

News and Updates



March 29, 2024

President's Message

Dear FCCMA Members,
I'm excited to share some important updates and opportunities for your involvement with FCCMA.

2024 FCCMA Annual Conference: Mark your calendars! The 2024 FCCMA Annual Conference is shaping up to be an exceptional event. Our dedicated conference planning committee has been working tirelessly to bring you an outstanding program.



Registration is now open! [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#). Don't miss the chance to learn from renowned speakers like Stephen MR Covey, Crystal Washington, Jeff Civillico and Mark Zeigler. Visit the [conference webpage](#) and click on the speakers' photos to learn more about them and their insights.

Secure your spot at the best rate by registering by May 10 to take advantage of the early bird registration discount.

Elections: The Nominating Committee is busy interviewing candidates for the 2024-2025 Board of Directors. Once the slate is finalized, we'll share it with the membership. The recommended slate of officers will be presented at the Annual Business Meeting on Friday, May 31, during the Annual Conference.

April Webinar: Looking for an update on key Florida legislation? Don't miss our Free Coaching Webinar on April 4, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. ET. We'll be recapping important bills impacting our cities and counties. Register now to secure your spot! Click [here](#) to register.

2024-2025 FCCMA Committees: Looking to get involved and contribute to the Association? Stay tuned! Sign-ups for FCCMA committees will open next month. Participating in a committee is a fantastic way to connect with colleagues, share your expertise, and contribute to shaping the future of FCCMA.

FCCMA Directory: We want to ensure our directory accurately reflects the entire FCCMA membership. To have your headshot included in the directory, please submit your headshot in .jpg or .tiff format to fccma@flcities.com by June 28, 2024.

I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities to connect, learn and contribute to our vibrant organization. As always, feel free to reach out to me with any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

~Mike

Member News and Updates

The following membership applications have been received:

- **Frank Calascione**, District VII, Assistant City Manager, City of Inverness, Full Member
- **Michael Carnevale**, District VIII, Deputy City Manager, City of Winter Haven, Full Member
- **Connor Donovan**, District VII, Budget Analyst, Pasco County, Affiliate Member
- **Bruce Roberts**, District VII, Budget Analyst II, Pasco County, Affiliate Member
- **Gregory J. Oravec**, District VII, Assistant City Manager, City of New Port Richey, Full Member

- **Vince Sandersfeld**, District VIII, Acting City Manager, City of Mount Dora, Full Member
- **Brittany Wilson**, District VIII, Assistant District Manager, Village Center Community Development District, Full Member

If no current member comes forth with a reason why these applicants should not be approved as members, he/she will be approved for membership.

Remember the MITs

Members-in-Transition (MIT)

Please take a minute to show support for the MITs by emailing or calling the members of your district. A phone call or an email can go a long way to help someone temporarily out of work. You can also help if you have any job opportunities or special projects available for which one of our MITs may be qualified.

With current technology, the project could even be done from the MIT's home. Some of the Members-in-Transition have provided their resumes and indicated their areas of expertise. The resumes and areas of expertise are now available on the [FCCMA website](#). Also, please keep FCCMA staff informed of any FCCMA members who may be eligible for MIT status. You can email [Carol Russell](#).

Perspectives

Municipal and county leaders across Florida share their "typical day."



FCCMA 2024 Photo Contest

FCCMA 2024 Photo Contest Winner: Sarasota County



Congratulations to Sarasota County, winner of the FCCMA 2024 Photo Contest! This photo will be featured on the cover of the 2024-2025 Membership Directory.

In 1999, Sarasota County established the Englewood Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) to help improve conditions in the area known as Olde Englewood Village. In 2024, the CRA celebrates 25 years of making improvements and eliminating blight through community building, including organizing neighborhood workshops to collaborate on projects. Businesses and community members have

taken great pride in the Englewood redevelopment activities and have actively participated in the improvement project's input and guidance.

One of these improvements was the West Dearborn Street Improvement Project, which included the installation of the iconic gateway signage shown in this photo. This project was completed in January 2023 and included improvements such as angled parking, widened sidewalks, comfort stations with outdoor furniture and stained-glass pervious pavers incorporated into the street intersections. In 2024, this project was submitted for the 2024 APWA Public Works Project of the Year for Small Cities/Rural Communities Transportation Category.

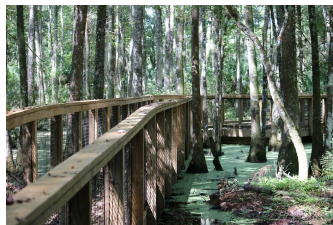
Serving as the entranceway into Englewood's main commercial district, the photograph was taken at the end of a full-day photoshoot that our county photographer, Steve Dawson, was completing in Englewood to highlight all of the recent improvements in the area. Dawson knew he wanted to capture the archway just after sunset to be able to execute his vision of car lights streaking through the lit arch, which would call for a long exposure. When taking the photo, he needed to maintain total stillness, capturing a streak of passing car lights and retaining photo sharpness of the sign and distant street silhouette.

Englewood is an unincorporated area known for its relaxed living, quality of life and beautiful water bodies in southern Sarasota County. To learn more about this historic area and other recent improvements, visit scgov.net/EnglewoodCRA.

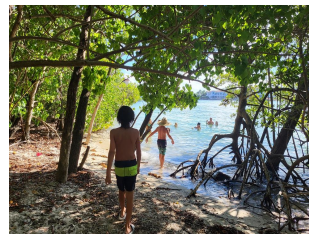
FCCMA Photo Contest Runners-Up



Temple Terrace
1st Runner-Up



Alachua County
2nd Runner-Up



Boca Raton
3rd Runner-Up

Featured Member

Meet Kristian Swenson, Assistant County Manager, Seminole

County



How long have you been an FCCMA member and why did you join?

Approximately 3 months.

Are you an ICMA member? Why did you join, and how long have you been a member?

Yes. I joined for professional development and networking, I was a previous member but let my membership lapse and rejoined about three months ago.

Please describe your areas of formal/advanced education.

I have a BA in Public Administration from the University of Central Florida and an MPA from the University of West Florida. I also have other miscellaneous engineering coursework from Seminole State College.

Why did you select a career in public service?

I thought it was honorable work that could make a difference in the community.

Have you always been in the public sector, or have you had experience in the private sector?

Mostly public sector, with a little private sector.

Please tell us about your current position and give a brief job description if you are not a City Administrator/Manager.

I am the Assistant County Manager for Seminole County.

Please describe your typical day.

Administrative duties, providing direction and coordination with multiple operational departments.

What is your favorite part of the job?

Coordinating larger projects, especially infrastructure-related projects.

[Read More](#)

Member Article

From Conflict to Collaboration: Reshaping Local Government

Dynamics through Dispute Resolution



By Sarah Hannah-Spurlock, Sage Mediation and Consulting

In local government, disputes involving noise and other nuisance complaints, zoning, development, service provision, and public space, to name a few, are as common as they are diverse. Typically, addressing these issues involves resorting to legal and regulatory measures, which can be punitive and expensive. However, adopting a collaborative approach through dispute

resolution presents local governments with an alternative tool. A recent Harvard Business Review article highlighted that conflict resolution skills are among organizations' topmost critical trends for 2024. This insight is particularly relevant to local government disputes. City and county governments have the option to advocate for communication and understanding over authoritative intervention. This approach conserves local government resources and fosters a more balanced community dynamic.

Dispute resolution practices, such as mediation, offer an alternative to the often adversarial and resource-intensive law and code enforcement processes. In mediation, a neutral third party assists the disputing parties in reaching a mutually acceptable solution. This method empowers those involved to voice their concerns and work together to reach a resolution that respects all parties' interests. This relationship-building leads to better solutions for the parties moving forward. Adopting such practices in local government disputes has many benefits. First, it significantly reduces the strain on local government resources. Legal processes are not only time-consuming but also financially draining. In addition, there often aren't enough officers or local government officials to address all the issues. By diverting suitable cases to dispute resolution, local governments can allocate their resources more efficiently, focusing on projects that enhance community well-being and infrastructure.

Second, dispute resolution tends to yield more satisfactory outcomes for all involved. Solutions crafted by the disputants are more likely to be respected and adhered to than decisions imposed by a third party. This sense of ownership and mutual respect can transform a potentially divisive issue into an opportunity to build community and foster stronger relationships.

Moreover, dispute-resolution practices contribute to a more peaceful community atmosphere. By encouraging dialogue and understanding, these methods help diffuse tensions and prevent conflict escalation. In the long run, this can lead to a

culture of constructive communication and problem-solving, reducing the frequency and severity of disputes.

[Read More](#)

Events and Trainings



Post-Legislative Session Webinar

April 7, 2024

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. ET

ICMA Practice Areas: 6, 8, 9 and 14

Program Summary:

Join us on April 4 for the FCCMA 2024 Post-Legislative Session Webinar! Unpack the recent legislative decisions affecting local governments. From what passed to what didn't, we'll discuss the impact on your community. Stay Informed. Stay Engaged.

[Register Here](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Save the date for future webinar offerings!

April 4, 2024

Legislative Recap

May 2, 2024	Disaster Preparedness: Service Contracts and Financial Preparedness
June 6, 2024	Water Quality/Reuse - Fertilizer/Pesticide Application
July 11, 2024	Breaking Down Silos in your Organization/Building New Teams

From Our Partner

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$1.25 Billion in Direct, Accessible Grants for Local Communities to Improve Roadway Safety

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has opened the process for cities, towns and counties, Tribal governments, and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) to apply for \$1.256 billion in funding for local projects that improve roadway safety. The funds are from the competitive grant program, Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A), which was created in President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to help communities both plan and carry out projects that help reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on our highways, streets, and roads. The SS4A grant program is a major action that supports funding to advance the DOT's [National Roadway Safety Strategy](#), which launched in 2022 to address the high number of traffic deaths happening across the country.

SS4A funds will help communities in the development of road safety action plans and improve unsafe roadway corridors by implementing effective interventions. Additionally, these funds can be utilized to test out safety features such as separated bicycle lanes or curb extensions at intersections.

"Every community knows some intersection or stretch of road that is dangerous to approach - now we have an opportunity to make them safer," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "The Biden-Harris administration is proud to make over \$1.2 billion available for projects that can save lives on our roads, from highway redesigns to protected bike lanes, and we invite communities of every size to apply."

Last year, DOT announced more than 1,000 communities in total received \$1.7 billion in grants under SS4A, impacting roadway safety for around 70% of the nation's population and over 60% of traffic fatalities that occurred between 2017 and 2021. With more than \$1 billion available this year, the Department

encourages all interested communities to apply, especially communities that have not applied to date. For Planning and Demonstration Grants, DOT has further encouraged communities with higher needs to apply by providing additional award consideration to those with higher fatality rates. The Department compiled a [non-exhaustive list](#) of the cities and counties that meet that threshold online and will continue to support the information needs of these localities throughout the application period.

The application process for SS4A is designed to be as easy as possible and increased accessibility to this program in this latest funding round, particularly for smaller communities, Tribal governments and recipients new to Federal funding. This includes multiple deadlines and a longer application period for planning proposals, a pre-application review opportunity to determine eligibility before applying for implementation funding, and clarification about the use of Tribal Transportation Program funds as eligible for local match.

Applications may come from individual communities or groups of communities and may include MPOs, counties, cities, towns, other special districts that are subdivisions of a state, certain transit agencies, federally recognized Tribal governments, and multijurisdictional groups of eligible applicants.

The Safe Streets and Roads for All Notice of Funding Opportunity can be found [here](#). Applications for Implementation Grants are due by May 16. Planning and demonstration grant applicants will have three opportunities to apply with the deadlines of April 4, May 16, and August 29.

Annual ARPA Report for NEU Cities Due April 30

All NEU cities that received American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds must submit their Annual Project & Expenditure Report by April 30th. All reports must be submitted online using Treasury's Reporting Portal which opens on April 1. Treasury's Reporting Portal can be accessed using the links below:

- [Treasury's Portal - ID.me](#)
- [Treasury's Portal - Login.gov](#)

For more information on ARPA, please visit [Treasury's website](#) or contact Treasury at SLFRF@Treasury.gov. For general questions related to ARPA, contact FLC at ARPA@flcities.com.

Jobs

Below is a list of active FCCMA job advertisements accessible on our website.
[Click here](#) for details.

ALACHUA COUNTY - Facilities Management Director
ALACHUA COUNTY - Financial Management Analyst
ALACHUA COUNTY - Housing Program Manager
ALACHUA COUNTY - Housing Strategic Development Coordinator
ALACHUA COUNTY - Senior Planner - Land Conservation Management
ALACHUA COUNTY - Veteran Services Director
AMARILLO, TX - Director of Utilities
APOPKA - City Administrator
BAREFOOT BAY RECREATION DISTRICT - Management Support Specialist
CLAY COUNTY - Zoning Chief
CLEARWATER - Planning Division Manager - Development Review
CLINTON, CT - Town Manager
COLORADO SCHOOL DISTRICTS SELF-INSURANCE POOL - Executive Director
COOPER CITY - Public Works Director
DEERFIELD BEACH - Purchasing Manager
DEFUNIAK SPRINGS - City Manager
DORAL - City Attorney
DORAL - City Manager
DOUGHERTY COUNTY, GA - County Administrator
DUNEDIN - Purchasing Agent
HARDEE COUNTY - Mining Coordinator
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY - Division Manager Fiscal & Accounting Services
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY - Manager - Library Budget & Capital Projects
HOLLYWOOD - City Treasurer/Assistant Director of Financial Services

JUVENILE WELFARE BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY - Chief Financial Officer
KEY WEST - HARC Assistant Planner
KEY WEST - Utilities Director
LAKE COUNTY - Budget Coordinator
LAKE COUNTY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER - Inspector General Auditor II
LARGO - Asset Data Management Coordinator
MIAMI BEACH - Building Director
MIAMI BEACH - Facilities and Fleet Management Director
NEW PORT RICHEY - Planner
NEW SMYRNA BEACH - City Manager
NORCROSS, GA - Public Works Director
NORTH MIAMI BEACH - Communications Manager
OKEECHOBEE COUNTY - Airport and Commerce Park Director
OLATHE, KS - Assistant City Engineer
PEMBROKE PARK - Town Manager
PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY - Planning Data Analyst
PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY - Senior Accountant - Grants and Project Accounting
POLK COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS - Comptroller Division Director
PORT ST. LUCIE - City Attorney
SANTA ROSA ISLAND AUTHORITY - Executive Director
SARASOTA COUNTY - Deputy Fire Chief
SARASOTA COUNTY - Public Utilities Planning Manager
SOUTH INDIAN RIVER WATER CONTROL DISTRICT - Executive

JACKSONVILLE – Attorney II- Eminent Domain

JACKSONVILLE – Attorney III – Transactional

JACKSONVILLE – Attorney III-Eminent Domain

JACKSONVILLE – Chief of Engineering and Construction Management (City Engineer)

Director

SPALDING COUNTY WATER AND SEWERAGE FACILITIES AUTHORITY –

GIS Manager

SUNNY ISLES BEACH – IT Analyst

TALLAHASSEE – Payroll Supervisor

TREASURE ISLAND – City Manager

TUCKER, GA – Assistant City Manager

WACO, TX – Senior Development Engineer- Water Utilities

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