

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

A Quarterly Publication of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Fall 2000



PARTNERSHIP JOINS TEAM FLORIDA BRAZIL

With grant assistance from Enterprise Florida, Inc., the North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership participated in the "Team Florida Mission & Exhibition" in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The trade mission to Brazil took place July 16 through July 20, 2000.

In early 1999, the Partnership received a grant from Enterprise Florida, Inc. to promote international trade for the North Central Florida Region. Through a program at the University of Florida, grant funds were used to introduce eight North Central Florida companies to trade opportunities in China, England, Germany, Israel, Mexico, and Spain. Grant funds were also used to fund the Partnership's participation in two international "Team Florida" trade missions which were led by Governor Bush.

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I-75 CORRIDOR COUNCIL HITS THE JACKPOT!

Joye Brown, FDOT Lake City staff member, recently notified Corridor Council Chair Penny Wheat that FDOT has partially-funded the Council's application for statewide enhancement dollars. This is a commitment to implement the I-75 corridor design plan which is currently being developed by Lochrane Engineering and Buford Davis & Associates under contract with the FDOT.

FDOT has programmed expenditures at a pace of \$1.5 million for FY July 2002 and \$1 million each year for the period FY July 2003 through June of 2004. A second application will then be developed for the final \$2 million (for a total of \$5.5 million over 5 years) it is estimated to take to complete implementation of the plan.

The design consultant is currently developing an internet website for the purpose of keeping everyone informed on the progress of the design plan—and to allow interested parties an opportunity to comment or raise questions during its preparation. The website addresses are: <http://www.i75floridagateway.com>, and <http://www.i75project.com>. Both are registered and typing in either one should get you there.

The Corridor Council and FDOT hosted three public meetings in Gainesville, Ocala, and Lake City on August 21, 24, and September 5, respectively, as a first step before beginning work on the design plan. The design consultants put on a really good show which excited many of those in attendance. For those



Eddy Hillhouse, current Chairman of the Partnership and President of the Suwannee County Economic Alliance at the Partnership exhibit in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

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GROWTH MANAGEMENT STUDY COMMISSION

On July 3 of this year, Governor Jeb Bush issued an Executive Order establishing a 23-member Growth Management Study Commission to examine Florida's current system of managing growth and to develop recommendations to make the system "... less complex, less regulatory and more community based."

The Commission has tentatively established 9 to 10 meetings beginning in August and running into early February if necessary. Their report, which will include specific recommendations for improving the growth management system including legislative proposals, is due to the Governor and Legislature by February 15, 2001.

CITY OF WALDO RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced that the City of Waldo Wastewater Treatment Facility has been selected to receive a national first place award for an exceptional Operations and Maintenance Program in the Most Improved Plant category. The award is based on the City's demonstrated "creative and cost-effective achievements" in the operation and maintenance of its wastewater plant.

Mayor Louie Davis will be flying to Anaheim, California, to receive the award on behalf of the City at an awards ceremony scheduled for October 16.

BIKE MAPS

With grant money from the **Florida Department of Transportation**, the **North Central Florida Regional Planning Council** developed and printed four on-road bicycle maps for **The Original Florida** region.

These maps cover: **Alachua/Bradford/Union, Columbia/Hamilton/Suwannee, Dixie/Levy/Gilchrist, and Madison/Lafayette/Taylor**. To obtain your copy(ies), contact the **Council at 352/955-2200 or Email: ncfrpc@ncfrpc.org**.

*(Team Florida Brazil
Continued from Page 1)*

The first Team Florida mission was to Mexico City in July, 1999. The Partnership promoted the Region's products and highlighted the clam industry and other aquaculture products.

In the Spring of 2000, Enterprise Florida extended the term of the grant to allow the Partnership to participate in the Team Florida mission to Sao Paulo, Brazil. Of significant importance to Enterprise Florida was that the Partnership (as was the case in Mexico City) represented the only rural county participation in the trade mission. With the Partnership representing ten rural counties, nearly 1/3 of Florida's rural counties were represented on the mission.

The focus of the Partnership on this mission was to encourage Brazilian companies to relocate or expand into the North Central Florida Region. In addition to the Partnership's Trade Show Display at the AMCHAM (American Chambers) facilities, the Partnership's representatives had a number of scheduled meetings with prospective companies and organizations.

*(I-75 Corridor Council
Continued from Page 1)*

people who are interested in the project, but were unable to attend any of the 3 meetings, a description of the project may be viewed on the newly-created website. For those of you who do not have internet access, please do not hesitate to contact Chuck Kiester at the Council office in Gainesville.

NCFRPC SERVICES AVAILABLE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND BUSINESSES

- local comprehensive plans
- land development regulations
- transportation plans
- transportation disadvantaged plans
- disaster mitigation and recovery plans
- emergency response plans
- hazardous waste verification
- CDBG grant applications
- CDBG grant administration
- FRDAP grant applications
- tourism development
- general economic development
- small business loans

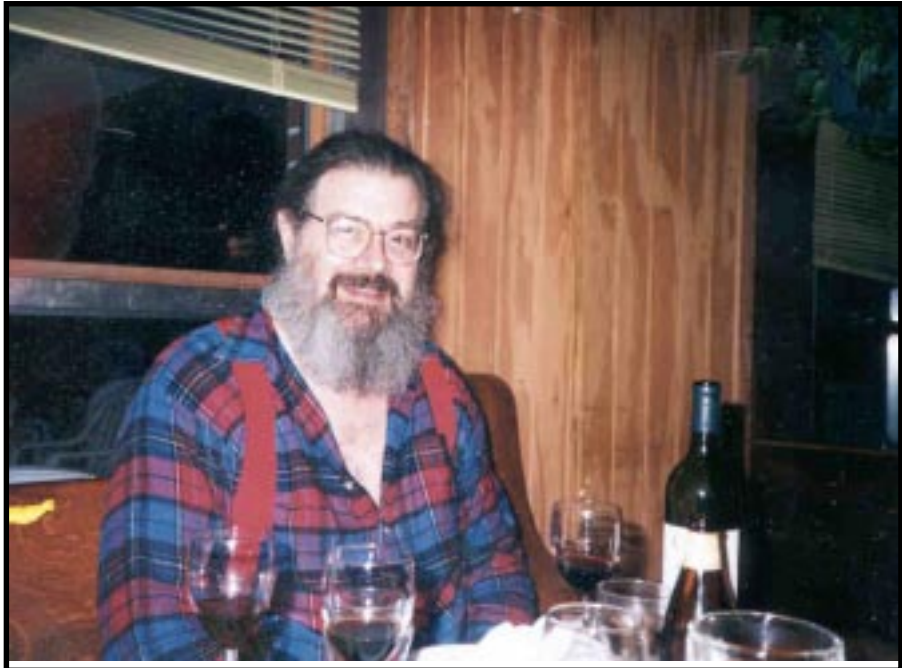
COUNCIL'S FINANCE DIRECTOR RETIRES

On September 15, 2000, the Council said goodbye to its Finance Director of 24 years, Thomas (Thos.) Olmsted. He was hired by the Council in 1976, with a background that included among other things, being a certified public accountant (CPA), teaching bookkeeping at a vocational school, working for CPA firms and as a Research Analyst for a Federal Reserve Bank. No one was more surprised than Thomas that he stayed around for 24 years—his original intention was to stay two or three years.

Thomas has made Council history, as the first person ever to retire from the Council. He was sent off in style with a farewell luncheon, gifts, and a slide show of former and current employees. And, as a tribute to Thomas, most of the staff dressed in red suspenders, jeans and t-shirts, which is Thomas' usual garb.

The Council's finances continue to be in good hands, with the promotion of Ann Brosius, who has worked in our Finance Department for 25 years.

The Council is grateful to Thomas for his years of dedicated service, and we all wish him a happy and enjoyable retirement :-)



WEB PAGES OF INTEREST

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council -
<http://ncfrpc.org>

The Original Florida - **<http://originalflorida.org>**

North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership -
<http://originalfloridabusines.org>

North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee -
<http://www.ncflepc.org>

North Central Florida Areawide Development Co., Inc. -
<http://adco.org>

I-75 Corridor Council - **<http://www.i75floridagateway.com>** or
<http://www.i75project.com>

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY NOTICE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INFORMATION

The Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act of 1986, also known as Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) requires emergency planning, and emergency notification of accidental releases. The legislation also mandates that information concerning chemical inventories of certain facilities be made available to the public. Regional Planning Council provides staff to the North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee which serves as a repository of Title III chemical data.

The public has access to a variety of chemical specific data and information about facilities reporting under provisions of the Act. Accordingly, pursuant to Section 324 of the Title III Act, the following information is available to the public upon request during business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

- * Section 302: Chemical Notification
- * Section 304: Emergency Follow-up Notice
- * Section 311: Materials Safety Data Sheets
- * Section 312: Hazardous Chemical Inventory (Tier two) Form
- * North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Plan

Citizens and businesses seeking information on any of the above provisions should contact **Dwayne Mundy at 352/955-2200, ext. 108 or email: mundy@ncfrpc.org.**

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