



Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council

For November 1999

Council preparing Forever Florida application for St. Augustine Beach

Staff is assisting the City of St. Augustine Beach to prepare an application to the Forever Florida (formerly P-2000) Program for the purchase of the Cooksey property.

Located adjacent to the city with frontage on S.R. 3, the 116-acre site would be annexed into the city if purchased. The city wants the property to provide protection of the natural resources on the site and, as a secondary purpose, to develop a "Passive Park" for youth and elderly population of the city and county. A management plan for the site will be developed if the property is acquired.

The application will be submitted to the Department of Community Affairs, which oversees the Forever Florida Program, during the next application cycle which opens in March 2000. For info, call Mike Brown (904) 363-6375 X135.

Staff assists St. Johns County with Transportation Element update

St. Johns County is in the process of adopting the EAR-based (Evaluation and Appraisal Report) amendments to the county's Comprehensive Plan, and the Council is assisting the county with the update of the Transportation Element.

Staff presented its recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on Oct. 29, and to the Planning and Zoning Agency on Oct. 14. The county is continuing to consider recommendations for changes to the EAR-based amendments for adoption and transmittal to the Department of Community Affairs. For info, call Ed Lehman (904) 363-6375 X130.

Environmental staffs meet with Nocatee consultant team

A second in a series of meetings on the Nocatee DRI (Development of Regional Impact) environmental plan was held at the Council on Nov. 17 to provide a comprehensive review of the plan to environmental and other review agency staff members.

The meeting allowed for discussion and comments on the proposed plan in anticipation of an early-2000 date for submittal of the Nocatee Application for Development Approval. A

follow-up meeting, scheduled for Dec. 3, will address impacts of the internal roadway network and provide participants the opportunity for input on the internal transportation system. For info, call Ed Lehman (904) 363-6375 X130.

Jacksonville Healthy Start Initiative services to begin soon

The Jacksonville Healthy Start Initiative, a new federally-funded program to reduce racial disparities in maternal and infant health, will begin providing services after the first of the year. An orientation and training was held recently at the University of North Florida for project staff.

St. Matthew Christian Community Care Center is providing temporary office space until a new satellite site, located on Moncrief Rd. and 45th St., is completed in December. Jacksonville's Community Development Block Grant Program is supporting the program with funds to rehab the new office and clinic.

In December, Carol Brady, Healthy Start executive director, and Rhonda Baker, project coordinator, attended the annual meeting of 94 program grantees sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Washington D.C. For info, call Carol Brady (904) 363-6352.

Council on JCCI regionalism panel

Council members Harry Waldron and Orien Pass as well as Executive Director Brian D. Teeple participated in a panel at a meeting of the JCCI's (Jacksonville Community Council Inc.) "Improving Regional Cooperation Study" Committee on Nov. 9.

They emphasized the Council's 7-county area, transportation, and economic development as important facets of a study of regional cooperation. The JCCI committee also heard from Teeple Nov. 23 on the Council's functions and activities within the regional community. For info, call Brian Teeple (904) 363-6350.

Growth management reform

The First Coast Chamber of Commerce quarterly meeting on Nov. 16 featured a presentation on growth management by Executive Director Brian D. Teeple. In addition to highlighting

growth trends on the First Coast, he predicted that major growth management reform will be considered during this year's legislative session, a year earlier than previously announced by the Florida Department of Community Affairs. For info, call Brian Teeple (904) 363-6350.

GIS day is success

The Council's participation in a global GIS (Geographic Information System) Day was a great success.

Fifteen GIS users from government agencies attended the first regional GIS Users' Group meeting and plan to meet quarterly. Private sector users will be invited to the next meeting on March 15 from 1-4 p.m. at the Council.

Fourteen students and two teachers from Allen D. Nease high school were welcomed to a GIS Day educational event by St. Johns County Commissioner and Council Board Member Mary Kohnke. The agenda included presentations by staff, Dr. John Alexander of UNF, and the students. Baker, Duval and Nassau counties proclaimed GIS Day in recognition of the Council's GIS efforts. For info, call Walter Fitzwater (904) 363-6350.

LEPC sponsors hazmat training

The Local Emergency Planning Committee, District 4, is co-sponsoring a Hazardous Materials Operating Site Practices course with District 5 at St. Augustine's Emergency Operations Center Nov. 29-Dec. 10.

Two LEPC members, Roger Chubin of Bush Boake Allen and Georgia Pacific-Palatka Mill, will receive state awards for outstanding contribution in Hazardous Materials/Emergency Response areas. For info, call Wayne Dyess (904) 363-6375 X147.

Florida KidCare outreach strong

A "Just Kids" 2000 calendar, with information on the Florida KidCare health insurance for uninsured children, is being distributed by KidCare's regional office to individuals and organizations in the region who serve eligible families.

Healthy Kids, one of four Florida KidCare programs, will be available soon in Baker, Clay, Nassau and St. Johns counties. In October, the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation approved insurance providers in those counties. The program will open in St. Johns in January and the other counties in April.

Northeast Florida KidCare is a sponsor of the Dec. 4 Holiday by the Sea Festival at the Seawalk Pavilion, Jacksonville Beach. For info on KidCare, call Steve Gutos, (904) 363-6375 X128.

Council briefs . . .

• **Legends Golf.** The latest Business Development Corporation (BDC) loan approved by SBA is for a golf practice range facility in St. Augustine. Total project costs are \$854,000.

• **Transportation Disadvantaged.** After reviewing annual evaluations, TD Coordinating Boards for Baker, Clay, Nassau, and St. Johns counties recommended Community Transportation Coordinators be retained another year. Flagler has scheduled its evaluation review at its February meeting.

• **New employees.** Erin Warren, a UNF graduate, begins Dec. 13 as housing coordinator for Nassau and Putnam SHIP programs. Ellen Bertoni, who holds a master's in urban and regional planning from UF, starts Jan. 3 as a Senior Regional Planner. She comes from the Atlanta Regional Commission.

• **Great Maps.** Biker Kevin Gustavson e-mailed a thank you to the Council for the Council's Bike Maps he obtained at Lakeshore Schwinn and used to plan a trip from Jacksonville to Orlando.

• **In the News.** Council efforts garnered lots of publicity with these stories: *Bike Ways maps*; profile on Regional Evacuation Coordinator *Jeffrey Alexander* (Beaches Leader); • *Bike Ways maps* (St. Augustine Record and FOLIO Weekly); • *Council's growth management report* (Financial News & Daily Record); • Executive Director *Brian Teeple* and Board members *Harry Waldron* and *Orien Pass* quoted on JCCI regional study committee; *Teeple's presentation* to JCCI committee; new *Council Board officers* (Times-Union); • *DRI's; Business Development Corporation* and President *Patricia Ferm* in list of top SBA lenders ((Business Journal).



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