

# NEFRC

## Highlights

### Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

February 2004

#### **Council recommends moving forward with RiverTown development**

On Thursday, February 5, 2004, at a Board Meeting held at the First Coast Technical Institute in St. Augustine, the Council approved the recommendation report for the proposed RiverTown DRI in St. Johns County.

RiverTown is a 4,170-acre development proposed for 4,500 homes, 300,000 square feet of commercial, 100,000 square feet of office space, 100,000 square feet of industrial space, and an 18-hole golf course.

The project is located along the St. Johns River in the northwest quadrant of the County. The council voted unanimously to send the recommendations to the St. Johns Board of County Commissioners.

The recommendation report includes recommendations to develop a management plan for an on-site gopher tortoise habitat preserve, build wildlife crossings, keep upland buffers consistent with county standards, and develop a water quality monitoring plan.

In addition, the Council recommended a maximum of 30 docks in the St. Johns River, in order to limit boat traffic. The transportation mitigation plan pipelines approximately \$33 million for the construction of new roads in the northwest quadrant and for widening of existing roads.

For more information, please contact Ed Lehman at (904) 279-0885 X 130.

#### **Governance and management workshop presented to Town of Interlachen**

Council Executive Director Brian Teeple presented information to the Town of Interlachen regarding governance and management options at a workshop on February 24.

The advantages and disadvantages of a City Manager versus Clerk form of management was presented to the Town Council for specific consideration.

For more information, contact Brian Teeple at (904) 279-0885 X 103.

#### **Upcoming conference evaluates the impact of regionalism on commercial real estate**

The 8th Annual First Coast Real Estate Outlook Conference and Expo will be held Thursday, March 18, 2004 at the Adams Mark Hotel.

In a special address delivered by Jacksonville Mayor John Peyton, the topic "How Regionalism Impacts the Commercial Real Estate Industry" will be evaluated. Council Executive Director Brian Teeple will serve as the moderator for this session.

In addition, an economic forecast will be presented by economist, Dr. Henry Fishkind. Breakout sessions will include topics such as: Office Market, Industrial Market, Multi-Family Market, Single-Family Market, Real Estate Investment Market and Brownfields.

County updates will be provided for Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns counties.

For reservations, you may contact Celeta McClamma at (904) 394-9494 X 1201 or by e-mail, to [cmclamma@nefar.org](mailto:cmclamma@nefar.org).

For more information, or to register on-line, please visit [www.reoutlook.com](http://www.reoutlook.com).

#### **Council assists RDSTF in coordination of second full-scale terrorism exercise**

The second year of the Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) full-scale exercise program is under way. The State of Florida has seven Regional Domestic Security Task Forces, that will conduct a full scale exercise between February and June of 2004.

The RDSTFs and the Department of Emergency Management requested the Northeast Florida Regional Council to once again participate in the development of the upcoming program, through coordination of the other regional councils to provide support for the RDSTFs.

The NEFRC has received a contract for \$1.07 million to fund Council support of the RDSTFs from Florida Department of Community Affairs, Division of Emergency Management, to sub-contract with the other RPCs to implement the program.

For more information, please contact Jeff Alexander at (904) 279-0885 X 134.

## **Council hosts First Coast MPO TCC**

On February 4, the regular meeting of the First Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) was held in the Council Board Room.

This meeting was the first meeting with the additional representation from the newly created St. Augustine Urbanized Area, whose MPO responsibilities were merged with the existing First Coast MPO.

Council staff looks forward to continuing its working relationship with the First Coast MPO as it takes on the additional planning responsibilities of the St. Augustine Urbanized Area.

For more information, contact Ed Lehman at (904) 279-0885 X 130.

## **Azalea Project recognized for its work in HIV prevention**

The Azalea Project was recognized recently for its work in substance abuse and HIV prevention by the Jacksonville City Council.

Council members Mia Jones and Pat Lockett-Felder presented the staff with a city proclamation congratulating the program on the opening of its new storefront office in Springfield.

The Azalea Project is a special Healthy Start initiative that provides outreach, case management, risk reduction and youth development services to at risk women and their families. Project partners include the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, River Region Human Services, the Minority AIDS Coalition, the Bridge of Northeast Florida and Gateway Community Services.

The program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

For more information contact Faye Johnson, Project Coordinator at 359-2520.

## **Healthy Start co-sponsors rally for "Children's Week"**

Children's advocates and youth service providers from throughout Jacksonville gathered recently at city hall for a rally to kick-off Children's Week activities in Tallahassee.

The event, organized by the Jacksonville Children's Commission, featured elected officials, agency representatives and children, who underscored the importance of supporting KidCare and other children's programs.

The Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition was a rally co-sponsor.

For more information, contact Carol Brady at (904) 279-0885 X 140.

## **Forensic investigation seminar comes to the First Coast**

The Florida Coastal School of Law Center for Strategic Governance and International Initiatives will partner with the Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and Law, on May 7, 2004 for a day-long academic symposium entitled "*Forensic Investigation: The Pursuit of Truth.*"

The event, which will be held at the Adams Mark Hotel, offers an opportunity to explore and understand various forensic applications presented by the nation's most esteemed forensics experts and policy makers.

Details regarding the high profile case studies of O.J. Simpson, Laci Peterson, Kobe Bryant and others, will be shared by the forensic experts who investigated them.

Speakers at the event will include: Senator Arlen Specter, R-PA; Cyril Wecht, M.D., J.D.; Henry C. Lee, Ph.D.; Michael Baden, M.D.; Barry C. Scheck, Esq.; and Ann W. Burgess, R.N., D.N., Sc.

Those interested in attending the event, may obtain registration information, online at [www.fcsl.edu/forensics](http://www.fcsl.edu/forensics) or call toll free (888) 246-4255.

