

NEFRC

Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

April 2004

Leadership program examines growth in St. Johns and Nassau counties

NEFRC Executive Director Brian Teeple was invited to present regional perspectives at leadership program days in both St. Johns and Nassau counties during the month of April. Issues presented related to growth and growth management, regional cooperation and the creation of a Northeast Florida regional leadership program.

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

Planning staff receives recognition for terrorism exercise efforts

The planning staff of the NEFRC was nominated for a Davis Productivity Award for its efforts in the 2003 Regional Domestic Security Task Force and have been selected as a plaque recipient. Key members of the planning staff will attend a local ceremony in Jacksonville to accept the award.

The Davis Productivity Awards recognize and reward state government employees whose work significantly and measurably increases productivity and promotes innovation to improve the delivery of state services and save money for Florida taxpayers and businesses. The program is a major government improvement initiative chaired by Lt. Governor Toni Jennings and sponsored by Florida TaxWatch, The Florida Council of 100, and the State of Florida.

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

St. Johns Vision Initiative evaluates conservation efforts

In April, the Land Use Committee of the St. Johns Vision Initiative invited Council Executive Director Brian Teeple and Director of Special Projects Mike Brown to present information regarding environmental land acquisition approaches. This information was to be used to assist in the realization of the St. Johns Vision of preservation and conservation. NEFRC staff stressed the need to fully inventory existing preservation and conservation lands as well as the recommendation for the development of a strategic acquisition plan.

For more information, contact Mike Brown at (904) 279-0885 X 135.

Hometown Democracy debated at Tiger Bay Club

The Jacksonville Tiger Bay Club's program at the April meeting concerned the petition drive to create the "Hometown Democracy" constitutional amendment. This amendment would require that all land use decisions requiring comprehensive amendments to be decided by a vote of the electorate.

The Council has passed a resolution in opposition of the proposed constitutional amendment. Council Executive Director Brian Teeple presented the Council's view opposing the amendment at the debate on April 16.

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

Northeast Florida District DEP planning retreat

District Director, Mario Taylor, as part of a strategic planning retreat for the Northeast Florida District of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) invited a panels of partners, including the St. Johns River Water Management District, Suwannee River Water Management District, City of Jacksonville, Florida Department of Transportation and the NEFRC to share information regarding their respective organizations with the District management staff.

In addition, Council Executive Director, Brian Teeple made a presentation of the challenges of regional growth to the District.

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

Marineland Comprehensive Plan updated

Staff continues work on updating the Marineland 2015 Comprehensive Plan. The Town has undergone extensive visioning, redefining future development for the area.

The vision reduces overall density and includes policies for creating a sustainable research and education based community. A public hearing to consider transmittal of the 2015 Comprehensive Plan is scheduled for May 13, 2004. Contact Lindsay Haga for meeting time and place details at (904) 279-0885 X 151.

Fiscal Impact Analysis Model affect on affordable housing

The Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has formed a working analysis to address the issue of how the proposed Fiscal Impact Model deals with affordable housing. Council Executive Director, Brian Teeple, was appointed to the working group by the DCA representing the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association. The working group expects to conclude this work in June.

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

Council staff provides technical assistance to Flagler Beach

Pursuant to a technical assistance contract with the City of Flagler Beach, Council staff will continue to provide technical assistance support that includes review of rezoning and land use applications and modifications to the adopted Zoning Code. Recent proposed Zoning Code changes include modifications to the allowable uses of the Tourist Commercial Zoning District, creation of new definitions and development regulations for outside entertainment and uses.

In addition, staff continues to work with the Planning Director to create a revised sign ordinance that will include principals established in the Scenic Highway Charette.

For more information, please contact Lindsay Haga at (904) 279-0885 X 151.

The Northeast Florida Regional Council
welcomes new Board Members
representing Clay County

The Honorable Carol A. Vallencourt
and
Ms. Deidra O. Franklin

Council Accountant receives recognition

Rachel Carter, accountant with the Fiscal Department of the NEFRC, was recognized twice in April for prestigious accomplishments.

On April 14, Carter traveled to Indianapolis, IN to attend the National Conference of Undergraduate Research (NCUR) and presented a body of research entitled, "Auditing: A Misunderstood Profession." Her paper was selected from a large number of submissions for national publication and distribution by NCUR.

On April 24, she was honored at an awards ceremony on the campus of Jacksonville University for being chosen by the faculty and staff of the Davis College of Business as the "Outstanding Accounting Student of the Year."

Carter, who graduated from JU on May 1 is a welcomed addition to the Council's Fiscal Department and we commend her on outstanding accomplishments in the field of accounting.

For more information, contact Donna Starling at (904) 279-0885 X 109.



Florida's Secretary of State, Glenda Hood, joins Jacksonville Mayor John Peyton, UNF President John Delaney and other dignitaries for a national conference for the American Heritage Rivers May 9-11, 2004 in Jacksonville. The event will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel and will consist of talks and tours focusing on environmental protection, cultural and heritage preservation, and economic development.

For more information please visit www.floridariver.org or contact Amanda Loach at (904) 279-0885 X 149.

