

District 4 Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Chair: Bruce Tyson

Vice Chair: Len Burroughs

MEETING SUMMARY

Florida State College at Jacksonville Kent Campus

3939 Roosevelt Blvd., Room E-112F

April 8, 2013

Attendance

Members:

Chair - Bruce Tyson
Vice Chair - Len Burroughs
Charter Member - Don Ingram
Armstrong & Bosh Insurance - Opal Burgstiner
Cedar Hills Estates - Johnny Carter
Confederate Point Civic - James Nolting
Council District 10 - Kathy Budd
Crystal Springs - Marilyn Lehman
Gleaners Dispatch - Jim Kelly
Hearing Loss Association - Judy Martin
Hyde Grove Terrace - Shirley Lowry
Springtree Village - Dewey Walker
Timuquana Manor N. - Alice Turknott
Watermill Master - Thomas Martin
Westside Business Leaders - Jane Miller
West Jax Civic - Richard Dill

Excused:

Charter Member - Charles Mann
FSCJ Cecil North - Paul McNamara
The Village Salon - Steve Shaffer
Westside Area Residents - Charles Kelley

Alternates Also In Attendance:

Armstrong & Bosh Insurance - Bruce Burgstiner
Hyde Grove Terrace - Peggy Myers
Timuquana Manor N. - Polly Walker

Elected Officials:

Honorable Doyle Carter, Jacksonville City Council Member
Honorable Becki Couch, Duval County School Board Member

Staff:

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) - Doreen Joyner-Howard
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) - Assistant Chief Patrick Ivey
Neighborhoods, Housing & Community Development - Mary Beth Ridderman
Neighborhoods, Municipal Code Compliance - Maria Buchwalter
Parks and Recreation - Brian Burke
Planning & Development - Andy Hetzel

Guests:

Hipps Group, Inc. - Lara Hipps
Lisa Phillips - Blue Lakes
Darrell Barrow - Hyde Grove Terrace
Linda Barrow - Hyde Grove Terrace

Removed:

Argyle Community Garden - Sandi Newman
Tree Top Estates - Russell Carlson
Oak Hills Estates - Rosanne Vernon
NE FL Equestrian Society - Olwen Busch

Call to Order/Verify Quorum

1. Chair Bruce Tyson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Chair Tyson welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized Council Member Carter. Mary Beth Ridderman verified a quorum.

2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary

A motion to approve the March summary was made by Ric Dill and seconded by Dewey Walker. The vote: all were in favor.

3. Presentation

Nikolai Vitti, Ed.D., Superintendent of Duval County Public Schools, presented information about schools.

- The Strategic Plan was passed. It drives the budget development process and focuses in four areas:
 - Development of great educators and leaders, adapting common core standards. Moving away from bubble and multiple choice answers to more writing and more rigor. Leaders need to stay in place longer. More support is needed for teachers and principals. Training will need to be ramped up at the school level.
 - Engaging the community, caregivers and parents. Link partnerships to the Strategic Plan. Create a Parent Academy in the community, try to reach hard-to-reach parents before school, after school or on weekends; teach parents to navigate the system, build capacity for parents to advocate; teach parents how to navigate the portal, teach them how to access Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms.
 - Effective, equitable and efficient use of resources. Be sure every penny is focused on the Strategic Plan, child-centered and school-centered. More support focused in the classroom. More transparency in funding.
 - Developing the whole child. Every student inspired or prepared for college and life or the workforce and life. Previously the focus has been on testing. The focus will shift to the whole child, with full time teachers in art, music and electives, which are needed to prepare children to learn basic skills of math and reading. Technology funding will be at a higher level within 2 years. Every child will have a lap top or I-Pad, using grants to make that happen. He and the Board are invested in taking schools to the next level. Morale has improved, but it has a long way to go.
 - The following concerns were expressed:
 - Some parents don't respond well to problems in the classroom. (Dr. Vitti answered: The Parent Academy will target non-engaged parents).
 - Microsoft was searching for creative employees but was unable to find them. (Dr. Vitti responded: DCPS will have the concept of developing the whole child. Through music and art to develop critical thinking).
 - Parents are frustrated because math homework is not the same as it was. For example, an algebra problem with the correct answer is marked incorrect because the student's parent did not follow the proper formula. (Dr. Vitti said he will look into that.)
 - Handwriting is illegible – cursive writing is no longer taught. (Dr. Vitti said he had heard similar concerns and is looking into that.)
 - Some kids are mechanically inclined. (Dr. Vitti said those children may prefer to focus on career and technical education. Currently there are good technical programs available and he plans to expand those areas.)

4. Staff Reports

- **Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO)** – Assistant Chief Patrick Ivey reported:
 - Overall, crime is down approximately 8% from last year.
 - No patterns or trends to be concerned about.
 - Lock cars, remove valuables from sight. 70-80% of car burglaries occur to unlocked cars.
 - There is an occasional incident of car-jacking.
 - There is an occasional incident of home invasion.
 - JSO is looking into robberies to individuals occurring in apartment complexes. The suspects are Black, White or mixed-race. They are armed with guns and rob individuals of cell phones, billfolds and other personal items.
 - Zone 4 is a large, busy zone with the most man-power. Zone 4 has the highest number of documented incidents. Zone 4 has the largest number of calls for service (approximately 2000). Zone 3 is next in calls for service (approximately 1500-1600). Zone 5 is the most violent.
 - Red light cameras are in operation now. JSO officers are assigned to verify the recordings. JSO has caught 5 officers running red lights.
 - Please report suspicious activity to 630-0500.
 - Residents expressed concerns about:
 - Automobile speeding is an issue in Zone 4, particularly in school zones. Blue Lakes was mentioned.
 - A traffic light is needed at Samaritan Way. When construction begins on the Branan Field Toll Road, traffic will increase and create a safety hazard for residents leaving and entering their subdivision, Blue Lakes Estates.
 - The number of bike-rider deaths, the lack of bikes with proper lighting and bikes riding on the wrong side of the road. Chief Ivey explained that JSO tickets bike riders who do not have proper lights and issue warnings to those riding in the incorrect lanes.

- **Mayor's Liaison** – A liaison has not been appointed.
- **Duval County Public Schools** – the Honorable Becki Couch reported:
 - The new Strategic Plan was passed and provides a simplified vision statement. Superintendent Vitti is doing an excellent job. Dr. Vitti presented information and Janet Adkins sponsored a bill regarding diploma options.
 - They are in the budget phase. Magnet transportation and structural changes for administration will be in the next budget.
 - Contact her at couchr@duvalschools.org or 390-2373.
- **Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)** – Doreen Joyner-Howard reported:
 - Cassat Avenue resurfacing between I-10 and US 90 (Beaver Street). Single lanes will be closed in both directions nightly between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. April 10 - 11. Exit ramps will be temporarily closed.
 - Normandy Boulevard sidewalk construction between I-295 and Lane Avenue. Single Westbound lanes may be closed Monday - Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. This project should be finished Spring, 2013.
 - I-295 and Normandy – construction of Southbound exit ramp improvements will begin July, 2013.
 - Please check FDOT's website for information about projects, to give compliments or express concerns: <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/> or call 360-5400 or 367-5681.
- **Neighborhoods** –
 - Housing and Community Development Division - Mary Beth Ridderman announced:
 - She is working with the Bus Tour Committee for the May 7 Bus Tour.
 - Last week was National Community Development Week and the division participated in several events. One was at the Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless; toured the new commercial kitchen, the homeless Veteran's wing, very nicely furnished rooms for exclusive use of veterans, and the construction of the new respite wing, which will house persons who have been released from area hospitals following surgery or serious illness.
 - The division participated in the Mayor's National Day of Service at Durkeeville.
 - Municipal Code Compliance Division – Maria Buchwalter reported:
 - The division started a systematic inspection at Hillcrest and wrote 103 new cases.
 - A resident expressed a concern about the condition of subdivision fences along Old Middleburg Road. Ms. Buchwalter explained they have been working with homeowners in the area who own the fences.
 - Please call 630-2489 if you have concerns about properties in your area.
- **Planning & Development** – Andy Hetzel reported the department's printer is broken so he was unable to provide a written report.
 - The Taylor/R&R settlement is being worked out.
 - An application was received for 7838 John St. (North of Wilson) for a garage for classic cars. The Planning Commission's position is favorable.
 - A zoning exception was received for 11137 Normandy Blvd. (East of Chaffee) for CCG@ to establish retail sale of all alcoholic consumption. It will be heard April 25. A discussion was held. This was previously a bar.
 - An application for administrative deviation was received for St. Ives Court off Townsend Road for a screened enclosure with zero lot line on a patio home.
 - An application for administrative deviation was received for 4807 Appalachee Street (Ortega) to construct a masonry wall for an entrance to the property. Two adjacent properties have a similar structure. It will be heard May 7.
 - An application for a sign waiver was received for 1320 Chaffee Rd. for an internally lighted sign which does not meet the setback requirements. It will be heard May 7.
 - A resident inquired about 2013-005 for a zoning change at Collins and Shindler. Mr. Hetzel said it was deferred to the next LUZ meeting. Council Member Love wants to have a town hall meeting. A brief discussion was held about this property.
 - Contact Mr. Hetzel at ahetzel@coj.net or 255-7821.
- **Parks & Recreation** – Brian Burket reported:
 - The new Summer Activity Guide is available. Mr. Burket brought extra copies for residents to distribute at their neighborhood meetings.
 - Page 17 has information about registration for summer camp. Vouchers are distributed May 4. On line registration begins May 14. www.jaxparks.com
 - Page 35 has information about Waterproof Jax. Swim lessons are offered for \$60 for a two week session.
 - The department is seeking ideas and partnership opportunities. Please contact them with ideas, compliments or concerns at www.jaxparks.com.
- **Jacksonville Aviation Authority (JAA)** – Lara Hipps announced:
 - The committee has been working on the bus tour (May 7). About 15 tickets are unsold. Tickets are \$15.
 - For more information, please contact Lara@HippsGroupInc.com.
- **Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ)** – Mr. McNamara's absence was excused.

5. Chair's Report – Chair Bruce Tyson reported:

- He and other chairs were invited by the Neighborhoods Department to greet a Brazilian delegation.

Representatives included a television reporter and a liaison from the President of Brazil. The meeting consisted of a cultural exchange of information. The visitors were interested in volunteerism and CPACs. The Brazilian delegation reported that all television stations broadcast residents' complaints from 11 – 12 noon daily and they wanted to know the CPAC's role in government.

- He has been working with the bus tour committee. The bus tour is May 7. Almost all tickets are sold out.

6. Elected Officials Reports – Council Member Doyle Carter reported:

- Construction of the I-10/Hammond interchange will begin soon.
- Construction of a "spec building", a 500,000 square foot building, is supposed to begin soon by Hillwood at Cecil. Last year Hillwood bought out the option to build a million square foot building.
- JAA leases hangars before the hangars are built.
- Sidewalks along Normandy are supposed to go to Hammond eventually.
- A resident raised a concern about the lack of a Police Athletic League and other children's activities in the Southwest District. The explained a letter had been sent to Mayor Brown to request a PAL and other children's activities at the armory building on Wilson Boulevard. He asked for Council Member Carter's support.
- A resident mentioned that Council Member Brown had begun to recognize active neighborhood associations with certificates of appreciation. The resident asked if Council Member Carter could do something similar. Council Member Carter said he can do as requested.
- A discussion was held about the Taylor R&R Auto Parts agreement. Council Member Carter said he is checking with ITD to see if all calls/complaints to 630-CITY regarding R&R can be flagged. He wants to somehow accumulate all calls, complaints and citations, for example those from JSO, JFRD and Code Enforcement.
- A brief discussion was held about red light cameras. Council Member Carter was asked and said he had supported installation of the red light cameras as a safety measure.
- The CPAC applauded Council Member Carter and Chair Tyson thanked him for attending.

7. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports

- LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs – No report. A volunteer is needed.
- Beautification/Parks/Environment – Mr. Carter had no report.
- Membership – no report. A volunteer is needed.
- Transportation – Thomas Martin provided an oral report and written report. The written report is attached to the permanent record.
- Education – Mr. Mann's absence was excused.
- Sheriff's Advisory Committee (ShAdCo) – Ms. Turknett reported:
 - ShAdCo J has met the past five years at the Ortega United Methodist Church. Members are very grateful to the church for their hospitality.
 - Problems continue with auto thefts across the zone, no particular area. If you witness a crime in progress, dial 911. If you see suspicious activity, call 630-0500.
 - If you witness teens out after curfew, call 630-0500.
 - Last week a woman in her neighborhood committed suicide by jumping from a bridge.
 - April 16 is the next Sheriff's Walk, 5:30 at Cherokee Cove Trail near Thorn Brook Drive.
 - The following are ShAdCo meeting dates:
 - ShAdCo Sector J meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Ortega United Methodist Church. Visitors and new members are welcome.
 - ShAdCo Sector K meets the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Lane Wiley Center. Visitors and new members are welcome.
 - ShAdCo Sector L meets the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Cecil Recreation Center – Aquatic Center. Attendance was up the first month in the new location. Visitors and new members are welcome.
- Safety – Chair Tyson added to JSO's reports about auto burglaries. He receives reports from City employees who drive City vehicles. Often the employee stopped for a short time and left the vehicle unlocked, allowing thieves the opportunity to steal cell phones, computers and other personal and City-owned items. He encouraged residents to lock their vehicle doors and store valuables out of the car or out of sight.
- Cecil Area – Chair Tyson thanked Council Member Carter for his earlier report on the Cecil area.
- Economic Development – Jim Kelly provided a written report which was distributed at the meeting and attached to the permanent record.
- Education – Chuck Mann's absence was excused.
- TRUE (Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – Tom Martin provided an oral and written report. The written report is attached to the permanent record.

8. Unfinished Business –

- The Westside Business Leaders Association (WSBLA) is hosting Breakfast with Dr. Vitti on April 27, at Frank Peterson Academy. Reservations are required, \$5 at the door. Proceeds will go to the WSBLA scholarship

fund. See Jane Miller or Kathy Budd for more information.

9. New Business – None.

10. Public Comments/Announcements (3-minute time limit)

- The Hearing Loss Association is a CPAC member. Over 48 million people have hearing loss. 3 million in Florida with 140,000 in Jacksonville. Meetings are held at Nemours Hospital on the ENT (10th) Floor. The next meeting is April 29, 6:30 p.m. The guest speaker, Dr. Juliette Sterkins, will discuss "looping", the process of wiring churches, theatres, rooms, doctors' offices, etc. to provide improved sound persons with hearing loss. Guests are welcome. A discussion was held regarding residents' difficulty in hearing in the meeting room, E-112-F. Residents requested a microphone be used by the chair, vice chair and presenters.
- Lisa Phillips, Blue Lakes Subdivision, expressed two safety concerns:
 - o Automobiles speeding, particularly in school zones. She specifically mentioned Blue Lakes.
 - o A traffic light is needed at Samaritan Way. When construction begins on the Branan Field Toll Road, traffic will increase and create a safety hazard for residents leaving and entering their subdivision, Blue Lakes Estates. A discussion was held. Ms. Phillips was advised by the ShAdCo representative to contact JSO to request a speed monitor. Council Member Carter said JSO has been out to write tickets in the area.

11. Motion to Adjourn – Ric Dill made a motion to adjourn. Dewey Walker seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: May 13, 2013 ~ 7:00 p.m.

Florida State College at Jacksonville, Kent Campus
3939 Roosevelt Blvd, Room E-112F

Summary prepared by Mary Beth Ridderman, Neighborhood Coordinator

TRUE COMMISSION REPORT

to the

SOUTHWEST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The following major items were discussed at the last meeting of the Commission on Thursday, April 4, 2013:

- **Legislative Tracking Committee:** The committee identified four bills currently before the City Council that are of interest. Bill 2013-155 would create a position of Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator. Bill 2013-156 would create a neighborhood Enhancement Trust Fund. The True Commission opposed approval of both bills. Resolution 2013-170 Opposing Legislation that would Restrict, Reduce or Eliminate Municipal Revenue Generated under the Communications Services Tax that could Result in a Loss for Local Governments. The True Commission supported passage of this resolution and opposed any action resulting an increase in the State Sales tax. Bill 2013-187 Appropriates and borrows funds from Banking Fund to purchase Jake Godbold City Hall Annex. The True Commission supports the purchase of the building but without borrowed funds. The purchase should use funds appropriated but not spent in Ordinance 2013-89.
- **Audit Review Committee:** The committee recommended approval of Audit #731- Jacksonville Retirement System Audit but was concerned with areas where the possibility of fraud existed and requested that Council Auditor's Office follow-up to insure that these concerns were corrected. The TRUE Commission passed the recommendations.
- **Council Auditor's Office:** Notice of the recently availability of following report: Audit #731- Jacksonville Retirement System Audit.

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 4:00 P.M.

NORTH FLORIDA TPO
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

to the

SOUTHWEST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The following major items were discussed at the last meeting of the Committee on Wednesday, April 3, 2013:

- Approved an update to the CAC Bylaws based on the 2010 U.S. Census.
- Approved the Transportation Alternative Program project list for multi-use trails. Included in this list are the Cecil Recreational Trail – Northern and Southern extensions which will allow the connection of Cary State Forest to Jennings State Forest through the Cecil Field Conservation Corridor.
- Approved the FDOT requests to amend the FY 2012/13 through FY 2016/17 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This amendment updates the the right-of-way costs of the First Coast Outer Beltway and the I-95 – JT Butler Boulevard Intersection Improvement projects.
- Approved the JTA request that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) be designated as the recipient of the FTA section 5310 funds for 2013.
- Approved the JTA requests to amend the FY 2012/13 through FY 2016/17 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This amendment adds funds for hybrid technology workforce training and implementation.
- Received a copy of the North Florida TPO Public involvement Evaluation Summary.
- Received a presentation by David E. Bruderly, PE on alternative fuels. The presentation and discussion was wide ranging, which included vehicles (automobiles, trucks, buses, and ships), fuels (electric, compress natural gas, and liquified natural gas), and technology (hybrid, electric, and fueling stations.)

The next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at 6:00 PM

COME JOIN US



FOR CONVERSATION WITH

**DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SUPERINTENDENT DR. NIKOLAI P. VITTI**

**APRIL
24,
2013
@
9:00
AM**

**FRANK H. PETERSON
ACADEMIES OF TECHNOLOGY
7450 WILSON BLVD • JACKSONVILLE, FL 32210**

**DR. VITTI WILL BE
SPEAKING ON THE STATE OF
THE SCHOOL SYSTEM, HIS
PLANS FOR THE FUTURE
AND HOW WE CAN HELP.**

**BREAKFAST
WILL BE SERVED.
SCHOLARSHIP
DONATIONS
WILL BE
ACCEPTED AT
THE FRONT
DOOR.**

**FOLLOW SIGNS FOR PARKING.
STUDENTS WILL BE WAITING TO
DIRECT YOU IN THE BUILDING.**

RSVP TO JAXWBLA@GMAIL.COM OR 904.613.5219

Southwest Citizens Planning Advisory Committee
7 p.m. FSCJ Kent Campus
April 8, 2013 - monthly meeting
Economic Development sub-committee Report
Chair: James E. Kelly

Florida unemployment drops to 2008 level

Jobless rate increases in Jacksonville, most northeast Florida counties

Published On: Mar 18 2013 10:51:35 AM EDT Updated On: Mar 18 2013 11:52:35 AM EDT

The unemployment rate in Florida dipped slightly in January to 7.8 percent, putting it below the national jobless rate for the first time since January of 2008. The national unemployment rate in January was 7.9 percent. Florida's jobless rate dropped from 7.9 percent in December.

But the newest jobs report shows the number of people seeking jobs went up in all but two northeast Florida counties, and the rate for the Jacksonville metropolitan statistical area went up from 7.3 in December to 7.5 in January.

Statewide, the January rate was down slightly from the revised December rate of 7.9 percent and was 1.4 percentage points lower than the year-ago rate of 9.2 percent. There were 740,000 jobless Floridians out of a labor force of 9,422,000.

The trade, transportation and utility industries gaining the most jobs in Florida -- some 35,500 -- over the past 12 months.

	January 2013	December 2012	January 2012
Alachua County	6.0%	5.9%	7.1%
Baker County	7.3%	6.8%	9.7%
Bradford County	6.6%	6.5%	8.0%
Clay County	6.9%	6.8%	8.5%
Columbia County	7.4%	7.4%	8.8%
Duval County	8.0%	7.8%	9.4%
Flagler County	11.0%	10.8%	12.9%
Nassau County	7.3%	7.1%	8.8%
Putnam County	10.9%	10.6%	11.9%
St. Johns County	6.2%	6.2%	7.9%
Union County	6.7%	6.6%	7.9%

With sequester in effect, recruiters notice varied impact on hiring strategies

By Sarah Halzack, Published: March 17

More than two weeks after broad federal spending cuts took effect; local recruiting professionals are starting to see signs of uneasiness in the labor market, with firms tweaking their hiring strategies and some workers exploring backup employment plans.

Local employers are acclimating to this new reality in different ways, recruiters say.

Peter T. Metzger, vice chairman at the Washington office of global job placement firm CT Partners, said three of his clients have received letters from government agencies saying that sequestration was

forcing them to make a 15 percent reduction to a contract. Still, Metzger said, these agencies were expecting the same level of service.

As a result, his clients are looking for prodigious multi-taskers.

“You’ve got certain hiring managers that are saying, ‘We need to hire this person now,’” LaMotte said, in case budget dollars become even more constrained as the sequester drags on.

For employers that are already unable to hire, LaMotte is recommending that they not let personnel leads go cold just because they cannot act on them right away.

It’s not just employers that are adopting a different posture now that sequestration has begun: Some employees appear to be girding for furloughs or job cuts by exploring other employment opportunities. Paul Villella said his Reston-based staffing firm, HireStrategy, has seen a modest increase in recent weeks in government workers looking for new positions.

ThatsMrCat2U

10:43 AM EDT

I am glad someone relayed this message. Every time they post something about the federal government some Yahoo, says it is about time--they have felt the pain in the private sector. This is the sentiment without realizing we are the same pool. What happens in the public sector affects the private sector, as customer, client and employer.

I always tell the story of a lady at the local Safeway who was envious of the federal employees who came into her shop. So when she heard about the budget crisis back then...she was celebrating until they told her without the Federal employees they wouldn't need as many cashiers.

Economist these people are not. You cannot pull money out of the system without it affecting other industries.

Local Economy Development

Jacksonville-based Vistakon OK'd for \$12M expansion

4/5/2013 2:19:31 PM

Source: Daily Record

Jacksonville-based Vistakon, the Johnson & Johnson Vision Care division that makes the Acuvue brand of disposal contact lenses, is expanding with an almost \$12 million addition to its distribution center and a remodeled breakroom at its Southside campus.

The City approved two permits Tuesday for Vistakon. The two-story, 104,454-square-foot distribution center expansion carries a construction cost of \$11.6 million and the remodeled breakroom and new entry lobby, at 2,800 square feet, has a project cost of \$365,000. Danis Building Construction is the contractor for the projects.

Embraer, State and Local Officials Gather for Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for Super Tucano Assembly Facility

3/26/2013 12:28:48 PM

Embraer President and CEO Fred Curado, joined by Florida Governor Rick Scott, Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown and Representatives Corrine Brown and Ander Crenshaw, today marked the opening of the facility where the company will assemble the aircraft for the U.S. Air Force's Light Air Support (LAS) program. More than 200 local business people, public officials and news media attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the 40,000-square-foot hangar at Jacksonville International Airport. Through the LAS program, Embraer and its prime contractor Sierra Nevada Corporation will support more than 1,400 jobs with more than 100 companies throughout the United States.

GOV. SCOTT APPLAUDS \$3.5 MILLION FDOT GRANT TO JACKSONVILLE AVIATION AUTHORITY FOR FLIGHTSTAR EXPANSION

3/20/2013 12:20:05 PM

Governor Rick Scott applauds the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for awarding the Jacksonville Aviation Authority \$3.5 million for infrastructure development to allow Flightstar Aircraft Services to expand operations at Cecil Airport. The \$3.5 million Economic Development Transportation project grant, awarded March 1, supplements FDOT's previous commitment of \$10 million in Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) funding for the project. The remaining \$17 million is provided by Flightstar and the Jacksonville Aviation Authority, for a total of \$30.5 million.

Gov. Scott: Jacksonville Continues to Create Jobs

3/19/2013 8:16:53 AM

Today, Governor Rick Scott highlighted that the Jacksonville Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced an increase of more than 17,000 nonagricultural jobs in January 2013 as compared to a year ago, ranking third among all metro areas. The area also experienced an over-the-year decrease in its unemployment rate of 1.5 percentage points, from 9.0 percent in January 2012 to its current rate of 7.5 percent. The MSA, consisting of Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns counties, experienced an unemployment rate drop of 2.8 percentage points from the December 2010 rate of 10.3 percent.

Governor Scott said, "Everything we do is geared toward job creation and with more than 17,000 private sector jobs created compared to a year ago, Jacksonville's economy is headed in the right direction. That's further proof that IT'S WORKING. Since December 2010, the Jacksonville area has experienced a 2.8 percentage point drop in unemployment, which means thousands of opportunities are being created for Florida families. Because of the steps we have taken to create an environment where Florida's private-sector can grow, more-and-more Florida families are finding greater opportunities in the Sunshine State."

Mystery firm seeks permits for 1 million-square-foot distribution center at Cecil Commerce Center

Ashley Gurbal Kritzer

Reporter- Jacksonville Business Journal

A new 1 million square feet of distribution operation could be coming to Jacksonville.

The City of Jacksonville is seeking permits from the St. Johns Water Management District for 400,000 and 600,000 square foot warehouse and distribution centers for an unnamed company at Cecil Commerce Center, according to an April 2 permit application.

The proposed facility would be on a 102-acre site near the intersection of Normandy Boulevard and 103rd Street and runs along Alcoy Road. Look at the map below to see the parcel inside the green line. The unnamed company could be FedEx Ground Shipping Services or Amazon.com, both of which are scouting out Florida for distribution centers.

Other

Restaurants **Woody's Barbeque** **Argyle Forest Blvd**

Woody's BBQ- Now hiring (8540 Argyle Forest Blvd)

Woody's BBQ of Argyle is opening soon. Now hiring servers, cashiers, hostess, line cooks, prep cooks, and dishwashers Apply within, Monday-Friday, 2:00pm - 4:00pm, 8540 Argyle Forest Blvd. Suite 1.

Marcos pizza 8415 Cheswick Oak Ave. Argyle Forest Blvd.

Jax has good reputation with new business prospects

Middle size cities like Jacksonville haven't received much celebrity in recent decades. Now it seems that cities like Jacksonville, Austin and Oklahoma City are becoming destinations for highly skilled businesses.

As reported by Forbes, the hot growth sector of professional, scientific and technical services has expanded about 15 percent since 2001. And which cities have benefited the most from that growth? Austin is No. 1 and Jacksonville is No. 2.

Forbes lists Jacksonville as the "poster child" for poaching high value companies due to lower cost and lower density assets. We like to say it's more than that — superior quality of life. Over the last decade, Jacksonville's business services employment has grown by nearly 50 percent, "the biggest jump of any of the country's 51 largest metropolitan areas," Forbes reported. Examples of the growth here include web.com with 500 jobs, the merger of BI-LO and Winn-Dixie, Deutsche Bank and Advanced Disposal.

Jacksonville has long been proud to be Florida's major business city.

That is part of Jacksonville's character and explains why per capita income here is so good when compared to peer cities in Florida and the Southeast.

Insourcing or reshoring

You have heard of outsourcing. It's a curse word for the American worker.

Well, hello to the new boom — insourcing.

More American companies are finding that going overseas is not such a big cost advantage anymore.

A recent story in The Atlantic reports that General Electric is making appliances in Louisville again. There are several reasons to come back home:

- High oil prices mean that it costs more to transport items across the ocean.
 - The natural gas boom at home means energy prices here have moderated.
 - Wages in China are increasing from an emerging middle class.
 - American unions are becoming more reasonable.
 - U.S. labor productivity continues to increase. A robot costs the same in America as China.
- Making a product in China increases the chance it will be copied, knocked off and become victimized in a nation that has large gaps in patent and copyright protections. The Chinese labor market is stretched, which raises quality issues.
- As products become more complicated, they require the high skills and hands-on expertise found in America. Lean production techniques offer incentives to act fast and require more collaboration than across continents and languages.

A story in The Economist reported on a California company that discovered it cost just 10 percent more production close by. The supply chain can be closer as well.

America is still a manufacturing leader despite a gradual loss of jobs. For the first time in decades, the trends are favoring the United States.

New oil boom

Let this sentence sink in from The Wall Street Journal: "U.S. oil production grew more in 2012 than in any year in the history of the domestic industry, which began in 1958, and is set to surge even more in 2013." Whatever happened to the oil bust in America?

- Two factors. Higher prices made it profitable to use more expensive drilling techniques like horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing.
- The ripple effects are huge — more jobs, more manufacturing in the U.S., more dollars remaining in the country rather than being shipped overseas. You can call it a "virtuous cycle."

Energy ripples through the entire economy. The United States and North America with Canada and Mexico are moving to a new era of energy sufficiency, if not total independence.

Don't expect lower gasoline prices, though. They still are based on worldwide markets.