



## Council Highlights

### January 1999

#### BDC takes annual meeting *ON TOUR*

The Business Development Corporation takes its annual meeting on the road Thursday, Mar. 11, to spotlight seven of its loan projects as it travels to the World Golf Village for lunch and presentation of the annual BDC awards.

The bus tour, which leaves from the Council office at 9:15 a.m., includes Wilson & Wilson Optical, Ponte Vedra Travel, Accotink Academy by the Sea, Premier Plastering, Matanzas Animal Hospital, Hilton Garden Inn, and Hampton Inn. There'll be a stop at one of the sites. The bus returns by 2:30 p.m.

Upon returning, BDC will offer a workshop for lenders from 2:30-3:30 p.m. on the SBA 504 loan program.

RSVP for any or all of the annual meeting by calling 1-800-385-7888.

#### Newest loan approval

SBA has approved BDC's loan for a Travelodge, a \$2.2 million project in Macclenny. For info, call Pat Ferm 1-800-385-7888.

#### Clay sector plan meeting

The Council hosted the scoping meeting Jan. 20 and a follow-up meeting Feb. 2 for the proposed Clay County Branan Field Sector Plan.

The Sector Plan, which encompasses 23,698 acres along the Branan Field-Chaffee Road Corridor in northern Clay County, is a candidate for one of five optional sector plans allowed under new sector planning provisions in the Florida Statutes. The Council is responsible for

conducting a scoping meeting with affected local governments and other applicable agencies. Staff will develop a recommendation on the sector plan for the Council's March meeting. For info, call Ed Lehman (904) 363-6375 X130.

#### Baker County rezonings

Council staff assisted Baker County Development Commission prepare two rezoning applications for its Enterprise East and Enterprise West Industrial Parks. The rezonings change the sites to Industrial, consistent with two Comprehensive Plan amendments the Council prepared earlier this year. For info, call Dawn Montgomery (904) 363-6375 X131.

#### Council adopts new logo, mission statement

The Council recently adopted the new logo and new mission statement that follow.

**Mission:** "As a dynamic network of local governance, the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council provides visionary leadership and coordination between counties and governmental agencies to preserve and enhance the quality of Northeast Florida's Natural, Manmade, Economic, and Social Environment."



The Council's New Logo

#### HS partners with March of Dimes for healthy babies

Expectant mothers in Northeast Florida are being advised that "Kicks Count" and they can "Score Points for a Healthy Baby" by monitoring their babies' movement during the last months of pregnancy.

Information is included on new magnets, a special project of the March of Dimes and Healthy Start Coalition, which are being distributed through area physicians and clinics. The March of Dimes provided a \$4,000 grant to implement the education project.

The magnet project was developed in response to the Coalition's Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) project which found that many women were unaware that changes in fetal movement could indicate a problem in their pregnancies. For info, call Carol Brady (904) 363-6352.

#### Bicycle map project holds focus group

Staff has completed field verification of bicycle facilities in six of the region's seven counties for the series of bike route maps the Council is preparing for the region with a grant from DOT.

A focus workshop was held Jan. 25 to review the draft maps and project plans. A second workshop is set Feb. 26 at 10 a.m. at the Council.

The maps contain existing bike facilities, rails to trails, parks and other features of interest. The maps will be available for free distribution by summer. For info, call Dawn Montgomery (904) 363-6375 X131.

## Responsible Fatherhood project progresses

"Fathers Make a Difference - The importance of fathers during a child's prenatal to 5-year period," was the title of a one-day workshop presented Jan. 26 by the Jacksonville Childrens Commission in partnership with the Healthy Start Coalition.

The workshop, funded by the Florida Commission on Responsible Fatherhood, was aimed at community organizations that work with families to promote responsible fatherhood. The workshop will be repeated June 24. For info, call Dawn Clarke (904) 363-6352.

## Welcome new board, staff

Flagler County Commissioners Blair Kanbar and John Seay join the RPC Board this month.

Welcome to new planners Bruce Ford, from the private sector, who is working on the Local Mitigation Strategies program, and Richard Sapp, formerly with a mortgage company, who is working with the Nassau and Putnam County SHIP.

## KidCare hires outreach staff to market program

The Northeast Florida KidCare Outreach Program is now completely staffed. During January, four Outreach Specialists began marketing KidCare through community partners and directly to low-income families whose children do not have health insurance.

New staff include Karen Smithson,

Duval County; Paula Phillips-Burns, St. Johns County; Connie Feldman, Clay County; and Eric Moller, Baker and Nassau Counties. The Healthy Start Coalition is leading outreach efforts for KidCare, the state's new low-cost health insurance for children. For info, call Steve Gutos (904) 363-6375 X128.

## SHIP funds used for unique apartment project

The Putnam County Board of County Commissioners approved agreements to use a grant of \$213,000 in County SHIP (State Housing Initiatives Partnership) funds to support construction of a 60-unit affordable housing apartment complex (Kay Larkin apartments) in Palatka.

The project requires programs to educate tenants on the responsibilities of home ownership. The Council administers the Putnam SHIP. For info, call Gus Rappold (904) 363-6375 X133.

## Council assists Crescent City with zoning code

Staff has assisted the City of Crescent City with updates to its zoning code, consistent with its Comprehensive Plan.

Changes have been approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission and are scheduled for final adoption by the City Commission in February. The City Commission has also approved a contract with the Council to revise its Zoning Map and to prepare a related Comprehensive Plan amendment. For info, call Dawn Montgomery (904) 363-6375 X131.

## NEWS & NOTES

... New officers for the **Healthy Start** Coalition for 1999 are Herb Johnson, chair; Pam Norman, vice chair; Al Taylor, secretary; Paige Reed-Degryse, treasurer. Healthy Start released its annual **Community Report** in January. Call (904) 363-6352 for a copy.

... **Groundbreaking** ceremonies for the new Richard G. Skinner, Jr., MD, Children's Services Medical Building were held Jan. 29 in Jacksonville. Dr. Skinner, long-time practicing pediatrician and founding director of Children's Medical Services in Northeast Florida, serves on the Healthy Start Coalition.

... The **St. Johns County** Holmes Blvd. Community Development Block Grant, administered jointly by Council staff and St. Johns County Department of Public Works, has been completed. The project rebuilt and provided drainage for two miles of collector roadway.

... **Executive Director** Brian D. Teeple participated in a focus group for the Jacksonville Public Library.

... The **Florida Transportation and Land Use Study Committee**, on which Executive Director Brian Teeple served, has submitted its final report. It can be accessed at [www.dot.state.fl.us/planning/Land\\_Use/landuse.htm](http://www.dot.state.fl.us/planning/Land_Use/landuse.htm)

... The Northeast Florida **Healthy Start Coalition** hosted 32 coalitions at the 3-day quarterly gathering of the Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions in Jacksonville this month.

**Northeast Florida  
Regional Planning Council**  
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### March Board Meeting

March 4, 1999, 10 a.m.  
Riverdance Music Hall  
797 Blanding Blvd.  
Orange Park, FL