



Council Highlights

February 1999

LEPC plans Community Outreach program Mar. 20

Find out what your community is doing to protect you and the environment from accidental chemical releases.

The Northeast Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee and First Coast Manufacturers Association are sponsoring a Community Outreach program on "Prevention of Accidental Chemical Releases." The program, free to the public, is at 10 a.m., Sat., Mar. 20, at the Duval County Fairgrounds.

Participants include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Florida Departments of Community Affairs and Environmental Protection, local Manufacturers and Industry Support Groups, and local Fire and Rescue. For info or to register, call Wayne Dyess (904) 363-6375 X147.

Council awarded 'Visit Florida' grant

The Council has been awarded a grant from Visit Florida to assist the Regional Eco/Heritage Committee, a group formed recently after the Council brought tourism interests together to discuss regional tourism efforts.

Cooperating with the committee, Council staff will facilitate a regional Eco/Heritage Summit this spring and is cataloging Eco/Heritage sites into a regional data base. The data base will be available to local governments, state agencies and other interested persons.

The Council plans to map this data

and make it available on its Web site. For info, call Mike Brown (904) 363-6375 X135.

BDC annual meeting to tour 7 loan projects

Lenders and elected officials will get the chance to see firsthand how SBA dollars work in Northeast Florida.

The Business Development Corporation, a certified development company for the SBA 504 loan program, is taking its guests on a bus tour Thursday, Mar. 11, to show off seven of its projects as it travels to the World Golf Village for its annual luncheon meeting.

The tour leaves at 9:15 a.m. from the Council and returns at 2:30 p.m. For info, call Pat Ferm 1-800-385-7888.

NE Florida is pilot site for kids' insurance project

Northeast Florida is one of five pilot sites selected to test new ways of reaching and enrolling families with uninsured children. Healthy Start's five-county area will participate in *Covering Kids*, a new statewide grant funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The three-year project will be implemented through the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition which is working with area health departments to enroll children in KidCare, the state's new insurance program for children.

Successful approaches developed by the pilot sites will be replicated throughout the state. The Coalition will receive \$400,000 over three years to develop and evaluate outreach activities. For info, call Carol Brady (904) 363-6352.

Public workshop held on suggested SRPP changes

The first public workshop to gather comments on proposed land use goals and policies to be added to *Strategic Directions*, Northeast Florida's Strategic Regional Policy Plan, was held Mar. 1.

Land use goals were included in the previous Regional Comprehensive Plan but not in the current SRPP, which replaced it. Written comments on proposed additions will be accepted through the end of March, and a draft prepared by the end of April.

For a copy of the proposed goals/policies, contact Dawn Montgomery (904) 363-6375 X131.

Two ADAs submitted for sufficiency review

Applications for Development Approval (ADA) for the Eastbourne and Westbourne Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) have been submitted to the Council and all reviewing agencies for sufficiency reviews.

The Eastbourne and Westbourne DRIs are projects proposed for development in the northwest sector of St. Johns County. For info, call Ed Lehman (904) 363-6375 X130.

WEB site taking shape

You might want to take a look at the Council's Web site which has grown since first announced last year.

Most of the major categories are functional. Eventually each of the Council's organizations and programs will have separate description pages.

CAOs meet to discuss common interests

The Council hosted the second quarterly meeting of chief administrative officers (CAO) from counties and municipalities in Northeast Florida on Feb. 25. Twenty-two attended from 12 local governments.

Council staff presented reports on the Northeast Florida Hurricane Evacuation Study and State Transportation and Land Use Study Committee's final report. The CAO group also discussed opportunities for regional cooperation, such as cooperative purchasing which it plans to pursue.

The officials initially met in October to discuss local governments' response to last spring's wild fires. At that meeting, they decided to renew the quarterly meetings they had held in the past to discuss issues of common interest. They also enlisted the Council's help in coordinating these meetings.

The next meeting is tentatively set for May at the World Golf Village with Department of Community Affairs Secretary Steve Siebert as guest speaker.

For info, call Mike Brown (904) 363-6375 X135.

Proposed changes to TD program is a concern

Proposed legislative changes to the Transportation Disadvantaged Program were a major topic at quarterly meetings of the TD Local Coordinating Boards in Baker, Clay, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties.

A recently formed "coalition" of

organizations has drafted legislation to address current operational and financial shortcomings in the TD program. The draft bill, however, would dramatically reduce current membership of the State TD Commission, does not address future program funding, and would potentially transfer many of the local functions of the program to the state.

The Florida Regional Councils Association, and Northeast Florida's Community Transportation Coordinators and Local Coordinating Boards have urged those in the coalition to reconsider many of the proposed changes. For info, call Stephen Jones (904) 363-6375 X115.

Duval takes aim on infant mortality rates

Causes and factors contributing to infant mortality in Duval County were examined Feb. 25 at a special community health summit attended by local health providers and insurers and community organizations. Duval fared worse than the state on infant health data for 1995-97.

Four task forces were established to recommend interventions over the next three months: Maternal Health, Maternity Care, Newborn Care, and Infant Care. The summit was organized by the Duval County Health Department and the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition. For info, call Carol Brady (904) 363-6352.

Two BDC loans approved

BDC received approval in February from the SBA on two 504 loans, a \$1.7 million restaurant to be built by FLA-

MCH, Inc. at World Golf Village and the purchase of the existing Del Air Motel in Daytona Beach by Unison, Inc. For info, call Pat Ferm 1-800-385-7888.

NEWS & NOTES

... Staff made several **presentations:**

Director of Planning Programs Jeffrey Alexander on the hurricane study to the Northeast Florida League of Cities.

He and Executive Director Brian D. Teeple to St. Johns County Commissioners Mar. 2 on hurricanes and transportation, respectively.

Teeple to Nassau County Commissioners on the State Transportation and Land Use Study Committee report. Teeple served on the committee.

IN THE NEWS . . .

The Florida Times-Union used Council staff several times during the past month as resources for stories.

- Executive Director Brian Teeple was quoted Feb. 28 on a move to repeal **impact fees** in the state.
- Director of Growth Management Ed Lehman was quoted Feb. 18 and 26 in articles regarding **growth**.
- Healthy Start Director Carol Brady was quoted in a Feb. 6 story on **poverty levels** of the region's children.
- The **Business Development Corporation** was listed as a small business resource in a First Business story Feb. 1



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