

# NEFRC Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

October 2007

## 2007 Elected Officials Reception and Regional Leadership Awards Ceremony Blends Networking with Recognition of Outstanding Accomplishments



For the past six years the Northeast Florida Regional Council has taken great pleasure in hosting a reception for elected officials and friends to enjoy an evening of good food, fellowship and conversation which fosters the growing sense of regionalism and regional cooperation that exists in Northeast Florida. 2007 marked the fifth year the reception was coupled with Council's Regional Leadership Awards Ceremony.

The Awards Program was designed to recognize Regional Excellence in a variety of critical arenas essential to positioning our Regional Community as a model of cooperation and coordination. The outstanding nominations submitted again reflected the diversity of programs and projects, the quality of these efforts and the leadership demonstrated by the nominees.

Eric Smith, was back by popular demand as the emcee for the festivities. The evening was underwritten by a plethora of generous sponsors from the public, private and educational sectors. The Northeast Florida Regional Council extends its gratitude to all of the sponsors who made the event possible, in particular the Title Sponsors for the evening: *The Jacksonville Transportation Authority* and the *Northeast Florida Association of Realtors*.

The event was a glowing example of all that makes the Northeast Florida region shine. The award recipients and additional details of the event appear on the reverse side of this issue of Highlights.

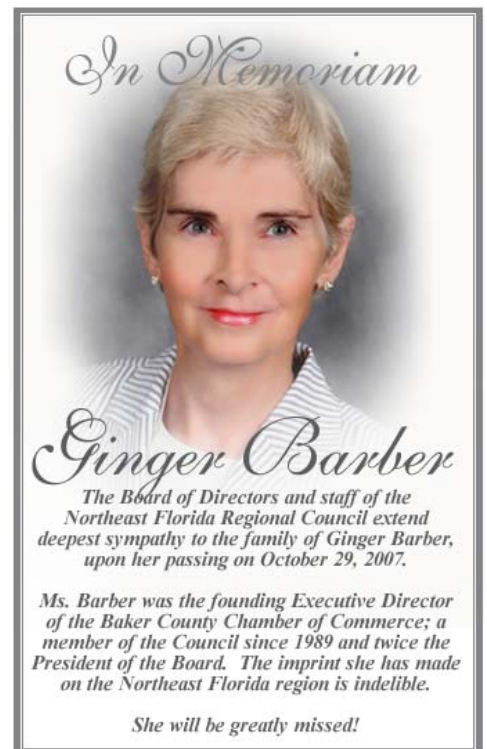
Further questions or inquiries may be directed to Mike Hadden at (904) 279-0885 X 104.

### Top planning award goes to Council staffer

At the October 13<sup>th</sup> awards banquet for the First Coast Chapter of the Florida Planning & Zoning Association (FPZA), the Focus Award was presented to Ed Lehman, Director of Planning and Development for the Council.

The Focus Award is intended to recognize a planner in the First Coast region for their participation with FPZA and in the planning field. Brian Teeple, Chief Executive Officer for the NEFRC, is a previous winner of the Focus Award.

For additional information, please contact Mike Hadden at (904) 279-0885 X 104.



*In Memoriam*

*Ginger Barber*

*The Board of Directors and staff of the Northeast Florida Regional Council extend deepest sympathy to the family of Ginger Barber, upon her passing on October 29, 2007.*

*Ms. Barber was the founding Executive Director of the Baker County Chamber of Commerce; a member of the Council since 1989 and twice the President of the Board. The imprint she has made on the Northeast Florida region is indelible.*

*She will be greatly missed!*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE 2007 NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS

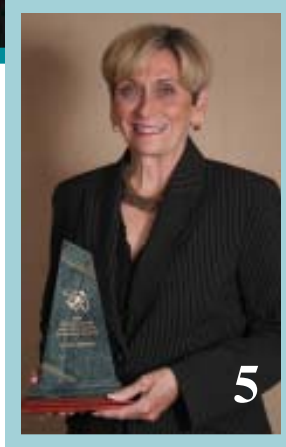
*The Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Awards Program continues to be anchored by the **Harry Waldron Regional Leadership Award**, named after former three-time Chairman of the Regional Council, Harry Waldron. Mr. Waldron was the recipient of the inaugural edition of this award in recognition of his lifetime of service to the ideals of getting along with your neighbors. Pictured at left is the 2007 recipient of the **Harry Waldron Regional Leadership Award**, Charles "Skip" Cramer (right) with Council President, Clay County Commissioner Harold Rutledge.*



**The other award recipients for 2007 are as follows:**

**(1) Regional Award for Excellence in  
Economic Development/Tourism**

*Richard Cox / Fidelity National Financial, Inc.  
Richard Cox, Lindsey Ballas and Cathy Chambers  
accepted the award*



**(2) Regional Award for Excellence in Education**

*Florida Youth Challenge Academy  
Danny Bradam, Academy Director (center),  
accepted the award*



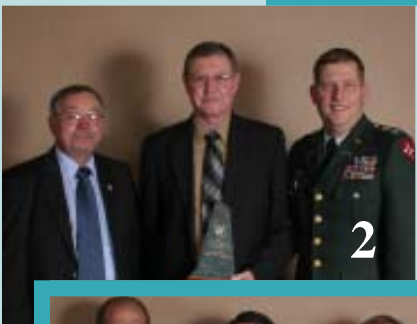
**(3) Regional Award for Excellence in Transportation**

*Baker County Thoroughfare Master Plan  
Commissioner Mike Griffiths (center) accepted the award*



**(4) Regional Award for Excellence in Public Safety**

*Nancy Freeman  
Nassau County Emergency Management Director*



**(5) Regional Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing**

*Elaine Brown*



**(6) Regional Award for Excellence in Planning and  
Growth Management**

*Jacksonville Economic Development Commission (JEDC) &  
City of Jacksonville Planning and Development  
Department  
Eric Lindstrom accepting the award*



**(7) Regional Quality of Life Award**

*Kerry Dunlavy  
Baker County Health Department Administrator*



**(8) Regional Award for Excellence in  
Environmental Stewardship**

*The Town of Nocatee  
Greg Barber of the PARC Group accepted the award*