



The City of Treasure Island, Florida
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NEWS RELEASE

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TI building official honored as best in Florida

Neal Schwartz, Deputy Building Official for the City of Treasure Island, has yet another new award to add to his "wall of awards"

Neal Schwartz, Deputy Building Official for the City of Treasure Island, has received the Building Official of the Year Award from the Building Officials Association of Florida for exceptional service and dedication to the community. Neal's achievements this past year include exceptional consultation strengths with city and county municipalities, successful completion of ongoing education and an additional certification as a Flood Plain Manager. Neal will represent the Beach Building Official Association, an organization he founded 16 years ago, at the annual meeting of the Building Officials Association of Florida.

Schwartz joined the City of Treasure Island Community Improvement Department in 2004. His duties as Deputy Building Official involve inspection of construction projects in Treasure Island to make sure that they comply with state regulations and enhance the safety of the public. Dominating his city hall office, packed with coils of site plans and stacks of policies, is a huge wall of thirty-plus awards. "Can I say I'm embarrassed that I've run out of award room? This one may have to go on the ceiling." He added quickly, "If that's up to code, of course."

Neal's roots with the city go back to the late 80's and early 90's when he was a firefighter/paramedic. "It was TIFD Chief Charlie Fant that got me started," explained Schwartz. "I was cross training with both the Fire and Building Departments and became a Certified Fire Inspector for the city in 1990."

This year, Schwartz accepted extra duties monitoring the Code Enforcement Division of the department. His supervision brought many properties into compliance with Treasure Island codes. He has also contributed behind the scenes to hurricane preparedness, stormwater management, appearance ordinances, planning and zoning and downtown redevelopment.

"Neal embodies the notion of leading by example," said Community Improvement Director Mike Wichman. "He approaches his job with an attention to detail and devotion that achieves results. Our department's core values of accountability, integrity, professionalism, and teamwork are plain to see in Neal Schwartz as Building Official of the Year."

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