

Chamber Connections



ST. JOHNS
C O U N T Y
CHAMBER
O F C O M M E R C E
Ponte Vedra Beach Division



June 2022



ST. JOHNS
C O U N T Y
CHAMBER
O F C O M M E R C E

PONTE VEDRA
RECORDER
Not your average newspaper. Not your average reader.

Pictured are candidates and citizens mingling at the last in-person Politics in St. Johns at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall in 2018. The event, while held virtually in 2020, is back on July 27 from 5-7 p.m. Politics in St. Johns connects voters with candidates and events are held in Ponte Vedra Beach (July 27) and in St. Augustine (Aug. 11).

Online Candidate registration is open at the Chamber website, www.sjcchamber.com or contact the Chamber of Commerce office at 904-829-5681.

IN **ST. JOHNS** ST. AUGUSTINE
POLITICS
ST. JOHNS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
ST. AUGUSTINE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO



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

Dear members,
The Florida legislature finished its regular 2022 Session in Tallahassee, approving a \$112-billion budget for the new fiscal year that begins July 1, 2022. On June 2, Gov. DeSantis issued line-item vetoes totaling \$3.13 billion. The complete list of programs cut from the budget can be found at: bit.ly/3Om9O4s. An important win was the free-standing, Chamber-supported multi-year reauthorization and 2022/2023 \$50-million appropriation for Visit Florida, the state's tourism development agency. Gov. DeSantis signed Visit Florida's reauthorization into law earlier this month. Other issues the Chamber, through its Public Policy Committee, engaged with this year include workforce housing funds (received \$363 million; the most in 16 years!) and the ultimate elimination of the sales tax on commercial leases (still on track to decrease from 5.50% to 2% in the fall of 2022 as a result of last year's legislation).

The St. Johns County Commission held a three-day "Administrator's Budget Review" last month to analyze revenues/expenditures in preparation for the 2023 budget. Of special note was the economic development discussion and a request for additional funding for the Chamber's Economic Development Council which works closely with the SJC Economic Development team to attract new businesses and enable existing businesses to grow in the county.

The well-attended Chamber's June Economic Development Breakfast focused upon St. Johns County at the Crossroads/The Management of Growth, and featured Board of County Commissioners Chair Henry Dean discussing the proposed 1% sales tax increase devoted to infrastructure, affordable workforce housing, worker training and the overall management of growth in St. Johns County.

The Chamber's vice chair, Beth Sweeny, has won a full term as a City of St. Augustine Beach commissioner as no candidate filed to run against her by the June 17 deadline. Also re-elected for another term was state Rep. Cyndi Stevenson, who faced no opposition.

I look forward to seeing you at the political candidates meet-and-greet event, Politics in St. Johns, on July 27 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. This event is organized by the Chamber to give residents an opportunity to meet candidates running for office before casting their vote.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



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

Change is in the Air!

Summer's heat is not slowing down the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. Members are busy meeting increased demand for their products and services and attending Chamber events to network and learn.

A key activity is preparing two Town Halls (Ponte Vedra Beach on July 27 and St. Augustine on Aug. 11) for all to meet the candidates. Look for more details in this issue of Connections and see you there.

Remember, the Chamber operates the Ponte Vedra Beach Visitor Information Center at 200 Solana Road, Ste. B in Ponte Vedra Beach. Stop by for a map, brochure, magazine, etc. We also have information about Chamber businesses on display.

See you soon,
Karen Everett
Director, Ponte Vedra Beach Division
St. Johns County Chamber of
Commerce

Economic Development Council Quarterly Breakfast set for Sept. 23

The most prestigious of any Chamber event series, the Economic Development Council Quarterly Breakfast Series highlights prominent keynote speakers and provides high-level panel discussions pertaining to key issues in economic growth and development.

Topics also include political and policy discussions, which are designed to equip business leaders with key information they need to know to help manage and grow their businesses and keep them informed of relevant issues.

Average attendance for these events ranges from 150 to 200 and guests include many high-level executives from various industries in the Northeast Florida region.

The Sept. 23 event will be held at World Golf Village. While it is not yet open for registration, readers are encouraged to save the date.

For more information, contact the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce office at 904-829-5681.

CHAMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

PVB Division Chamber at Noon

Date: Wednesday, July 13, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Speaker: Raghu Misra, founder/owner, the link

Location: The link in Nocatee

Sponsor: Fields Auto Group and The Link

PVB Division Chamber After Hours

Date: Wednesday, July 20, 5:30-7 p.m.

Location: Coastal Compass Executive Suites in Nocatee, 4210 Valley Ridge Blvd.

Sponsor: Coastal Compass Executive Suites

PVB Division Chamber Before Hours

Date: Wednesday, Aug. 3, 8-9 a.m.

Location: The DRIPBaR, 90 Shops Blvd., Unit 40, St. Johns

Sponsor: The DRIPBaR

Bike Haven ribbon cutting

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce joined The Bike Haven St. Johns for its ribbon cutting and to welcome the business to the neighborhood.

Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



Quiet Tiger ribbon cutting

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce members, board members, ambassadors and friends gathered June 15 to cut the ribbon and officially open Quiet Tiger Acupuncture & Functional Medicine in Nocatee. Dr. Emily Glasser wielded the scissors and treated attendees to a demonstration, explanation, goodie bags, door prizes and refreshments.

Photos provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



Kathleen Floryan at Quiet Tiger

Celebrating
20
YEARS[®]

As North Florida's Premier
Government Relations Firm

Thank you for 20 remarkable years in business. It has been an honor and a privilege to represent our clients over the past two decades, and we look forward to many successful years to come.

Marty Fiorentino
FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT



Jacksonville • Tallahassee
TFGFLA.com
904.358.2757 • 850.222.1959



INFLUENCE WITH
INTEGRITY

Surprisingly great rates
that fit any budget.



Jonathan A Gibbs, Agent
340 Town Plaza Avenue, Suite 250
Ponte Vedra, FL 32081
Bus: 904-834-7312
weinsurepontevedra.com

Get great rates *and* a good neighbor.
Call me today.

Like a good neighbor,
State Farm is there.[®]

Individual premiums and budgets will vary by customer.
All applicants subject to State Farm[®] underwriting requirements.

State Farm
Bloomington, IL
2101568



'Politics in St. Johns' events connect voters with candidates

Candidates urged to reserve tables

Voters are invited to meet candidates for elected office at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce "Politics in St. Johns" town halls planned for July 27 at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and Aug. 11 at the Solomon Calhoun Center in St. Augustine. Both events are 5-7 p.m.

"We are so proud to be able to bring these events to the residents of St. Johns County," said Isabelle Renault, president/CEO of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. "The record turnout from the residents who live throughout the county



for these events reinforces our belief that we provide a platform for important discussions and decisions to be made."

According to Bob Porter, the Chamber's vice president, public policy, "The elected officials at every level of government make decisions that affect our lives,

and I am happy to see so many people taking advantage of an opportunity that will help them make an informed decision when entering the voting booth."

In 2020, the Chamber hosted virtual candidate expos due to the pandemic and estimated more than 500 people and more

than 40 candidates attended the in-person events in Ponte Vedra Beach and St. Augustine in 2018.

Sponsorships are available for the Politics in Johns events. Online candidate registration is open at <https://www.sjcchamber.com/events/details/politics-st-johns-ponte-vedra-7-27-22-8476?calendarMonth=2022-07-01> and candidates can contact the Chamber of Commerce office at 904-829-5681.

To find out more about the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce or to become a member, go to www.sjcchamber.com, call 904-829-5681 or find them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sjcchamber.



Kari Zerrahn, Lori Adams, Jackie Smith, Felicia Cox, Gloria Dongara, Christine Ondek, Michael Benko and Mark Ryan

Chamber After Hours at Sawgrass Marriott

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held its Chamber After Hours event May 25. Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa was the host. It was an evening of networking, food and fun.

Photos by Susan Griffin



St. Johns County Board of Directors Ponte Vedra Beach Division Chair Matt Price, speaks as Karen Everett, division executive director, looks on.

Hydro Infusions ribbon cutting

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce took part in the ribbon cutting for Hydro Infusions. Dr. Travis Jeffords DNP wielded the big scissors.

Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



Need A Notary?

We can help with notary services and other business needs!

Copy/Fax/Email/Scan
Notary Public & Signing Agents
LiveScan Fingerprinting



ScanManFL

(904) 834-9626

scanmanfl@gmail.com

13000 Sawgrass Village Circle Ste. 13
Ponte Vedra Beach

www.scanmanfl.com

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED BUSINESS



BITCOM
BROADBAND | INTERNET | TELEPHONE

Now Offering ASE Fiber and Wireless Internet to your door!

Take your Telephone Service To The Cloud Using Our Hosted Voice or SIP Trunk Replacement Phone Service
Save Thousands of Dollars • Say Goodbye to AT&T and Comcast

- Keep your same number
- Unlimited local and long distance
- Auto Attendant
- Voicemail to Email
- Easy Conferencing
- 5G Fail-over service
- Fax to Email
- Virtual Numbers
- Multi-offices under one number
- Find-Me-Follow-Me Service
- Easy Call Transfers between your offices

St. Johns County Only Local OWNED, Facility based phone/Internet Provider.
Call for a free estimate 904-823-0771 or jdp@bitcom.us • www.bitcom.us

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center hosts Chamber Before Hours

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center's Nocatee location hosted a St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division Before Hours event April 5. It offered a networking opportunity for local business leaders while enjoying some coffee and breakfast.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Isabelle Renault and Matt Price



Dr. Erika Hamer



Coffee was available to purchase for those attending the Chamber's Before Hours event April 5.



Keeping up to date on elections

St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes spoke May 18 at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's Chamber at Noon event. She talked about the upcoming election, redistricting and her new website. Fields Auto Group sponsors the luncheons.

Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



Karen Everett, director of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, right, stands next to St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes.

Why has Kathleen been involved with the Chamber since 2004?

Answer: The business connections that can be made one on one with persons most important to increasing my business brand awareness is priceless.

Why should any business become a member of the Chamber of Commerce?

Answer: see Answer above and call to join today.

Don't forget to **VOTE** for me in the **2022 Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra Contest** in the **Waterfront Real Estate, Condo** and **Relocation** categories - www.pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2022



Kathleen Floryan
REALTOR® BROKER ASSOCIATE
(904) 687-5146
130 Corridor Rd., Ste. 882
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082



LUXURY COLLECTION



New York Butcher Shoppe joins Chamber

The New York Butcher Shoppe officially joined the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division with a grand re-opening ribbon cutting ceremony as the business is under new ownership. New York Butcher Shoppe is located at 240 A1A N., Unit 4 in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Photo by Susan Griffin



DRIPBaR ribbon cutting

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce participated in the ribbon cutting for DRIPBaR St. Johns on May 13.

Photo by Susan Griffin



Edie Williams State Farm ribbon cutting

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce members gathered at Edie Williams' new State Farm Insurance Agency in Ponte Vedra Beach for a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Board members, ambassadors and the State Farm team took part.

Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



State-of-the-art facility provides latest options for pets

By Anthony Richards

The Palm Valley Veterinary Center and Dr. Louis Mack wants to bring the best pet care to the Ponte Vedra area and a big step was taken toward accomplishing that with the business's grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce May 31.

One of the main ways Mack hopes to achieve his goal of providing the best service is by offering some of the latest state-of-the-art technology and procedures at the facility.

"This was originally a bank that was vacant for a period of time," Mack said. "I just kept turning into a bigger and bigger project because I wanted to continue to add better features and more services."

The recent renovations included adding on about 6,000 square feet to the original structure.

"I wanted to add all that I could to fit the needs of this area, because a lot of the hospitals in this area are in strip centers or smaller in nature," Mack said. "It makes it difficult to provide all that I would like to provide."

The decision to develop the location was not one that was made hastily, as it took years in the making to get to this point.

"It all started in 2015, when I moved here from the Ocala area after originally being from San Diego (California)," Mack said. "Prior to that, I had sold my practice and worked for a company

as their medical director. I saw a lot of hospitals that had what I thought were deficiencies."

After getting an idea of the needs that existed, he decided to get back into the business of having his own practice, because he knew it was the best way he could make a difference.

Roughly eight years later, and his dream center is now a reality that he is now able to share with the public he intended it for.

"It is exciting, but also just the beginning," Mack said with a smile on his face.

Making sure to maximize the technology available for veterinarians nowadays was always at the top of his list.

These advanced features include a veterinarian hyperbaric chamber, which according to Mack, is one of only a couple in the Northeast Florida area.

"It is a device that basically allows you to bathe the dog in pressurized oxygen that forces it into the cells and the plasma, so that the body is then hyper-oxygenated," Mack said. "It seems rare, but oxygen is actually the source of healing and a lot of our body's functions. It oftentimes can address chronic or acute conditions that otherwise would not respond to traditional therapy."

The method has become more common among humans in recent years, especially athletes as it helps in their recovery process.

Another aspect that Mack takes pride in is the ability to maintain a personal and comfortable atmosphere for each pet that



Photo by Susan Griffin

Palm Valley Vet Center owner and Dr. Louis Mack cuts the ribbon during a ceremony May 31.

enters the facility.

A major way they are able to limit the stress levels of the animals is by having separate recovery and waiting areas for dogs and cats, and even going to the extent of trying to group dogs together with similar personality traits.

"The purpose is to provide a comfortable and low-stress environment, and I hope we've accomplished that," Mack said.

Where using the latest technology comes into play the most, is in terms of the efficiency with which information is relayed throughout the building, which can result in a pet being diagnosed and treated in a timely fashion.

"The whole hospital is on a full generator, which means at any given time during a power outage we are never down, which is very important," Mack said.

Monitors are in nearly every room and can easily provide information that he can then share and educate owners about their pets.

"When people can see the type of emphasis you place on doing the best you can for the animals, I think that means a lot," Mack said.

The center is open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is open 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays and closed Sundays.

DOUGLAS

LAW FIRM

FROM SKYLINE TO COUNTY LINE

We are here for you...

Douglas Law Firm is committed to you, your family, and your business.

We offer experienced, professional legal services in areas including:

FAMILY LAW • TRUSTS & ESTATES • WILLS & PROBATE • REAL ESTATE • CORPORATE LAW

ELDER LAW • WRONGFUL DEATH • PERSONAL INJURY • CRIMINAL DEFENSE



CHARLIE DOUGLAS



JEREMIAH BLOCKER



CHRISTOPHER LOBIANCO



JACOB McCREA



TERRENCE GORMAN



KEVIN SHARBAUGH



JASON ODOM



EMILY WILLIAMS



MORGAN G. PEACOCK



CAROL SIMPSON

Contact us to schedule a free consultation!



Hotworx ribbon cutting

HOTWORX St. Johns, located in Durbin Pavilion, held its grand opening celebration on Friday, June 24. The festivities included food and drinks, local vendor booths, prizes and giveaways, a live dj performance and balloon artists.

Photo by Susan Griffin



Ribbon cut for The Great Greek Mediterranean Grille

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony for The Great Greek Mediterranean Grille, which is located in the growing County Road 210 West area.

Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



Voting Now Open!



The Ponte Vedra Recorder, celebrating 53 years of community news excellence, will launch our fourth annual BEST OF THE BEST of Ponte Vedra, 32081 and 32082.

Readers have nominated their favorite businesses, organizations, professionals and more in over 250 categories online.

Vote now through July 25th. Readers can vote for their favorite business in each category once per day.

Help your favorites win and VOTE!

www.pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2022

St. Johns Sport and Spine Chiropractic ribbon cutting

In May, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce took part in the ribbon cutting ceremony for St. Johns Sport and Spine Chiropractic.

Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



First Horizon hosts Chamber After Hours

First Horizon Bank hosted a St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division After Hours event April 27. It was a night full of networking, food and fun for all that attended.

Photo by Susan Griffin



First Horizon Bank had a tent setup outside of its location on A1A as it hosted a St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division After Hours event April 27.

Truist holds ribbon cutting, Before Hours with Chamber

Truist Bank held a ribbon cutting ceremony during a St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division Before Hours event that it hosted at its Nocatee location May 11.

Photo by Susan Griffin



254 ALTA MAR DR
PVB, FL 32082
LOCATED IN OAKBRIDGE

@playtheyards
 @playtheyards
 www.playtheyards.com
 904.285.5552

SUMMER AT THE YARDS

THE PICKLE GARDEN

The Yards has added Pickleball to their sports lineup. The state of the art facility will cater to all types of pickleball enthusiasts, from established players to beginners. Our staff is ready to introduce you to your first pickleball game or get you tournament ready! Courts are available for members and non-members. Come check us out!

SUMMER GOLF

Play the 12 hole course any time after 1pm for \$35 weekdays and \$40 weekends. \$20 and \$25 if you walk!
JUNIOR GOLF PASS

\$500 all the golf you can play 17 & under. Rounds include a warm up bucket. This pass is good from 6/1-9/1 and quantities are limited!

MEMBERSHIPS

NO WAITING LIST! Pickleball, Golf, and Tennis memberships are available! Email membership@playtheyards.com for more info.

EVENTS

Our new Patio Pavilion is ready to make your next corporate event, birthday, wedding, + more unforgettable! Email anna@playtheyards.com to inquire or hear more.

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Golf Classic

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce 2022 Golf Classic was held May 16 on the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club Ocean Course. Here are the winners:

1st Place: Team Cecil W. Powell — Luke Gowen, Bill Toth and Gerry Lee

2nd Place: Team Florid Blue — Sid Roberson, Mike Graves, Brian Adcock and Tim Simokonis

3rd Place: Legacy Roofing — Kayleb Burritt, Jeremy Janes, Dylan Adams, Shane Moore



Photo by Susan Griffin



Photo by Susan Griffin



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Legislative Update

Isabelle Renault, president/CEO of the St. John's Chamber of Commerce, welcomed and introduced speakers for the Chamber's 2022 Legislative Update on May 6. Speakers consisted of state Sen. Travis Hutson, state Rep. Paul Renner, state Rep Cyndi Stevenson, St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners Vice Chair Christian Whitehurst, St. Augustine Vice Mayor Nancy Sikes-Kline and St. Augustine Beach Mayor Don Samora. Sponsors were Auld & White Constructors, LLC, The Fiorentino Group, Stellar, Waste Management, Foley & Lardner LLP and Sight and Sound Productions.

Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



Dean addresses growth in the county

Aimee Stafford, vice president of operations, and Scott Maynard, director of economic development for St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce welcomed Henry Dean, the county's District 5 commissioner, to the Chamber's quarterly Economic Development Breakfast on June 3. Dean spoke about the management of growth in the county. The breakfast was held at World Golf Village Renaissance St. Augustine Resort.

Photos provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



ALL FLORIDA SAFETY INSTITUTE

DRIVING SCHOOL

**Driving Lessons & License Testing
for Teens & Adults**





Driving School Association of the Americas



Approved Driving School



2021
BEST of the BEST
of Ponte Vedra
Ponte Vedra Recorder

904-838-0055 **AllFloridaSafety.com**
Florida's LARGEST DMV Licensed Driving School

Hurricane preparedness

Kelly Wilson, deputy director of emergency management for St. Johns County, was the speaker for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Chamber at Noon meeting on June 16 at Pusser's Bar and Grille. She spoke about hurricane preparedness for businesses and the 2022 predictions. Fields Auto Group sponsors the luncheons, and the event sponsor was Bates Hewett & Floyd Insurance.

Photos provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



Chamber Before Hours at Flagler Health+ Palencia

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held its June 9 Chamber Before Hours event at Flagler Health+ Palencia. It was a morning of networking, food and fun.

Photos provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



Bring the entire family to our free grand opening event




Grand opening preview of Ascension St. Vincent's St. Johns County Hospital

Ascension St. Vincent's St. Johns County opens July 6. To celebrate, we are hosting a fun-filled family preview!

Festivities will include refreshments and snacks, carnival games, a bubble truck, bounce houses, face painting, performances from local youth dance studios, hospital tours, and more.

 **July 1**
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

 **Ascension St. Vincent's St. Johns County**
205 Trinity Way
St. Johns, FL 32259



Ascension St. Vincent's

For more information about your closest hospital visit, ascension.org/StJohnsFL



NEVER PAY OVER MSRP ON ANY NEW OR ORDERED CAR



JAGUAR OF JACKSONVILLE
JAGUARJACKSONVILLE.COM



LAND ROVER JACKSONVILLE
LANDROVERJACKSONVILLE.COM



PORSCHE

PORSCHE JACKSONVILLE
PORSCHEJACKSONVILLE.COM



Mercedes-Benz

MERCEDES-BENZ OF JACKSONVILLE
MERCEDSBENZOFJACKSONVILLE.COM

FIELDS MATTERS EXCLUSIVE AMENITIES PROGRAM

- Valet Service
- Pick Up and Delivery Service
- Complimentary Car Washes
- Complimentary Service Loaners
- Internet Work Stations
- Fields Gourmet Coffee Bar
- Senior Discounts (65 and older)
- Student Discounts (valid student ID)

MERCEDES-BENZ OF ORANGE PARK
MERCEDSBENZOFORANGEPARK.COM



FIELDS CADILLAC JACKSONVILLE
FIELDSCADILLACJACKSONVILLE.COM

FIELDS CADILLAC ST.AUGUSTINE
FIELDSCADILLACSTAUGUSTINE.COM



LEXUS OF JACKSONVILLE
LEXUSOFJACKSONVILLE.COM

LEXUS OF ORANGE PARK
LEXUSOFORANGEPARK.COM

FIELDS IS A PROUD SPONSOR OF THE



JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

JACKSONVILLE'S LUXURY AUTO GROUP