

# NEFLRIC

## Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

January 2014



*Seated Mr. Tom Ford, Nassau County Planning and Zoning Agency Member, receiving the Regional Award from Mr. Peter King, Nassau County Growth Management Director.*

### **Tom Ford, Nassau County Planning and Zoning Agency Member: Regional Award for Excellence in Planning & Growth Management**

Mr. Tom Ford receives the Regional Award for Excellence in Planning and Growth Management during a regularly scheduled Nassau County Planning and Zoning Board (PZB) meeting. Mr. Ford is a long standing member of the PZB, serving since 1996. The Regional Award was first received by Mr. Peter King, Growth Management Director, Nassau County at the eleventh annual Elected Officials and Regional Leadership luncheon held on December 5, 2013. The purpose of the luncheon is to recognize the best and the brightest leaders in the Region. Awards were given for Regional Excellence in a broad range of areas that will help define the future of Northeast Florida. Mr. Ford exemplifies the importance of citizens who give of their time and talents to ensure that government works in the area of Planning and Growth Management. He was an early advocate of smart growth and comprehensive planning and continues that legacy in Nassau County.

### **Council Welcomes New Board Members**

Mr. Jeovanny Palencia, Gubernatorial appointee, Putnam County; Commissioner E. Walton Pellicer II, Putnam County; Commissioner Ronald Sanchez, St. Johns County; and Commissioner John Miller, City of Fernandina Beach.

### **Departing Board Member Resolutions**

The Council Board of Directors recognized the contributions of Mr. Ken Smallwood and Commissioner Rachel Bennett for their service to the Council during the January board meeting.

Mr. Ken Smallwood, Clay County, was appointed by the Governor in March of 2009. Under his leadership as Vice Chair and Chair for the Strategic Regional Policy Planning Committee, the Strategic Regional Policy Plan was approved for adoption.

The Honorable Rachel Bennett, St. Johns County, was appointed in December 2012. Commissioner Bennett served on the Planning and Growth Management Policy Committee.

### **Regional Leadership Academy**

The Class of 2014, an assembly of 13 future regional leaders, has been selected. The candidates are professionals from a variety of areas including law enforcement, aviation, and education within the Region. The first Program Day began on January 27th with a presentation about 'Healthy Democracy' from a panel of former local elected officials. The panelists include Mr. Dick Kravitz, Former State Representative, Mr. Mike Boyle, Former Nassau County and Ms. Milissa Holland, Former Flagler County. Each month the class will explore a county in the Region, examining issues of regional significance such as transportation, public safety, water resources, and education. Graduates from the RLA become lifetime members of the Regional Community Institute. Contact Edward Lehman at: [elehman@nefrc.org](mailto:elehman@nefrc.org) to nominate or apply for the Class of 2015.



**The Northeast Florida Regional Council is on Facebook**



*Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda*

## R2 Challenge

Announcing the R2 Challenge! Be regional. Be resilient. Be R2. The R2 Challenge is an open invitation by the Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida, Inc. RCI to encourage residents to participate in events that support business in the seven counties of the Region that are committed to resiliency and the Region. Events that support the Region include civic activities, education meetings on sea level rise, charity walks, runs, or rides, or dining at restaurants using locally sourced food! The challenge will begin next month and ends December 31, 2014. When participants complete a qualifying event in each of the seven counties, they win the challenge and contribute to the future of Northeast Florida! Look for broadcasts coming in February and follow us on the NEFRC Facebook page for announcements.

## Quarterly Planning & Agency Directors Meet on January 23

The Council hosted its Quarterly Planning Directors meeting on January 23, which was attended by a number of planning directors from Baker, Putnam, and Clay Counties. The main topics of discussion included a presentation by Sue K. Hopfensperger, ISO Coordinator, legislative priorities, and strategic initiatives underway for the Region. The next Quarterly Planning Directors meeting will be April 24 as part of the regional meeting for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) five year update. For more information, please contact Ed Lehman at: [elehman@nefrc.org](mailto:elehman@nefrc.org)



## New Orleans Conference

Jeff Alexander, Emergency Preparedness Director, presented at the National Evacuation Conference in New Orleans during the week of January 7-10, 2014. Jeff joined Andrew Sussman from the Florida Department of Emergency Management to speak about "Innovations in Hurricane Evacuation Planning". These experts are advancing directional atlases as a method to create scenario based evacuation decisions during hurricane storm events. Refining the techniques to understand vulnerable areas assist local governments, responders, and emergency management leaders. To learn more about the innovations in hurricane evacuation planning, contact Jeffrey Alexander at [jalexander@nefrc.org](mailto:jalexander@nefrc.org)



## Westside Exercise

Local emergency responders, planners, and administrators braved wind, rain, and cold to participate in a training event, at a CSX facility on the west side of the Jacksonville. The event was held on January 14 and 15th by TRANSCAER/FDEM, with various sponsors. About 60 participants attended each day. The event provided ongoing training for responders with simulated scenarios. Contact Eric Anderson for more information about the exercise or future simulations.



## Putnam County SHIP Update

The Putnam County Ship Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program provided weatherization and emergency rehabilitation to 3 applicants during January with 35 applicants currently being processed, and a wait list of about 20 applicants. Some of the projects included constructing new roofs, replacing mold bathroom fixtures, and rebuilding rotted sub-floors. In response to an uptick in requests and contractor bids, the program administrators have adjusted payment schedules, allowing for one contractor draw during the construction phase. The purpose of this adjustment is to more quickly pay contractors for work completed. The county will inspect the completed work before provided a draw request check. For more information contact Michael Epstein at: [mepstein@nefrc.org](mailto:mepstein@nefrc.org)

## Town of Pomona Park

The Town of Pomona Park adopted the 2030 Comprehensive Plan in January. The adoption concludes almost two years' of community planning efforts by the NEFRC staff, the Town Council and Town citizens. The Town of Pomona Park leads in providing recreational amenities to residents and visitors alike. The plan incorporates policies that seek to guide development supportive of the recreation facilities – parks, pedestrian, and bicycle connections. For more information, please contact ??

## Accolades: Staff Achievements

Ms. Donna Starling, Chief Financial Officer received recognition for 20 years of service to the Northeast Florida Regional Council. Ms. Starling leads the Financial Services program for the Council; handling operations for accounting, RFP & RFQ announcements, contract management, fixed asset management, and purchasing.

## Did you know

This time last year....the Region engaged in the economic development strategy project, INNOVATE Northeast Florida. The project was a joint effort between the Northeast Florida Regional Council and JAXUSA Partnership, funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration and WorkSource. Re-visit the project through the website: [www.innovatenortheastflorida.com](http://www.innovatenortheastflorida.com).