

## Message from Secretary Holly Benson

### Inside This Issue

*Message from the Chairman*

*Message from the  
Executive Director*

*Next Board Meeting*

*Are You Prepared?*

*Weekly e-newsletter*

*Disciplinary Actions*



The Department of Business and Professional Regulation touches more Floridians than almost every other agency in state government. We license almost 1,000,000 people, and we regulate numerous businesses across the state. So when Governor Crist made improving government service to the people one of his top priorities, we immediately seized the opportunity to think about ways that we serve you. Over the coming months, we will be doing a thorough review of how we can serve you better, and I hope you will be our partners in improving our customer service.

We're always looking for ways to improve and have recently had several upgrades to LicenseEase, our centralized licensing system.

These upgrades will enhance the department across many different areas, including improving our inspection capabilities and offering faster, more consistent inspections. The upgrades also make the information we keep for you, as a licensee, more secure. We've even recently received legislative support to begin a document management project, which will allow department staff easier access to important information, enabling much faster service.

People across the department are already developing new programs to assess how we can improve our customer service. One of the ways we plan to do this is by offering a customer satisfaction survey to the people we serve. By gathering feedback from our customers, we can better understand what we do well and what we can do better and then work toward being the best agency we can be.

We also need to speak in plain language. Making our communication with you and the others whom we serve clearer will expedite our processes and enhance our ability to serve the citizens of our state. To accomplish this goal, we have assembled a team that will be reviewing the most common pieces of mail we send to the public and rewriting any document in need of clearer language.

Our ability to improve depends on your ideas for innovation. Please continue to share them with us. They are already making our department stronger.

**Department of  
Business and  
Professional Regulation**

**Charlie Crist**  
*Governor*

**Holly Benson**  
*Secretary*

1940 North Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Customer Contact Center  
850.487.1395

[www.MyFlorida.com/dbpr](http://www.MyFlorida.com/dbpr)

[www.MyFloridaLicense.com](http://www.MyFloridaLicense.com)



## Board Members Landscape Architects

**Collene Walter, Chair**  
West Palm Beach

**Elizabeth Anne Gillick,  
Vice-Chair**  
Vero Beach

**Paul M. Davis**  
Jacksonville

**Philip H. Graham, Jr.**  
St. Petersburg

**Elizabeth Marshall-Beasley**  
West Palm Beach

### Consumer Member:

**Robert Bowden**  
Orlando

### Board Staff:

**Juanita Chastain**  
Executive Director

**Linda Tinsley**  
Government Analyst

**Diane Guillemette**  
Board Counsel  
Assistant Attorney General

**Jessica Leigh**  
Prosecuting Attorney



## Message from the Chairman Collene Walter

The profession of landscape architecture is very diverse. One sees landscape architects involved in land planning, preservation efforts, development projects, design and permitting, teaching, management, volunteer initiatives, and at the community level on various boards, to name just a few areas of participation. Professionals provide services in all aspects of practice as allowed under Part II, Chapter 481, Florida Statutes. Our scope of practice takes us around the corner and around the world, exposing landscape architects to a variety of places and people, and them to us.

Although practitioners have performed similar services to what we now define as "landscape architecture" since the beginning of the twentieth century, the profession is still not well known, and oftentimes our abilities are misunderstood. A fellow practitioner once said that until a landscape architect is a major character on a successful sitcom, most people will continue to assume that we only plant flowers. It is imperative that we as landscape architects reach out and educate those we come in contact with during our daily activities, business and otherwise. It is only through education and understanding that the profession will become better understood and respected.



The Board of Landscape Architecture has continued its outreach efforts. In April 2006 we invited faculty and students from the University of Florida to attend our board meeting in Gainesville, and several did. At our most recent meeting in Miami, we extended a similar invitation to students and faculty at Florida International University. FIU now has both an undergraduate and graduate program in landscape architecture. Director Marta Canaves and the Chairperson of their Student ASLA Chapter attended the board meeting, along with several FIU alumni. A future meeting is planned in Tallahassee, and a similar invitation will be extended to students and faculty at Florida A&M University.

Also in attendance at the February board meeting were representatives of The Florida Board of Professional Engineers (FBPE) and the Florida Engineering Society (FES). The issue of the design and certification of storm water management systems is being revisited due to recent rule-making underway by the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The Board of Landscape Architecture has committed to continue discussions with the FBPE and has encouraged the professional organizations, Florida Chapter ASLA and FES, to dialogue.

## Message from the Chairman, continued

Again, it is through education, a better understanding of issues and mutual respect that conflicts such as these can be addressed.

The number of continuing education courses, and their diversity, continues to impress. At this time, there are over 280 courses available to landscape architects for credit. As license renewal occurs this fall, please review the course offerings posted on the board's website to make sure that the courses you take are approved for credit. I hope you will be as impressed with the selection. Attendance at a Board of Landscape Architecture meeting qualifies for two hours of laws and rules credit for those who do not have an item on the agenda. Attendance is a good way to keep abreast of current issues as well as to provide the board information regarding individual concerns. Due to the diversity of our practice, we welcome dialogue and feedback to help us better serve and regulate the profession. Our next Board meeting is April 27 in Sarasota, followed by a meeting July 25 in Miami in conjunction with the FCASLA Annual Conference and Expo. We hope to see you there.

I would like to personally thank the members of the Board of Landscape Architecture, the Department of Business and Professional Regulation staff and the Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects for their continuing efforts on behalf of licensed landscape architects and the profession. This is a group of distinguished individuals who give tirelessly their time to help further the profession of landscape architecture. It is through their continued hard work that the profession is thriving today and is involved in all aspects of the natural and built environment. As the character of the state of Florida continues to change, landscape architects continue to play an important role. We must continue to educate both ourselves and those around us to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

## Next Board Meeting

**April 27, 2007**

**Homewood Suites  
3470 Fruitville Road  
Sarasota, FL 34237  
941.365.7300**

Please visit our web site at  
[www.MyFlorida.com/dbpr](http://www.MyFlorida.com/dbpr)  
to confirm meeting dates and locations.

## Weekly e-Newsletter Will Keep You Informed



In order to keep you informed on legislative issues and other issues that may impact your profession, the department has launched a weekly e-newsletter, the Bottom Line. Each week we address issues that concern you and provide information on bills before the legislature, agendas for the department's various boards, and background on rules being developed by the department.

If you are interested in subscribing, please go to [www.myflorida.com/dbpr](http://www.myflorida.com/dbpr) and click on the Bottom Line icon (at the left). There you can also find back issues of the Bottom Line. We are looking for other ways to share information about the department and its activities, and if you have suggestions, please send them to [bottomline@dbpr.state.fl.us](mailto:bottomline@dbpr.state.fl.us).

## Message from the Executive Director Juanita Chastain

I want to once again remind you that your license will expire November 30, 2007. This will be the first year that your license will not be renewed should you fail to complete all required continuing education. Of the required 16 hours of continuing education, two must apply to an advanced building code course, two must apply to laws and rules, and the remaining 12 may be taken in any board-approved courses. You may also use the four hours you received for completion of the building code core curriculum if you took the course during the renewal period December 1, 2005 – November 30, 2007. Please remember the building code core curriculum is a one-time requirement within two years of initial licensure. It is also a prerequisite to the advanced course.

You can view the current listing of approved courses at [http://www.myflorida.com/dbpr/servop/testing/ceinfo/larch/landscp\\_ceprov.pdf](http://www.myflorida.com/dbpr/servop/testing/ceinfo/larch/landscp_ceprov.pdf).

I encourage you to routinely check your account through the department's website at [www.MyFloridaLicense.com](http://www.MyFloridaLicense.com) or by contacting the department's Customer Contact Center at 850.487.1395.

In addition to checking on your continuing education credits, you can also locate advanced Florida building code courses using the same website. To do so, please follow these steps:

- > Go to [www.MyFloridaLicense.com](http://www.MyFloridaLicense.com).
- > Click on "Find a Continuing Education Course."
- > Select the board "Board of Landscape Architecture."
- > Select the requirement "ADV Code-Advance Code."
- > Click the "Search" button (this will provide you with a list of board-approved courses).
- > Click on the "info" button under the provider column of the course you are interested in.
- > The "info" button will give you the name and contact information of the course provider who is authorized to teach the course.

Please keep this important information in mind and plan early. You don't want to put your license in jeopardy.

Additionally, should your schedule permit, we encourage your attendance and participation at all board meetings. The most current information relating to upcoming board meetings is posted on the board's website at [www.MyFlorida.com/dbpr](http://www.MyFlorida.com/dbpr). We hope to see you soon.



## Disciplinary Actions

The board has taken disciplinary action against the following license. Before making any decisions based upon this information, you may want to request a copy of the administrative complaint and final order to ensure accuracy. Contact the department's agency clerk at [sarah.wachman@dbpr.state.fl.us](mailto:sarah.wachman@dbpr.state.fl.us) for this information. The listing of disciplinary actions does not reflect pending appeals or requests for rehearing.

### August 2006

**Donald S. Murakami**  
**Case No. 2004-008160**

Respondent violated Section 481.325(1)(k), Florida Statutes, through a violation of Section 481.319(1), Florida Statutes, by practicing as a landscape architecture business without being properly certified. Respondent was ordered to pay an administrative fine in the amount of \$500.00, costs in the amount of \$470.85, and Respondent's license was suspended. In addition, Respondent was ordered to pay the fees that should have been paid for the time the business was not qualified which amounted to \$2,275.00.

## Report Unlicensed Activity Toll-Free 1.866.532.1440

DBPR encourages consumers to make smart choices and avoid being victimized by an unlicensed individual. Individuals may be unlicensed because they are not able to meet the financial requirements, are not able to pass a background check, or do not meet the education, experience or skill requirements. Timely reporting of this dangerous activity is critical, and as practitioners out in the field, you may witness it first hand. Please help us by reporting unlicensed activity immediately.



## Are you prepared?

**It is vital for all Floridians to have a family disaster plan in place BEFORE a disaster threatens. You are encouraged to prepare as soon as possible. In a major disaster, emergency workers may not be able to reach everyone right away, and in some cases it may take three or more days for help to arrive. Having a plan for your family will help ensure their safety and comfort.**

**The Florida Division of Emergency Management recently launched a tool which will enable families to better prepare for future disasters by helping users create a Family Disaster Plan. Available at [www.FloridaDisaster.org](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org), you and your family will be asked to provide information regarding your home, family and pets. Using the information provided, the website will create a personalized Family Disaster Plan that you can print out and save for future emergencies. Log on today and Get a Plan!**

**The State of Florida is committed to ensuring citizens are prepared to weather and survive all types of disasters. By preparing now, you will be better able to protect your family and property and to recover more quickly in the aftermath of a disaster.**

## Have You Moved?

Please help us by notifying the Board of Landscape Architects when your address changes. Under Florida law, service by regular mail to a licensee's last known address of record constitutes adequate and sufficient notice to the licensee for any official communication, so it is important to notify us. Please note that filing a change of address notice with the post office does not constitute official notification to the Board.

You may change your mailing address using the online services at [www.MyFloridaLicense.com](http://www.MyFloridaLicense.com) or you may submit a written address change request. Please fax the request to 850.487.9529 or mail it to DBPR, Attention: Licensure Maintenance, 1940 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-0783. If you have any questions regarding this requirement, or need assistance using the online services menu, please contact the Customer Contact Center at 850.487.1395 or via email at [Callcenter@dbpr.state.fl.us](mailto:Callcenter@dbpr.state.fl.us).

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

**REMEMBER:** Under Florida law, service by regular mail to a licensee's last known address of record constitutes adequate and sufficient notice to the licensee for any official communication. We encourage you to update your personal contact information at [www.MyFloridaLicense.com](http://www.MyFloridaLicense.com). If you do not have Internet access, you may complete the change of address form below and submit it to the address listed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ License # \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN TO: Department of Business and Professional Regulation  
Central Intake Unit – License Maintenance Section  
1940 North Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2205  
FAX 850.922.5358