



ST. JOHNS COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Ponte Vedra Beach Division

CHAMBER
CONNECTIONS



Ponte Vedra
Recorder

October 2019

ST. JOHNS COUNTY CHAMBER
PONTE VEDRA BEACH DIVISION
2019/2020 BOARD

(Left to right) Nancy Hallett, Jen Hendrich, Christine Swanbeck, Kathleen M Floryan,
Rob Schlingmann, Gloria Dongara, Lori Adams, Pamela Bomba CPA, Matt Price
(Not pictured Ricki Taylor, Kim Scott)



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

We received word on Wednesday, Aug. 28 that Hurricane Dorian was on its way and could seriously impact the East Coast of Florida. Due to lessons learned during Hurricanes Matthew and Irma, the St.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

Johns County Chamber of Commerce used social media (Facebook, Twitter and ConstantContact emails) to communicate with our members and friends. We shared relevant Facebook posts from the County's Emergency Management Division, Florida Chamber of Commerce, and the St. Johns County Visitor and Convention Bureau. We posted Facebook videos to discuss up-to-date news and tips. We updated our website (www.sjchamber.com) to prominently add emergency information and included lists of our members in a position to assist with recovery. While our offices were closed Sept. 3 and 4, we were able to receive updates remotely and forward timely information. We re-opened Sept. 5 and began reaching out to Chamber members. We continue to work closely with the Visitor and Convention Bureau so that we can get residents and visitors back to shopping in our community.

Then came Humberto...

To a lesser extent, we were concerned about the Humberto storm. We kept members informed and, after consultation with the county's emergency management department on Sept. 13, we reluctantly decided to reschedule

the Ponte Vedra Auto Show. The storm could have severely impacted the show and we were concerned about the safety of our attendees, show car registrants, volunteers and staff. The show, originally scheduled for Sept. 15 was rescheduled for Sept. 22.

Now for some positive news. Karen Everett, current economic development manager, has been chosen to fill the Ponte Vedra Beach Division Director position as of Oct. 1. We are excited that Karen will bring her background in economic development and knowledge of the local community to the division. She began with St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce in 2017 in the Ponte Vedra Beach Division and lives in the Ponte Vedra area. Huge thanks are in order for Sandy Kavanaugh, who filled in as interim director after Toni Boudreaux Godwin accepted an exciting new position in the automotive field. Sandy's experience with the Ponte Vedra Auto Show and the division — and her positive personality — will make for a seamless transition.

And, we have a new roster of Chamber members to lead our efforts during the next fiscal year. They are

profiled separately in this issue, but congratulations to the new members of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division board of directors: Gloria Dongara, chair, AAA Auto Club Group; Lori Adams, vice chair, Cabi Independent Fashion; Nancy Hallett, Gateway Business Advisors; Rob Schlingmann, immediate past chair, PV Plantation and Director; Jennifer Belisario, TPC Sawgrass; Pamela Bomba, Pivot CPAs; Ricki Taylor, Synovus Mortgage Corp; Jen Hendrich, PGA Tour; Matt Price, Regions Bank; Kim Scott, The Morgan Company; Christine Swanbeck, Ruth's Chris Restaurant; and Kathleen Floryan, eXp Realty. Thank you also to the division's many ambassadors for their unflagging support.

And the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors has chosen its executive committee for Fiscal Year 2020. Chair Mark Nighbor, Advanced Disposal; Vice-Chair Erika Hamer, Ponte Vedra Wellness Center; Treasurer Skip Marsh, Flagler Health+; and Secretary Pat Kane, Pop-A-Lock.

We are in great shape as a Chamber of Commerce with these new leaders. I look forward to working with you all.

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce president Isabelle Renault speaks to the crowd during last year's Branded Breakfast and Awards ceremony. This year's event is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 25. Photo by Susan Griffin



Chamber presents 2019 Branded Breakfast and Awards

Oct. 25 event to recognize business leaders who have made their mark

The annual Chamber signature event, BRANDED, is the organization's most recognizable event of the year from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 25, in Shell Hall at World Golf Village, 1 World Golf Place in St. Augustine. The keynote speaker is Craig Dickman, managing director of TitledownTech Innovation Center in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Open to all Chamber members, the breakfast features the annual awards presentations, which include Member of the Year, Economic Development Member of the Year, Ambassador of the Year and the President's Award. Expected to draw more than 200 people, this event recognizes those members who have distinguished themselves in some significant way.

Registration is \$45 for members. Nonmembers may register for \$70 by emailing Erin.Johnson@SJChamber.com.

Pitch Factory Course helps businesses reach next level

Chamber offers 7-week course to St. Johns County entrepreneurs

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce recently partnered with the JAX Chamber to bring a third cohort of an exciting opportunity for entrepreneurs in St. Johns County. Inspired by the JAX Bridges program, "The Pitch Factory," will help businesses move to the next level by helping to develop and refine their value proposition. For more information, visit www.jaxbridges.com.

At the conclusion of the program, entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to meet with key leaders from large organizations to share their value proposition. Participants will also receive valuable feedback and will feel prepared to earn new business.

The free course will meet Thursday mornings from 9 to 11 a.m. Oct. 24 and 31, Nov. 7, 14 and 21, and Dec. 5 and 12. at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce office at 100 South Park Blvd, Suite 405, St. Augustine, FL 32086. The class will not meet Nov. 28 to observe Thanksgiving. Space is limited; registration closes end of business Friday, Oct. 11. The Pitch Factory is one more way St. Johns County is Business Ready.

To register, email Bethany Taylor at Bethany.Taylor@SJChamber.com or call (904) 829-5681.



Karen B. Everett
 Director PVB Division,
 St. Johns County
 Chamber of Commerce

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am thrilled to begin my new position as director, Ponte Vedra Beach Division, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, on Oct. 1.

This new beginning is a natural progression and a return to my St. Johns Chamber roots. I know I have big shoes to fill. Toni Boudreaux Godwin, PVB Director from 2017-2019, recruited me to fill in for Lucia Miller during Lucia's maternity leave. I knew Lucia was the division coordinator, but quickly learned that she also managed a huge portion of the annual Auto Show. Thank goodness that Sandy Kavanaugh had agreed to assist with the Auto Show. Despite a rescheduled date (sound familiar?), the September 2017 Auto Show was a success.

I was delighted to be offered the position of the Chamber's Economic Development Manager in the fall 2017. While I have enjoyed this role and have

learned a lot about the county, I applied for this promotional opportunity after Toni announced she was leaving for an exciting new gig. I live in Ponte Vedra and look forward to working with the board members and the ambassadors of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division.

Our goal list is long and ambitious, but I am confident that we can accomplish great things by working together. The Ponte Vedra area attracts many residents and businesses and the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce provides the resources and programs to ensure that our business community thrives and grows.

I am grateful for the warm wishes I have already received. While I know many of the business leaders already, I look forward to meeting more and drawing even more businesses into the Chamber family. Please drop by to visit, invite me for coffee or attend one of our events.

2019-2020 PVB DIVISION AMBASSADORS



Jennifer Hooper O'Neal
 Chair
 MosquitoNix
 operating partner



Kari Zerrahn
 Membership Chair
 Allstate Anderson
 Agencies of NE
 Florida Inc



Trudy Toche
 Ribbon Cutting
 Coordinator
 Mary Kay
 consultant/trainer



Josh Hull
 VyStar Credit
 Union,
 Nocatee Branch
 vice president



Ellen Taylor
 ServPro of the
 Beaches and Ponte
 Vedra, Servpro of St.
 Augustine - business
 development rep.



Jenny L. McKeithen
 First Citizens Bank
 Vice president,
 financial sales
 manager



Rachael Mueller
 Girl Scouts of
 Gateway Council



Corey McDonald
 Digital Mark
 Company



Trevor Rosendahl
 PMC Holdings



David Godwin
 TransAmerica



Cindy Bishop, RN
 Robert Karol, DMD



Shana Ryan
 Conceptual HR
 Solutions

UPCOMING PONTE VEDRA BEACH DIVISION EVENTS

OCTOBER

PVB Division Joint Luncheon w/ Jax Chamber Beaches Division

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 16

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Location: Sawgrass Beach Club
 9797 Summer Place, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Speaker: Todd L Sack, MD FACP, Gastroenterology & Hepatology

Topic: Energy and Resilience: Opportunities for NE Florida

Series Sponsor: Fields Auto Group

Chamber After Hours

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 23

Time: 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Location/Sponsor: Ponte Vedra Recorder
 1102 A1A North, Unit 108,
 Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Info: Cheers to 50 years! Join us as we celebrate the Ponte Vedra Recorder 50 years in business! The host will provide beverages, delicious bites, fun and entertainment. Bring your business cards!

NOVEMBER

Chamber at Noon- A Salute to Veterans

Date: Wednesday, Nov. 6

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Location: Sawgrass Beach Club
 9797 Summer Place, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Info: Join us for this special luncheon to salute our veterans.

Sponsors: Fields Auto Group, VyStar Credit Union, Jack Wilson, Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman LLP

Chamber Before Hours

Date: Wednesday, Nov. 13

Time: 8 – 9 a.m.

Location/Sponsor: TBD

Info: Get to know one of your local businesses while networking with fellow chamber members. This networking event provides a great way to start your work day with a little breakfast and conversation!

Chamber After Hours

Date: Wednesday, Nov. 20

Time: 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Location/Sponsor: TBD

Info: Join us to network a.m.ong members and guests. The host will provide beverages and delicious bites. Bring your business cards!

DECEMBER

PVB Division Jingle & Mingle Holiday Party

Date: Wednesday, Dec. 4

Time: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Location: TBD

Info: Join us for a festive evening of holiday fun with live music, heavy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, a.m.azing raffle items.
 Sponsor: Iberia Bank

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

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COMING SOON



Beautiful 4BD, 4BA pool home in Marsh Landing with lake views. Conveniently located by Marsh Landing Country Club. **MLS# TBA / \$949,000**

204 S MILL VIEW WAY

COMING SOON



Adorable 4 BD, 3BA home with lake views in Sawmill Lakes. You'll love the fully updated kitchen and flooring. Conveniently located by neighborhood pool. **MLS# TBA / \$612,000**

205 SETTLERS ROW N.



Spectacular 5 BD, 7.5 BA pool home in The Plantation @ Ponte Vedra, a gated community. This home offers luxurious living with gorgeous water views! **MLS# 986795 / \$1,300,000**

459 ROYAL TERN RD. S



Stunning 5 BD, 4.2 BA home on almost an acre, located in Marsh Landings desirable North Island, offering tremendous privacy! Intracoastal waterway views from the balcony & screened porch! **MLS# 1014853 / \$1,898,000**

283 CLEARWATER DR.



Beautiful pool home located in the gated community, Plantation Oaks! Enjoy glistening lake views from almost every room. Featuring 6 BD, 5.5 BA & 4,372 sq.ft. of living space. **MLS# 983628 / \$849,000**

121 LAMP LIGHTER LN.



Fabulous Santa Fe Style pool home featuring 5 BD, 4 full & 3 half bath overlooking the marsh & golf course, simply stunning! A private office suite is located above the second 2 car garage. **MLS# 984512 / \$1,398,000**

Call the Lisa Barton Team...



904.705.1382 (Cell)
904.473.0106 (Office)
Lisa@LisaSellsPonteVedra.com
www.LisaSellsPonteVedra.com

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2019-2020 PVB DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Gloria Dongara
Board Chair

Dongara is the financial services agent at the Auto Club Group in Ponte Vedra Beach and St. Augustine. She specializes in life insurance, banking, indexed annuities and fixed

annuities. Prior to AAA, Dongara had 23 plus years of experience in corporate America, specifically heading the global corporate markets anti-money laundering area as well as client services and cash management. She has lived in Ponte Vedra for over 27 years and served as an ambassador on the St. Johns County Chamber for three years and has been on the Board of Directors for two years. Dongara is now the incoming Chair of the St. Johns County Board of Directors, Ponte Vedra Division.



Lori Adams
Vice Chair

Adams is the operations manager for Harbor View Advisors, a boutique investment banking firm located in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. 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 independent 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 has served as an Ambassador for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, Ponte Vedra Division and served as Secretary on the Board for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, Ponte Vedra Division. Her new role is vice chair on the Board for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, Ponte Vedra Division. She received the Grace Hayes Ambassador of the Year Award for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. She is a member of the Ponte Vedra Women's Alliance and served on its board a few years ago.



Nancy Hallett
Secretary

Hallett is the managing partner at GW Business Valuations and a partner at Gateway Business Advisors. She is a certified valuation analyst through the

National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts. Hallett has a degree in accounting from Florida State College at Jacksonville. Her experience in preparing, analyzing and managing financial statements, combined with her transactional work in business brokerage has provided her with a unique perspective and skillset to help business owners discover the true value of their business.



Rob Schlingmann
Immediate Past Chair

Schlingmann began his career as a clubhouse manager at 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 general manager and chief operating officer. He currently works at The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach as general manager and chief operating officer.



Christine Swanbeck

Swanbeck 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 experi-

ence through a high standard of service and high-quality food. Swanbeck believes

BOARD continues on Page 17



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Board

Continued from 16

building relationships is the foundation for any successful business; however, it is especially important for the hospitality industry. Swanbeck's 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.



Jen Hendrich

A graduate of the University of Tennessee, Hendrich holds a Bachelor of Science in Communications. Hendrich has worked for the PGA TOUR for six 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 TOUR, Hendrich worked as an account coordinator at Burdette Ketchum, a full-service marketing firm in Jacksonville. For the past 10 years, Hendrich 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. She is also currently on the board of the Ponte Vedra Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, where she helps the chamber increase membership and deliver continuous value-added service to its current members. Hendrich has been a resident of Northeast Florida for 10 years. She and her English Bulldog, Banks, live in Jacksonville.



Kathleen Floryan

Floryan has been successfully selling properties and helping people buy homes as a consistent "top producer" year after year. She works full time in real estate and continued through the

toughest real estate markets since 2006. Floryan lists and sells residential real estate in all price ranges throughout the St. Johns County and Beaches area. Her average days-on-market is less than 45 days. Floryan's passion is specializing in luxury homes in Ponte Vedra Beach that include oceanfront, golf courses, gated and ungated neighborhoods, marsh front, Intracoastal and riverfront properties. She also sells in the newest community west of Ponte Vedra Beach called Nocatee. She is a certified luxury home marketing specialist, a certified short sale specialist, a certified residential resort and second home specialist, and a certified Nocatee Realtor. Floryan is a broker associate with eXp Realty.



Kim Scott

Scott is 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 self-promote using 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, Scott and her mother, Samm Morgan, opened The Morgan Company out of home offices. In 2010, Scott moved the office from her home and started building a sales and support team. Scott has lived in Ponte Vedra Beach for 19 years with her husband, Andy Scott, and three daughters, Morgan, Katharine and Sydney. Scott hopes that one day one of her girls will work beside her.



Matt Price

Matt Price was born and raised in Albany, Georgia, and graduated from Georgia Southern University in 2001. Currently, he is vice president of commercial banking

for Regions Bank. He was hired by Regions in 2006 and has built a successful career in banking for the past 17 years. Price recently served as chair for the Division's Ambassador program and was also recognized as Ambassador of the Year in 2017. He has been married to Paige for 15 years, has an eighth-grader at Landrum Middle, and can regularly be spotted with the entire family on a local tennis court.



Pamela Bomba

Bomba is a tax partner with Pivot CPAs, where she began her career in 2005 after receiving her bachelor's degree in business administration and Master of

Accountancy from the University of North Florida. She has always lived Northeast Florida and now calls Palm Valley home. While she has a strong background in all areas of taxation, Bomba 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 on the finance committee of 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.



Ricki Taylor

A Florida native, Taylor attended University of Georgia and then began her career in the mortgage business in 1985. She joined Synovus Mortgage Corp. in

1998 and is now responsible for covering North East Florida for the company. She has been an active member of the SJC Chamber - Ponte Vedra Beach Division for more than six years, Ambassador for four years and served as the Ambassador chair for years. Outside of work, Taylor enjoys traveling, weightlifting, walking her dog and spending time with her two sons.



The St. Augustine Wild Reserve is a non-profit corporation founded in 1995, focusing on the world's rapidly diminishing wildlife. Created as a rescue center for unwanted and abused exotic animals, this need has become evident due to the number of individuals who obtain an exotic animal or pet, only to realize that the animal's wild nature doesn't fit into their lifestyle as they expected. This is where the St. Augustine Wild Reserve comes into play. As Founder/CEO, Deborah Warrick has extensive knowledge of the animals themselves, their behavioral characteristics, care and handling of various exotic animals. It is her vision, knowledge, working experience and love of exotic animals that will transform the St. Augustine Wild Reserve into a self-sustaining reality that will provide the public educational exposure while providing a comfortable home for unwanted and abused endangered animals. We are currently raising funds to build a veterinary clinic on site, and a barn which will serve as a diet preparation area for our carnivores.

The St. Augustine Wild Reserve offers tours by appointment. Please call (904) 940-0664 for reservations or e-mail us at WildReserve@aol.com.

Tours are on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 2pm. We also offer a special VIP tour on Friday from noon until 1:30 for an additional fee. Guests will be allowed to visit our exotic animals up close (sorry, no hands-on) while we feed our big cats on the tour. It can get quite exciting!

To book your tour on-line, log onto bookoo.com/tigertours.

Donations may be sent to:

5190 Farm Creek Road, St. Augustine, FL 32092

Chamber's Leadership St. Johns class completes program

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's Leadership St. Johns Class of 2019 completed its year-long program and graduated 24 participants from all sectors of industry, commerce and public service. The Class of 2020 will begin meeting in October 2019 and will complete the program in June 2020.

The leadership development program was started in 2001 and has more than 300 alumni including the former St. Johns County School District Superintendent of Schools and current Flagler College President Dr. Joseph G. Joyner; the current St. Johns County School District Superintendent of Schools Tim Forson; Flagler Health+ President and CEO Jason Barrett; local entrepreneur and St. Augustine Distillery cofounder CEO Phillip McDaniel; St. Johns County School District Board Representative and Vice-Chair Beverly Slough; and City of St. Augustine City Manager John Regan.

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.

Bob Porter, the Chamber's LSJ program director, said, "The program provides a way to recognize talented individuals who will benefit from the experience and who can utilize the opportunity to advance their organizational and personal professional goals. Additionally, strong connections established among class members are invaluable throughout one's career and beyond."

The Chamber will begin to accept applications for the Class of 2021 in mid-July 2020. The program runs from October through the following June. Class members need to be committed to meeting one day each month to experience a full day of policy briefings and onsite tours providing an in-depth overview of the challenges and opportunities faced by St. Johns County's many industries, government



Photo courtesy of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The Leadership St. Johns Class celebrates its graduation at Aunt Kate's on the River Restaurant in Vilano Beach.

agencies and nonprofits.

Class members who successfully graduate from the program are accepted into the prestigious ranks of leadership alumni in St. Johns County and across Florida, and many LSJ graduates have been accepted into the state-wide Leadership Florida program. For more information, visit www.sjcchamber.com/leadership-st-johns.

The graduates of the Leadership St. Johns Class of 2019 are Lenny Byrd, Century 21 - St. Augustine Properties; Ashley Folladori, Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach; Francesco Manfredi, Flagler Health+ ; Lori Brandel, VyStar Credit Union; Nicole Pece, Betty Griffin Center;

Barry Fox, City of St. Augustine Police Department; Catherine Hutchins, St. Johns County School District; George Waters, Gwanda; Lex Taylor, Douglas and Hedstrom PA; Mark Allen, All Florida Safety Institute; Paige Durrett, Northrop Grumman; Greg Huntington, Advanced Disposal; Emily Harrison, St. Johns County School District; Wayne Gordon, Gordon Family Chiropractor; Ian Edmonson, Edmonson & Associates; Jack Hall, St. Johns River State College; Julia Turner, Ameris Bank; Elena Laguardia, Flagler Health+/Flagler Health Care Foundation; Dameon Church, Reunion Bank of North Florida; Jenny Harvey, United Way of St. Johns County; Michael Roberson, St. Johns

County Government; Kyle Gammon, Carr, Riggs & Ingram (CPA); Matt Cline, St. Johns Sheriff's Office, and Laura Stevenson Dumas, Flagler College.

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," Renault said.

Chambers of Commerce partner to honor military personnel

On July 11, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce — PVB Division and the Jax Chamber Beaches Division honored local service members for their commitment to community service over and above their duties as active military personnel. Members and guests met for a luncheon at Sawgrass Beach Club in Ponte Vedra Beach.

The chambers collected donations for the Greater Jacksonville Area USO Council, and a special request was made for diapers, baby formula, canned vegetables, pasta and pet food.



ABOVE: Rear Admiral Gary Mayes

Photo by Susan Griffin

LEFT: Members and guests stand for the presentation of colors at the July 11 joint Chamber of Commerce meeting to honor military personnel.

Photo courtesy of the SJC Chamber



Photo by Susan Griffin

CHAMBER HOLDS RIBBON CUTTING FOR THE RESERVE AT NOCATEE

St. Johns County Chamber Ponte Vedra Beach Division held a ribbon cutting July 18 to celebrate The Reserve joining the Chamber. The community offers one-, two- and three-bedroom layouts with amenities including a clubhouse with fitness facility, beach entry pool and dog park with dog wash and bike care facility. The apartment's kitchens feature granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, modern cabinetry and even USB ports.

VISION EXPRESS CELEBRATES 10 YEARS WITH RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY



Photo by Susan Griffin

Vision Express at the Ponte Vedra Pointe Shopping Center celebrated its 10th anniversary with a ribbon cutting July 25. Members of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce – Ponte Vedra Division and guests participated.

STRENGTHEN YOUR
CREDIBILITY

IMPROVE YOUR
VISIBILITY

AMPLIFY BUSINESS
ADVOCACY

DRIVE
PROSPERITY


St. Johns
County
Chamber
of Commerce

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80% more likely





**Consumers are
Eighty Percent more
likely to buy from
Chamber Members**

Source: Real Value of
Joining a Local Chamber of
Commerce
Shapiro Group, 2012.

PV2-LV15M5



51 Cordova St., Suite B
Saint Augustine, FL 32084
(Corner of Hypolita & Cordova)

904-436-5723
[https:// www.facebook.com/TheBOLDArtGallery](https://www.facebook.com/TheBOLDArtGallery)



ABOVE: Christine Swanbeck, Toni Boudreaux-Godwin and Sandy Kavanaugh gather during the Chamber's After Hours event at Ruth's Chris Steak House on July 24.

first coast
ARTISTS

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Ponte Vedra Recorder
Not your average newspaper, not your average reader.

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About a half mile South of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

For more information about these works, the artists, or other works, contact Bob Nickerson at First Coast Artists at 904.280.8187.




LEFT: Cindy Bishop and Dr. Rob Karol

Photos by Susan Griffin

Chamber After Hours sells out

The SJC-Ponte Vedra Beach Division Chamber After Hours event was sold out July 24 at Ruth's Chris Steak House in Ponte Vedra Beach.

The purpose was to network among members and guests and the host provided beverages and delicious bites.

For information about future Chamber After Hours events, call (904) 285-2004.



OCTOBER 25, 2019 @ 8:30 AM

ST. JOHNS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2019

BRANDED

INNOVATION

2019 BRANDED BREAKFAST & AWARDS
RECOGNIZING BUSINESS LEADERS THAT MADE THEIR MARK

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: CRAIG DICKMAN, MANAGING DIRECTOR
TITLETOWN TECH**

Shell Hall, World Golf Village
1 World Golf Place
St. Augustine, FL
Doors Open @ 8:00
REGISTER AT WWW.SJCCHAMBER.COM
\$45 for members
\$70 for non-members, contact Erin.Johnson@SJCChamber.com





Spavia owner Chris Stoll (second from left) mingles with guests at a recent Before Hours event held by the St. Johns County Chamber-PVB Division.

Photo by Susan Griffin

Chamber-PVB Division holds Before Hours event at Spavia

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce-Ponte Vedra Beach Division held its Before Hours on July 31 at Spavia Day Spa in Ponte Vedra.

Attendees had the chance to get to know a local business while networking

with fellow chamber members. These morning networking events provide a great way to start the workday with a little breakfast and conversation.

For information about future events, call (904) 285-2004.

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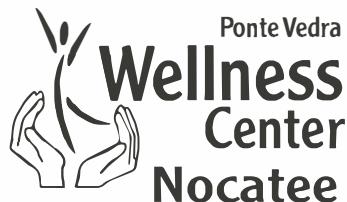
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The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division hosted a ribbon cutting for the opening of John Manis Jr.'s Brazilian Jiu Jitsu school, Aug. 5.

Photo by Susan Griffin

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu school opens in Ponte Vedra Beach

By Daniela Toporek

Self-defense instructor, John Manis Jr., recently opened a martial arts school for Brazilian Jiu Jitsu in Ponte Vedra. The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division hosted a ribbon cutting Aug. 5, the first day of classes.

"I think it's the most effective form of self defense," he said. "I knew Ponte Vedra didn't have jiu jitsu, I think we did a good job in finding the right area where there's enough traffic."

Manis started training in martial arts at the age of 4, when his mother enrolled him in classes for being so shy.

"That's what sparked the passion and I haven't stopped ever since," he recalled.

Manis hopes to spark that same passion with his younger students and build their confidence, especially his two daughters, who he wants to prepare for the real world.

"As a father of two girls and as someone

who's done martial arts his whole life, it was a goal of mine to give them that life skill of self defense, knowing how to protect themselves," he explained.

Manis wants to build confidence, not only for his daughters, but for the youth in the Ponte Vedra community, who may just need time away from all the screens and technology or who might be insecure or bullied at school.

"I know a lot of kids need to get away from their computers and get a 'digital detox,' as I like to call it," he joked. "But also, it's a lot about making people better people. For example, if there's someone new in school and they're quiet or alone, as someone who does jiu jitsu, just go up to them, smile at them and ask them how they're doing."

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu classes are available for all ages.

For more information, visit www.pvbjj.com or call (917) 697-0932.



Sandy Kavanaugh talks with Gloria Dongara, incoming chair for the PVBD Board of Directors at the Chamber Before Hours event Aug. 7.

Photo by Susan Griffin

Chamber holds Before Hours networking breakfast at AAA

By Christine Rodenbaugh

The Ponte Vedra Beach Division Chamber Before Hours event was held Aug. 7 at AAA-The Auto Club Group located at 840 A1A North, Suite 180 in Ponte Vedra Beach. The monthly event allows members to get to know a local business and learn about its services. Attendees have

an opportunity to make strong business connections while sharing conversation and breakfast.

Gloria Dongara, life specialist at AAA Ponte Vedra, is the incoming chair for the PVBD Board of Directors and will take office Oct. 1.

For information about Chamber events, call (904) 285-2004.

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Chamber PVBD conducts ribbon cutting at Cryoskin

By Daniela Toporek

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division held a ribbon cutting Aug. 8 at Beaches Cryoskin, 5150 Palm Valley Road, Suite 208 in Ponte Vedra Beach. Chamber members and guests were served delectable edibles at the lunchtime ceremony.

Cryoskin uses non-invasive techniques used for slimming, cellulite reduction and toning that some clients compare to a cool massage. Beaches Cryoskin offers CryoToning Cellulite, CryoSlimming and CryoToning Face. Procedures take about 28 minutes. For information about Beaches Cryoskin, call (904) 862-1999.



Photo courtesy of St. Johns County Chamber

Beaches Cryoskin celebrated a ribbon cutting Aug. 8 held by the Chamber of Commerce.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Sandy Kavanaugh (left) and Jim Moyer attended the Aug. 14 Chamber at Noon meeting to hear featured speaker Sara Frasca (right).

Chamber at Noon event features innovative speaker

By Daniela Toporek

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division hosted Chamber at Noon at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club on Aug. 14, to discuss harnessing innovation.

The event featured speaker, Sara Frasca, vice president of innovation enablement for Platypus Labs, a management consultant firm in Detroit, Michigan, that focuses on elevating companies of all sizes by unlocking the creative potential of its employees.

Some may also recognize Frasca as the owner of Ponte Vedra's Trasca & Co. Eatery.

Frasca discussed her position at Platypus Labs and her role in transforming creative ideas into powerful results.

"Most leaders agree that innovation is important in continuing to propel businesses forward, but don't know how to grasp or harness that innovation," Frasca

said. "Our team comes in and gives them (the employees) tools and techniques and we practice them and apply them to the business."

Frasca also mentioned that targeting innovation within companies rather than hiring new individuals leads to increased productivity and a better retention rates.

Frasca said she received positive feedback from attendees and told her that she "captured the attention of everyone in the room" and that the presentation was "very informative and right on the money."

"Every business can take responsible risks, challenge the status quo and find new paths," she said. "Creativity will harness and fuel the future."

For more information about the SJC Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division, visit www.sjchamber.com/ponte-vedra-beach-division.

For more information about Sara Frasca or Platypus Labs, visit www.platypuslabs.com or www.sarafrasca.com.

Chamber meeting focuses on energy

By Christine Rodenbaugh

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Isabelle Renault welcomed members and guests to the Aug. 16 Economic Development Council quarterly breakfast in Shell Hall at the World Golf Village.

The keynote speaker was Eric Silagy, president and CEO of Florida Power & Light. Silagy cited Florida's \$1 trillion economy and lack of state income tax as two driving forces that attract an average of 1,000 new residents to the state daily. Increased population increases the demand for energy.

To meet that demand, FPL has experienced a paradigm shift and is no longer the power company of yesteryear.

"We are a technology company that

delivers energy," Silagy said.

FPL's dependence on oil to produce energy is almost nil. Instead, FPL continues to develop clean energy sources including solar, natural gas and nuclear energy products. Silagy said one option in the works is to install 40 acres of batteries to provide power, which removes emissions and requires no water, is efficient and enhances reliability.

"When it comes down to energy, it's a national security issue," Silagy said. He said FPL's focus is to help make the country energy independent.

FPL has invested \$4 billion in storm hardening.

"After Irma, power was back on to 50% of customers in 24 hours," he said. "This is about being predictive instead of reactive."



ABOVE: Keynote speaker Eric Silagy, president of Florida Power & Light, speaks with St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce members at the quarterly Economic Development Council breakfast Aug. 16 at the World Golf Hall of Fame.

LEFT: Christine Caven, Kristi Aiello and Ashley Szczukowski pose for a photo after the Chamber's EDC breakfast.

Photos by Christine Rodenbaugh

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The Aug. 21 ribbon cutting celebrated Rulon International's facility expansion, adding 27,000 square feet to the existing 85,000-square-foot plant.

Acoustical systems manufacturer celebrates expansion

Rulon International adds 27,000 square feet to St. Augustine facility

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting Aug. 21 at Rulon International to celebrate the firm's 27,000 square foot expansion at their 2000 Ring Way facility in St. Augustine.

Rulon International, in the business of manufacturing acoustical wood ceiling and wall systems for more than 30 years, launched a new corporate brand identity in the spring. Rulon contributes continued growth and success to an unrelenting commitment to excellence in both product quality and customer service. Since launching in 1985 in Souderton, Pennsylvania, Rulon has gone from working locally in Philadelphia to serving customers worldwide, while also moving the corporate office and manufacturing



Chamber members tour the firm's 27,000-square-foot expansion at their 2000 Ring Way facility in St. Augustine.

facility to St. Augustine, Florida in 2006. They have had the privilege of working on a variety of projects in all industries around North America and expanded into the global market.

"Over the past 30 years, we've built a strong reputation for excellence in both quality and innovation. Just as we have continued to grow and provide state-of-the-art products, incorporating new production technology and enhancement into the process, our brand is evolving too. This is an exciting time for Rulon, as we're rolling out a new brand along with the expansion of our facilities." Ken Fussner, national sales and marketing manager said.

Overall, the new Rulon brand identity embodies the elegance and beauty of their products along with the sleekness of the continued innovation into the process of wood wall and ceiling production. For information, visit www.rulonco.com.

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Photo by Susan Griffin

Sandy Kavanaugh, Rob Schlingmann and Ashley Folladori address members and guests at the Chamber After Hours event at the Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach Aug. 21.

Chamber After Hours hits the Beach Club

The St. Johns County Ponte Vedra Beach Division Chamber After Hours event was hosted at the Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach, Aug. 21.

Members and guests celebrated the exclusive Beach Club and networked while enjoying beverages and delicious bites. The Plantation's private Beach Club is a space for members to relax and watch the waves break or race the waves, splash around in the Junior Olympic-size pool or hang upside down on the jungle gym with the kids.

Cook a meal on one of the grills or choose to order from the chef's menu. There are poolside lounges, all with an ocean view. The Beach Club is located at 1111 Ponte Vedra Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.



The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting Aug. 24 for the grand opening of the Benton House.

Photo by Susan Griffin

Chamber hosts ribbon cutting for new assisted living facility

By Amber Lake

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting Aug. 24 for the grand opening of the Benton House, a new assisted living facility located in northwest St. Johns County.

Representative Cyndi Stevenson attended to welcome the facility to the community.

"In 1980, St. Johns County's population was calculated by the U.S. Census Bureau at 51,000 people," said Chamber president, Isabelle Renault. "The most recent census data from 2018 states that our population is grown to more than 250,000 people and there is no end in sight.

Not only is the county growing at an incredible pace, we believe that the fastest growing segment of that population in the next 15 years will be the senior population over the age of 75."

The facility offers not only assisted living, but memory care and an adult day program as well. The new location will be one of 23 across the Southeast United States and will be one of three facilities located in Florida. Staff conducted guided tours of the facility every 15 minutes during the open house.

Benton House St. Johns is located at 115 Benton Lane off County Road 210 West at St. Johns Parkway. For more information, visit bentonhouse.com/senior-living-augustine-fl.

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Photos courtesy
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Chamber holds Before Hours event

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division hosted Chamber Before Hours on Sept. 11 at Optimal You Brain Center at 151 Sawgrass Corners Drive, Unit 102, in Ponte Vedra Beach. The event was rescheduled from Sept. 4 because of Hurricane Dorian.

Optimal You Brain Center provides chiropractic, neuroplasticity and functional medicine care for pediatric, adult and elderly patients. The practice seeks to combine the passions of staff doctors to offer services designed to benefit a wide array of persons spanning all periods in life.

There was a drawing for a wellness package valued at \$450 which included an examination, one-hour massage and two adjustments. For information, visit www.oybc.com.



Dr. Thomas and Dr. Lexie Romero, owners of Optimal You Brain Center in Ponte Vedra

Chamber Before Hours events are free to members. Nonmembers interested in future events may contact PVB Chamber office at (904) 285-2004.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Speaker and Florida Partnership Specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau, Nadine Meinhardt (far left), stands with Sandy Kavanaugh (from left), Pam Kennedy and Lucia Miller.

Chamber at Noon looks at 2020 Census

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division hosted its Chamber at Noon at the Sawgrass Beach Club on Sept. 18, to discuss the 2020 Census.

Sponsored by Fields Auto Group and Setzer, Cochran, Soares and Hubbard Pediatric Dentistry, the Chamber discussed how state lawmakers are considering how to assure that citizens are accurately accounted for, explaining that

while the census is a federal responsibility, its result can shape many aspects of local communities.

Florida Partnership Specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau, Nadine Meinhardt, spoke at the meeting to share updates and inform the Chamber of what's to come.

For more information or view upcoming events, visit www.sjcchamber.com/events.

Wellness Expo presented at Chamber event

Chamber After Hours celebrates Ponte Vedra Wellness Center 15-year anniversary

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center hosted a Florida Fall Festival and Wellness Expo on Sept. 26 to celebrate 15 years of operation at the Beach. The event, in cooperation with Center State Bank, was held outside their Ponte Vedra Beach office on Corridor Road. The event was in cooperation with the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce as part of its Chamber After Hours event series.

Raffle tickets were sold to benefit local nonprofit The HEAL Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping to enrich autistic lives. Prizes included overnight get-aways, gift certificates to local restaurants, fitness memberships, and wellness baskets, all donated by local businesses.

Practice owner Dr. Erika Hamer

said, "I really feel like this year is a milestone – this practice has grown so much over the past fifteen years and seen a variety of changes. From the beginning, I have always considered it to be a great honor for me to be able to positively impact the health of so many and contribute in a positive way to their wellbeing. This practice has always enjoyed a very significant retention rate of patients and now, after 15 years, I am treating the children of people I saw when I first opened. In fact, just recently, I adjusted the newborn baby of someone I began seeing when they were in middle school. They had been brought in by their parents, who were patients. I also treated the parents' parents — so in just one family I have been able to treat four generations — an incredible honor!"

Attendees also toured the Wellness Village, where over a dozen local community partners set up to discuss services and offer free samples or special offers.

For more information or to see upcoming events, visit www.sjcchamber.com/events.



Photo by Ed Johnson

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center celebrated its 15th anniversary with a Florida Fall Festival and Wellness Expo as part of a Chamber After Hours event. Pictured are Dr. Casey Means (from left), Ponte Vedra Wellness Center owner Dr. Erika Hamer, Janine Parker, Lisa Tromsdorff, Daniel Brauch,

2019 PONTE VEDRA AUTO SHOW



Visitors to the 2019 Ponte Vedra Auto Show check out vehicles on display during the event Sept. 22 at the Nocatee Event Field.

Ponte Vedra Auto Show field overflows with cars, spectators

17th annual event hosted by SJC Chamber of Commerce, presented by Fields Auto Group

On Sept. 22, The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, hosted the 17th annual Ponte Vedra Auto Show presented by Fields Auto Group at the Nocatee Event Field. The cars were perfectly aligned allowing spectators to take an up-close, personal look. The field was overflowing with incredible, one-of-a-kind vehicles from the 1934 Ford two-door Sedan, the 1957 Grumman Delivery Kurbside and the 1932 Ford 3W Coupe Street Rod.

The PV Auto Show welcomed a staggering 250 entries of collectible and classic car participants with over 4,000 car lovers, enthusiasts and vendors in attendance. Notable awards included The Best in Show Classic, sponsored by Wells Fargo Advisors, awarded to Douglas Greer for his 1950 Plymouth Special Deluxe and the Best in Show 61st Anniversary of the Mini, sponsored by VyStar Credit Union, awarded to Nancy Marquis for her 1979 Mini Cooper Austin Cooper. The Porsche Jacksonville “For the Spirit of It!” award went to Bert Harris, sponsored by Porsche Jacksonville. The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce presented the PV Auto Show in Nocatee for the fourth year in a row.

“We would like to thank the Parc Development Group for its continued support, and we want to thank our volunteers for their efforts and hard work. We appreciate the time put in to make this event successful and could not have produced this event without our strong support system. Our staff, judges and amazing volunteers work hard to ensure that everything runs effortlessly each year as we welcome new faces and new entries,” said Isabelle Renault, CEO/president of SJCCC.

To see the full list of winners, visit www.pvautoshow.com or call the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division at (904) 285-2004.

To learn more about the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, visit www.sjccchamber.com. The Ponte Vedra Auto Show is funded in part by the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council.



ABOVE: Winner of the Most Original award went to Jimbo Workman for his 1957 Grumman Delivery Kurbside sponsored by Sensible Recycling.



LEFT: Tanea Jenkins sponsored by Ponte Vedra Golf Carts won the “Spirit of Nocatee” Golf Cart award for her tricked out 2014 Golf Cart - Club Car Precedent.

Photos by Susan Griffin



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