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TERRA FIRMA

YOUR GUIDE FOR SOLID LAND USE PLANNING

December 2008

SPECIAL YEAR END EDITION

Happy Holidays!

[LPS 2008 - A Reflection on 2008](#)

www.landplanningsolutions.us



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM LAND PLANNING SOLUTIONS!

The staff at **Land Planning Solutions** wishes you and your family a happy and safe holiday season.



In observance of the holiday, **Land Planning Solutions** will be closed Wednesday, December 24th through Friday, December 26th. We'll reopen on Monday, December 29th.

LAND PLANNING SOLUTIONS -

A REFLECTION ON 2008

The year 2008 brought many changes to **Land Planning Solutions**. We wanted to take this opportunity as 2009 approaches to look back at what this year has meant to u

Let us start with travel. 2008 brought much travel throughout the state for Land Planning Solutions. With o 20,000 vehicular miles traveled for work this year, we we say that that we covered the state pretty well.

"Where Allison chooses to hang her shingle is not a issue for us. We know that when she's needed on-site, she'll be there."

- Lisa Rath Jensen, COO, Atlanticblue

March marked the successful one year anniversary of the company. This was a momentous occassion as we are all aware that many small businesses do not last twelve months.

April took Allison Megrath, AICP, our company president Las Vegas for the American Planning Association National Conference. Allison was chosen as one of nine (9) planners to represent the planners of the State of Florida a Delegate at the National Assembly. This is the second time in three (3) years that Allison has held that honor. The main topic for discussion at the Assembly and also of the conference was climate change, an issue that is directly impacted by our land use decisions.

In **May**, Land Planning Solutions was successfully filed one of the largest Comprehensive Plan Amendment applications in the history of the State of Florida. The Blue Head Ranch Overlay District application was submitted to Highlands County, seeking entitlements on 65,000 acres. A unique and wonderful project, the Blue Head Ranch Overlay District project will remain one of the true highlights for LPS.

The American Planning Association (APA) Florida Chapter Annual Planning Retreat was also held in **May**. As 2007-2009 Chair of the Promised Lands Section of the Florida Chapter of APA, Allison was invited to Jacksonville for a 2 day retreat with other planners from the State. The time was spent preparing our Operational and Strategic Plans for how the organization will function for the next few years. It was a great bonding experience for all and providing much insight into the coming direction of planning for the State of Florida.

As is customary, in **June** the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) held their annual Growth Management Conference in Orlando. Land Planning Solutions attended the conference to keep up to date on new legislation and on policies & practices at DCA. Many topics were discussed, including the new energy bill and the increased amount of activity for development in rural counties.

The summer months at Land Planning Solutions were filled with many, many community outreach meetings. While time consuming, grassroots efforts to inform the public of projects we're working on are an important part of moving our projects forward. Public outreach and communication are just one of the many services Land Planning Solutions offers.

In **September**, Land Planning Solutions was honored to be in Gulfshore Business magazine as their "Front and Center" spotlight story. This feature story brought much attention to Land Planning Solutions by identifying that we do not follow the trend. We were moving into bigger offices and growing staff while other companies in the industry were faced with lay-offs and closures. Land Planning Solutions was taking great strides forward. For the complete

article, please go to:

<http://www.gulfshorebusiness.com/Articles/2008/09/FrorCenter.asp>

October 1st was moving day for Land Planning Solutions. We finally moved into our new office space at The Waldrc Center in Bonita Springs. This more spacious, centralized location allowed us to better serve our clients throughout the state. Our special thanks to Ron, Greg and Gary Waldrop and to Bill Moore for our new offices.

October also brought with it a new employee in Alexis V. Crespo. Alexis is both AICP certified and a LEED Accredited Professional. She has proven to be an invaluable asset to Land Planning Solutions and we hope that she will be with us for many years to come.

November offered Land Planning Solutions the opportunity for 11 potential new projects. While not all of them have resulted in real work to date, they come with hope. They come with an understanding that opportunities remain, despite the poor state of the economy. To us, the possibility of new projects is far better than the realization of none. For that, we are thankful for November 2008.

We also attended the Public Land Acquisition and Management conference in Jacksonville. Resources for valuing ecosystems were identified and a variety of new technologies and tools were highlighted. The information we received at this conference will help us to better serve our clients interested in conservation easements and placing value of natural resources.

December has brought with it the memories of a fabulous 2008 and the hope for an even better 2009. From Land Planning Solutions, we thank our families, our clients, our partners, our friends and colleagues for the support and encouragement this year and we look forward to much continued success for all of us in 2009!

Allison Megrath



Alexis Crespo



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