

NEFRC Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

June 2008

Recent DCA workshop addresses all aspects of growth management implementation

A record number of state, regional and local planners gathered in Orlando on June 16-17, 2008, to discuss how Florida's future growth will be shaped by the state's land use planning laws as part of the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Growth Management Implementation Workshop. Over 350 participants, including several delegates from the Northeast Florida



Regional Council (NEFRC) heard presentations by Secretary Tom Pelham, DCA staff members, and other planning experts from around the state. The keynote address was given by State Senator Lee Constantine. The Senator spoke of the importance of a planner's responsibilities and their decisions which affect their local communities and the State among other issues of interest.

Additional topics of the workshop included: Growth Management Implementation – Schools, Water and Capital Improvement Elements (CIEs); Transportation, Land Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions and HB 697; Rural Growth and Sustainability; Economic Development and Water Supply Planning.

Council President, The Honorable Harold Rutledge, participated in the portion of the workshop entitled: "Water Supply Planning: To Have and Have Not." In addition to participating in a panel of experts along with Richard Grosso, Executive Director and General Counsel for Everglades Law Center and Richard Owen from the Southwest Florida Water Management District, President Rutledge delivered a presentation entitled "The Future of the St. Johns River." In his presentation he addressed the goals of the Regional Council related to the topic of water supply, the ongoing efforts of the Council to address and resolve the issue and the consensus statements derived by the Council's work with other stakeholders.

President Rutledge concluded his presentation with a statement that may summarize the critical concern best: "We must rise above the issues that divide our regions and focus on what runs through it; only then will we solve Central Florida's problem today, which is our problem tomorrow."

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

FPZA Conference focuses on leaving a legacy through planning efforts

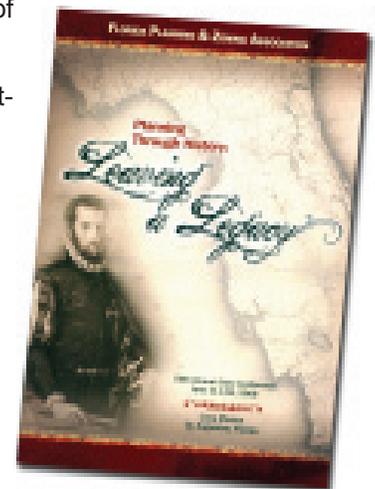
On June 11 – 13, 2008, the Florida Planning and Zoning Association (FPZA) held its 56th Annual State Conference, which was held in the nation's oldest city – St. Augustine – in the historic landmark, the Casa Monica. The theme of the conference was "Planning through History – Leaving a Legacy." The Regional Council was pleased to be a sponsor of the event.

The intent of the conference was to provide a broad program of relevant and useful sessions and workshops. It provided an opportunity for those in attendance to learn about some of the most relevant planning topics facing Floridians today. Speakers included predominant experts in the fields of historic preservation, adaptive reuse, planning ethics, green development, water supply, and school concurrency as well as other legislative matters.

Council CEO, Brian Teeple; Director of Planning and Development, Ed Lehman; and Director of Strategic Initiatives, Margo Moehring led a session for Planning Commissioners which was designed to provide a basic overview of traditional planning and zoning. Its target audience was elected and appointed officials, new and seasoned practitioners, as well as interested citizens. The session covered topics such as land use law issues, the Sunshine Law; good planning concepts and designs; logistics for running quality planning meetings as well as how to engage the involvement of varied and special interests.

Mr. Teeple also moderated an innovatively titled session, "Annexations Gone Wild!" Presenters Carl Salafrio, President of Environmental Consulting and Design, Inc. and Woody Boynton, City Manager of the City of Palatka, shared cases of annexation related to the cities of Bunnell and Palatka respectively. They ignited discussion of the drivers behind expansion, future uses of annexed land, problems and benefits related annexation and plans to overcome future challenges.

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



Council applies for economic development grant to further regional visioning efforts

In June 2008, the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) submitted an application to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for a grant to develop a tool for Regional and local economic development.

If the Council is awarded the funding through this grant, a strategy committee will be formed from stakeholders throughout the region with an interest in economic development. This effort will allow us to vision and develop a strategy in this important policy area as part of the larger First Coast Vision efforts.

For more information contact Margo Moehring at (904) 279-0885 x 161

Council TD partner takes top honors

The Community Transportation Association of America, the nation's foremost community transportation entity, presented its top award for 2008 – the Community Transit System of the Year – to the St. Johns County Council on Aging, which is a significant component to the Regional Council's Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) program.

The Council on Aging was designated as community transportation coordinator by the State of Florida in 1983 and has been the para-transit provider for St. Johns County since that time. It also operates the Sunshine Bus Company, which offers other mobility options to the overall county population, and provides over 13,000 rides each month.

Also, this year, the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged was presented the State Agency of the Year award.

To earn these top transportation honors is quite an accomplishment. No other entities from Florida have ever received these two prestigious awards.

For more information, please contact Jeanie Palmer at (904) 279-0885 x146.

Emergency Preparedness staff conducts exercise for Federal Reserve Bank

Emergency Preparedness Programs' staff utilized Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) resources to design and conduct a Tabletop Exercise for the Jacksonville Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, one of the twelve districts of the national Federal Reserve System on June 24, 2008.

The Jacksonville Branch processes tens of millions of dollars in cash, and many thousands of checks on a daily basis in order to serve the needs of banks and other financial institutions within its region, which encompasses an area from Orlando to the South, Pensacola to the West, and Savannah, GA to the North. The Tabletop Exercise challenged exercise participants with a scenario involving hazardous materials and a potential act of terrorism in which the Federal Reserve facility was damaged and made inaccessible for several days.

Those who participated in the exercise included many officials from the Jacksonville Branch of the Federal Reserve and its Atlanta Headquarters, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Jacksonville Fire & Rescue Department, Duval County Emergency Management, CSX Transportation, the FBI, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Department of Homeland Security, and Federal Reserve Police.

For more information, please contact Joe Garcia at (904) 279-0885 x 133.



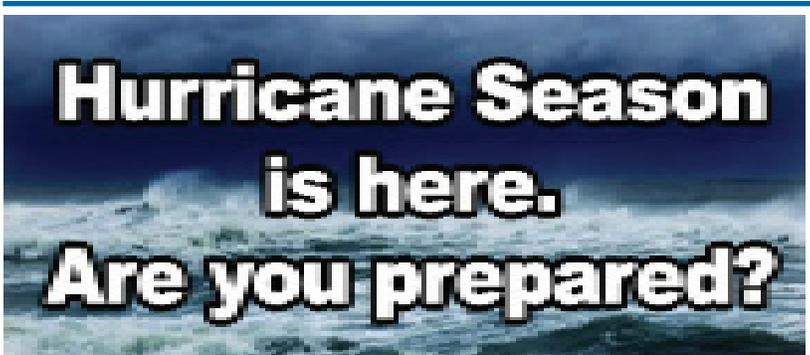
Jeff Alexander, Director of the Council's Emergency Preparedness Programs, leads a Table Top Exercise involving members of emergency management from throughout the State as well as representatives of the Federal Reserve Bank.



In a recent monitoring assessment of the Florida Planning Group (FPG), the Putnam County State Housing Initiatives Program (SHIP), which is administered by the Regional Council, received a rating of **95%** favorability.

The FPG is the independent firm commissioned by the Florida Housing Authority (FHA) to monitor the SHIP program to ensure it is in compliance with the high standards of the FHA.

For more information, please contact Debbie Balevre at (904) 279-0885 x 152.



June 1st marked the official start of the 2008 Hurricane Season. Make sure you are prepared!

For up-to-date information please visit the Northeast Florida Regional Council's resource page comprehensive information on the current Hurricane Season.

You can find the link (pictured above) prominently featured on our homepage at www.nefrc.org.