

# NEFRC

## Highlights

### Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

August 2015

#### **Council Aids Town of Interlachen to Move Forward on Legislative Priority**

Through the technical assistance partnership with the Town of Interlachen, Council staff prepared map graphics displaying local roadways within the Town of Interlachen that need to be improved (i.e. paved) for the FDOT Small County Assistance Program (SCOP). The County has been awarded \$1.5 million to complete the upgrading (paving and drainage improvements) for N. Francis Street and MacGill – two minor collector roadways that while not evacuation roadways, are parallel roads to CR315 in the Town. The Town budgeted \$400,000 in discretionary sales tax dollars to match up to the roadway work.

Congratulations to the Town of Interlachen. For more information, please contact Lindsay Haga, lhaga@nefrc.org.

#### **2015 Environmental Symposium**

On Friday, August 14, Council staff facilitated the closing session of the 2015 EPB/UNF Environmental Symposium. The closing session focused on a Community Resiliency Assessment of the City of Jacksonville, completed by the Council. The City provided critical facilities and the Council created maps of those facilities with 1, 3 and 6 feet of sea level rise. The session focused on resiliency and included a facilitated discussion on ways to address resiliency in the City as well as issues to consider in this work. The session was well-attended and the discussion was constructive, including mention of assets not shown as well as those depicted on the maps. For more information, please contact Margo Moehring, mmoehring@nefrc.org.

#### **Regional Action Plan on Sea Level Rise**

Beaches Watch hosted a meeting with David Reed, former Chair of the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council's Emergency Preparedness Committee, to discuss sea level rise issues facing Northeast Florida on Wednesday, September 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the Neptune Beach Library. As the Chair of the Sea Level Rise Committee, Mr. Reed discussed what the committee learned and presented in the regional action plan concerning sea level rise and how it may affect the citizens of Northeast Florida. The meeting was well attended and provided an opportunity for the audience to ask questions and provide Mr. Reed with input and feedback. For more information, please contact Margo Moehring, mmoehring@nefrc.org.

#### **Small Business Meeting in Hastings**

NEFRC staff convened meetings in Maxville and Hastings to discuss marketing Northeast Florida, with an emphasis on the assets and interesting aspects of small towns and rural areas. For more information, please contact Lindsay Haga, lhaga@nefrc.org.



#### **Main Street Designation for Fernandina**

Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner awarded Fernandina Beach the designation of a Florida Main Street. This designation has an emphasis on preservation and is an effective strategy for promoting an economically healthy downtown. Fernandina Beach Main Street is a partnership between the City of Fernandina Beach, Amelia Island-Fernandina Beach-Yulee Chamber of Commerce and the Amelia Island Convention & Visitors Bureau. Congratulations to Fernandina Beach on this accomplishment!

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*Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda*

## Council's Regional Leadership Program Hosted in American Beach by Nassau County

On August 26, 2015, the Regional Leadership Academy Class of 2015 met at Nassau County's American Beach Community Center for the final program day in the seven month series. Janice Ancrum, Executive Director of the Nassau County Council on Aging welcomed the class and shared county highlights. The day centered on presentations. First, Laura DiBella, Executive Director and Karen Schexnayder, Marketing Director of the Nassau County Economic Development Board described the key economic opportunities available in the County. The class learned from three political candidates: Putnam County Commissioner Walt Pellicer, Atlantic Beach Commissioner Maria Mark and Larry Williams, Nassau County Commission candidate as a panel of experts on the local election process. The class toured the American Beach Museum. The program day ended with presentations of the class final project on the most pressing issue in the Region. The class voted and selected Aging in Place and Marketing the Region as the topics to present to the Regional Community Institute. Graduation is September 28, 2015. The nomination period for the 2016 Regional Leadership Academy Class is open. Visit <http://www.nefrla.com/> to submit a nomination or contact Lindsay Haga, [lhaga@nefrc.org](mailto:lhaga@nefrc.org).



### Did you know

Sara and Tim Hale of the Flagler County based firm, Coastal Cloud, were honored by Gov. Rick Scott for outstanding commitment to creating jobs at the August Enterprise Florida Board & Stakeholders meeting. Since opening the doors in 2013 at their Palm Coast offices, the company has grown to 75 employees.

*Source: Flagler County Department of Economic Opportunity*