

## Northwest United for Progress (NWUP)

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

1. Joe attended the March Monthly Meeting of the **Northwest United for Progress** community organization and was to be one of three guest speakers.
2. Joe had prepared a Power Point presentation about the **William Bartram Scenic & Historic Highway** (WBSHH), about its history and place in St. Johns County, and about its community outreach ideas.
3. An informal meet-n-greet started around 6:30 p.m. Presentations started at 7.
  - a. **86** NWUP members were in attendance.
4. The presentation space was a nice open church setting – The River of Life United Methodist Church - with comfortable forward-facing seats and a large screen for viewing the Power Point slides. A microphone was available and all could hear clearly.
5. With this presentation Joe was **seeking the following results**:
  - a. To gain **new members** for the WBSHH;
  - b. To gain **new volunteers** who would want to help with WBSHH projects and activities;
  - c. To find residents interested in **leadership roles** within the WBSHH;
  - d. To find residents eager to apply their **skills** in grant writing, public relations, and history to help the WBSHH.
6. To help achieve the above, Joe had prepared **sign-up sheets** for names, emails, and check boxes to denote areas of volunteer and leadership interests. This was passed around on a clipboard during Joe’s presentation.
  - a. WBSHH brochures were also distributed to each attendee.
7. Of the 86 attendees, **30 members** signed their names, provided an email contact, and checked boxes with areas of interest.
  - a. 9 definitely wanted to become new members
  - b. 4 checked grant-writing interest
  - c. 12 are gardeners
  - d. 15 had “other” interests (not quite defined) and wanted to learn more about the WBSHH.
8. Joe will follow up with all who submitted their emails and will send them a **Thank You letter and a March Agenda with** meeting location and the ZOOM link.
  - a. The Agenda mail-out should probably become a regular monthly thing.

9. The **15-minute Q&A session** included Joe and two other speakers, one of whom was a candidate for office and who received the most questions. Two questions asked of Joe were:
- a. With the **First Coast Expressway** coming near Orangedale and the Shands Bridge, are there plans to protect the Scenic Highway there?
    - i. Joe indicates that more discussion is needed with the County, FDOT, utility companies, major landowners, and Orangedale residents. Stay tuned.
    - ii. The new interchange will be at Longleaf Pine, about a half mile east of the Scenic Highway. There will be no interchange at the Scenic Highway.
    - iii. Highway opening is now estimated at the end of 2031.
  - b. Portions of the Scenic Highway are **two-lanes**. Can these be saved and can the entire Scenic Highway be made permanently two-lane?
    - i. Some two-lane areas are permanent (sort of) and are called “constrained road segments.” Joe agrees that except for the current 4-lane road near Julington Creek Plantation to Roberts Road, it would be good for all remaining sections to be designated as “constrained.”
    - ii. Joe indicates discussions are happening with FDOT in Lake City about that (applause!!).
10. Several private conversations happened following the presentations and Q&A with the following **interesting ideas** (Joe has contact names of those giving these ideas):
- a. As a possible fund-raiser, maybe consider a **William Bartram 5-K Run**. Start and finish at the new school in Rivertown?
  - b. High school students are looking for **community service credits**.
  - c. **Eagle Scouts** are looking for project ideas.
  - d. How interesting that the Scenic Highway is **17-miles long**. So is the famous 17-mile drive in Monterey, California around Pebble Beach. Maybe when all the flowers are planted along the Scenic Highway, you can ask the public which is more beautiful!! A marketing and tourism idea.
  - e. Two members live right on the Scenic Highway and want to be especially active in their area – **Beluthahatchee and Rivertown**.
11. NWUP President, Holly Ross, has offered to publish WBSHH news about events and activities in the **NWUP’s bi-weekly newsletter**. This is sent to all **156** club members, will be seen by these attendees tonight, and by more who were not here.
- a. Holly invites Joe to **keep sending announcements** to her.
    - i. What an excellent opportunity to stay in touch with area residents.

- b. Holly believes that many, many members really want to do **gardening and beautification**. The sooner the better.
  - c. Holly also says that the presentation has touched all attendees in a very positive way. **The NWUP does see the William Bartram Scenic Highway as something the Club wants to help preserve and protect.**
12. The meeting finished at around 8:15.
13. Under separate and confidential files not attached here, Joe has copies of the sign-in sheets with member names, emails, and areas of interest.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joe McAnarney, Chair  
William Bartram Scenic & Historic Highway

**Ps – A great meeting!!! Friendly and enthusiastic folks.**