

Chamber Connections



ST. JOHNS COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Ponte Vedra Beach Division



October 2018

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division Board of Directors 2018-19

(L-R) Janet Collins, Nancy Hallett, Gloria Dongara,
Kim Scott, Rob Schlingmann, Pamela Bomba, Christine Griggs,
Lori Adams, Susan Griffin, Jen Hendrich
(Not pictured: Jennifer Belisario)



ST. JOHNS
COUNTY
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

Ponte Vedra
Recorder





Isabelle Renault
President/CEO
St. Johns County
Chamber of Commerce

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

This time of year is exciting for us as our fiscal year (FY) is wrapping up. We are excited to kick off 2019 with our new team of volunteer leaders: FY 2018-2019 PVBD Board of Directors led by Chairman Rob Schlingmann, general manager of The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach.

Also, the Ponte Vedra Auto Show was an outstanding success with over 170 automobiles displayed and 2,900 people in attendance. Congratulations to all of the winners and a sincere thank you to all of our guests that beat the heat to join us.

New to the Chamber this fiscal year is The Women with Vision Council led by Melissa Rowe as the chair. Meetings will begin in January. For more information, contact Sam.Ruiz@SJCchamber.com.

In addition, we are thrilled to announce that we will be launching our new website that will be easier to use and more efficient.

A new tool that the Chamber offers to members is called The Pitch Factory. The Pitch Factory is an entrepreneurial development program partnership between the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and the JAX Chamber Bridges program. Attendees will learn how to accelerate their business by refining their sales pitch.

For more information, contact Karen.Everett@SJCchamber.com.

Be sure to register for the SJC Chamber 2018 Annual Signature Awards Event, BRANDED, which is being held Friday, Oct. 19. It features the annual awards presentations and recognizes members who have branded themselves in excellence throughout the year. The keynote speaker is Jeff Rosenblum, author of "FRICTION," founder of an advertising agency and a documentary filmmaker. He will discuss how consumers require more than a catchy slogan and memorable image. You don't want to miss this exclusive event. This is a perfect event for your marketing team; learn from the best and get ahead of the game. We thank all of our members for your dedication, advocacy and economic development for another successful year. (Register at SJCchamber.com.)

At last, hurricane season is winding down. We want to stress, however, that it is still important and necessary to take precautions and preparations. We want to remind everyone to take advantage of our local resources, such as the St. Johns County Government Preparation Guide and FloridaDisaster.biz. We want to provide you with tips and tools that you need to be safe and enjoy the soon-to-come fall weather.



Photo courtesy of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The Leadership St. Johns Class of 2018 celebrates its graduation at Aunt Kate's in Vilano Beach.

Chamber's Leadership St. Johns Class completes program

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's Leadership St. Johns (LSJ) Class of 2018 has completed its year-long program and graduated 27 participants from all sectors of industry, commerce and public service, the most in the program's history.

The leadership development program, which was started in 2001, has over 300 alumni, including the former superintendent of schools and current Flagler College President Joseph Joyner, the current Superintendent of Schools Tim Forson, Flagler Hospital CEO Jason Barrett, local entrepreneur and St. Augustine Distillery founding partner Philip McDaniel, District 1 School Board Rep. Beverly Slough and St. Augustine City Manager John Regan.

Isabelle Renault, the Chamber's president/CEO and a graduate of Leadership St. Johns and Leadership Florida, suggested that involvement in LSJ can be a

stepping stone to participating in nonprofit and volunteer government advisory boards, as well as potential involvement in future elected office.

"We also want our class members to consider using the skills honed through the LSJ experience to engage actively in the governing of St. Johns County," she said.

The Leadership St. Johns Program was established to educate, connect and encourage elite and emerging professionals as they strive to make a positive impact on the local economy and community. Class members who successfully graduate from the program are accepted into the ranks of leadership alumni in St. Johns County and across Florida, and many LSJ graduates have been accepted into the statewide Leadership Florida program. For additional information, visit sjcchamber.com/LSJ.

Florida's economy to be subject of Chamber Economic Development Breakfast

Florida's economy as profiled in the Florida Chamber's new report, "The Florida 2030 Project," will be the subject of a talk by Dr. Jerry Parrish, chief economist and director of research for the Florida Chamber of Commerce, at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Council (EDC) Quarterly Breakfast on Friday, Nov. 16 at 8 a.m. at the Renaissance World Golf Village Resort.

"Dr. Parrish will present a lively and current look at Florida's economy in this post-election discussion," said Isabelle Renault, president and CEO of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. "He will also be discussing the Florida 2030 Project, a two-year research program that will stimulate strategic thinking about Florida's future and engage business and community leaders across Florida. His comments are always practical and relevant."

In his role, Parrish is responsible for conducting in-depth analyses on the Florida economy and on solutions to help secure Florida's future. He previously was the chief economist and director of the Center for Competitive Florida at Florida TaxWatch. Prior to that position, he served as the associate director of the Center for Economic Forecasting & Analysis (CEFA) at Florida State University, and has many years of experience in the private sector in management roles at international manufacturing companies.

Parrish is currently an adjunct instructor in the Masters in Applied Economics Program at Florida State University. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Business and Economics from Auburn University, a Master of Business Administration from Bellarmine University, a Master of Science in Economics from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and a Ph.D. in Economics from Auburn University. He regularly publishes research reports and articles on the Florida economy and Florida's competitiveness.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Toni Boudreaux
 Director PVB Division,
 St. Johns County
 Chamber of Commerce

Fall temperatures are around the corner as we close on another great fiscal year. The 16th Annual Ponte Vedra Auto Show was an overwhelming success for the Chamber and our business community. Some of the area's most beautiful cars were lined up starting at 6:30 a.m. to register with the show officially kicking off at 9 a.m. Vendors were unloading before daybreak, while food trucks were cooking up fare to attendees starting the minute they arrived. Porsche racing celebrity Hurley Haywood was on-site to sign books and take pictures with fans, which was a special treat for everyone.

Having been the most successful show to date, it's important I take a moment to thank all the volunteers, sponsors and staff that work tirelessly every year to ensure the success of the Auto Show. Year after year the return of participants continues to grow with support from our judges who are committed to maintaining the integrity and prestige of the show. Spectators look

forward to the show every year; this year we welcomed close to 2,900 car enthusiasts to Nocatee. Our volunteers are the backbone of this event and we cannot thank you enough for your dedication to the Auto Show and the SJC Chamber of Commerce. All in all, it was a beautiful day celebrating some of the area's most prestigious cars right here in our backyard.

Another group of individuals that must be recognized are our Ambassadors and the PVB Division Board of Directors. We are so fortunate to have such committed individuals serving the Division. I would like to formally thank two of our board members who have completed their terms in office: Ed Mercel and Sarah Alexander. We are so appreciative of your time and dedication to the Chamber.

Beginning Oct. 1, we welcome two new board members to the division board: Pamela Bomba (Pivot CPAs) and Kim Scott (The Morgan Company). These two dynamic women will be joining new Board

Chair Rob Schlingmann (The Plantation), Vice Chair Gloria Dongara (AAA-The Auto Club Group) and Secretary Lori Adams (Cabi). Stepping down from her post as chair, Susan Griffin (Ponte Vedra Recorder) now will serve as immediate past chair. Jennifer Belisario (TPC Sawgrass), Jen Hendrich (The PGA Tour), Janet Collins (Sawgrass Country Club), Christine Griggs (Ruth's Chris) and Nancy Hallett (Gateway Business Advisors) complete the slate of board members for the upcoming year.

As your division director I have seen how our dedicated board members, volunteers and staff work closely together to make a greater impact by advocating for our business community. We are an organization that is thriving and look ahead into the next fiscal year with an emphasis on value-driven programs and initiatives to help members get the most out of their membership.

I encourage you to get involved and look forward to seeing you out and about!

UPCOMING ST. JOHNS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PVBD EVENTS

OCTOBER EVENTS:

Chamber Before Hours

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2018

Time: 8 to 9 a.m.

Location: Titanium Yoga

Sponsor: Titanium Yoga

PVB Division Joint Luncheon w/ Jax Chamber Beaches Division

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2018

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: R.J. Larizza, State Attorney, 7th Judicial Court

Info: R.J. Larizza will discuss what the state attorney's office does and how it impacts our business communities.

Location: Sawgrass Beach Club

Sponsor: Fields Auto Group

Chamber After Hours

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2018

Time: 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Location: LPL Financial Private Wealth

Sponsor: LPL Financial Private Wealth

NOVEMBER EVENTS:

Chamber Veterans Luncheon: Connecting the Stars

Date: Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2018

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 pm

Location: Sawgrass Beach Club

Sponsor: Fields Auto Group

Chamber Before Hours

Date: Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018

Time: 8 to 9 a.m.

Location: Ponte Vedra Beach Division Office

Sponsors: Sarah Alexander, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

Chamber After Hours

Date: Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2018

Time: 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Location: Ponte Vedra Wellness Center - Nocatee

Sponsor: Ponte Vedra Wellness Center - Nocatee

DECEMBER EVENTS:

PVB Division Holiday Party

Date: Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018

Time: 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Branded to be held Oct. 19

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce is holding its Signature Annual Recognition and Awards Event, "Branded 2018 - Recognizing Business Leaders that make their Mark," on Friday, Oct. 19 from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at Shell Hall at World Golf Hall of Fame in St. Augustine.

This is the Chamber's most prestigious event of the year, presenting awards and honoring members who have branded themselves in excellence throughout the year. The keynote speaker is Jeff Rosenblum, who is widely regarded as one of the leading innovators in the field of digital marketing, working with teams that have helped revolutionize market research, publishing, sports broadcasting and interactive advertising. Register at SJCChamber.com.

Breakfast

Continued from 16

To register for the EDC Quarterly Breakfast, visit www.sjcchamber.com and go to the calendar of events or call (904) 829-5681. Admission is \$50 for non-chamber members and \$40 for members. St. Augustine and St. Johns County Board of Realtors is returning as the series sponsor, and Matthews Design Group, AD Davis Construction and Puroclean are also sponsoring the EDC Quarterly Breakfasts.

For more information and to register, visit www.sjcchamber.com.

Meet the Ponte Vedra Beach Division 2018-2019 Board of Directors

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce welcomes the 2018-2019 Board of Directors for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division. The incoming board represents a broad cross-section of industries and individuals, each of whom brings years of professional experiences and business acumen to their board duties.

CHAIR
Rob Schlingmann
The Plantation at
Ponte Vedra Beach

Rob Schlingmann began his career as a clubhouse manager at the Kiawah Island Club, where he worked for three years. From there, he was employed as a general manager at the Rehoboth Beach Country Club, where he worked for almost five years. His next employer was The Apawamis Club, where he worked for almost 11 years as the general manager/chief operating officer. He is currently working at The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach as the general manager/chief operating officer.



VICE CHAIR
Gloria Dongara
AAA-The Auto Club Group

Gloria Dongara has 23-plus years of experience in Corporate America and a great deal of experience in insurance sales, anti-money laundering, client services and cash management. She currently is the AAA life & annuities specialist at the Ponte Vedra Beach branch and helps clients with their life insurance needs. Prior to working at AAA, she worked as a financial services professional at MassMutual Financial Group and as a sales manager at Family Heritage. Her combination of experience, professionalism and service mindset helps clients meet their financial goals and insurance needs and provides them with a new level of attention, insight and capability. Dongara has lived in Ponte Vedra for over 25 years and previously served as a St. Johns County Chamber ambassador for three years, in addition to her current role as a member of the board of directors for the PVB Division.



SECRETARY
Lori Adams
Harbor View Advisors/cabi/
TPC Sawgrass

Lori Adams is the operations manager for Harbor View Advisors, a boutique investment banking firm located in Ponte Vedra Beach. She has 35 years of experience in the financial services industry with specialization in client service, operations and compliance. Her “can-do” spirit creates positive energy among the team members. She has been employed at Harbor View Advisors since 2010. She also has been a cabi part-time fashion stylist since 2010 and has been a part-time employee of TPC Sawgrass since 2000, where she works as a sales associate in the golf shop. Adams received the Grace Hayes Ambassador of the Year Award for 2014-2015, as well as 2015-2016. She also is a member of the Ponte Vedra Women’s Alliance and served on its board a few years ago.



BOARD continues on Page 19

The Beaches
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For visitor information, go to www.exploreclay.com.

Board

Continued from 18

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Susan Griffin
Ponte Vedra Recorder



Susan Griffin is the publisher of the Ponte Vedra Recorder, the community paper of record serving Ponte Vedra and the Beaches since 1969. She also serves as publisher of the bimonthly First Coast Register magazine. Griffin has been with the Recorder for more than 20 years, joining the paper as an advertising account executive. She later served as the Recorder's sales manager before being named publisher. Prior to joining the Recorder, Griffin owned travel agencies in Florida and Georgia. She has served in numerous capacities with the Chamber since first becoming active with the organization in 1997. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Overlook V office condominiums and is vice president of the Community Papers of Florida.

MORE PVBD BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON PAGE 20



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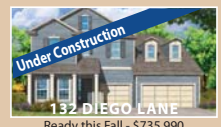
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PVBD CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONT.

Pamela Bomba, CPA Pivot CPAs

A tax principal at Pivot CPAs, Pamela Bomba began her career with the firm (formerly The Griggs Group) in 2005 after receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration, with a concentration in Accounting, and Master of Accountancy from the University of North Florida. While she has a strong background in all areas of taxation, she primarily specializes in consulting and compliance for large, multi-state corporations, partnerships and their owners. She has extensive experience with different tax sectors including local, state and federal taxation and financial accounting. Bomba is a member of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants. In the community, she serves as a board member and treasurer for The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach. She is also the finance chair for the First Coast Manufacturer's Association. Bomba is a mentor with the Jacksonville Women's Business Center and is a member of the Accounting and Financial Women's Alliance. She also actively volunteers with Junior Achievement.



Jen Hendrich THE PLAYERS Championship

A graduate of the University of Tennessee, Jen Hendrich holds a Bachelor of Science in Communications. She has worked for the PGA Tour for five years and is currently the community outreach manager for THE PLAYERS Championship, where she helps grow community awareness of the tournament through marketing, public relations and charitable efforts. Prior to her job at the PGA Tour, Hendrich worked as an account coordinator at Burdette Ketchum, a full-service marketing firm in Jacksonville. For the past nine years, she has served on the board of the Jacksonville Chapter of the UT Alumni Association, a group created for people who are interested in the distinguished record and future progress of The University of Tennessee. Hendrich has been a resident of Northeast Florida for 10 years. She and her English bulldog, Banks, live in Jacksonville.



Christine Griggs Ruth's Chris Steak House

Christine Griggs is the general manager at Ruth's Chris Steak House in Ponte Vedra Beach, where she works day in and day out to improve every guest's experience through a high standard of service and high quality food. She believes that building relationships is the foundation for any successful business; however, it is especially important for the hospitality industry. Her professional journey began when she studied for four years at Florida State University, earning degrees in Hospitality and Business, while being the captain of the women's cross country and track team.



Nancy Hallett Gateway Business Advisors

Nancy Hallett has been a small business owner, founded a small private investment group and worked closely with the principals of a large family-owned private business. She has worked on M&A transactions with a Fortune 100 company, helping to lead that company through integration efforts in finance and operations. Her education background is in accounting, and her business career has been in accounting, administration and operations. Hallett manages customer relations, business valuations and marketing to buyers.



Janet Collins Sawgrass Country Club

Janet Collins is currently employed at the Sawgrass Country Club where she has worked as the director of member services since 1998. In this role, she is in charge of strategic and tactical marketing and membership development, budget management and vision, promotional presentations and web development. In addition to her efforts with the Chamber, she was also president of the Northeast Florida PCMA (Professional Club Marketing Association) from 2009-2015.



Jennifer Belisario TPC Sawgrass

Jennifer Belisario is currently employed at TPC Sawgrass as the director of sales and marketing, where she has worked for eight years. Prior to working at TPC Sawgrass, she was employed at the Four Points by Sheraton as the director of sales and marketing. She also worked as the marketing director at the Jacksonville Golf and Country Club. While working at the Jacksonville Golf and Country Club, Belisario increased the non-resident membership base by 100 percent in only one year.



Kim Scott The Morgan Company

Kim Scott is the president and co-owner of The Morgan Company, a full-service promotional product and corporate gift distributor located in Jacksonville Beach. The Morgan Company provides creative marketing ideas and solutions for business, associations and nonprofits to help them promote themselves through the use of custom imprinted specialty items. Scott graduated from Auburn University and worked for The Ritz Carlton-Buckhead in Atlanta, the Auburn University Hotel and Conference Center and the Opelika, Alabama Chamber of Commerce before moving to Jacksonville. In 2000, she and her mother, Samm Morgan, opened The Morgan Company out of their home offices. In 2010, Scott moved the office out of her home and started building her sales and support team. Her other professional roles have provided an extensive background in customer service, sales and management. Scott has lived in Ponte Vedra Beach for 19 years with her husband, Andy Scott, and three daughters, Morgan, Katherine and Sydney. She hopes that one day one of her girls will work beside her.

PVB DIVISION AMBASSADOR CHAIR



Matt Price

Mathew Price was born and raised in Albany, Georgia, and graduated from Georgia Southern University. Currently, he is vice president of commercial banking for Regions Bank. He was hired by Regions in 2006 and has built his career successfully for 16 years. Price was vice president for the Divisions Ambassadors and also recognized as Ambassador of the Year in 2017. He will serve as chair for the Division Ambassadors for the upcoming 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Chamber welcomes 2018-2019 Ponte Vedra Beach Division ambassadors

As the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce begins its 2018-2019 year, the Ponte Vedra Beach Division extends its appreciation to those members who have agreed to serve as chamber “ambassadors,” representing and championing the Ponte Vedra Beach Division at chamber events and out in the community.



JOSHUA HULL
Vystar Credit Union – Nocatee



BRIAN ANDERSON
Fluffy Cuts



RACHEL MUELLER
Girl Scouts of Gateway Council, Inc.



JENNIFER O'NEAL
MosquitoNix Jacksonville



SEAN SCULLION
Comcast Spotlight

MORE PVBD DIVISION AMBASSADORS ON PAGE 22

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Natalie Bryant



PONTE VEDRA BEACH
3/2 • \$724,900
Jo Mitchell



PONTE VEDRA BEACH
5/3/1 • \$1,239,000
Belk Ingram



OCEANFRONT
3/3 • \$950,000
Kathleen Floryan



INTRACOASTAL
4/4/1 • \$1,275,000
Suzie Connolly



JACKSONVILLE BEACH
2/2/1 • \$294,000
Olivia or Brent Seaman



PONTE VEDRA BEACH
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Michael Curet/Bob Kroner



ST. AUGUSTINE
3/2/1 • \$635,000
Kathleen Floryan



ST. AUGUSTINE
3/3/1 • \$825,000
Kathleen Floryan



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Homesite • \$595,000
Bill Struck



PONTE VEDRA BCH
2/2 • \$139,000
Olivia or Brent Seaman



OCEANFRONT
3/2 • \$1,230,000
Kathleen Floryan



JACKSONVILLE BEACH
3/3 • \$995,000
Jayne Young/Gwinn Volen



PALENCIA
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Patti Armstrong



JAX BEACH
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COMING UP ...

The remainder of Connections will look back on Ponte Vedra Beach Division events that have taken place since late June.

From “Before Hours” and “After Hours”

events to “Chamber at Noon” luncheons, the Recorder will help Chamber members and friends alike reminisce about what has been a busy and exciting last few months.

This section also includes summaries of special Chamber events, including the Auto Show and a few ribbon cutting ceremonies. Enjoy the ride!

Ruth’s Chris Steak House hosts Chamber ‘After Hours’

Ruth’s Chris Steak House in Ponte Vedra Beach hosted an “After Hours” event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on June 27.

Attendees enjoyed networking, hors d’oeuvres and beverages. Ruth’s Chris Steak House is located at 814 A1A North Suite 103. For more information, visit www.ruthschris.com/restaurant-locations/ponte-vedra-beach.



ABOVE: Ruth’s Chris Steak House general manager Christine Griggs addresses attendees of the Chamber “After Hours” on June 27.

LEFT: Jennifer Ryan and Kim and Andy Scott
Photos by Susan Griffin



Tim Crosby and David Godwin



Trudy Toche and Suzanne Blake



Photos by Susan Griffin

Toni Boudreaux, Scott Grant and Jennifer Price gather at the Chamber “Before Hours” at Standfast Asset Management July 11.

Standfast Asset Management hosts Chamber ‘Before Hours’

Standfast Asset Management hosted a “Before Hours” event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce July 11 at its recently renovated office.

Attendees enjoyed the opportunity to network and eat breakfast before heading to work. Standfast Asset Management is an investment management company located at 100 Executive Way in Suite 208. Visit standfastic.com for more information.



Dr. Erika Hamer, Gloria Dongara, Maureen McKanna and Nickolas Coverstone

Chamber luncheon honors service members, provides insight on armed forces

By Benjamin Naim

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division and JAX Chamber Beaches Division hosted a joint Chamber luncheon Thursday, July 12 at Sawgrass Beach Club that honored local service members and updated the community on the state of the armed forces.

Yasmine Mays of the Florida Air National Guard, Jayna Garber of the U.S. Coast Guard, Veronica Davis of the U.S. Army, Taverious Lee of the U.S. Navy and Maichelo Bolanos of the U.S. Marine Corps accepted awards in recognition of their service to the community. Each honoree received a special plaque. Florida Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Brian Simpler also discussed the state of his organization, recruitment, readiness and more.

“It’s really an honor to be here with all

of you at this great event supporting our military,” Simpler said. “I’d say all of our services, all components, active duty, national guard, reserves, we’re very busy. As a case in point, right now with the Florida National Guard, I’ve got airmen deployed around the world. We’re all over the planet right now.”

Simpler noted at the July luncheon that the military has become “much smaller” since his career began. Additionally, the Florida Air National Guard leader said recruitment on a national scale has become a challenge in the modern era.

“Some of the senior leaders in Washington, when I talked with them, they tell me (recruitment) is the No. 1 threat we’re facing,” he said. “The number of people in our nation with the propensity to serve and

LUNCHEON continues on Page 27



ABOVE: Florida Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Brian M. Simpler delivers a speech on the state of the armed forces at the joint Chamber luncheon.



LEFT: Commemorative plaques were awarded to five military servicemen/women at the joint Chamber luncheon at Sawgrass Beach Club.

Photos by Benjamin Naim

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ABOVE: County Commission District 4 race winner Jeremiah Blocker (center) gathers with supporters at the event in St. Augustine.

RIGHT: Circuit Judge candidate Ryan Will with his wife, Bryn, at the event in Ponte Vedra



Chamber's Politics in St. Johns candidate forums collect more than 550 votes in straw polls

More than 550 votes were cast in straw polls administered by the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections office during the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's Politics in St. Johns series of events held in Ponte Vedra on July 16 and in St. Augustine Aug. 1.

Combined, the Chamber estimated nearly 1,000 people attended Politics in St. Johns events in 2018, the largest at-

tendance since the Chamber launched the series in 2012.

"I am very pleased to see how this series has grown over the years; it means that people are becoming more engaged," Chamber President/CEO Isabelle Renault said. "We are proud to be able to provide a platform that will help St. Johns County residents make an informed voting decision."



School Board District 4 representative, and then candidate, Kelly Barrera (center) with husband Gil (left) and Bill Curtis at the event in St. Augustine.

Photos by Susan Griffin

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ABOVE: Glenn Layton, Toni Boudreaux, Ricki Taylor and Katrina Watkins gather at the Chamber "After Hours" event July 25 at The Hammock at Twenty Mile.



Kim Osteen and Mark Ryan



Lois Remolde and Carol Maurer

The Hammock at Twenty Mile hosts Chamber 'After Hours' event

The Hammock at Twenty Mile in Nocatee hosted an "After Hours" event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce July 25.

Attendees enjoyed networking, appetizers and drinks, and were encouraged to bring donation supplies for the Investing in Kids (INK!) Tools 4 Schools Supply Drive. Synovus Mortgage Corp. sponsored the event.

The Hammock at Twenty Mile features custom homes by local homebuilder of the HGTV Smart Home, Glenn Layton Homes. The neighborhood consists of nine private homesites, offering coastal, custom homes starting in the mid \$800s and ranging from 3,800 to 7,500 square feet. Visit www.nocatee.com for more information.

RIGHT: Glenn Layton, Jessie Norman and Malcolm Anthony

Photos by Susan Griffin

Recorder hosts Chamber 'Before Hours'

The Ponte Vedra Recorder hosted a "Before Hours" event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, Aug. 8 at the paper's office in the Overlook Building.

Event attendees had the opportunity to meet with the Recorder's staff, network with others and enjoy breakfast treats and coffee. In addition, guests of the event had a chance to view a new collection of art by the First Coast Artists adorning the walls of the paper's office.

In addition to the Recorder, the event was sponsored by Gloria Dongara of AAA Ponte Vedra. The Ponte Vedra Recorder is located at 1102 A1A, N. in Unit 108, just north of the intersection of Mickler Road and A1A.



Toni Boudreaux, Jon Blauvelt, Ed Johnson, April Snyder, Susan Griffin, Samantha Logue and Kristin Flanagan King



Clare Berry with Dr. Erika Hamer and her daughter Madisyn



Wendy Alexaitis and Katrin Casey



Denver Cook, Malcolm Anthony and Brian Anderson

Photos by Susan Griffin

St. Johns County Chamber launches Pitch Factory

Program to assist entrepreneurs

The Pitch Factory is a partnership between the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and the JAX Chamber Bridges program that began on Sept. 20 at the St. Johns Volunteers! office.

The Chamber is working with Carlton Robinson, who

is leading the classroom with highly effective tips to refine marketing pitches for members. This unique opportunity gives local business owners the chance to volley their ideas for marketing campaigns with other local business professionals. The seats have been filled each week, and the positive attention that the Chamber is receiving on Facebook and Twitter has been encouraging to all attendees. The Chamber is already planning its next event.

At the final class on Nov. 1, representatives from larger organizations will attend to listen to the pitches and provide feedback. The free program is for members committed to attend all six sessions. Each week will tackle pertinent information that will help build your pitch and presentation. With such a positive turnout, additional courses will be offered in 2019.

For more information, call (904) 829-5681.



Jayna Garber of the U.S. Coast Guard accepts her commemorative plaque from Florida Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Brian Simpler at the joint Chamber luncheon July 12.



Photos by Benjamin Naim

Veronica Davis of the U.S. Army accepts her commemorative plaque and poses with Simpler at the luncheon.

Luncheon

Continued from 24

that are qualified to join is a pretty small pool of people.”

Simpler asserted, however, that the nationwide challenge regarding military recruitment doesn't apply to the Florida National Guard, as there are several potential members waiting to join, receive training and take advantage of the ensuing benefits.

“Our state has an incredible benefits package we offer new recruits,” he said. “One of which is a full tuition payment for anybody that joins the National Guard in the state of Florida.”

The brigadier general also expounded on the definition of military readiness and revealed that the Florida National Guard is ready to deploy its aircraft anywhere in the world to engage in combat operations.

“Readiness also means being ready to respond to help our fellow Floridians if we have a natural disaster,” he said. “We're certainly ready to do all that and while these things are challenging, there's certainly lots of reasons to be optimistic about our future.”

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Photo courtesy of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Representatives from RE/MAX Specialists PV, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, Mark Macco Architects and others participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening and groundbreaking of Northshore at Atlantic Beach on Aug. 23.

Ribbon-cutting ceremony held to celebrate development of Northshore at Atlantic Beach

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Aug. 23 to celebrate the grand opening and groundbreaking of Northshore at Atlantic Beach.

Representatives from RE/MAX Specialists PV, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, Mark Macco Architects, the developer, buyers who have already purchased a unit and several realtors attended the event.

Brand new in Atlantic Beach, Northshore at Atlantic Beach offers luxury beach living two blocks from the Atlantic Ocean and one block from the Atlantic

Beach Town Center. The development will contain a total of 12 modern coastal designed townhomes. Each unit is three stories and has three bedrooms, two and a half bathrooms, a two-car garage, two balconies, a bottom floor patio and access to a private, gated courtyard. The units also feature high-end finishes, including stainless steel appliances, a built-in fridge, quartz countertops and wide plank flooring. Additional guest parking is on site as well.

The estimated completion for Northshore at Atlantic Beach is summer 2019.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Social media expert Paxton Hare discusses his three secrets to Facebook marketing at the Aug. 15 Chamber at Noon event hosted by the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber at Noon features discussion on Facebook marketing

The Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hosted social media expert Paxton Hare at its Aug. 15 Chamber at Noon event to discuss Facebook marketing.

Held at the Sawgrass Golf Club, the event featured discussion on Hare's three secrets to Facebook marketing that he said will deliver 100 leads. Fields Auto Group sponsored the event.

For more information on the Chamber, visit sjcchamber.com.

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The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach hosts Chamber 'After Hours' event

The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach hosted an "After Hours" event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on Aug. 22. Held at the Plantation's Beach Club, attendees of the event enjoyed networking, appetizers and drinks. For more information on the Plantation, visit www.theplantationpvb.com.



Rob Schlingmann, the general manager of The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach, addresses attendees of the Chamber "After Hours" event on Aug. 22.



Door prizes are drawn at the event.

Photos by Susan Griffin



ABOVE: An array of food was provided at the event.

LEFT: JR Roessl, Dorothy Flannery and Carla Miles

RIGHT: Jennifer Thomas and Nancy and Gary Hallett



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Isabelle Renault, Van Nguyen, Anna Moyer and Toni Boudreaux

Photos by Susan Griffin

Bluebird Pharmacy hosts Chamber 'Before Hours'

Bluebird Pharmacy hosted a "Before Hours" event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, Sept. 12.

Attendees enjoyed a little breakfast and conversation before heading into their respective work days.

Located at 145 Hilden Road, Suite 102 in Ponte Vedra, Bluebird Pharmacy personalizes healthcare with its state-of-the-art compounding pharmacy and products. Visit www.bluebirdpharmacy.com for more information.



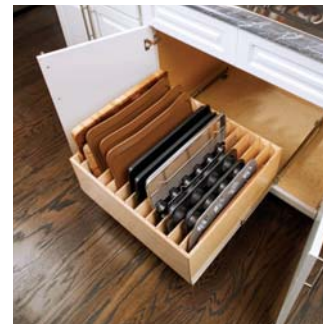
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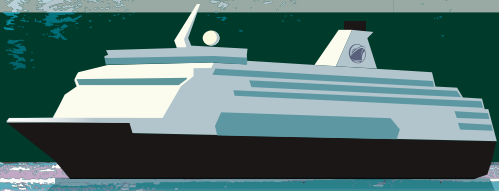
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1970 Fiat 124 Coupe wins top honors at Ponte Vedra Auto Show

More than 170 classic and collectable automobiles were showcased at the 16th Annual Ponte Vedra Auto Show on Sunday, Sept. 9 in Nocatee.

Presented by the Fields Auto Group and hosted by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, the annual event was overflowing with attendees, car enthusiasts and vendors, making it the largest auto show in the event's history. The Best in Show Classic winner was awarded to Giancarlo Fruzzetti for his 1970 Fiat 124 Coupe, earning a perfect score of 100 points. This award was sponsored by Wells Fargo Advisors.

The Best in Show 60th Anniversary of Austin-Healey, sponsored by Meehan's Irish Pub, was awarded to Bill Young, with his 1960 Austin-Healey Bugeye. Charles Cordes, with his 2012 Porsche B59, was awarded the Porsche Jacksonville "For the Spirit of It!" award, sponsored by Porsche of Jacksonville.

According to Chamber President/CEO Isabelle Renault, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce is honored to continue to host this event in Ponte Vedra and to showcase the area to visitors.

"We are proud partners with Fields Auto Group," Renault said. "This 16th Annual Ponte Vedra Auto Show has been our best yet. The new location within Nocatee allowed us to welcome more vehicles to be exhibited at the show and we are thankful for the PARC Group and Nocatee Community Development District for their support. Also, we could not have successfully produced this event without our volunteers. They have been extremely dedicated and hardworking to ensure that everything runs smoothly."

Celebrity endurance racecar driver Hurley Haywood was also in attendance, signing books and taking photos with fans of all ages. Haywood is well-known for his 40 successful years racing in and winning popular events such as Rolex 24 Hours of Daytona and the 12 Hours of Sebring.

To see the complete list of award winners and highlights from this year's show, visit www.pvautoshow.com.



ABOVE: Giancarlo Fruzzetti's 1970 Fiat 124 Coupe took home the Wells Fargo Advisors Best in Show Classic award at the 2018 Ponte Vedra Auto Show, held Sept. 9 in Nocatee. Shown here with Fruzzetti (left) is Porsche Jacksonville General Manager Brandon Starks of Fields Auto Group and St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division Director Toni Boudreaux.



LEFT: Bill Young parades his 1960 Austin-Healey Bugeye, which was awarded the Best in Show 60th Anniversary of Austin-Healey sponsored by Meehan's Irish Pub.



ABOVE: Racing legend Hurley Haywood signs copies of his new book, "Hurley: From the Beginning."



RIGHT: Karsten Jacobson of Edward Jones mans his booth at the Auto Show.

RIGHT: The Ponte Vedra Wellness Center team enjoys the Auto Show.

BELOW: Clare Berry with Berry & Co. Real Estate

Photos by Susan Griffin and Jon Blauvelt



Auto Show judges, volunteers and Chamber of Commerce employees gather at the conclusion of the event.



First Coast Sotheby's International Realty celebrates Chamber membership

First Coast Sotheby's International Realty in Ponte Vedra Beach recently became a member of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and celebrated by participating in a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Held on Monday, Sept. 24, the ceremony in-

cluded representatives from the realty firm and the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the Chamber.

First Coast Sotheby's International Realty is located at 820 A1A North Suite E 15, adjacent to the Veranda buildings. Visit www.firstcoast-sir.com/eng for more information.

First Coast Sotheby's International Realty celebrates its new membership with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce by participating in a ribbon cutting ceremony on Sept. 24 with representatives from the Ponte Vedra Beach Division.

Photo by Susan Griffin



Photo by Ed Johnson

Dr. Gil Houston, Heather Hartman, Marcy Dragotta, Dr. Karen Wolf, Lynn Dunlap, Susan Ledrew and Kelly Trent gather at the Chamber "After Hours" event on Wednesday, Sept. 26.

Ponte Vedra Eye Associates hosts Chamber 'After Hours'

Ponte Vedra Eye Associates hosted an "After Hours" event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, Sept. 26.

Attendees networked among Chamber members and guests, as well as enjoyed beverages and snacks provided by Ponte Vedra Eye Associates.

Located at 150 Professional Drive, Ponte Vedra Eye Associates has been an established business in the Ponte Vedra community for over 23 years, providing optometry services and vision care products. Visit visionsource-pontevedra.com for more information.

Understanding hurricanes: St. Johns County Chamber members encouraged to be prepared, know risks

By Samantha Logue

On Sept. 19, as the Carolinas began their walk down the long road to recovery following the devastation incurred by Hurricane Florence, St. Johns County Emergency Management Deputy Director Jeffrey Alexander encouraged local members of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce to stay vigilant.

"The tropics are quieting down after having six storms out there all at once, and we're looking like we're going to get a bit of a respite from it, but it's coming back," he warned the attendees of the Chamber's Ponte Vedra Beach Division luncheon at Sawgrass Country Club. "Don't think that we're out of the woods, because hurricane season runs all the way to the end of November."

Alexander, who recently served as the operations and logistics chief for St. Johns County during Hurricanes Matthew and Irma, said it is imperative that residents obey mandatory evacuation orders when they are issued.

"This is really all about keeping people alive," he said. "We can't save your property, we can't save structures ... but we can save lives. Everything else we can replace or repair."

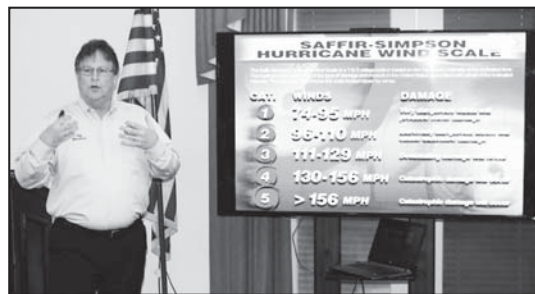
While Alexander acknowledged that evacuating can be a hassle, he urged residents to remember that they don't necessarily have to go far.

"You don't have to go thousands of miles to get away from a hurricane,

you just have to get out of the hurricane evacuation zone," he said. "Step over the line; that's all you have to do."

Stressing the importance of being proactive, rather than reactive, Alexander also encouraged both residents and business owners to have a line of credit ready and make sure they have flood insurance.

"Folks, you live in Florida," he said. "Florida's a swamp, it's always been a swamp and it will always be a swamp. You can flood, no matter where you live."



St. Johns County Emergency Management Deputy Director Jeffrey Alexander informs St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division members about the threats posed by hurricanes at a Sept. 19 luncheon held at Sawgrass Country Club.

Photo by Samantha Logue

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