

NEFRC

Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

October 2008



Regional Community Institute meets with focus on dynamic future in Regional Visioning

The Regional Community Institute (RCI) of Northeast Florida, Inc. met on Monday, October 27, 2008, for the election of new Officers and to discuss future plans for regional visioning in conjunction with The Institute.

New officers include the following regional leaders: Shannon Eller, Assistant General Counsel with the City of Jacksonville; Wilfredo Gonzolez, District Director, US Small Business Administration; Kelli Jo Kilberg, President/CEO, Clay County Chamber of Commerce; Rob Palmer, JACOBS; and Mary Alice Phelan, Director, Community Relations, St. Vincent HealthCare.

The RCI is the non-profit, 501c3 organization that was formed in December 2005, by the NEFRC, in response to a growing realization that Northeast Florida needed a broad-based entity that would initially have as its purpose to advance and promote the vision of regionalism as it relates to the quality of Northeast Florida's natural, man-made, economic and social environments.

The RCI is embarking on an aggressive approach at embracing regional visioning in large part through its participation in the upcoming high-profile visioning exercise "Reality Check First Coast" – which is heavily into the planning stages now for a dynamic release on May 21, 2009.

The RCI will continue to work in tandem with the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) and the Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Academy to promote regionalism and address the issues that have the greatest impact on the communities in which we live and work.

The next meeting of the RCI will be on Thursday, December 4, 2008, immediately following the holiday luncheon of the NEFRC Board. For more information, please contact Margo Moehring at (904) 279-0885 x 161.

Planning Directors convene for meeting at Regional Council

On Thursday, October 23, the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) held its Quarterly Agency and Planning Directors meeting. The meeting was well attended with representatives from the Department of Transportation and the St. Johns River Water Management District; as well as planning departments of St. Johns County, Putnam County, Nassau County, the City of Jacksonville, the City of Jacksonville Beach, the Town of Bunnell, Clay County, and Baker County.

The highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Ed Preston, the Planning Director of Baker County. Preston gave an informative and entertaining presentation on both the history and current status of the I-10 level of service variance being sought by Baker County.

Margo Moehring, Director of Strategic Initiatives for the Council, gave an update on Reality Check First Coast, the high-profile regional visioning exercise for which she also serves as Project Manager, and lobbied for volunteers from the local government planning departments. Anna Shepherd, also with the NEFRC, gave an update of the regional housing report and thanked everyone for their past comments and contributions.

For more information, please contact Ed Lehman, at (904) 279-0880 x 130.

Council mourns loss of longtime Board Member Mary Louise Dungey

The Northeast Florida Regional Council mourns the loss of 8-year Board Member, Mary Louise Dungey who lost her nine-year battle with lung cancer on October 24, 2008. Ms. Dungey was a philanthropist, developer, and the first female president of the Northeast Florida Builders Association.



Ms. Dungey was highly regarded throughout the development industry for being able to break down barriers through her leadership ability and giftedness as a speaker. She used these tools to serve the Council Board well and was a long term member of the Planning and Growth Management Committee.

The Regional Council personally feels the loss of her presence on its Board and expresses its deepest sympathy to her family. Her imprint on the Northeast Florida Region will remain.

Local Emergency Planning focuses on hazardous materials and infrared spectroscopy

The Local Emergency Planning Committee, District IV, sponsored a training course in Infrared Spectroscopy on October 14-16, 2008, at the VyStar Credit Union Call Center on Fleming Island, Clay County. This training, conducted by Response Technologies of Sarasota, FL, provided an 8-hour, in-service course over three days.

Twenty local area hazardous materials technicians were provided with a combination of classroom instruction and hands-on experience that will enable them to classify and/or identify unknown chemical compounds or mixtures when responding to an incident. The course addressed both automated and manual interpretation methods of analysis. The term "Infrared Spectroscopy" refers to a method of analysis that uses the electromagnetic spectrum to help identify the various compounds and mixtures. Each substance has a frequency at which the molecules of unknown chemical are vibrating. Since particular substances produce distinct frequencies, the hazardous materials technicians can narrow down their options and come to a reliable conclusion as to what an unknown chemical substance may be.

Lt. Jonathan Lamm of Clay County Fire Rescue stated that: "This training is very useful when HazMat teams that are responding to incidents and do not know what kind of substances they may encounter. One of the biggest keys in response is knowing what chemical you are dealing with and then being able to plan your safety tactics and approach around that knowledge." After completing the course, the Northeast Florida region has on hand a set of technicians with improved skills and abilities to respond to hazardous materials incidents.

For more information, please contact Jason Taylor at (904) 279-0885 x 136.

North Florida Procurement Association holds quarterly meeting at Council offices

The North Florida Procurement Association, held its Membership Appreciation Quarterly Meeting on October 15, 2008. In addition to routine business which include financial and committee reports, the group enjoyed a presentation from guest speaker, Kirk Buffington, President of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, Inc. (NIGP) of which the NFPA is a chapter.



The members voted to approve a slate of new officers and board members which will step into office in January 2009. In addition, the NFPA is working towards holding a Procurement Expo in January 2009 which is to be held at the University of North Florida.



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

Emergency Preparedness Update:

CITAMS: The Critical Infrastructure Threat Assessment program has taken a significant step forward through the hiring and training of five (5) Critical Inventory Assessors and one (1) Data Entry Clerk/Analyst. Training for all the new-hires was completed at the Emergency Operations Center in Palatka on October 21-23, 2008.

SRESP: All seven of the NEFRC's county emergency services representatives gathered at the Council on October 17, 2008. for the Fall SRESP (Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program) Regional Coordination Meeting. Presenters included Dr. Jay Baker, and David Powers, the head of our Wilbur Smith Associates Team in charge of conducting the Transportation Analysis.

For more information, contact Steve McMikle at (904) 279-0885 x 149.

Mark Your Calendars and Plan to Attend!

The Northeast Florida Regional Council
representing Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties
Cordially invites you to attend

THE 2008
NORTHEAST FLORIDA
ELECTED OFFICIALS RECEPTION &
Regional Leadership Awards Ceremony

Thursday, November 20, 2008
7:00 pm - 9:30 pm
St. Johns County Convention Center
at the World Golf Village
500 South Legacy Trail, St. Augustine, FL 32092

Please R.S.V.P. by Friday, November 14, 2008
During office hours: (904) 279-0880
Automated line: (904) 279-0885 ext. 101
By e-mail: RSVP@nefrc.org