

# NEFRC

## Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

December 2011

### Elected Officials and Regional Leaders Recognized at Annual Awards Reception

On December 14th, more than 150 elected officials, Regional leaders and award winners gathered at the University of North Florida for the 11th Annual Northeast Florida Elected Officials Reception and 2011 Regional Leadership Awards. Host of WJCT's "First Coast Connect," Melissa Ross was the evening's master of ceremonies and recognized each of the evening's award winners. This years honorees are listed below.



**Regional Award for Excellence in Economic Development and Tourism**  
Cathy Chambers, JAXUSA Partnership



**NEFRC Regional Award**  
Lt. Governor Jennifer Carroll



**Regional Award for Excellence in Education**  
Accepted by Scott Hobby on behalf of the ULI North Florida, Urban Plan



**Regional Award for Excellence in Transportation**  
Accepted by Brad Thoburn & Liz Peak on behalf of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority, Regional Mobility Coalition



**Regional Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing**  
Accepted by Brian Teeple on behalf of Elaine Spencer, U.S. HUD



**Regional Award for Excellence in Planning and Growth Management**  
Accepted by Commissioner Arlene Filkoff on behalf of the City of Fernandina Beach, 2011 EAR Based Comprehensive Plan Amendments



**Regional Award for Excellence in Economic Development and Tourism**  
Tim Digby, Omni Hotels & Resorts, Amelia Island Plantation



**Regional Award for Excellence in Public Safety**  
Accepted by Major Steve Clair on behalf of Sheriff Donald Fleming, Flagler County



**Regional Award for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship**  
Accepted by Brian Hammons on behalf of the Putnam County Nine Mile Swamp Georgetown Riverfront Park



**Regional Quality of Life Award**  
Accepted by Teresa Davis & Linda Myers on behalf of John Edwards, Jr., NEFCAA



**2011 Regional Special Achievement Award**  
Councilman Bob Page, Green Cove Springs

*This evening would not have been possible without the generous support of the following sponsors:*

**Gold Level:** SONOC Company, LLC.; Walmart, Inc.  
**Bronze Level:** Gunster; JAXUSA; Stone Engineering

**Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda**

## Vision Celebrated, Consortium Launched



The Regional Community Institute (RCI) held its Annual Social on December 14. Announced at the Social were the completion of First Coast Vision and the launch of the First Coast Consortium. Both announcements were enthusiastically received by those in attendance, who then put on their shades and had their picture taken. This may retire the motto used by RCI as it worked on First Coast Vision: "The future's so bright, we've go to wear shades!" For more information, contact Margo Moehring at 904-279-0885 X161.

## Sustainability Resource Center

The Sustainability Resource Center in Downtown Jacksonville is nearing completion and promises to be a resource for the Region as residents and businesses explore how to save money and resources in their lives and businesses. The Center itself will demonstrate many sustainable building techniques, and will contain a library and research center for those exploring the options that will work best for them. A joint project of the US Green Building Council North Florida Chapter, the City of Jacksonville and the JEA, The Center is planned to be open to all, beginning in April 2012. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at 904-279-0885 X161.

## Council Sets Legislative Priorities

The Northeast Florida Regional Council has released its 2012 Legislative Priorities. Taken from input by the local governments in Northeast Florida, this year's top priorities are Online Travel Companies Tax Collection; State Aid to Public Libraries and Cooperatives; Transportation Funding; Protection of Local Revenue; and Water Supply. The priority document also includes the individual legislative priorities for each of the seven counties in Northeast Florida. Go to the home page of our website at [www.nefrc.org](http://www.nefrc.org) and click on the 2012 Legislative Priorities icon for the complete document. For more information, contact Brian Teeple or Mario Taylor at 904-279-0880

