



# Highlights

*Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council*

**For June 1999**

## **Growth management—regional view**

Florida's new administration under Governor Bush is examining the future of growth management in the state. DCA Secretary Steve Seibert has created an internal DCA working group to examine Chapters 163 and 380 (Florida Statutes) and to develop recommendations by early summer 1999.

To facilitate that process, the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council convened 134 of the region's growth management stakeholders from the public and private sectors to examine growth management from a regional perspective. A total of seven 3-hour meetings were hosted at Council offices between April 21 and June 3. Representation ranged from government agencies and elected officials to private citizens and developers to environmental and economic interests.

A final collaborative meeting with all participants developed a regional consensus, and a report was prepared for DCA.

Some statements on which consensus was reached:

### **Consensus reached**

1. Educate players on growth management. (*Unanimous*)
2. Promote incentives and acquisition for environmental protection. (*Unanimous*)
3. Add flexibility to transportation concurrency or replace with a transportation planning system that provides efficient and effective mobility.
4. Simplify comprehensive plans, rules and regulations without loss of protection.
5. Comprehensive plans should defer to permitting for environmental protection.
6. Comprehensive evaluation process should look at a complete set of measures of effectiveness that are weighted on community values to achieve a balance of impacts and benefits.

For more information, call Brian Teeple (904) 363-6350.

## **Healthy Start aids state smoking study**

Healthy Start continues a very active presence in Northeast Florida. Among activities during the past month:

- Healthy Start will assist the state in implementing a pilot study to determine the effectiveness of a new smoking

cessation program for expectant and new families. Health clinics in Duval and Clay counties and at NAS Jacksonville will participate. The study is expected to begin in July.

- Healthy Start 1999-2000 service delivery contracts of \$2.7 million for local health departments (Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, St. Johns), University Medical Center, and Healthy Families Jacksonville were approved by the coalition.

- The Coalition hosted "Caring for Substance-Affected Families" Healthy Start Guideline Training June 15 at Methodist Hospital.

- A *Healthy Start Provider Guide* newsletter debuted at the training, and is being distributed to the region's OB's. The first issue focuses on "Identifying and Caring for Substance-Abusing Pregnant Women and Substance-Exposed Newborns."

- A new Coalition member Gwen Yates, Jacksonville City Councilwoman, was welcomed at the June meeting.

For info, call Carol Brady or Dawn Clarke (904) 363-6352.

## **Hurricane technical report done**

The *Technical Data Report*, the final document in the Northeast Florida Hurricane Evacuation Study, has been released and delivered to local governments.

The report contains the hazards, vulnerability, and shelter analyses sections of the study, along with 56 color maps. Key items include County Evacuation Zones and a Shelter Deficient Table. The Hurricane Evacuation Study was developed with state grants from the Department of Community Affairs. The first part of the study, the Storm Surge Atlas, was printed last year. For info, call Jeffrey Alexander (904) 363-6375

## **Nassau community center**

The Nassau County Commission has approved a contract with the Council to help manage its CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds for design and construction of a community center in American Beach.

Several American Beach citizens groups are expected to participate in every aspect of the project. For info, call Jeffrey Alexander (904) 363-6375 X134.

## Council mapping for Team Jax

Team Jax met at the Council June 23 to review the Asset Mapping completed for the group by the Council's GIS (Geographical Information Systems) staff.

Team Jax is studying social services in the Intensive Care and Partnership Neighborhoods in Duval County. Under contract with the Department of Children and Families, the Council mapped locations providing various social services (assets) within 32208 and 32209 zip codes.

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

## Good news for SHIP programs

An excess collection of documentary stamp taxes in fiscal year 1997-1998 and anticipated overage of the tax collections for 1998-1999 will allow distribution of an additional \$161,515 to Putnam County and \$105,074 to Nassau County for their SHIP programs, which are administered by the Council.

This will bring total FY allocation to \$615,097 for Putnam and \$460,076 for Nassau, and allow each county to fund 15 to 18 more projects. For info, call (904) 363-6375 Gus Rappold X133 for Putnam and Barbara Barsh X132 for Nassau.

## Director takes to speech circuit

As part of the new Jacksonville City Council orientation June 3-4, Council Executive Director Brian Teeple briefed the new City Council on the history and structure of the Regional Planning Council, its statutory authority, and several of its major program and project areas.

At the request of St. Johns County Commission Chairman Marc Jacalone, Teeple participated in a St. Johns County Town Meeting June 3. He addressed growth pressures facing Northeast Florida and St. Johns County, and noted that the county was well on its way in getting the tools in place necessary to

deal with the impending growth.

On June 16, Teeple presented the results of the Transportation and Land Use Committee to the Clay County Transit Committee. He concluded his remarks by noting that the future of transit mobility was dependent on three factors: finding adequate funding, making land use density and design decisions to support transit, and committing to transit as part of the mobility puzzle by allocating increasing amounts of transportation monies toward multi-modal solutions.

For info, call Brian Teeple (904) 363-6350.

## Council briefs . . .

• **Regional Directory** The 1999 Directory of government officials and agencies is available. Two free copies will be sent to member counties/municipalities. To purchase a copy, call Doris Barletta (904) 363-6375 X104.

• **KidCare targets homeless** Northeast Florida KidCare sponsored a picnic and children's activities June 26 at Mt. Zion Historic AME Church in Jacksonville to enroll homeless and displaced children into the state health insurance program.

• **Hurricane workshop** Senior Planner Jeffrey Alexander moderated the "Evacuation Reentry Procedures" workshop at the Governors Hurricane Conference.

• **Speech makers** Planner Jeffrey Alexander spoke on the Hurricane Study at the Florida Department of Transportation Health and Safety Conference and to a Duval County group working on draw bridge openings and closings during evacuations. Senior Planner Ed Lehman spoke to the St. Johns County Community Health Improvement Partnership on proposed growth in the county.

### *Need a speaker?*

*Council presentations on the Hurricane Evacuation Study and Growth Management/Transportation issues are in high demand. To schedule, call Public Relations (904-363-6350).*



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