



## Council Highlights

### March 1999

#### Board recommends Clay County sector plan

At its March meeting, the Council unanimously voted to recommend to the Department of Community Affairs that the proposed Clay County Branan Field Sector Plan is appropriate, pursuant to Section 163.3245, Florida Statutes.

Clay County is proposing to adopt into its comprehensive plan a sector plan for 19,100 acres around the Branan Field Corridor in northern Clay county.

Clay County will now enter into an agreement with DCA which will authorize preparation of an optional sector plan. The county will then amend its comprehensive plan, adopting a conceptual long-term buildout overlay for the 19,100 acres within the sector. The Council will review the amendment to determine its consistency with the Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

For info, call Ed Lehman (904) 363-6375 X130.

#### Committee gets update on Branan Field-Chaffee Rd.

The Transportation Committee heard an update from the Florida Department of Transportation on the status of the Branan Field-Chaffee Road right-of-way and construction.

Members discussed the proposal for a crossing of the St. Johns River between the Buckman Bridge and the Shands Bridge, and the integration of the Branan Field-Chaffee Road into the eventual plans for another river crossing and the

extension of the road to I-10.

They also heard an overview of proposed state transportation legislation, air quality issues, and the Governor's proposed budget which includes \$10 million for construction of the interchange of the new airport access road with Airport Road. This project will greatly assist access to the Jacksonville International Airport.

For info, call Ed Lehman (904) 363-6375 x130.

#### Bike project progressing

The focus group for the Northeast Florida Bikeway Map series held its third meeting to review the draft maps. A fourth meeting is planned Apr. 29.

Staff is currently focusing on city detail maps of the bikeways. It is anticipated that the maps will be available for distribution in late August or early September. For info, call Dawn Montgomery at (904) 363-6375 X131.

#### State looking at spring training initiatives

On Mar. 5, City Councilman Dick Kravitz held luncheon at Alltel Stadium to provide an update on his and Council efforts to attract major league baseball spring training to Northeast Florida.

Councilman Kravitz reported that with the pending departure of a long-time Grapefruit League team to Arizona, there was a heightened sense of urgency throughout the state to undertake initiatives to retain spring training.

A bill currently pending in the legislature to free up the use of sales tax

rebates for retaining spring training for all counties could be slightly amended to allow Duval County to access additional tourist development taxes for Northeast Florida's effort.

This initiative was subsequently supported by the City's Sports Development Authority and is pending support by the Jacksonville Economic Development Commission at its April 1 meeting. For info, call Brian Teeple, (904) 363-6350.

#### BDC presents awards at annual meeting

First Coast Community Bank, with offices in Fernandina and Yulee, was named SBA 504 Lender of the Year by the Business Development Corporation (BDC) of Northeast Florida at its annual meeting Mar. 11.

The bank's Vicki Beaudry was honored as BDC Loan Officer of the Year. Both were repeat winners for the third consecutive year. The two were cited for funding six loans made under the U.S. Small Business Administration's 504 program in conjunction with the Business Development Corporation.

Banco Popular of Orlando received the Soforenko Credit Reinvestment Award for outstanding efforts in community development through the SBA loan program.

#### Latest loans

BDC has received approval from SBA for two more loans: Nicholson AC & Heating in Palatka and Sleep Inn in St. Augustine, bringing its total of approved loans to six since October. For info, call Pat Ferm 1-800-385-7888.

## Kmart promoting Florida KidCare

Florida KidCare is on a roll in Northeast Florida.

- The Northeast Florida regional office has teamed up with Kmart to advertise KidCare in the boys, girls and infants sections at three store locations. The promotional signs were produced in-house and are being reviewed for possible statewide application.

- Kidcare is joining Hope for Kids and other sponsors for the 4th Annual March for Healthy Kids Campaign Apr. 17, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Jacksonville Central Health Plaza. Immunizations and information on WIC and KidCare will be available.

- TV 12's Community Phone Bank for KidCare resulted in over 200 requests for applications. For info, call Steve Gutos (904) 363-6375 X128.

## Telecommunications grant submitted for Putnam

Staff completed and submitted a competitive application for \$650,000 for Putnam County's Department of Public Safety to NTIA/TIIAP (U.S. Department of Commerce-National Telecommunications and Information Administration and Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program). The grant is for equipment and installation of a digital mobile data system for dispatch and communication between emergency responder units. For info, call Gus Rappold (904) 363-6375 X133.

## REMI workshop set for May at Council

On May 18 and 19, the Council will host a two-day statewide economic modeling and policy analysis workshop with Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI), the computer software recently purchased by the Council.

Representatives from REMI will provide an overview of the various aspects and applications of the REMI model. Attendance is limited. Contact the Council to guarantee an available space. For info, call Mike Brown (904) 363-6375 X135.

## HFJ adds staff

Faye Johnson, formerly a HFJ site program manager, is now Quality Assurance Manager for Healthy Families Jacksonville. One of her duties will be to prepare the HFJ initiative for a national credential visit in Aug. 1999. For info, call Patricial Davis-Scott (904) 363-6351.

## Staff preparing Baker County sector plan

Council staff met with public agencies concerning the Baker County sector plan on Mar. 22.

The Council has contracted with Baker to assist in preparing the plan which will provide an overlay of the area north of Macclenny, and can be used to promote well-planned future development in this area. A draft is expected by late May.

Sector maps are being plotted by the GIS (Geographical Information Sys-

tems) staff to supplement the study.

For info, call (study) Jodie Hopkins (904) 363-6375 X1142; (mapping) Walter Fitzwater X125.

## NEWS & NOTES

... Executive Director Brian Teeple represented the State's **Transportation and Land Use Study Committee** on a panel at a workshop hosted by Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Mar. 8.

... He and Director of Planning Programs Jeffrey Alexander spoke on the **Hurricane Evacuation Study** Mar. 29 to commissioners and staff of Fernandina Beach.

... The State Department of Community Affairs held a **TAOS (The Arbitor of Storms) workshop** at the Council in March. The workshop focused on outputs from the TAOS model. This is the data that the department is developing for the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) projects across the state. As the state completes development of the data, it will be forwarded to the counties for use in the LMS.

... Glen St. Mary has contracted with the Council to do its **Land Development Regulations**.

... The **Geographical Information Systems** department is finalizing the Future Land Use Map and Zoning Map for the City of Green Cove Springs. These maps were created in ArcView 3.1 from previous files which needed to be updated.



### Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council

9143 Philips Highway  
Suite 350  
Jacksonville, FL 32256

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Jacksonville, FL  
Permit No. 1598