

NEFRC

Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

May 2013

New DRI proposed in Palm Coast

On May 30, NEFRC staff held a pre-application conference for a new Development of Regional Impact (DRI) in Palm Coast. The project, South Old Kings Road DR, is located in the City of Palm Coast on approximately 794 acres immediately east of I-95 and south of S.R. 100 along Old Kings Road. The proposed development plan consists of 888,550 square feet of industrial/commerce park, 468,890 square feet of retail, 348,480 square feet of office, and 2404 dwelling units. The phasing schedule calls for four five-year phases ending in 2030. There are no residential units proposed in Phase 1 of the DRI, with only employment generating industrial development and a small component of the retail development proposed for this early phase of the project. For more information, contact Ed Lehman at elehman@nefrc.org.



Nassau County Meeting on A1A Scenic and Historic Highway Extension

An enthusiastic crowd attended a meeting at the American Beach Community Center on June 3 to discuss the extension of the Scenic Highway designation for A1A from its current location in Flagler and St. Johns Counties north through Duval and Nassau Counties. After a welcome from Mayor Pelican of Fernandina Beach, NEFRC Board member Elaine Brown led the meeting and is providing leadership for the effort. A Corridor Advocacy Group has formed to support the effort and is working on a Letter of Intent to be submitted to FDOT at the end of June. Details regarding the corridor intrinsic resources and the final corridor route are to be determined. The corridor extension is proposed from South Jacksonville Beach to Fernandina Beach, ultimately making A1A a destination for tourists and travelers from the south end of Flagler County to the north end of Nassau County. Keep it in mind the next time you are planning a vacation in the Region! For more information, contact Margo Moehring at mmoehring@nefrc.org.



(Left to Right) Mayor Sarah Pelican of Fernandina Beach and NEFRC Board Member Elaine Brown

Regional Leadership Academy in Baker County

The Regional Leadership Academy's (RLA) Class of 2013 held their fifth program day on May 8th in Macclenny at the Baker County Health Department. The day started with a welcome to Baker County that featured a virtual tour of Baker County, with Mr. Darryl Register serving as our tour director. The class then played "Jobs Jeopardy", which used the Jeopardy TV Game show format to test the class' knowledge of economic development in Northeast Florida. Alex McCoy of Putnam County did an excellent job as "Alex Trebek", with a panel of judges that consisted of Darryl Register, Tony Allegretti, and '13 RLA class members Cheryl Lynch and Aaron Bowman.

After lunch, the class was provided a tour of the Baker County Health Department by its director, Kerry Dunlavy. The tour provided an overview of the full medical and dental services offered at the Health Department. Health issues were then addressed by Nikole Helvey of the Northeast Florida Health Planning Council. Ms. Helvey introduced her discussion on health issues with a 30 minute program that showed how one's health was greatly influenced by the local environment. The class was then provided with a detailed presentation on health statistics in Northeast Florida. For more information, please contact Ed Lehman at elehman@nefrc.org.



The Northeast Florida Regional Council is on Facebook



Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda

LEPC Meeting

The quarterly meeting of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was hosted at the Flagler County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on May 16, 2013. At the meeting Ben Nelson of the Jacksonville Office of the National Weather Service (NWS) made a presentation on the Decision Support Services offered by the NWS. This is a new approach and partnership offered by the NWS that allows local offices to interact and provide relevant information in the face of a potential disaster. Based on the potential threats of a given disaster, the NWS can provide information derived from real time data, satellites, and modeling to emergency managers, public officials and response organizations.

The NWS also has a modeling program known as HYSPLIT that can be used to support response to a release of hazardous chemicals. Responders can call the NWS with chemical release information and they can model the plume and behavior of the chemical based on current weather conditions. This information can be accurate down to the neighborhood level. The LEPC and several response agencies have expressed interest in testing the HYSPLIT model and the NWS staff in upcoming training exercises.

The Northeast Florida Regional Council staffs the District 4 LEPC. For more information, contact Eric Anderson at eanderson@nefrc.org.

Aging in Place Forum

At the invitation of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs (DEA), NEFRC CEO Brian Teeple participated in the Aging in Place Forum on May 9, 2013 in Tallahassee. Brian represented the planning profession in a multi-disciplinary group that included home builders, transportation providers, architects, and many others. The goal of the Forum was to begin to shape State policy to make aging in place a more realistic option for Florida's seniors. Issues discussed included safety, zoning, retrofit, support services, transportation, to name a few. Once DEA compiles the day's work, Forum participants will be called upon again to focus on policy options. For more information, please contact Brian Teeple at bteeple@nefrc.org.

JEA Executive Summit

JEA and the NEFRC have partnered to offer a series of emergency preparedness classes and training opportunities in recent years. The most recent offering took place at JEA on May 30th as a half day training and tabletop exercise for JEA's Executives. JEA has been transitioning to a standardized Incident Command System (ICS) structure for response to a disaster or other unplanned event. This ICS structure is flexible and scalable based on the size and type of disaster, allowing for a unified response from small local fires up to large regional disasters.

The first portion of the day focused on presentations made by prominent City of Jacksonville (COJ) emergency response staff including Marty Senterfitt, Billy Estep, and Bruce Scott. These were discussion based presentations that allowed for COJ staff to coordinate with JEA staff on what they can expect from each other during a disaster. The primary take away from the session was that the City and JEA are in this together. All disaster response must be coordinated and documented so that there is efficiency in the system, and so that reimbursement potential is maximized.

The second portion of the day allowed for the senior policy group to conduct a tabletop exercise associated to a catastrophic hurricane strike. Also, JEA's Finance, Logistics, Operations, and Planning Chiefs received training on Emergency Operations Center activation and roles during a disaster response. This training and tabletop exercise was a great refresher heading into the hurricane season.

Another JEA emergency preparedness training session is scheduled for June 19th at the University of North Florida. This session will focus on seven (7) training classes on personal and agency responsibilities in the face of a disaster response. We anticipate approximately 180 JEA employees for this full day of training. For more information, contact Jeff Alexander at jalexander@nefrc.org.

NEFRC Planners Pass AICP Exam

Ameera Sayeed, AICP and Eric Anderson, AICP recently passed the daunting exam to become certified planners through the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). AICP certified planners carry a high mark of distinction because they are required to meet rigorous standards, maintain their expertise through continuing education, and serve community interests. Planners with the AICP credential bring extra value to the NEFRC and the Regional community we serve. Congratulations Ameera and Eric!