

# NEFRC

## Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

December 2015

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



At the Annual Elected Officials and Regional Leadership luncheon on December 3, 2015, the Northeast Florida Regional Council recognized 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. This is the thirteenth year that the Regional Council has recognized the special people, programs, and communities in Northeast Florida that are making a difference. This year's honorees and photos are listed below. All were presented by NEFRC Board President Vernon Myers

The Regional Awards recognition program is anchored by the Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Award, given to a leader who exemplifies service to community and commitment to regionalism. **This year's recipient of the Northeast Florida Regional Council Regional Leadership Award is Mayor Jon Netts from the City of Palm Coast**

Jon Netts personifies the essence of a Mayor who unites his constituents and assures that Palm Coast has meaningful input into all that is happening in the Northeast region of Florida. Always with an eye on the bigger picture, Mayor Netts stays true to his belief that 'We are part of a region. What they do affects us and what we do affects them. What we do together, we do better than if we try to do it alone.' Mayor Netts has served nine years on the Northeast Florida Regional Council and was recently elected as chair of their non-profit policy affiliate, the Regional Community Institute. He also serves as a Commissioner on the Florida Inland Navigation District. Under Mayor Netts' leadership, the City has received two Gold and one Silver Designation Certifications for Green Local Governments for the Florida Green Building Coalition and is now ranked third in all of Florida; bringing pride and recognition to the Northeast region. Additional sustainability awards during his tenure include the Outstanding Sustainability Initiative Award from the Florida Planning and Zoning Association (Surfcoast Chapter) and three NEFRC Awards for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship.



#### 2015 Regional Special Achievement Award

450th Commemoration & Downtown Improvement District/City of St. Augustine.  
Accepted by Hon. Roxanne Horvath

The St Augustine Downtown Improvement District is a product of the 1995 Vision plan to improve streets and encourage pedestrian access through the historic district. St. Augustine is a historic destination attracting visitors, residents, and businesses. The City revitalized Aviles Streets years back into a "streatery". This plan improved the western entrance to the historic district with financial contributions by the property owners benefiting from the improvements. Improvements were completed in time for the 450th. Commemoration, celebrating St. Augustine as the oldest continuously- occupied city in the United States.



#### 2015 Regional Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing

Putnam County Habitat for Humanity  
Accepted by Ramicha Johnson



#### 2015 Regional Award for Excellence in Culture, Historic Preservation or Adaptive Reuse

St. Augustine Distillery / Phil McDaniel  
Accepted by Mike Diaz



#### 2015 Regional Award for Excellence in Economic Development & Tourism

Downtown Jacksonville Community Redevelopment Area Plan & Business Investment and Development Strategy  
Accepted by Lara Dietrich

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*Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda*



**2015 Regional Award for Excellence in Education**

Dr. John Ruis / Nassau County School Superintendent



**2015 Regional Award for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship**

NAS JAX  
Accepted by Captain Howard Wanamaker, Commanding Officer



**2015 Regional Award for Excellence in Planning and Growth Management**

Island Walk Shopping Center Redevelopment / City of Palm Coast - Accepted by Bill Varner and Angi Pilthaver



**2015 Regional Award for Excellence in Public Safety**

Hurricane Awareness Tour Stop  
St. Johns County Emergency Management, National Weather Service - Accepted by Al Sandrik and Linda Stoughton



**2015 Regional Award for Excellence in Transportation**

The Honorable Nancy Harris / Putnam County Commissioner



**2015 Regional Quality of Life Award**

Treasure Beach Canals Dredging / Treasure Beach, St. Johns County  
Accepted by Kevin Wiseman



**RDSTF Region 3 Interoperability Exercise**

On December 8, 2015, Council staff facilitated an Interoperability Tabletop Exercise for the Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) Interoperable Subcommittee. The premise was to conduct aerial surveillance of multiple vehicles of interest through the RDSTF Region. This was done through the collaboration of local county dispatchers in the Sheriff's Office and regional aerial assets.



The exercise required dispatchers to facilitate communications between their communications center and the regional air asset (helicopter or fixed wing). They had to receive the chase from a dispatcher in an adjacent county, work the chase while in their county, and then prepare for the handoff to the next county as the chase progressed through the region. The exercise was successful and allowed for an After Action Report and Improvement Plan to document the strengths and those areas that need additional training. For more information, contact Eric Anderson, at 904.279.0885 x178

**R3 Challenge Launched at Climate Change Event**

More than 100 people gathered at the Museum of Science and History on December 17, 2015 for Nature Unleashed in Northeast Florida: Our Changing Climate. Policy Director Margo Moehring was part of a panel moderated by Meteorologist Mike Prangle of First Coast News that also included J. Daniel Husband, Ph.D., Professor of Biology at FSCJ, and Marc Hudson, Land Protection Director at the North Florida Land Trust. She used the event as an opportunity to talk about the resiliency work being done by NEFRC, and launched the Regional Resiliency Rebuild (R3) Challenge, a design challenge to allow teams to think about how Northeast Florida might rebuild, or not, after a disaster before it happens. For more information on the R3 Challenge, visit the website or contact Margo at 904 279 0885 x161.



**This year's event would not have been possible without the generous support of these great sponsors.**

**Gold Level:** Wendell Davis

**Silver Level:** Gunster, Northeast Florida Assoc. of Realtors, RS&H, Vernon & Linda Myers

**Bronze Level:** CareerSource Northeast Florida, Ezell Law Firm P.A., FPL