

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

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



REGIONAL HAZMAT TEAM - FIRST IN STATE OF FLORIDA

The newly-created **North Central Florida Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team** held its first meeting on June 9, at the Progress Corporate Park in the City of Alachua. The **cities of Gainesville, Lake City and Starke**, and the **counties of Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Gilchrist and Union** entered into an interlocal agreement to create the first multi-county, hazardous materials response team in the State of Florida.

As called for by the interlocal agreement, the organizational meeting was called to order by **Ray Kirkland, Mayor of Lake City and current Chairman of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council**. The first order of business was to establish a nominating committee to develop a slate of officers, and a committee to prepare bylaws, both items to be considered at the Team's next meeting scheduled for August 18.

The purpose of the Team is to protect the public from chemical spills that may occur within the five-county area. The participants (cities and counties) to the agreement will provide personnel and equipment to respond to hazardous material releases. The Regional Response Team was started and supported by the **North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)**.

CDBG NEWS

During the past few months, Council staff assisted 8 local governments with the development of 9 applications requesting \$5.8 million of **CDBG** grants as follows:

Bradford County Housing	\$750,000
High Springs Housing	\$600,000
Lafayette County Housing	\$600,000
Lake City Housing	\$750,000
Madison (City)	
Commercial Revitalization	\$600,000
Madison (City) Housing	\$600,000
Trenton Neighborhood Revitalization	\$550,000
Union County Housing	\$600,000

In addition, the Council is currently administering \$2.2 million of **CDBG** grants received during the last funding cycle for the **cities of Live Oak, Mayo and Perry, and Columbia County**.



Left to Right: LEPC Chair John Hudson and Lake City Mayor Ray Kirkland.

DIXIE, GILCHRIST AND LEVY COUNTIES AWARDED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT

The **Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Review Committee** recently reviewed twenty-seven county applications and announced the selection of eleven counties for the initial round of **FAC's new County Rural Development (CoRD) Program**. The two-year demonstration project was made possible by a Congressional earmark of \$855,000 to implement a program of technical assistance for ten counties under 75,000 population working to improve their local economies. Of the 33 eligible Florida counties, 27 made applications. Leaders from rural Florida are highly motivated to improve their communities, but need the tools routinely available only to larger counties.

The Review Committee included representatives of **FAC, Enterprise Florida, Inc., VISIT FLORIDA, IFAS, and the Florida Counties Foundation**. This group will work throughout the project to collaborate on program development and brokering of their program resources.

The program was expanded from ten to eleven counties as a result of a regional approach organized by **Dixie, Gilchrist and Levy counties**. The tri-county project was assigned a highly experienced professional (**James C. Brantley**) as the **Economic Development Representative (EDR)**. The **EDR** has been working with the **county commissioners and other local stakeholders, and associated regional organizations such as the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, the Suwannee River Water Management District, and the Nature Coast Business Development Council** to assess where the communities are with respect to economic and tourism development.

As a result of recommendations formulated by these representatives, a **Tri-County Tourism Development Program** has been developed for presentation to the three county commissions for their approval. Once approved, the program will serve as the blueprint for **CoRD** activities in the tri-county region over the two-year project schedule. The program includes the following ten goals:

1. Establish coordinated regional effort to promote tourism.
2. Identify the tourism assets of the region.
3. Determine current impact of tourism in the region.
4. Market the region to increase overnight stays in the region.
5. Assist in the acquisition of additional land for Dixie County boat ramp and Park on Suwannee River, and provide park design.
6. Assist in the acquisition and development of Hart Springs recreational area in Gilchrist County.
7. Assist in the development of Ft. Fanning Historical Park.
8. Assist in development of Tourist Visitor Center (Regional).
9. Assist in the development of the Devil's Hammock Eco-Tourism Recreation Area.
10. Development of Regional Self-Interpretive Kiosk Park on Suwannee River in Dixie County.

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>

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

ADCO NEWS

The **SBA 504 Loan Program**, operated by the **North Central Florida Areawide Development Company (ADCO)**, continues to provide long-term, fixed asset financing for small businesses in the region. During the current year, ADCO has processed loans for a **motel, a child care center, an extreme sports center (skateboarding), a recreational vehicle dealer, and a night club**. In addition, two projects from the previous year's approvals were completed.

The recent rise in interest rates has been a concern, but the 504 rates are currently below the prime rate. Twenty-year, fixed rate financing with a down payment for as little as 10% of the project cost are features of the program.

Modifications of the closing procedures which were implemented in 1999 have been very effective in further lowering the costs of the program.



Inquiries regarding **Small Business Administration** financing may be directed to **Jim Emerson** at **(352) 955-2199, Extension 107**.



The EXTREME SPORTS complex in north central Florida will provide exciting skateboard experiences for our area's youth.

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.**

North Central Florida
Regional Planning Council
2009 NW 67 Place, Suite A
Gainesville, FL 32653-1603

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