a generation of high-school students, is different from other similar local high-school projects because of Bloomingtondale's strong science curriculum. The school is situated on 13 wetland acres with a half-mile hiking trail and a

cluster of environmental buildings – including a domed science center - where students cultivate their own plants.

Bloomingtondale students have been running the school-sponsored nursery since 1992, the year they first brought the cordgrass as well as mangrove plugs to E.G. Simmons State Park. The school is allowed to gather seeds annually from state-protected mangroves and grasses.

The program provides a school business as well as a partnership with local government, parents and the business community. Cargill Fertilizer, a founding partner, paid for tools, educational materials and construction supplies.

Tampa Bay Watch also joined forces with the high school to help produce estuary grasses. Once again this year, they transplanted about 6,000 salt marsh plugs and 4,000 mangrove seedlings into the bay, bringing fish, wildlife and wetland back to the shoreline.

Supporters of the program believe that it has been effective because it not only teaches students about environmental issues, but it also makes them feel like they were part of a process that

Continued on Page 14



Development Winner: NetPark Tampa Bay.

Scenes from the Future of The Region Awards Luncheon



Scenes from the Future of The Region Awards Luncheon





Cultural, Sports and Entertainment Winner: Florida African-American Heritage Celebration.

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helped restore Tampa Bay.

“We want to empower them,” says Tommelleo. “We want them to feel like they were part of the solution.”



Florida African American Heritage Celebration:

Imagine a festival of song, movies and stories – free to anyone wanting to roam around and explore. This year’s Florida African American Heritage Celebration also brought the rare feature films of the one-and-only African-American singing cowboy, Herb Jeffries to Largo’s Pinewood Cultural Park.

The festival, sponsored by Pinellas County and The Pinellas County African American History Museum took home top honors in the Future of the Region Award’s cultural category. “It takes a lot to make something of this magnitude happen and be successful,” said Ronnie Goodstein, director of public affairs for Pinellas County.

The festival was held in February at Pinewood Cultural Park in Largo. It was successful because of its diversity of offerings for the public. Storytellers spun tales for children and adults. Gospel singers, jazz and blues musicians as well as traditional African drummers and dancers added their unique energy to the event. The festival also featured traditional arts and crafts, ethnic foods as well as an appearance by the acclaimed Boys’ Choir of Tallahassee. The award is important to the festival, Goodstein said, because “it helps to create exposure and have more people excited about it.”



Netpark.Tampabay:

The creators of this workplace pride themselves in offering employees a little humanity. Daycare, copying, banking and mail services help save an hour or more of errands a day – especially during the noon or after-work rush hour. A fitness center, outdoor nature trail and a food court – reminiscent of the days when this building was Tampa’s old Eastlake mall – make it hard not to appreciate some of the amenities.

The building is most notable, however, for what you don’t see. Among other things, it’s outfitted with looped fiber



Infrastructure Winner: Tampa Bay Water..



Public Education Winner: Swiftmud.

optics and a redundant power supply to make sure that workflow is never interrupted. The building is even pre-wired for new telecommunications technology that we haven’t even heard of yet.

The design is the work of the firm Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum (HOK), which shepherded the building from a one-million square-foot mall to a high-tech office facility. NetPark.Tampabay received the top award in the Future of the Region Awards development category. ◆



Great Explorations gets new home

Great Explorations is a place where you can be creative, make discoveries and have fun.

You can launch a tennis ball to the top of the museum, race a car, become a computer animator, sail a ship, have a party, join a workshop, or just hang out in the coolest place in St. Pete.

Great things to do:

- ❖ Float a ball
- ❖ Play with sound
- ❖ Try a lie detector
- ❖ Be a pirate
- ❖ Build a tower
- ❖ Sing a song
- ❖ Have a laugh
- ❖ Create a movie
- ❖ Sail a ship
- ❖ Climb a wall
- ❖ Design a pizza

Great Explorations has something for everyone in a safe space where kids (and adults!) can be kids.

In the brand new museum next to Sunken Gardens you can relax, learn and have a great time doing things you can't do anywhere else.

All the exhibits at Great Explorations are brand new and kid-tested for optimum fun and fascination, and they are located right next door to Sunken Gardens, just north of downtown St. Petersburg, so visitors can enjoy an entire day of fun.

Great Explorations is open Monday — Saturday, 10am to 4:30pm Sunday, 12:00pm to 4:30pm

How much does it cost? Children 2 and under ... No charge Children 3-11...\$7.00 Seniors...\$7.00 Everybody else... \$8.00.

Group rates and memberships are available. Call for details about the price and scheduling of field trips and special events. Allow two hours for a great visit. Great Explorations accepts AE, MC and Visa.

Contact Information: 1925 Fourth St. N St. Petersburg, FL 33704 (727) 821-8992 Fax: (727) 823-7287. On the Web at www.greatexplorations.org

SunPass express lanes open in October

TAMPA -- Florida's Turnpike will open the first "SunPass Only" Express Lanes at the Suncoast Parkway's Anclote Mainline Toll Plaza, on Wednesday, October 30, at 6 a.m.

These "SunPass Only" lanes will provide convenience to SunPass customers, allowing them to travel at posted highway speeds around the outside of the mainline toll facility on the Suncoast Parkway, without going through the toll plaza or stopping to pay a toll.

The "SunPass Only" Express Lanes feature an electronic toll-collection system that utilizes overhead electronic readers, installed on 100-foot wide monotube spans.

Other SunPass System features include:

- Two northbound and two southbound express lanes. Passing is permitted.

- Express lanes diverge from and merge back into mainline Suncoast Parkway traffic.



Safety is most important. Motorists without SunPass, who have mistakenly entered the express lanes, should proceed with the normal traffic flow. **DO NOT STOP TO REPORT THE ERROR. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO MAKE A U-TURN.** Please call the SunPass Service Center's toll-free number if you entered the "SunPass Only" Express Lanes in error, 1-888-TOLL-FLA (1-888-865-5352).

The SunPass transponder, the size of a garage door opener, attaches to the car windshield, behind the rear-view mirror. Tolls are electronically deducted from a prepaid account as drivers travel through the express lanes.

The cost of a SunPass transponder is \$25.00 plus tax. A one-time \$25.00 prepaid toll deposit is required when the account is opened. SunPass customers then replenish their accounts when a low balance is reached.

SunPass makes driving throughout Florida easy. Motorists with SunPass may also qualify for toll discounts.

Purchase SunPass by calling 1-888-TOLL-FLA or using the Web site: www.SunPass.com.

MyTBI.com web site can be your friend

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Web site for interstate construction in the Tampa Bay area, www.myTBI.com, has the usual items one might expect from a transportation web site. General project information, photos, safety tips, press releases and more are available.

In addition, the site offers you the opportunity to sign up for a free e-mail service to receive project updates, closure news, and other information to help you make informed decisions regarding your commute.

Getting caught in a detour or lane closure can be very frustrating when you have little time to spare. As major interstate construction continues in the area, FDOT suggests that its Web site and e-mail service should become a couple of your best friends. Either by receiving the e-mail updates or logging in to view more specific project news and closures,



their web offerings are designed to keep you updated so you're not caught off guard.

MyTBI.com also offers closure information via Wireless Application Protocol, or WAP.

This technology allows you to use your mobile phone or other wireless devices such as personal digital assistants to receive information anywhere in your coverage area. Point your WAP browser to <http://mytbi.com/wap> and bookmark this location for news on the go.

FDOT's web site for the Interstate 4 projects in the Tampa Bay area was among the first of its kind in the nation, incorporating new web technology to deliver the news you needed then.

MyTBI.com has some of the same features that were originally offered, plus it takes advantage of newer web technology to allow them to keep information fresh and useful and deliver it to you timely.

What is the economic analysis program?

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) utilizes economic analysis to help communities and organizations predict how policy changes or economic events (activities) affect the economy.

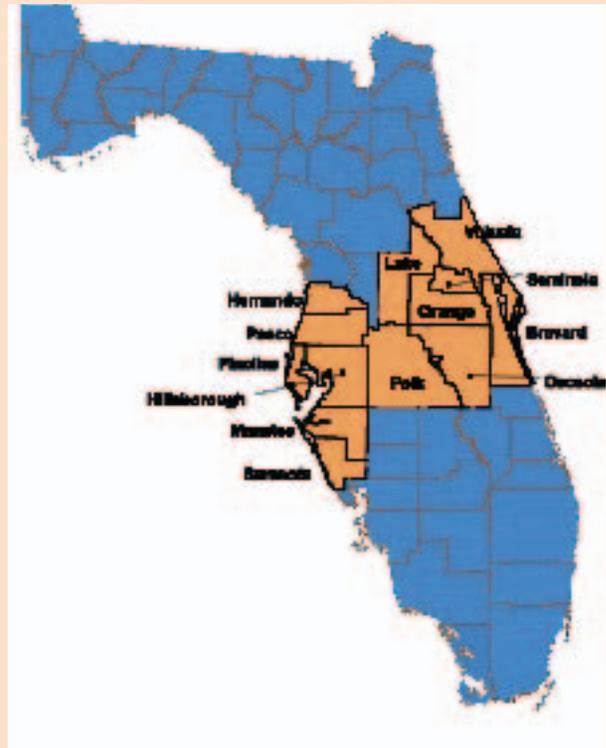
Some of the typical event impacts studied are business expansions, startups, closings, new housing sub-divisions, use of economic development incentives, and changes in inter-governmental revenues. An economic impact analysis traces spending through the local economy and measures the cumulative effects of that spending.

The most common measure of economic impact is the number of jobs created or lost, but other measures include personal income, business production, value added and tax collection.

“The Economic Analysis Program provides critical information for governments, economic development agencies, chambers of commerce, service organizations, policy makers, public interest groups and businesses,” said Avera Wynne, TBRPC Planning Director.

The Economic Analysis Program employs a number of tools to provide the community with high quality and low cost analysis. Our tools include: strong data sources in the Regional Information Center, IMPLAN® (a basic input/output model), REMI Policy Insight® (a highly sophisticated econometric model), and extensive staff training.

The program is continually seeking ways to better serve the community. The new REMI Policy Insight® 5.3 is a 14 region



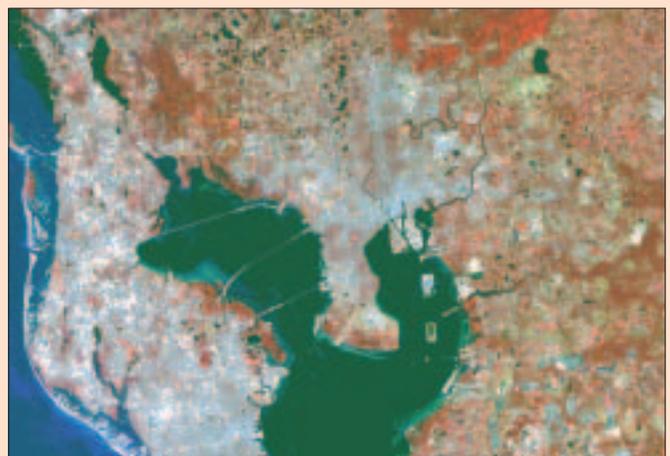
model; it includes not only the 4 counties that make up the council, but Hernando, Polk, and Sarasota counties.

These seven counties make up the Tampa Bay Partnership and by adding them TBRPC is better able to serve the greater Tampa Bay region. The new version also includes the six counties that comprise the Orlando Metro area, i.e., Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, and Volusia counties.

Spatial growth modeling

The first phase of development for the Council’s Spatial Growth Model is complete. Staff now has the capacity to run alternative scenarios on future land development patterns in the Tampa Bay region. The model provides a visual depiction of the impacts that written policy will have on the built environment. Example scenarios include: the status quo; redevelopment and infill; preservation/conservation of natural resources; infrastructure maximization; and disaster events.

The model is being constructed as four county nested models for analysis of individual counties and a region wide model for regional analysis. Staff and Council members alike are excited. “I think the Tampa Bay area is ripe for having this type of tool for the policy-makers. We could use this to look at water resources, development patterns, social services, economic



development – there’s no limit to the variables we could use.” stated Council Chair Barbara Sheen Todd. On the web at www.tbrpc.org/spatialgrowth.

Small business survival kit available in CD form

Council received additional funds through the state's Florida Prepares Program to prepare and distribute the new Business Disaster Planning Kit statewide.

The Kit, an interactive CDROM and guidebook, is being updated to include new guidance to assist businesses to prepare for technological, as well as natural, hazards.

There is renewed interest in disaster planning with recent national and world events.

Businesses know that to stay in business the business owner must prepare for all types of emergencies, from power outages to terrorist strikes to sabotage and violence in the workplace.

"A solid business continuity plan is the first line of defense," stated Manny Pumariega, Executive Director, TBRPC.

While the CDROM is targeted toward small businesses, those with 50 employees or fewer, it is not just for small business. Traditionally, large corporations with sophisticated Business Continuity Plans



(BCP's) will focus on their Information Technology (IT) functions. While protecting their information and data bases is a critical function, many will overlook the even more crucial component, the human element.

"The human assets – employees, clients

and customers – are the most valuable assets." explains Holley Wade, Business Continuity Planning Manager with Hillsborough County Emergency Management. "The Kit will bring it all together."

Distributing the CDROM statewide will involve the creation of regional business alliances across the state. TBRPC will subcontract with the ten other Florida Regional Councils to establish these working committees.

The committees will review all materials, provide local emergency management perspectives and plans and get the word out through the Internet, business alliances and chambers of commerce seminars and expos.

"Basically, we're kicking this project up a notch," stated Betti Johnson, TBRPC Project Manager. "More than 50,000 copies will be distributed."

The summer of COOPs and COGs

A sudden emergency such as an explosion, fire, tornado or hazardous material contamination could severely disrupt the ability of a local government to function and provide essential services. What can be done if an agency's facility were destroyed or determined to be uninhabitable? Is there a plan in place to immediately relocate to an alternate facility and



continue normal business functions? What about communications? Where are the back-up data and vital records? Well if there isn't a plan currently in place, all Florida counties and many municipalities will have this type of plan in the near future.

The Continuity of Government (COG) Plan identifies the chain of command if leaders/managers are injured or killed or, simply, out of town. A Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) is an emergency plan that describes how an agency will resume operations after an emergency or loss of services such as water or power at their key facilities. Currently, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is working with Pasco County as well as the cities of Plant City and Temple Terrace to develop a COOP/COG for each of their critical services funded by the Florida Division of Emergency Management. The critical services include:

Emergency Management, EMS, 911, Fire Rescue, Law Enforcement, and Public Works. Through the COOP process, specialized plans for essential functions will be developed and strategies to reduce the risk and maximize the ability of these critical services to respond to the emergency will be identified.

The COOP plans take an "all-hazards" approach. While the COOP could be implemented following a hurricane if the storm seriously damaged or destroyed the facility, we also need to be able to put it into action if a fire or explosion takes out the police station with no warning. Rather than a hurricane, we use the Oklahoma City incident as a point of discussion - sudden destruction, no warning. "The COOP is designed to help our communities get back on-line and enable them to resume essential services and emergency operations for their residents as soon as possible," stated Manny Pumariega, Executive Director.

COOPs and COGs are due to the State by April 2004.

First Responder Training

The Tampa Bay Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) receives approximately \$24,000 annually in Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness program grant funds from the U.S. Department of Transportation, passed through the Division of Emergency Management in Tallahassee.

Each LEPC, through its Training Subcommittees, determines where training needs are greatest. In recent months the bulk of the training has gone to hospital emergency room and security/safety personnel in the form of hazardous materials Awareness and Operations Training, a 3-day course which starts with the basics and concludes with decontamination exercises. Students must actually wear the personal protective equipment (PPE) and exercise knowing what constraints they would face in a real emergency and having to work under such conditions.

Training is also provided to fire, law enforcement, emergency medical service technicians, and public utilities workers, all of whom could become "first responders" if they were first upon a hazardous materials incident. All training is coordinated through the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council LEPC staff.

EPCRA Compliance

A prime function of the Tampa Bay Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is to ensure that all facilities possessing hazardous materials comply with the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), federal and state law, to register their chemical inventories annually.

To assist in this process, LEPC staff conducts How-to-Comply Workshops during the first quarter of each year for any facilities needing assistance in completing the annual paperwork. This year 16 workshops were held in Hillsborough,

Manatee, Pasco and Pinellas Counties. A specialized presentation was also made at Essilor Lenses in St. Petersburg. The presentation was tele-conferenced to their facilities in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Massachusetts -- the first "nationally broadcast" compliance training by LEPC staff. While state laws on compliance vary slightly, the basic federal legislation must be followed. These workshops were all successful in assisting facilities to meet their filing deadlines.

Disaster assistance

Picking up the pieces of your life or your job after a disaster is difficult. The recovery period you endure is usually long and arduous, even after the disaster has long since disappeared. Imagine if you had the



foresight and the money to make the preparations necessary to reinforce your home before the disaster. By doing this you would save thousands of dollars on repairs that could suddenly creep up after a storm. Now imagine that you have the ability to prepare a plan for your entire county in preparation for a disaster.

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council along with Hillsborough and Manatee counties are working to prevent the damage brought on by a disaster and to provide a safer community for you and your family.

After a disaster, our area would receive disaster assistance from the local and fed-

eral governments. In accordance to a new federal regulation, to continue to receive disaster assistance, every county in every state must design a Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS).

Locally, this new plan is a requirement in order for our cities to receive disaster assistance. After November 1, 2003, in order for a county or municipality to be eligible for funding under the Pre-disaster Mitigation Program (PDM), the LMS must be approved and in place as a working document.

With the development of the LMS, cities and counties will; save lives and property by being prepared for a natural disaster, receive more post disaster funding through pre-arranged mitigation projects, and save money because the cost of mitigation are less than the cost of recovery and rebuilding.

RMP Audits

Facilities throughout the nation possessing hazardous materials above identified thresholds, which can be released into the atmosphere, such as chlorine gas or anhydrous ammonia gas, etc., must complete and file with the U.S. Environmental Protection Commission a Risk Management Plan (RMP). It becomes the responsibility of the states to audit these plans to ensure compliance. In the Tampa Bay area two recent audits were successfully conducted at the City of Clearwater Wastewater Treatment Plant and in Tampa at the Clorox Company.

For 2003-04, the Division of Emergency Management has identified 34 facilities statewide, of which 10 are in the Tampa Bay area. Facilities for audit are prioritized based upon a number of criteria to include accidental release histories, size of chemical inventories, proximity to populated areas, etc. LEPC staff assists in the audits and provides facilities with follow-up assistance and information as required.

Meet the officers

CHAIR



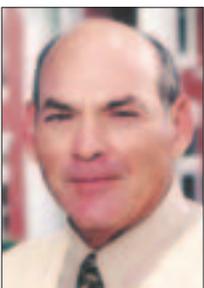
Barbara Sheen Todd, TBRPC Chair, needs no introduction to the majority of Tampa Bay residents. She is the former Chair of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners with an extensive background of public service. She has been elected County Commissioner, District 5, for four terms, and was elected County Commissioner, District 2, in 1996.

Commissioner Todd is a member and Past Chair of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Planning Board. She also holds memberships in the following organizations: Pinellas Planning Council, Pinellas Arts Council, and the Tampa Bay Child Safety Task Force (Past Chair).

Barbara Sheen Todd's other public service includes the United States Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations (appointed by former President Bush), National Association of Counties (NACo) (Past President), Women Officials of NACo (Past President), and the Florida League of Cities (Board of Directors), to name a few.

Commissioner Todd attended Florida State University, she has three children and three grandchildren, and has been a resident of Pinellas County for over 30 years.

VICE CHAIR



Steve Simon, TBRPC Vice Chair, was elected to the Pasco County Commission in 1998. He served as Vice-Chair in 2000 and Chair in 2001. He is a member of the Clean Fuel Florida Advisory Board, the Metropolitan Planning Organization and former member of Tampa Bay Water.

Commissioner Simon is a licensed

real estate and mortgage broker and has taught adult education courses for state licensing in insurance, securities, mortgage brokerage, real estate and appraising for over 20 years.

Commissioner Simon's community service includes serving as president of the Nature's Hideaway Homeowners Association for four years. He has also served as treasurer and board member of the West Pasco Girls Softball Association. He volunteers as coach and umpire for girl's softball.

Commissioner Simon attended Queens College and has been married to Lillian Simon for over 28 years; they have two daughters. The Simons moved to Florida from New York City over 25 years ago.

SECRETARY/TREASURER



Jane W. von Hahmann, TBRPC Secretary/Treasurer, is serving her first term as a Manatee County Commissioner. She was Third Vice Chair during 2001 and 2002. She has served as the First Vice Chair of the Civic Center Authority and Chair of the Manatee County Port Authority.

Other affiliations include the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Manatee River Fair Board, and the Environmental Lands Management & Acquisition Committee (ELMAC).

Commissioner von Hahmann's community involvement includes the District 3 Advisory Board, SAC at Sugg Middle School (Chair 1999/2000) and Cortez Waterfronts Florida (Chair).

A graduate of the University of Central Florida, she is a native Floridian, and is married with three sons. She is also an active member of Saint Peter and Paul Catholic Church, for which she serves as a choir member, a liturgical reader and a Eucharistic minister.

Regional Directory – a goldmine of contacts

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council produces an annual publication called the Regional Directory of the Tampa Bay Region.

The Directory contains phone numbers, addresses, website addresses, departments, and contact persons in local and state government. The Directory also includes news media listings,



chambers of commerce, election information, and environmental agencies.

The Directory will be available in mid-June and can be purchased for \$15.00 per copy through the Council's Regional Information Center.

If you would like a copy of the regional directory, please send your name and address, or your e-mail address, to jessica@tbrpc.org.

Corps of Engineers to study harbor projects

“General Re-evaluation” studies are under way to examine historic, existing and future port conditions and all federally-authorized navigation projects. The results will determine if alterations are needed to improve safety and efficiency of vessel operation. Tampa Bay’s ship channels can’t quite accommodate Panamax vessels - the largest capable of using the Panama Canal. This size is the most economical for transporting commodities throughout the Gulf and beyond. Since the channels are narrow, when Fantasy-class cruise vessels, anhydrous ammonia carriers and liquid propane vessels are in the channel, no other ships can meet or pass them. Additionally, there are no emergency



anchorage to handle ships in distress. The Port of St. Petersburg plans to become more active in the commercial and cruise market but is hindered by undersized access channels. These circumstances, along with future port plans, will be

evaluated during the next two to three years. Input is being received from the ports, commercial/industrial shippers, harbor pilots and environmental resource managers.

Tampa Bay is getting better ... YOU CAN HELP!



Reel in your tarpon tag today and help keep Tampa Bay on the road to recovery. Please request a Tampa Bay Estuary license tag the next time you renew your auto registration. Be a part of an environmental success story—the restoration of Florida’s largest open-water estuary. When it comes time to renew your car, motor home or boat trailer license plate, or even before, choose the Tampa Bay Estuary specialty plate. You will be contributing directly to projects that restore Tampa Bay’s natural habitats and improve water quality—ensuring the survival of inhabitants like the spectacular Silver King Tarpon that’s pictured on the plate.

Tarpon illustration by Russ Sirmons

Who are we and what we do

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council offers a wide variety of services and products. Can we provide a service to you?

Among the services and programs the Council offers: economic modeling and analysis; community visioning and charette planning; spatial growth modeling; environmental technical assistance and analysis; hurricane and hazard preparedness planning; the official Hurricane Guide; the Small Business Disaster Kit; GIS mapping; and technical assistance to local governments.

Our Regional Information Center is open to the public from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. weekdays. The center serves as a Florida State Data Center; official U.S. Census affiliate; provides technical Assistance; and is a clearinghouse for technical assistance and administrative materials related to planning and development in the Tampa Bay Region.

TBRPC Programs and Staff Contacts
727/570-5151
www.tbrpc.org

Agency on Bay Management
Suzanne Cooper, Principal Planner, x240

Community Visioning
Gerald Smelt, Principal Planner, x288

Developments of Regional Impact (DRI)
John Meyer, Principal Planner, x255

Economic Analysis Program
Angela Hurley, Planner, x257

Emergency Preparedness and Planning: Hurricane Guide, Small Business Disaster Kit
Betti Johnson, Principal Planner, x242

Regional Information Center
Jessica White, Research Planner, x278

Tampa Bay Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
Bill Lofgren, Principal Planner, x248

Public Information
Wren McAllister, Manager of Administrative Services/Public Information, x221

Agendas go high-tech

We have updated Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council meeting agendas to include links to specific reports for individual agenda items. Readers can now go on our Web site, www.tbrpc.org, view various Council meeting agendas, and click on the link to a particular report.

If someone has further questions regarding an agenda item, the on-line agendas now include email links to the appropriate staff contact.

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Avera Wynne, Planning Director
Roger S. Tucker, General Counsel
Wren McAllister, Editor

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- 215 Avera Wynne Planning Director
- 251 Roger Tucker General Counsel
- 242 Betti Johnson Principal Planner, Emergency Mgmt - Hurricane
- 248 Bill Lofgren Principal Plan. LEPC Sara III-Haz.Mat.
- 217 Bobbi Jaroy Secretary (Planning)
- 222 Dave Brawley Graphics Press Operator
- 288 Gerald Smelt Principal Planner, Gov't Services Coordinator
- 212 Greg Miller Planner
- 273 Rebeca Searcey Planner
- 278 Jessica White Research Planner
- 214 John Jacobsen Accounting Manager
- 280 Nancy Harrison Accounting
- 238 Karen Wilfong Payroll/Accounts Payable
- 255 John Meyer Principal Planner, DRI Coord. and IC&R Coord.
- 213 Lori Denman Secretary (Administration)
- 239 Marshall Flynn Principal Planner, Info Systems Mgr, GIS
- 235 Sue Young Secretary (Planning)
- 270 Ashon Nesbitt Intern
- 240 Suzanne Cooper Principal Planner, ABM (Environmental)
- 221 Wren McAllister Manager of Administrative Services/Public Information

Credits

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council extends gratitude to the following for their contributions to the 2003 Future of the Region edition of Visions:

All organizations that entered this year's Future of the Region Awards Program; Florida Department of Transportation; Great Explorations, Inc.; Mr. Herman W. Goldner and Michael Goldner; Ruth Eckerd Hall; and the Tampa/Hillsborough Convention and Visitors Association.

COUNCIL MEMBERS



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Commissioner Steve Simon, Vice Chair
Pasco County

Commissioner Jane W. von Hahmann
Secretary/Treasurer
Manatee County Board of County
Commissioners

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Executive Director

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City of Pinellas Park

Philip Waller
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Pat Whitesel
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Manatee County

Vice Mayor Keith Zayac
City of Safety Harbor



Anticipated Completion
January 2004