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Ponte Vedra
Recorder

June 2020





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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

TAKE THE PLEDGE

We have all been through an immense upheaval—emotionally, financially, organizationally, personally, etc. We have been carefully monitoring the latest guidance from CDC and the governor’s office and are cautiously beginning to hold some small events, most notably ribbon cuttings, and are planning “hybrid” events.

We know our events will be safe, as your Chamber has taken the pledge and I encourage all Chamber members to do the same. Take The Pledge. A joint initiative by the St. Johns County Recovery Task Force, the pledge program was launched June 12. We sent an email to all Chamber members to encourage them to take the pledge. More

information at www.pledgesjc.com.

We will bring lessons learned into our future. Topics, information and networking can be shared with all members, with fewer geographic limitations.

Your Chamber has also been actively collaborating with strategic partners for our successful recovery and re-opening. Strong business/government partnerships are critical to our community’s successful re-opening plans. Leadership is critical when challenging times test our community. I am proud to be a St. Johns County resident and to see how our community leaders are collaborating.

The St. Johns County’s Economic Recovery Response Team was formed

in early April with representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, City of St. Augustine, Visitors and Convention Bureau and others to support our established businesses and workforce in recovery efforts.

Named the healthiest county in Florida in 2019, St. Johns County took the epidemic seriously from day one and continues its efforts to remain a safe and healthy community.

For information about programs and services available to help those in need, visit the www.sjcchamber.com and www.sjcfl.us. We value your feedback; please email us at info@sjcchamber.com.

Regards.

EDC Breakfast features former Mayor John Delaney

Former Jacksonville Mayor John Delaney will be the keynote speaker at the live Economic Development Council breakfast from 8:30-9:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 25.

Delaney will address regional economic development initiatives and the importance of workforce development in the continued economic growth of St. Johns County and the First Coast.

Delaney has particular expertise in the areas of education, the environment, business relocation and economic development. He brings decades of experience working on some of Northeast Florida’s most successful policy initiatives, as well as close contacts and relationships with officials in the First Coast, across Florida and throughout the nation.

Delaney has served as mayor of Jacksonville, the 13th largest city in population and the largest in land area. He has served



John Delaney

as president of a university, interim chancellor of the state university system, Jacksonville general counsel and the chief assistant state attorney for Florida’s Fourth Circuit.

In 2003, Delaney became the University of North Florida’s fifth president, managing a campus of 17,000 students, 600 faculty and 1,400 staff — the 20th largest employer in Jacksonville. The 1,500-acre campus in Northeast Florida is considered an economic driver in the region, with an annual impact of nearly \$1 billion.

Under his direction, UNF nearly doubled the building space. Delaney also served as UNF’s chief fundraiser, tripling the university’s privately funded endow-

ment. The school’s last capital campaign was the region’s largest capital campaign ever. He also served as interim chancellor of the State University System of Florida during his time at UNF.

Delaney served two terms as mayor of Jacksonville. During his tenure as mayor, he spearheaded numerous major initiatives, chief among them being The Better Jacksonville Plan, a \$2.2 billion improvement plan that gave the city new public facilities and other amenities. He also created the Preservation Project, a massive land conservation program giving Jacksonville the distinction of having the largest park system in the United States. Prior to his role leading the city, Delaney served as the chief assistant state attorney, the number two prosecutor for Northeast Florida, and as the general counsel for the City of Jacksonville.

The mission of the Economic Development Council is to promote St. Johns County as an ideal business location and to encourage businesses, both large and small, to expand and relocate within St. Johns County. EDC activities and events are designed to support the success of both new and existing businesses in St. Johns County. The EDC offers resources to businesses and support start-up ventures by providing information and connectivity to a variety of local resources.

The sponsors for the event include: St. Augustine & St. Johns County Board of Realtors (Principal Sponsor); Flagler Health+ (Capital Series Sponsor); AD Davis Construction, Florida Blue, Jackson Law Group, Neville, Waino CPAs, North Avenue Capital, PuroClean (Growth Series Sponsors) and Auld & White Constructors, LLC (Growth Sponsor).

Technology helping businesses to safely reopen

Flagler Health+ president and CEO offers COVID-19 update at EDC webinar

By Shaun Ryan

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and implementation of social distancing guidelines, St. Johns County businesses are looking for ways to protect employees, customers and work environments as they seek to reopen.

Thursday, June 11, local business leaders had an opportunity to learn how new technology is making that possible. Representatives of Healthfully, creators of a digital health platform, joined Flagler Health+ President and CEO Jason Barrett for a webinar on the local response to the coronavirus.

The webinar was presented by the



Jason Barrett

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and the county’s Economic Development Council.

The Healthfully app can be used by businesses, colleges, schools and other institutions, according to company CEO Paul Viskovich. It helps employees and students monitor symptoms and seek guidance. It also provides employers and administrators with a dashboard that displays data related to areas of concern.

The goal is to offer a comprehensive back-to-work solution.

“We cover everything from daily self-screening to having to consult with a physician virtually, getting the lab order

results and then communicating that back to the employer, the employee, the provider and then providing the tools for employers to manage exposure in their work environments,” said Chief Operating Officer Mark Boudreau.

The dashboard ensures that employees are getting tested, pursuing care where necessary and complying with workplace safety policies. In terms of managing exposure, employers can see whether employees may have come in contact with coworkers who have tested positive.

Boudreau said the company maintains “the highest privacy and security standards” and that the only health results shared with employers are those related to COVID-19.

Employers subscribe to the service, which can be billed to insurance. To learn more, go to healthfully.io.

“This is the continued innovation of

medicine,” said Barrett. Flagler Health+, as the county’s largest private employer, has partnered with Healthfully.

Barrett offered an overview of the hospital’s response to the pandemic. The hospital, which began planning for an outbreak in January, saw its first case March 10.

Though the hospital had 98 dedicated COVID-19 beds, only about 20 coronavirus patients have required hospitalization.

“We were not overrun,” Barrett said.

In March and April, the hospital staffed a testing site at no cost to the community and saw more than 2,000 residents. It worked with St. Johns Care Connect to help more than 500 families get access to food and rental assistance and partnered with EPIC Behavioral Health to address a

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



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

We've heard lots of cliché's about the moment; my new favorite is that we are experiencing a tear in the matrix.

That said, we have opportunities to see our lives with new lenses (stolen from a Chamber webinar from speaker Nancy Dering Mock). We can choose to transition with lenses that allow us to approach recovery by re-opening, revitalizing or re-imagining.

Let's revitalize by stepping up and participating—Chamber events may not look the same, but we invite you to journey with us as we re-imagine.

The Ponte Vedra Beach Division board and ambassadors have been busy reaching out to fellow members, hosting several webinars and scheduling ribbon cuttings...

Yes, we had two ribbon cuttings on May 30 and June 6 and we are looking forward to a groundbreaking on June 25 in Nocatee. Please join us to welcome new businesses to our community and to the Chamber.

While several events were cancelled or rescheduled, we got back in the non-COVID-19 groove by scheduling a Virtual Chamber at Noon on Wednesday, June 17. Kevin Craig, AT&T, joined us to discuss 5G. While we weren't able to be physically present, we sent a post-event notice with the names of those who attended the session and posted the briefing on our website for our members. AND, we are proceeding with plans for our first post-COVID-19 Before Hours on Wednesday, July 8, at the gorgeous TPC Club and the

Member Appreciation Event on July 23 at the lovely Sawgrass Beach Club. Watch for registration information.

We'll be scheduling other Before Hours and After Hours soon. I know many of you have registered to virtually attend other Chamber events that would have been difficult to attend in person. AND, don't forget to vote. A ballot was sent to all Chamber members in early June. Vote for fellow members willing to step up to become volunteer leaders in FY20-21.

And, we have opened the Ponte Vedra Beach Office, also known as the Visitor Information Center. We have masks, gloves and sanitizers. Please come by to visit.

Regards.

SJC Chamber to hold annual golf tournament Sept. 29

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and presenting sponsor CenterState Bank invite you to join us for an afternoon of golf at one of St. Augustine's most prestigious courses — The Palencia Club.

Combining the best of business and pleasure, the 2020 Annual Golf Classic will host 120 business and community leaders, providing the perfect blend of traditional play with a modern twist at nearly every hole.

This enjoyable day allows for businesses to use this unique event to connect with clients, colleagues, fellow business professionals and industry leaders while enjoying lunch, beverages and a day on the green. The tournament offers a variety of options for everyone to participate.

Registration and the range open at 10:30 a.m., fol-



lowed by lunch, with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Prizes and awards will immediately follow the tournament.

For more information, contact Andrea Knight at andrea.knight@sjcchamber.com or call (904) 829-5681.

AT&T Florida regional director discusses 5G technology at Chamber PVB Division event

Pivoting to a virtual platform, the Ponte Vedra Beach Division hosted a Chamber at Noon online June 17 and Kevin Craig, Regional Director, External and Legislative Affairs, AT&T Florida, explained how the advent of 5G technology will be changing our world.

5G is the fifth generation of wireless technology and will be faster and more robust than our current wireless technology. That means faster downloads and upload speeds. Latency, or the time it takes devices to communicate with wireless networks, will also drastically decrease. When is it arriving? Where will it be available? Which 5G smartphone should I buy and when?



Kevin Craig

Craig addressed these and other questions. The deployment of 5G will interact with autonomous vehicles, public safety and infrastructure, remote device control, health care, and the Internet of Things (IoT).

Sponsored by The Fields Group, the Chamber luncheons provide relevant information and networking opportunities. All attendees received a copy of Kevin's slides and a list of attendees.

The next Virtual Chamber at Noon will be Wednesday, July 15, and will feature a discussion of hurricane preparedness. It is open for registration on the Chamber's webpage at www.sjcchamber.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS: CHAMBER PVB DIVISION

JULY

Chamber Before Hours

Date: Wednesday, July 8

Time: 8-9 a.m.

Location/Sponsor: TPC Clubhouse
110 Championship Way, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Info: Attend to learn how to safely host events in one of our area's premier venues.

Virtual Chamber at Noon

Date: Wednesday, July 15

Time: 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Info: Kelley Wilson, Emergency Management, will discuss Hurricane Preparedness

Sponsor: Fields Auto Group

PVB Division Member Appreciation Awards

Date: Thursday, July 23

Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

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

Info: Register today for PVB Division's most anticipated signature event of the year! We safely return with our Annual Membership Appreciation Awards. Last year it was a safari party...this year we are going wild with a Mask-arade theme! Enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres, beverages and live music oceanfront at the Sawgrass Beach Club. Join us as we honor our members that make our little piece of paradise a great place to live, work and play! Sawgrass is eager to show that we can network in a safe and fun manner!

For more information or to register, visit www.sjcchamber.com, or call the Ponte Vedra Beach Division office at (904) 285-2004



The Leadership St. Johns Class of 2020 poses during a visit to the Ponte Vedra Cultural Center.

Photo provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Leadership St. Johns Class includes Ponte Vedra residents

Several residents of Ponte Vedra Beach are among the 2019-2020 class of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's Leadership St. Johns Program (LSJ). This year-long program selects

participants from all sectors of industry, commerce and public service across St. Johns County.

Andrew Aleman, managing attorney, St. Johns Title, Ponte Vedra Beach;

Suzan Lupton, branch VP, VyStar Credit Union, Ponte Vedra Beach; and Matt Price, Regions Bank Vice President/ Commercial Banking, Ponte Vedra Beach, were selected for the current

class. "The networking with other business leaders throughout St. Johns County is rewarding and the Program

LEADERSHIP continues on **Page 17**

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Leadership

Continued from 16

Days have been real eye-openers,” said Matt.

The LSJ program began in 2001 and has over 350 alumni including Flagler College President Joseph Joyner, Superintendent of Schools Tim Forson, Flagler Health + CEO Jason Barrett, local entrepreneur and St. Augustine Distillery founding partner Phillip McDaniel, St. Johns County Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker and St. Augustine Fire Chief Carlos Aviles, among many other notable graduates.

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.

According to Bob Porter, the Chamber’s LSJ program director, LSJ graduates continue to be mentored by program alumni who maintain and promote a positive difference in the region. “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,” said Porter. “Additionally, strong connections established among class members are invaluable throughout one’s career and beyond.

The Chamber will begin accepting applications for the next class this summer.

Additional information can be found at www.sjchamber.com/leadership-st-johns. The program runs from October through the following June. Class members must 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 agencies and nonprofits. The course will begin with an evening reception, a 1½-day retreat and eight full class days and conclude with an evening graduation in June 2021. Class members who successfully graduate from the program are accepted into the prestigious ranks of leadership alumni in St. Johns County and across Florida. Many LSJ graduates have gone on to the prestigious statewide Leadership Florida program.

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 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.”

EDC

Continued from 14

spike in mental health episodes.

Activity has bounced back in some areas. Inpatient treatment is at 92% of the pre-COVID-19 level. Outpatient heart procedures are at 96%, outpatient surgery is at 70%. Emergency care is at 61%, which is consistent with numbers nationally.

The hospital saw a financial impact of about \$15 million and has received federal funding to contend with that; much of it is a loan. Grant funding covered about 40% of lost revenue.

COVID-19 has not disrupted the hospital’s growth strategy. It is on track to open a health village in Nocatee in November, and groundbreaking on a Durbin Park health and wellness campus in partnership with UF Health is expected to be held in September.

Welcome

Morgan Stanley is proud to welcome Douglas F. Cochrane Captain, US Navy, Retired.



Doug Cochrane

Financial Advisor
50 A1A North, Ste 112
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
+1 904 543-7836
Doug.Cochrane@morganstanley.com
<https://advisor.morganstanley.com/doug.cochrane>
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PINSPIRATION HOLDS RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY



Photo provided by the SJC Chamber

Pinspiration owner Jen Schlechte (center) holds a ribbon-cutting ceremony with employees and Chamber members on June 6. Pinspiration is a DIY Craft Studio where people of all ages can come make the trendiest projects.

BURN BOOT CAMP OPENS



Burn Boot Camp opened its doors recently at the Nocatee Town Center. The camp focuses on challenging workouts to transform the lives of its members. While classes are conducted in a group setting, the camp is complying with recommendations set by the CDC. Franchise partner Jessica Melquist cut the ribbon to open her camp. Burn Boot Camp worked with the St. Johns Chamber of Commerce to get business back on track during the COVID-19 pandemic. Businesses with questions or needing help should contact the chamber at www.sjchamber.com/business-continuity-recovery.

Photo by Lucia Miller, SJC Chamber

Nominations begin June 25



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

The Ponte Vedra Recorder is holding its 2nd annual BEST OF THE BEST OF PONTE VEDRA contest.

Readers will have the chance to nominate their favorite businesses in various categories online. Online voting will begin once nominations are complete.

www.pontevedrarecorder.com



THE PONTE VEDRA RECORDER HAS YOUR BACK.

We are grateful for those who have our back in this important time. The list is long, but we want to thank our first responders and front-line workers. **Especially in critical times, newspapers have your back.**

COVID-19 is a national story that is impacting you at home and at work. The Ponte Vedra Recorder is keeping you informed with current events in your neighborhood and is bringing communities together in these challenging times.

From the actions your local government is taking, to lists of local stores that are delivering and tips on what to do while you're at home, the Ponte Vedra Recorder is committed to bringing you the news you need, when you need it.

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New management takes over Ponte Vedra Auto Show

Art 'n Motion brings extensive car experience to event, set for Sept. 27

The annual Ponte Vedra Auto Show will continue under new ownership, announced the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

“I am excited to inform the community that this annual event will continue and be strengthened by the management of Art ‘n Motion,” said Isabelle Renault, president and CEO, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

Art ‘n Motion was created to display classic and rare automobiles that are available for sale in a unique building just within the St. Augustine city entrance.

“We are pleased that this opportunity arose,” said Justin Felker, president of Art ‘n Motion. “We have always admired this well-regarded community event and look forward to continuing the show and supporting the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.”

Many of the vehicles are collected by the founders, but car owners will often display their rare car in the building’s “showroom” to display for other car lovers and collectors. Art ‘n Motion’s floor-to-ceiling windows facing the main road show off the vehicles and attract car lovers on a daily basis.

“We want to continue the public’s fascination with interesting automobiles and believe that events like the Ponte Vedra Auto Show need to be continued,” Felker said. “We also have some new ideas on creating a dynamic event that will continue for many more years.”

The 2020 show will be held on Sunday, Sept. 27, at the Nocatee Station Field. It will continue to be free and open to spectators and will feature both classic and new collectors’ cars vying for trophies. Cars can be registered at the website, www.pvautoshow.com. The 2020 Ponte Vedra Auto Show is funded in part by the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council.

To find out more about the St. Johns



The 2019 Best in Show Classic in Honor of Larry Weisman, sponsored by Wells Fargo Advisors, was awarded to Douglas Greer for his 1950 Plymouth Special Deluxe at the Ponte Vedra Auto Show in Nocatee on Sept. 22.



Photos by Susan Griffin

Visitors check out cars on display at last year’s Ponte Vedra Auto Show. This year’s Auto Show is scheduled for Sept. 27 at Nocatee Station Field.

County Chamber of Commerce or to become a member visit www.sjcchamber.com, call (904) 829-5681, or find them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sjcchamber.

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