



Dirt to Development: A Site Readiness Roadmap for Rural Florida

Communities across Rural Florida continue to compete for investment, jobs and growth opportunities -- yet many promising sites face challenges related to readiness, infrastructure, funding and positioning.

A "Dirt to Development: Site Readiness Roadmap for Rural Florida" training session will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 24, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Big Bend Technical College in Perry.

Hosted by Duke Energy, this training is designed to help counties and communities understand how to take a site from raw land to development-ready, while reducing risk and increasing competitiveness. Participants will hear from experienced speakers

who will walk through the full site readiness process -- from early site preparation and due diligence to identifying grant and funding opportunities that can help offset development costs.

The goal is to provide practical, actionable guidance that communities can begin using immediately.

This training is intended to be collaborative and is strongly encouraged for teams, including:

- economic development organizations,
- county and city commissioners,
- county and city managers and
- landowners and property stakeholders

"By bringing the right partners to the table,

communities can better align priorities, accelerate site readiness and position themselves for future investment," said Duke Energy's Rural Economic Development Manager Mary Swoope. "We encourage you to mark your calendars, identify who from your community should attend and register today.

"We look forward to working together to strengthen site readiness across Rural Florida," she added.

Lunch will be provided. To register to attend, please visit: <https://forms.office.com/r/pzLuCzarFL>.

For more information please contact Swoope at mary.swoope@duke-energy.com or 601-278-4740.

North Florida College drives economic growth for students, region and state

A new economic impact study confirms what the region has long known: North Florida College (NFC) is a powerful engine for economic growth and prosperity.

Conducted by Lightcast, a nationally recognized leader in economic impact analysis and labor market data, the study evaluates the statewide and regional contributions of Florida's 28 community colleges.

Its conclusion is clear, officials said: NFC delivers a strong, net-positive return for its service district and creates lasting value for students, taxpayers and society.

During the 2023-24 analysis, NFC generated \$64.3 million in added income across Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee and Taylor counties, while supporting 998 local jobs.

NFC alumni currently working in the region contribute an additional \$51.5 million in income -- an economic impact comparable to hosting the



World Series eight times. "This report is a powerful testament to the value NFC returns on the investments made by our students, local taxpayers, and communities," said Dr. Jennifer Page, president of North Florida College.

Students themselves experience a high rate of return for their investment. Graduates from the fiscal year 2023-24 will receive a cumulative present value of \$34.5 million in increased earnings over their working lives.

This translates into every dollar a student invests in their higher education, they receive \$9.50 in return.

Beyond immediate economic activity, NFC delivers substantial long-term benefits.

By increasing students' lifetime earnings and strengthening business

productivity, the college expands Florida's economic base and fuels sustained prosperity.

Overall, the study finds that for every dollar invested in NFC, Floridians receive a cumulative return of \$7.30 in economic and societal benefits.

From every perspective, NFC creates measurable value.

Local businesses benefit from a reliable pipeline of skilled, job-ready graduates.

Students gain higher lifetime earnings and greater opportunity to reach their full potential.

Taxpayers benefit from increased tax revenues and reduced reliance on public assistance programs.

And Florida as a whole benefits from a stronger, more resilient economy and improved quality of life driven by education.

North Florida College is not just an educational institution -- it is a cornerstone of regional and statewide economic success, Page said.



A welding student takes advantage of state-of-the-art equipment in NFC's newest Career and Workforce program.

FREE PET VACCINES

THANKS TO **petco love**

A NONPROFIT CHANGING LIVES

Volunteers Needed

DAPPv for healthy dogs and puppies

HCP/FVRCP for healthy cats and kittens

Saturday, Feb. 21, 9 a.m. to noon

A Free Pet Vaccines Clinic will be held Saturday, Feb. 21, from 9 a.m. to noon at Forest Capital Hall.

No registration is required, and all pet owners are welcome -- from any county or state. All pets must be on a leash or in a carrier. ID is not required.

Chamber announces luncheon series

The Perry/Taylor County Chamber of Commerce will kick off its "Partners In Progress" luncheon series on Thursday, March 12, at noon at the Perry Woman's Club, located at 502 North Jefferson Street.

The chamber's "Partners In Progress" quarterly luncheon series, sponsored by Duke Energy, is a professional networking and educational program designed to bring together business leaders, community stakeholders and economic development partners to share ideas, strengthen relationships and move our region forward.

"Each luncheon features timely topics, expert speakers and meaningful conversations focused on economic growth, workforce development, innovation and community

resilience," said Chamber Executive Director Dawn Perez.

Nammo President/General Manager Elizabeth Eastman will be the featured guest speaker for the March 12 luncheon and will give an update on the exciting expansion at Nammo Perry.

The "Partners In Progress" luncheon will provide business leaders with professional networking opportunities and allow them to be better informed about business development and commerce activities in the community.

"This series provides a welcoming forum where local businesses, industry leaders, and public partners can connect, collaborate and gain insight into initiatives shaping our community's future," Perez said.

Partners in Progress... UPCOMING events

Chamber Luncheon Series

MARCH 12

Nammo General Manager

Join us while President, General Manager Elizabeth Eastman gives us an update on the exciting expansion at Nammo located here in Perry. MUST RSVP at 850-584-5366 to reserve your seat

Location: Woman's Club 502 N. Jefferson St
Time: 12:00 Noon - Lunch Provided

JUNE 11

State Rep Jason Shoaff

Join us for a Legislative Update from our State Representative Jason Shoaff. MUST RSVP at 850-584-5366 to reserve your seat. Limited Seating available

Location: Woman's Club 502 N. Jefferson St
Time: 12:00 Noon - Lunch Provided

SEPT 10

Congressman Cory Simon

Join us for a Legislative Update from our Congressman Cory Simon. MUST RSVP at 850-584-5366 to reserve your seat. Limited seating available.

Location: Woman's Club 502 N. Jefferson St
Time: 12:00 Noon - Lunch Provided

DEC 10

TBA - STAY TUNED!

Join us for our quarterly luncheon closing out the year. MUST RSVP at 850-584-5366 to reserve your seat. Limited seating available.

Location: Woman's Club 502 N. Jefferson St
Time: 12:00 Noon - Lunch Provided

TO RSVP CALL 850-584-5366

LEGALS

- TOGETHER WITH 20 FT ESMT OR 576-71 OR 598 PG 495 SECTION 20 TOWNSHIP 05 RANGE 07

Name in which assessed: Jason & Pam Crouch

Said property being in the County of Taylor, State of Florida. Unless such certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Courtroom on the 2nd floor in the Taylor County, FL Courthouse on the 16th day of March 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

** To participate in the bidding, you must be prepared to pay a NON-REFUNDABLE \$200.00 CASH deposit immediately following the sale of each parcel in which you are the highest bidder. **

Dated this 6th day of February 2026

Signature: Gary Knowles
Clerk of Circuit Court
Taylor County, Florida

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED TDA 26-003

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Thomas Heitz, the holder of the following certificate has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued thereon. The certificate number, year of issuance, description of the property and the names in which the property was assessed are as follows:

Certificate Number 634
Year of Issuance 2019
Description of Property: Parcel Number: R04953-000
Described as: LEG 0000.13 ACRES - WEST BROOKLYN SUB - LOT 19 BLK 60 - OR 521-230 OR 911-163 SECTION 26 TOWNSHIP 04 RANGE 07

Name in which assessed: Christina Gant & Holly Marie Gant
Said property being in the County of Taylor, State of Florida. Unless such

certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described shall be sold to the highest bidder in the Courtroom on the 2nd floor in the Taylor County, FL Courthouse on the 16th day of March 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

** To participate in the bidding, you must be prepared to pay a NON-REFUNDABLE \$200.00 CASH deposit immediately following the sale of each parcel in which you are the highest bidder. **

Dated this 6th day of February 2026

Signature: Gary Knowles
Clerk of Circuit Court
Taylor County, Florida

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE #: 62-2025-CA-000224-

CAAM

FIRST NATIONAL ACCEPTANCE COMPANY, Plaintiff, vs. RENDA TARRH; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF RENDA TARRH; FX1 TWG HI FINANCE CO I, LLC; UNKNOWN TENANT # 1; UNKNOWN TENANT # 2., Defendants,

NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: RENDA TARRH
Last Known Address: 1725 Ma Dixon Road, Perry, Florida 32348
Current Address: Unknown

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose and reform a mortgage on the following property in Taylor County, Florida:

COMMENCE AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE WEST BOUNDARY OF SW 1/4 OF NE 1/4 OF NW 1/4 OF SECTION 14, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 7 EAST AND THE SOUTH BOUNDARY OF COUNTY ROAD, THENCE RUN EASTERLY ALONG SAID BOUNDARY OF COUNTY ROAD 10.04 FEET

FOR A POINT OF BEGINNING. THENCE RUN SOUTH PARALLEL TO WEST BOUNDARY OF SAID QUARTER 204.20 FEET; THENCE RUN EAST 207.00 FEET; THENCE RUN NORTH PARALLEL TO WEST BOUNDARY OF SAID QUARTER 221.89 FEET TO SOUTH BOUNDARY OF COUNTY ROAD, THENCE RUN WESTERLY ALONG SAID BOUNDARY OF COUNTY ROAD 207.75 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. CONTAINING ONE ACRE, MORE OR LESS. SAID PROPERTY LYING AND BEING IN THE SW 1/4 OF THE NE 1/4 OF THE NW 1/4 OF SECTION 14, T6S, R7E TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA. TOGETHER WITH A 1996, MERI DOUBLE WIDE MOBILE HOME, BEARING IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS FLHMLCF89213960A AND FLHMLCF89213960B, WHICH IS PERMANENTLY ATTACHED AND AFFIXED TO THE REAL PROPERTY. PARCEL ID NUMBER: R06295-400

COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1725 MA DIXON ROAD, PERRY, FLORIDA 32348

has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, within 30 days after the first publication on Jason M. Tarokh, Esq., Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is PO Box 10827, Tampa, FL 33679, and file the original with this Court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney, or immediately thereafter, otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint or petition.

This notice shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks. WITNESS my hand and the seal of this court on this 13th day of February, 2026.

GARY KNOWLES
Clerk of the Circuit Court
By: Kathryn Lago
Deputy Clerk