

# NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL HighLights

*Bimonthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council* Feb / March 2018

## The Regional Leadership Academy Meets in Nassau County



Candidates for the RLA Class of 2018 had their second meeting in Nassau County. They began with a tour of the American Beach Museum. American Beach was founded in 1935 by the Afro American Insurance Company president, A. L. Lewis for "recreation and relaxation without humiliation" during the era of Jim Crow. The museum celebrates the history and legacy of this important site. They then visited Traders Hill Farm in Hilliard. "Traders Hill Farm is a sustainable aquaponic farm whose produce grows faster, tastes better, lasts longer and wastes nothing." The class was shown the farm by Kathy Curry, Operations Manager at the farm and candidate for the RLA Class of 2018. For more information on the Regional Leadership Academy, contact Margo Moehring at [mmoehring@nefrc.org](mailto:mmoehring@nefrc.org).

## The Regional Leadership Academy Meets in Putnam County in March



*Local Businessperson Sam Deputy led a tour of the Palatka riverfront, including a historic home*



*Dr. Ann Shortelle, Executive Director of the St. Johns River Water Management District, addresses the class*



*Kraig McLane, Vice Chair of the Putnam County Waterways and Trails Committee, spoke on environment and the link to business*

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*Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda*

## Residents of Penney Farms Consider Their Vision

Penney Farms in Clay County is a historic small town with a lot of country living charm. With NEFRC assistance, they are currently discussing a shared vision for their community and a possible "Quality of Life" element to be added to their comprehensive plan. Two "Sessions with Experts" were convened to discuss the issues initially identified by the Town as key to a vision: Transportation, Economic Development and Tourism, Mixed Use Development, and Resiliency. The photo below was taken during the resiliency mixed use discussion. Experts gathered by NEFRC staff were available to guide the discussion to offer expert advice on possible storm water and energy considerations. After experiencing flooding damage from Hurricane Irma, concerns about resiliency and adaptability to adverse weather events, as well as charting a course for the growth of the town, have come to the forefront of the community's concerns. Residents and NEFRC staff are included in the picture, along with Wayne Dunn, P.E., a volunteer expert and a valued contributor to the efforts of the Public/Private Regional Resiliency Committee of the Council. Carolyn Morgan of the Clay County Planning Department was another expert supporting the Town's efforts at that meeting. The Florida Department of Transportation, the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization, and Clay County provided experts with pertinent information on transportation, economic development, tourism and mixed use development, and NEFRC appreciates the commitment of its community partners. Penney Farms is to be complemented for its community involvement, as attendance was strong for both evening meetings despite the stormy weather. For more information, contact Margo Moehring at [mmoehring@nefrc.org](mailto:mmoehring@nefrc.org).



## Shelter-in-Place or Evacuate?

During the 2018 Clay County Fair, Northeast Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee Staff partnered with Clay County Emergency Management and the National Weather Service Jacksonville Office to promote emergency preparedness activities related to hazards in Northeast Florida. Over two days, the LEPC was able to conduct presentations on how to properly Shelter-in-Place or evacuate from a chemical accidents. Additionally, the LEPC promoting the state run website [kidsgetaplan.com](http://kidsgetaplan.com), which is a tool used to promote emergency preparedness for young kids. For more information, contact Tyler Nolen at [tnolen@nefrc.org](mailto:tnolen@nefrc.org)



## Elevate Northeast Florida



The Northeast Florida Regional Council, JAXUSA, and CareerSource Northeast Florida have formed a partnership to develop a new economic development strategy for the region. With major funding from the Economic Development Administration, "Elevate Northeast Florida" kicked off in late February. Goals for Elevate Northeast Florida include economic growth, talent development, brand recognition and global competitiveness. Elevate Northeast Florida is expected to be unveiled in the Fall. For more information and to take a survey to help shape the Elevate strategy go to [www.elevatenefl.com](http://www.elevatenefl.com). For more information, contact Brian Teeple at [bteeple@nefrc.org](mailto:bteeple@nefrc.org)