



# NEBA News

www.NEbusiness.org

January- February 2009

## Robert Parrish Addresses NEBA

by: **Jim Ashlock**

Robert Parrish, head of the Parrish Group developers and past president of the Florida Builders Association, addressed NEBA on Nov. 11 on the challenges facing the construction industry in Tallahassee and across Florida.

“I’m not a gloom and doom guy,” Parrish stressed at the outset. “There’s opportunity everywhere.”

He noted that we are blessed to live in Tallahassee, where the impact of the economic downturn is less than in other areas.

“From Tampa south it is dead man’s land,” he said. “\$80,000 lots are being offered for \$20,000, and there are no buyers.”

Parrish believes the best strategy is to “stick close to

home,” focusing on opportunities in Tallahassee rather than elsewhere. He said that’s what he intends to do now that he’s not heading the Florida

panding urban sprawl. Housing simply got out of hand” he said. “But conditions today favor a more conservative lifestyle, one more



Builders Association, which kept him away much of the time. Additionally, while his firm has concentrated on commercial property development, he sees opportunities in the residential area and may renter it.

However, he sees the housing opportunity being in smaller, more affordable homes probably located more toward the city center than the suburbs.

“For 20 years every home built went up in size, most of them ex-

neighborhood oriented.” He recalled growing up in a 1,400 sq. ft. home in Augusta, GA, which in his mind was adequate for a happy

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**The North East Business Association  
would like to wish all of our members a  
happy, healthy  
and prosperous 2009!**

## North East Business Association

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**Scott Hunt-President Elect**  
Hunt Insurance Group  
**Carolyn Pippenger-Secretary**  
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**Mark Trafton-Treasurer**  
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## NEBA News

### Editors:

**Maureen Thompson- Media Options-**  
**Nancy Burns- Leon Co. Sheriff's Office**

The North East Business Association publishes NEBA News bi-monthly. Articles of interest are welcome. Publication of submitted materials is subject to review and space available. Article deadline is the 1st day of the month of publication.

Send articles, letters, photos or suggestions to: NEBA News at the following email addresses: burns@leoncountyfl.gov or maureen@mediaoptionsinc.com. or FAX-850-893-4097.

For additional information phone Maureen Thompson at 850-668-0948 or Nancy Burns at 850-922-3331

# President's Message

Happy New Year NEBA members! Hopefully, you were able to attend our annual holiday party. Special thanks to our host Bill Moore, his wife Kimi and to Another Broken Egg who supplied the catering.

As this year's President, my goal is to increase our membership by 20%...which means we will need to recruit 30 new businesses this year. Second, we will be looking for more articles for the newsletter and I will also be asking new members to tell us about their businesses. We originally united for the common good of those businesses located primarily in the northeast section of Tallahassee. NEBA has since expanded its reach and welcomes businesses from every quadrant of Tallahassee.

At the January 13th monthly meeting, the following slate of board members will be presented for membership approval: **\*asterisk indicates positions up for election.**

### Officers

\*Ted Thomas- President (Thomas Mitchell Realty)  
\*Scott Hunt- President Elect (Hunt Insurance)  
\*Carolyn Pippenger – Secretary (Signprinters)  
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Ben Graybar (Tallahassee State Bank)  
\*Stephen Hogge (Attorney legislative staff for Florida House of Representatives)  
\*Rich Blankenship (Blankenship & Poppell, CPA's)  
\*Bruce Screws (Bill's Signs)  
\*Tom Napier (Probank)

This organization strives to assist its members in any issues which may affect small business. The board wants input from you. I urge all members to get involved, bring a guest to our regular monthly luncheon and contact board members with questions, ideas or suggestions you may have concerning NEBA. I look forward to 2009 and having the NEBA continue to make a difference in our community.

Sincerely,  
Ted Thomas

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# Thanks For The Toys



The NEBA Board would like to take a moment to thank all of you who contributed toys during the NEBA Holiday party on December 9th. There were so many great gifts that we are sure many children were certainly delighted to receive them.

We are proud to have been a part of the Toys for Tots campaign. Toys for Tots is a message of hope for the future that has motivated

youngsters to grow into responsible, productive, patriotic citizens and community leaders. Toys for Tots has earned the distinction as a program which plays an important role in helping youngsters emerge from a background of poverty to adulthood as assets to society. Toys for Tots not only benefits children, but also has a positive impact on communities, on businesses -

large and small, on the Marine Corps and on the nation. Toys for Tots is one vehicle for addressing the issue of poverty among children.

The party was a great success and we had a good turnout of members. Thanks also to Mike from Another Broken Egg restaurant. The food was delicious as always. We hope everyone had a joyful holiday season.

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**Thanks to our outgoing President Bill Moore for his dedication to NEBA during 2008 and a job well done!**

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## **“PARRISH” from page 1**

existence. In his opinion, there'll be demand for smaller homes, just as there is for smaller, more fuel efficient automobiles.

Parrish noted his office developments at the intersection of Fleischman Road and the Welaunee extension of Blair Stone Road, plus the building going up in the Metropolitan Corporate Center at Thomasville and Interstate 10. He said efforts were underway to modify the city's zoning codes to permit more retail space in such developments.

“We need a restaurant in Metropolitan so that the people working in those offices don't have to get out on Thomasville or Capital Circle at noon to get lunch,” Parrish said.

In his view, all developments should include service facilities.

Too often, he said, opponents such as neighborhood associations oppose this concept for fear it will attract, rather than reduce, traffic. Zoning regulations, unfortunately, tend to support such fears.

“If we don't start doing something to help developers expand our tax base, Tallahassee is going to become an expensive place to live,” he warns, adding that “we are perhaps the worst regulated city in the state.”

As for the current economic situation, Parrish feels it will prevail through 2009, when things hopefully will improve. Meantime, the state may have to dip into reserve funds to meet its needs, and some layoffs of state workers are a possibility. But he remains optimistic that Tallahassee will be the first to benefit from better times when they return.

## *Editor's Message*

*As the New Year begins, we the editors would like to remind all of the members of the North East Business Association that the NEBA NEWS is for your use as a business tool. Please use the newsletter as a forum to address issues, promote a project your business may be involved in or for other business topics fellow NEBA members might find of interest. We also are always looking for articles relating to small business issues.*

*We also encourage all of you to invite your neighboring businesses to attend our meetings and join the North East Business Association. May your business prosper in the coming year.*

*Nancy and Maureen*

# Calendar

**NEBA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at Lucy Ho's- 1700 Halstead Blvd. from 1:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m. Cost is \$9.00 per person**

**January 13- Allan Katz- City Commissioner- Discussion on utility rates and the performing arts center**

**February 10- Mike Sheridan-**

## Join Us At The Citizen's Academy

The Leon County Sheriff's Office "CITIZEN'S ACADEMY" is about to begin February 10, 2009. Participants meet one evening a week for 10 weeks. They learn about virtually every aspect of a deputy's job including patrol operations, traffic enforcement, criminal law, SWAT and hostage negotiations, corrections and many other areas.

And, the "CITIZEN'S ACADEMY" doesn't limit participants to classroom training. Students are given the opportunity to:

- ride with a deputy during a tour of duty
- tour the Jail facilities and Courthouse
- voluntarily participate in a beam hit and defensive tactics session
- attend a SWAT demonstration at the Law Enforcement Academy and shoot some of the high powered weapons.

"CITIZEN'S ACADEMY" graduates gain greater awareness and appreciation of the difficult challenges and decisions a deputy sheriff faces every day.

Community involvement is the most powerful force any law enforcement agency has in the fight against crime. Through the "CITIZEN'S ACADEMY", citizens become more involved in making Tallahassee and Leon County a better place to live.

For more information contact (850)922-3323 or visit our website at [LeonCountySheriff'sOffice.com](http://LeonCountySheriff'sOffice.com) to download an application.

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