

# NEAFC Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

December 2009

## It's Time for a Generation Check!

Generation Check is a free regional visioning exercise for young people between the ages of 14 and 22 that will enable them to be directly involved in the efforts to develop a vision for the future. Our goal is to provide youth with a voice in shaping the Region in which they will live, work and raise their families.

As with Reality Check First Coast, participants will be divided into groups of eight to ten, and will be charged with discussing and allocating housing and jobs throughout the First Coast Region. By placing Lego® building blocks on large-scale regional maps, they will construct their scenarios and be able to determine the impact of their collective vision.

We are striving to include approximately 300 people between the ages of 14 and 22 from Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns counties. Generation Check will take place on at 9 a.m. Saturday, January 30, 2010, at:



**St. Augustine High School  
3205 Varella Avenue  
St. Augustine, Florida 32084**

Participants in the 14 -17 age range must participate through an organization. We are seeking youth organizations from across the Region that can send participants to Generation Check. Please contact Jennifer Hewett-Apperson at 279-0885 x104 if you are part of an organization that would like to send participants to Generation Check.

Because Generation Check is such a large undertaking, we are seeking sponsors and donations. Please contact Guy Parola at 279-0885 x135 if you are interested in being an event sponsor or making a donation.

## County Check Results are Out!

Results for most of the seven County Checks held during the months of October and November 2009 have been posted at [www.realitycheckfirstcoast.com](http://www.realitycheckfirstcoast.com). Look for a consolidated report that details results from all seven County Checks to be released in early January 2010. Please contact Ameera Sayeed at 279-0885 x151 for additional information.

## Reality Check Rollout

On December 17, 2009, ULI hosted a meeting called "The First Coast in 2060: Reality Check's Report". It was well attended with a wide cross-section of First Coast residents, including many participants from last May's Reality Check First Coast (RCFC). Speakers included Peter Rummell, who chaired the RCFC Steering Committee, John Delaney, who hosted the event, Brian Teeple, Rob Palmer and Brenna Durden, Co-Chairs of Reality Check First Coast, Margo Moehring, who project managed the May event, and Bob Rhodes, who got the audience engaged by announcing the start of Regional Community Institute efforts on First Coast Vision. These efforts will be supported by Region First 2060, the implementation arm of the partnership that spearheaded Reality Check First Coast.

The consensus theme from RCFC was clear. We must take a regional approach to key community elements such as natural resources, mobility and land use. This is a timely and helpful message as we begin First Coast Vision. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at [mmoehring@nefrc.org](mailto:mmoehring@nefrc.org) or at 904 279 0885 x 161.



## Regional Community Institute Committees

The Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida, Inc. (RCI), is a not-for-profit organization created by the Northeast Florida Regional Council charged with assessing and monitoring the state of the Region, fostering leadership throughout the Region, and creating a Vision for the Region. The mission of RCI is to advance and promote regionalism as it relates to the quality of life in Northeast Florida's natural, built, economic and social environments. RCI has been asked to create the Regional Vision on a timeline that will allow it to be considered by the Northeast Florida Regional Council when updating the Northeast Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP).

In order to maximize the collective expertise and knowledge of the RCI membership, subject area committees have been created for Affordable Housing, Economic Development, Emergency Preparedness, Health and Human Services, Natural Resources, and Transportation. On December 3rd of last year, the Committee Chairs held their first meeting essentially kicking off the beginning of the development of First Coast Vision.

The Committee chairs have reached out to local subject area experts to participate on their respective committees. Committees will meet about once a month beginning this January, and continue to meet throughout 2010. For more information, please contact Guy Parola at 279-0885 x135.

## 2010 Regional Leadership Series Kicks Off on January 13, 2010!



The 2010 Regional Leadership Series kicks off at 9:00 a.m. on January 13, 2010, with "Tools for Regional Leadership". Applications for the 2010 class are being accepted through January 5, 2010. Additional information, including the schedule for the 2010 Regional Leadership Series, may be obtained at <http://www.nefrla.com/RLSOverview.html>, or by contacting Jennifer Hewett-Apperson at 279-0885 x104.

## Qatar Delegation

Council CEO Brian Teeple participated in a panel presentation to a delegation from Qatar on December 11, 2009 at the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce. The delegation was sponsored by the International Visitors Corps of Jacksonville. Also on the panel were Lindsey Ballas of the Jacksonville Economic Development Commission and Jeff Sheffield of the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization. Teeple spoke to the delegation about the critical Ingredients for Regional Cooperation. Highlighted was the Council's recent experience in Reality Check First Coast and the ongoing regional visioning efforts by the Regional Community Institute. For more information, please contact Brian Teeple at 279-0880.

## Save the Date!

### The Annual Elected Officials Reception and Regional Awards

Wednesday, February 24, 2010  
6:00 p.m.  
UNF University Center

