

# NEFRC

## Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

August 2010

### **NEFRC Spearheads Regional Application for \$5 Million Housing and Urban Development Sustainability Grant**

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) is pleased to announce, in coordination with five partners and a 30 + member consortium, the submission of an application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant under the name First Coast Consortium. If this application is successful, this grant will provide \$5 million to create the "First Coast Vision", a regional plan for sustainable development for the seven-county Region that includes Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties.

Over the past five years, the Northeast Florida Regional Council has been developing leadership in the Region through its Regional Leadership Academy (RLA). The RLA trains leaders from all sectors of society to address regional issues, and recognize the benefit of viewing problems and opportunities regionally. RLA graduates become members of the Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida, Inc., (RCI) a not-for-profit created by the Regional Council to track the progress of the Region and create the First Coast Vision, a 50-year vision for growth and development in the Region,. First Coast Vision will be a regional plan for sustainable development, so the timing of the HUD grant is perfect for Northeast Florida.

HUD funding would allow First Coast Vision to be more robust by including more input and education, a pilot planning exercise in urban, suburban, rural and coastal communities, a review of and clearinghouse for sustainable initiatives throughout the Region, and a toolkit that our local governments can implement to be more sustainable. At a minimum, collaborating with the diversity represented by the First Coast Consortium will help us to make First Coast Vision more representative. For more information on the First Coast Consortium's application for the HUD Regional Sustainability Planning Grant, please contact Margo Moehring at [mmoehring@nefrc.org](mailto:mmoehring@nefrc.org), or (904) 279-0880.

### **NEFRC President and Nassau County Commissioner Mike Boyle elected President of Florida Regional Councils Association**

The Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) unanimously elected Nassau County Commission Chair, Michael Boyle, as its President at its August 20th meeting in Hollywood, Florida. The Florida Regional Councils Association is the statewide organization representing Florida's eleven Regional Planning Councils. The Regional Planning Council is recognized as Florida's only multi-purpose regional entity that is in a position to plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions to growth-related problems on greater-than-local issues, provide technical assistance to local governments, and meet other needs of the communities in each Region.

Commissioner Boyle is a member and the immediate past-President of the Northeast Florida Regional Council, which represents Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties. For more information, please contact Brian Teeple at (904) 279-0880, or [bteeple@nefrc.org](mailto:bteeple@nefrc.org).

### **NEFRC and St. Johns County Emergency Management Host ICS Class**

An Incident Command System (ICS) training course, Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents, was held at the St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center August 30-September 1. This 3-day training course provided training on and resources for personnel who require advanced application of the Incident Command System because they may assume a supervisory role in expanding incidents.

The objectives for this course were to describe how the NIMS Command and Management component supports the management of expanding incidents; describe the incident/event management process for supervisors and expanding incidents as prescribed by ICS; implement the incident management process on a simulated Type 3 incident; and develop an Incident Action Plan for a simulated incident. Adam Faircloth, Baker County EM Director, Danny Hinson, NEFRC, and Darryl Melton provided great course instruction. For more information, please contact Danny Hinson at (904) 279-0880, or [dhinson@nefrc.org](mailto:dhinson@nefrc.org).

## First Coast Vision Outreach Continues

NEFRC staff continues to engage the citizens of Northeast Florida through First Coast Vision. In addition to presentations made to several civic groups, NEFRC participated in the second annual Community Day at Carter Woodson Elementary in Jacksonville on August 21st. Staff discussed First Coast Vision with participants and conducted surveys regarding preferred growth patterns. Staff also built the Region in Legos®, which was a big hit with parents and students alike. For more information on this event, or to schedule a presentation on First Coast Vision with your civic organization, please contact Margo Moehring at [mmoehring@nefrc.org](mailto:mmoehring@nefrc.org), or (904) 279-0880.



*NEFRC staff members Guy Parola (top photo) and Margo Moehring (bottom photo) discuss First Coast Vision with participants at Carter Woodson Elementary School*

## NEFRC CEO Brian Teeple Elected President-Elect of American Planning Association – Florida Chapter

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) is pleased to announce the election of Chief Executive Officer Brian Teeple, AICP, as President-Elect of the American Planning Association – Florida Chapter (APA-FL).

The American Planning Association is a professional organization whose mission is to advance the art and science of physical, economic, and social planning at the local, regional, state, and national levels. The objective of APA-FL is to encourage planning that will contribute to public well-being in the State of Florida by developing communities and environments that meet the needs of people and of society more effectively. APA-FL has a membership of nearly 3,000 planning professionals.

Mr. Teeple will serve as President-Elect for a 2-year term spanning from 2010 to 2012, at which time he will become President of APA-FL. As President-Elect, Mr. Teeple will oversee the Chapter's legislative affairs and advocacy program and chair the Legislative Policy Committee, as well as perform additional organizational functions.

For more information, please contact Brian Teeple at (904) 279-0880, or [bteeple@nefrc.org](mailto:bteeple@nefrc.org).

## Putnam County HHRP Fiscal Year Closeout

The Hurricane Housing Recovery Program (HHRP) was established to enable 28 local governments impacted by the 2004 hurricanes to develop and implement long-term affordable housing strategies for their communities. In total, the Putnam County HHRP, administered by the Northeast Florida Regional Council, provided housing assistance to 32 extremely low, very low, low, and moderate income families. The Putnam County HHRP closed out with a remaining balance of \$38,567.45. Per state requirements, this amount has been transferred to the Putnam County State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP), and will be used to assist extremely low to moderate income families within Putnam County.

For more information on the HHRP, please contact Guy Parola at (904) 279-0880, or [gparola@nefrc.org](mailto:gparola@nefrc.org).



## In Memoriam Deborah "Debbie" Balevre

Longtime NEFRC employee Debbie Balevre passed away peacefully at Community Hospice of Northeast Florida after a long and courageous battle with cancer on August 20, 2010. Debbie loved people, her work, reading, taking cruises with family and friends, and her puppies. But she was most passionate about her daughter and grandchildren who drove her ambitions each day, guided her hopes for the future, and provided the legacy for her rich life. Debbie is survived by her husband, Park Balevre of Jacksonville; daughter, Julie Gillespie and husband Gene; grandchildren Nicholas and Tanner Gillespie; and sisters, Rosemary Nawakas Fisk and Bonnie Nawakas Gray and husband Hobie. Her step children include Shoun, Kimberly, Brandon, and Ryan

Balevre and wife Bianca with grandson, Ryan. She is also survived by many 'adopted' children, close friends, and extended family. Debbie will be missed by all of us at the NEFRC.

**Excerpted from obituary published in the Florida Times-Union on August 25, 2010**