

# REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

A Quarterly Publication of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council  
Winter 1999



## **THE NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAM**

The north central Florida **counties of Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Gilchrist and Union, and the cities of Gainesville, Lake City and Starke** will soon be considering an interlocal agreement to establish the first multi-county hazardous materials response team in the state of Florida. The purpose of the agreement is to formalize an existing mutual aid relationship where specialized assistance from neighboring counties/cities can be called in to deal with hazardous materials incidents.

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## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP'S REGIONAL PROP- ERTY DATA BASE**

The **North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership** recently completed the establishment of a regional property data base for the purpose of listing commercial/industrial properties which are available to businesses wishing to relocate or expand within the 11-county region.

The project was aided by a \$15,000 **Florida Rural Economic Development Strategy (FREDS) Pilot Partnership Program** grant established by the **1997 Legislature** and

jointly administered by **Enterprise Florida** and the **Florida Department of Community Affairs**. In completing the task, the **Partnership** developed reporting forms (one for improved sites and one for raw land) for use by local economic developers, realtors and property owners, established a reporting and collection system to keep the listing up-to-date, and conducted education workshops throughout the region on its use.

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## **LOCAL (DISASTER) MITIGATION STRATEGIES UPDATE**

Council staff are currently assisting 8 counties with the preparation of their local mitigation strategies which, once they are completed and in place, will reduce the counties' vulnerability to natural disasters.

As noted in the Spring edition of the *Perspective*, examples of strategies which can reduce vulnerability include the strengthening of existing structures and public facilities to withstand wind and other forces, elevating structures to reduce flood damage, and implementing educational awareness programs for their citizens.

So far, the counties have completed the first two phases of the project. These include the establishment of a working group in each county, and the development of conflict resolution procedures, evaluation criteria for updating the strategies, community guiding principles and goals and objectives.

The next work product to be completed by April 1999, will be the development of hazard vulnerability maps. Mitigation initiatives (specific projects) will be the last phase of the project to be completed in August 1999.

The benefits of developing the strategies include the saving of lives and property, reducing the amount of money spent on recovery, and receiving more post-disaster funding by pre-identifying mitigation projects.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS ASSISTANCE**

During this past quarter, Council staff assisted its member local governments with the preparation of the following grant applications:



Taylor County - \$600,000  
Community Development Block  
Grant (CDBG) Housing grant.

City of Madison - \$12,000  
historic preservation grant to  
renovate a WPA-built women's  
club.

Lafayette County - \$100,000  
Florida Recreation Develop-  
ment Assistance Program  
(FRDAP) grant to construct a  
little league baseball field and  
make improvements to existing  
softball fields.

Town of Brooker - \$50,000 FRDAP grant to construct a  
little league baseball field.

City of Hampton - \$50,000 FRDAP grant to construct a  
basketball court and improve an existing little league  
baseball field.

Union County - \$300,000 Emergency Management Com-  
petitive Grant Program grant to retrofit an existing structure  
as an emergency shelter.

# **LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPREHENSIVE PLANS STATUS OF EVALUATION AND APPRAISAL REPORTS (EARS)**

Council staff has assisted the **counties of Bradford, Gilchrist, Lafayette, Suwannee and Union, and the cities of Live Oak, Madison, and Alachua** with the completion of their Evaluation and Appraisal Reports (EARS) during this past year.

All but **Bradford County** has adopted their EAR and will spend the next 18 months preparing and adopting EAR-based amendments amending their comprehensive plans. **Bradford** is scheduled to adopt their EAR in January.

## **(Hazardous Materials Response Team *Continued from Page 1*)**

The draft interlocal agreement is being prepared by the **North Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)** with input from the staff and attorneys of the participating cities and counties. The committee has also drafted a model cost recovery ordinance which will provide the means for the participating local governments to collect money from the offending businesses to reimburse out-of-pocket costs to the responding agencies.

Given expressions of interest by other adjoining cities/counties, it is anticipated that the agreement will be expanded to cover a larger geographical area within the next several years. Similar to other interlocal agreement organizations such as **The Original Florida Tourism Task Force** and the **North Central Florida Economic Development Partnership**, by combining their limited resources the local governments participating in the regional response team are addressing a critical need in the protection of the health, safety and welfare of their citizens.

## **(Regional Property Data Base *Continued from Page 1*)**

More workshops will be scheduled in early 1999 in an effort to increase the number of regular participants and increase the size of the listing. The **Partnership** added \$1,500 of its funds as a matching requirement of the grant program. The reporting form includes the information required to be listed on **Enterprise Florida's Rural Sites Data** listing on the internet to take advantage of its larger market coverage.

For those of you who are interested in participating in this ongoing program, contact your local economic developer or chamber executive for details. You are also welcome to contact **W.D. Higginbotham, Jr. at (352) 955-2200, extension 106 or e-mail: [higginbotham@ncfrpc.org](mailto:higginbotham@ncfrpc.org)**.

## **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.afn.org/~lepc/>

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

## **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](mailto:mundy@ncfrpc.org).**

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