

Chamber Connections

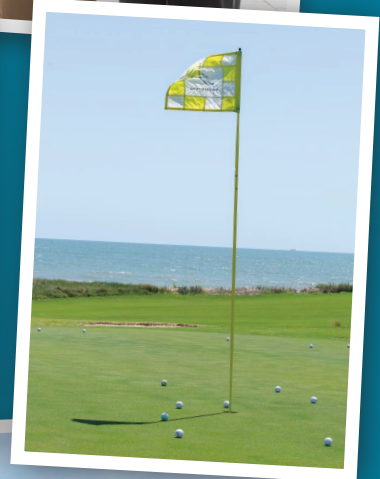


June 2023



2023 Chamber Golf Classic at the Hammock Beach Golf Resort and Spa *A day of golf at the beach? Don't mind if we do!*

Photos by Jackie Hird Photography



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

Becoming a certified autism destination



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

As a mother of a child on the autism spectrum, I know first-hand the challenges of traveling with kids who often have difficulties with communication, sensitivity to things like light or noise and behaviors that others may not understand. I am always on the lookout for doable and fun vacation ideas for my unique family. And I'm not the only one.

In 2019, Mesa, Arizona, became the first community in the United States to become "autism certified" tapping into, at that time, a market of 32 million annual travelers who spend more than \$262 billion on autism-related services in the U.S. each year. That market only continues to grow as organizations like the Jacksonville-based International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES), trains industry professionals on a wide range of approaches to meet this market's needs.

In fact, according to IBCCES, other certified organizations have seen a triple-digit increase in out-of-market guests, a 32% increase in first-time guests, and a 54% increase in group bookings. To

achieve certification status, however, enough attractions, hotels and other recreation and entertainment venues would have to complete the autism and sensory disorder sensitivity and awareness training.

For this reason, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the St. Johns County Tourism Development Council is offering matching grants up to \$5,000 for St. Johns County tourism and hospitality businesses who train their visitor-facing staff.

With 80% of our industry trained, becoming a Certified Autism Destination would set our community apart in the world of travel. Autistic visitors would feel confident that the tourism community has taken the necessary steps resulting in them feeling welcomed, safe and enjoying their vacation.

An autism-certified destination benefits from its inclusion on the AutismTravel.com website, which was developed by IBCCES as a credible resource to help autistic individuals and their families and friends connect with trained and certified destinations, attractions and related options. This allows them to plan their vacations knowing where they are going is a safe place for them to visit.

St. Johns County Tourist Development Council launched the grant program to make it easier for tourism and hospitality businesses in the county to become certified. This grant is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Reach out to the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce to see if you qualify or apply to the grant at www.sjchamber.com/autism-certification-matching-grant.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

- **Ribbon Cutting:** Mainstream Boutique, July 6
- **BIZZed, Enhance your Workforce with Apprenticeships:** July 13
- **Ribbon Cutting:** CKO Kickboxing, July 18
- **Joint Chamber at Noon, Greenside Chat with the Executive Director of THE PLAYERS:** July 19
- **Ribbon Cutting:** TD Bank, July 26
- **Chamber After Hours:** Wells Fargo Nocatee, July 26

AUGUST

- **Ribbon Cutting:** Beacon Point Townes, Aug. 1
- **Ribbon Cutting:** Meleca Foot and Ankle, Aug. 3
- **Chamber Before Hours:** Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery, Aug. 9
- **Chamber at Noon, Essential Workforce Housing Presentation:** Aug. 16

- **Joint Meeting, Tourism & Hospitality & Historic St. Augustine, Essential Workforce Housing Presentation:** Aug. 17
- **All About Networking Before Hours, Breakfast and Mocktails:** Aug. 18
- **Chamber After Hours:** Hardage-Giddens, Aug. 23
- **Chamber After Hours:** Center State Bank, Aug. 30

SEPTEMBER

- **Women With Vision:** Sept. 7
- **Historic St. Augustine Council, Locally Made Roundtable:** Sept. 8
- **Chamber Before Hours:** K9s for Warriors, Sept. 13
- **BIZZed, Generational Differences:** Sept. 14
- **Chamber at Noon:** Sept. 20
- **Economic Development Breakfast, Essential Workforce Housing Presentation:** Sept. 22
- **Chamber After Hours:** Beard Art Gallery, Sept. 27

For further information and to register at The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce website, go to sjchamber.com.

ABA Connection holds ribbon cutting



Photo courtesy of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

ABA Connection recently joined the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce with a ribbon cutting ceremony at its location at 175 Cumberland Park Drive, Suite 100 in St. Augustine. The business offers applied behavior analysis therapy for children and adults in-home, at school and in their on-site clinic.

Arthur Murray hosts Chamber before hours event

The following are photos from the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division before hours at Arthur Murray Ponte Vedra Beach Dance Center.

Photo by Susan Griffin
Arthur Murray owner Heiko Leyhausen dances with his daughter during the event.



Photo courtesy of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Compass Real Estate held a ribbon cutting ceremony March 1 at its newest location at 601 A1A North in Ponte Vedra Beach.



“One of the benefits our clients value most is having a dedicated chief information officer who will meet with company leadership on a regular basis to prioritize goals for growth, cybersecurity, compliance and employee productivity.”

— JOHN AGUILERA,
VP, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

TruTechnology celebrates 20 years of IT service

TruTechnology is an IT managed service provider celebrating its 20th year of service that partners with small to medium businesses of 20-300 computer users who are locally headquartered in the Jacksonville, St Johns County and the surrounding area.

TruTech offers two options of service, either fully managed IT solutions or co-managed IT collaborating with an organization's internal IT department.

“One of the benefits our clients value most is having a dedicated chief information officer who will meet with company leadership on a regular basis to prioritize

goals for growth, cybersecurity, compliance and employee productivity,” said John Aguilera, vice president of business development. “This has led to our clients being rewarded with having one of the best organizations to work for, high employee retention, customer service excellence, decreased exposure to risk, and profitability in their businesses.”

Continual monthly IT audits, patch management and super responsive, friendly, 24/7 support every day throughout the year is their promise to customers.

Quarterly feedback is provided to clients by their dedicated CIO to ensure



constant improvement in business process.

“Our motto is with 20 years of experience, we're big enough to transform your business, but small enough to know you with our personalized customer service,” Aguilera said. “As the VP of Business Development, I am very proud to have recently received the JBJ Tech Leaders of the Year award. That let me know that my personal

goal of making a difference in the Jacksonville area business community is a dream becoming a reality, and I look forward to the opportunity to assist more organizations with their technology.”

According to Aguilera, his role is to connect companies or nonprofit organizations with our team and show them how much more efficiency, cost saving and data security they will receive with the guidance and strategy that TruTechnology provides.

No matter the type of business or what area the business specializes in, TruTechnology is there to help in the processes so that businesses everywhere can achieve their

ultimate goals and succeed.

Aguilera first arrived in Jacksonville in 1991 as a Navy helicopter pilot and has been happy to call it home ever since.

A famous quote that he loves to harken back on is one from Winston Churchill, where he said, “Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.”

“I continue to meet more great organizations as a Jacksonville Chamber Trustee, St John County Chamber, NEFBA, ABC, and FCMA member and through TruTechnology's partnerships with local non-profit organizations,” Aguilera said.



TRUTECHNOLOGY

Powered by Process

A NetGain Technologies Company

25 North Market St, Suite 300F, Jacksonville, FL, 32202 | www.trutech.com | 904-325-7756

Basecamp Fitness



Contributed photo

Basecamp Fitness held its grand opening ribbon cutting on June 22.

Senior Living at The Greens



Contributed photo

Senior Living at The Greens held its ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 19.

AN ALL-ACCESS PASS TO THE COMMUNITY NEWS YOU LOVE

Visit pontevedrarecorder.com today to see what's going on in Ponte Vedra, St. Augustine, The Beaches and Greater St. Johns County



THE RECORDER
Serving Ponte Vedra, St. Augustine, The Beaches and Greater St. Johns County

CLAY TODAY

THE LAS CRUCES **Bulletin**

VISIT OUR FAMILY OF AWARD-WINNING PUBLICATIONS

PonteVedraRecorder.com | ClayTodayOnline.com | LasCrucesBulletin.com

Chamber Before Hours at AAA

The April 12 Chamber Before Hours was held at AAA in Ponte Vedra. Gloria Dongara and her team hosted the meeting, which included networking, food and coffee.

Contributed photos



Kathleen Floryan and Gloria Dongara



Sam Ruiz and Jennifer Jenkins



Lori Adams and Carla Resetar



Trudy Toche and Clare Berry

Signature First Coast Realty holds ribbon cutting



Photo by Susan Griffin

Signature First Coast Realty joined the St. Johns County Chamber Ponte Vedra Beach Division with a ribbon cutting ceremony April 20.



Essential Energy Spa & MYSTICAL CENTER

Open Heart Community

Getting Healthier Just got a Whole lot Easier!

The Energy Enhancement System (EES) combines Body, Mind, Spirit, and Science to help you achieve peak performance and reach higher states of health, consciousness and self-actualization.

(904) 621-1411
3440 S. US-1, Suite 202, Saint Augustine, FL 32086
eespamc.org

HOW DOES THE EESYSTEM WORK?

The EESystem generates multiple bio-active life enhancing energy fields, including "scalar waves".

THIS PROMOTES:



Reduced inflammation



Relief From pain



Detoxification of the Body

SCAN ME



A DIFFERENCE YOU CAN **TASTE**



At The Blake at St. Johns, we don't just serve you a meal: we serve you *excellence*. Our menus are expertly created and prepared by trained chefs, our dining rooms are elegant and atmospheric, and our staff is ready to ensure that every dining experience is catered especially to your taste. Visit our sales office today and see just how much there is to savor at The Blake!



THE BLAKE
AT ST. JOHNS

(904) 516-9324
 SALES OFFICE:
 4210 Valley Ridge Blvd Ste 119
 Ponte Vedra, FL 32081
blakeseniorliving.com/st-johns

FLORIDA ASSISTED LIVING LICENSE PENDING

Daybreak Market & Fuel



Contributed photo

Daybreak Market & Fuel held a grand opening for its St. Johns store on June 25.

State of the Beaches



Contributed photo

A full house greeted St. Johns County Commissioner Krista Joseph, Atlantic Beach Mayor Curtis Ford, Neptune Beach Mayor Elaine Brown and Jacksonville Beach Mayor Christine Hoffman at the Joint JAX Chamber and St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce lunch on April 13. The topic of the meeting was "State of the Beaches." Discussions surrounded decisions and projects going on in Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach, Jacksonville Beach and Ponte Vedra Beach. Sponsor was Fields Auto Group.

TruTechnology's Nicolitz speaks on cybersecurity



Contributed photo

Daniel Nicolitz, TruCIO at TruTechnology, spoke about cybersecurity for small business at the Chamber at Noon event on May 17. He said 67% of small businesses experienced a cyberattack within the last year. The Ponte Vedra Beach Library hosted the luncheon. The series is sponsored by Fields Auto Group.

Ponte Vedra Spine Center



Contributed photo


The Ponte Vedra Spine Center is open for business. Dr. Gion Monn cut the ribbon May 10 and showed off his office at 220 Ponte Vedra Park Drive, Ste 180.

Exchange at St. Augustine



Contributed photo

Exchange at St. Augustine held its ribbon cutting on April 11.



THE MORTGAGE EXCHANGE

THEMORTGAGEEXCHANGE.COM

M


E

Janet McMillin is a lifelong resident of Florida and has been in the mortgage industry for over 30 years. She has experienced market fluctuations and industry challenges throughout her career and with her expertise and knowledge she will tailor the ideal solution for your mortgage needs. If you are ready to purchase a home, call Janet to find the perfect loan for you.

Your Dream Home Awaits, Let Me Help Make It Happen!

239-980-2111

janet.mcmillin@themortgageexchange.com



The Mortgage Exchange LLC@2023. NMLS#1248883

THE MORTGAGE EXCHANGE SPOTLIGHT

Janet McMillin

United Way president is event speaker



Photo by Susan Griffin

United Way of St. Johns County President Mark LeMaire was the speaker on Wednesday, June 14, for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division's Chamber at Noon event.

LeMaire joined the United Way of St. Johns County in October 2022. For more than 20 years, he has dedicated himself to the nonprofit sector, focusing on the communities in which he lives and works.

Prior to joining United Way of St. Johns County, he worked with the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida for 10 years. And, he has been fortunate to serve with two other United Ways, located in Jacksonville and Lakeland, Florida.

LeMaire lives in St. Augustine with his wife and three children.

Chamber Before Hours at Slate Real Estate



Contributed photo

The April 5 Chamber Before Hours was held at Slate Real Estate. It was a morning of networking, food, and coffee.

Delivered to your home for just \$40/year!

The Recorder, Your Source for Community News!

THE RECORDER

Serving Ponte Vedra, St. Augustine, The Beaches and Greater St. Johns County

SERVING PONTE VEDRA & THE BEACHES SINCE 1969

To subscribe or advertise, call

(904) 285-8831

www.pontevedrarecorder.com

Femmewell Gynecology and Aesthetics



Contributed photo

Femmewell Gynecology and Aesthetics in Nocatee held its ribbon cutting on May 11.

Fort Mose Historical Society hosts Chamber After Hours



Photo courtesy of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held its March 31 Chamber After Hours at Fort Mose Historical Society. It was an evening of networking, food and drinks.

Chamber Golf Classic



Contributed photo

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hosted its Annual Chamber Golf Classic on May 9 at Hammock Beach Golf Resort & Spa. Sponsors were: Presenting Sponsor, Echo Managed Care; Gold Sponsors, SouthState Bank and ServiceMaster Restore; Gold Sponsor and Hole in One Sponsor, Hyundai of St. Augustine; Breakfast Sponsor, Florida Power & Light; Golf Cart Sponsor, Legacy Roofing & Solar; Signage Sponsor, FASTSIGNS; Island Bar Sponsor, Orkin Pest Control (529 Stuart Lane, Jacksonville); Mulligan Sponsor, Florida Health Care Plans; Photography Sponsor, Jackie Hird Photography; Oasis Sponsors, TruTechnology, Exchange at St. Augustine, Kinetic CGC Water — Florida and ABA Connection; Hope Signage Sponsor, Hardage-Giddens St. Johns, Caspian Homes, WM, Stretch Zone St. Augustine North and Benton House of St. Johns.

First Coast Technical College



Contributed photo

First Coast Technical College held its ribbon cutting on April 28. The school recently expanded its welding program.

Legislative Update



Photo by Shaun Ryan

State Rep. Cyndi Stevenson speaks during the May 19 St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast. Seated next to her are St. Augustine Mayor Nancy Sikes-Kline and St. Augustine Beach Mayor Don Samora.



Quiet Tiger

ACUPUNCTURE & FUNCTIONAL MEDICINE

Get to the root cause of your symptoms and heal naturally.

Are you stuck in a symptom loop? If you are struggling with a chronic condition or symptom, want to get to the bottom of it and need a clear path for relief...

Make a **FREE** Introductory Consult appointment and discover whether Functional Medicine or Acupuncture can stop your symptoms in its tracks!

Chronic Fatigue • Fibromyalgia • Hormone Imbalances • Thyroid Disorders
Headaches/Migraines • Food Allergies • Back and Neck Pain
Gastro-Intestinal Issues • Auto-Immune Challenges



Emily Glasser
Licensed Acupuncturist & Herbalist,
Functional Medicine Certified &
Clinical Nutritionist
Celebrating 19 years in practice!

(904) 465-5571

360 Town Plaza Ave., Ste. 330, Ponte Vedra, FL 32081

Make your appointment today at:

www.TheQuietTiger.com



THE MORRIS CENTER

PONTE VEDRA BEACH

Unlock Learning Potential

EVALUATION & TREATMENT OF:

- Speech and Language Disorders
- IQ/Achievement
- Dyslexia/Reading Difficulties
- Learning Disorders
- Sensory Motor Deficits
- AD/HD

RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE-BASED METHODS

NOW OPEN
IN PONTE VEDRA BEACH



(904) 834-2482

www.TheMorrisCenterPVB.com

50 Executive Way, Ponte Vedra Beach FL, 32082

NEURO-PSYCHOLOGY · SPEECH & LANGUAGE · OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Flagler Health+ Primary Care



Contributed photo

Flagler Health+ Primary Care held its ribbon cutting April 17 at Treaty Oaks.

Hospital presidents speak



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Flagler Health+ President and CEO Carlton DeVooght addresses attendees at the June 16 St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Quarterly Breakfast as UF Health President David R. Nelson looks on.

Stretch Zone St. Augustine North



Contributed photo

Stretch Zone St. Augustine North held its ribbon cutting on June 1.

Memory Lane joins Chamber with ribbon cutting

Memory Lane in Jacksonville held a ribbon cutting ceremony and joined the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. Regent and Pam Ducas are the owners of Memory Lane, which is the largest studio in the area with the ability to digitize memories recorded using old methods, such as film.



Photo courtesy of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Memory Lane held a ribbon cutting ceremony recently to join the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

Thinking of Advertising in the Recorder?

For more information call (904) 285-8831 to speak with a Sales Rep. today!

Modern Aesthetics hosts Chamber After Hours



The May 24 Chamber After Hours was held at Modern Aesthetic Centers. It was an evening of networking, food and drinks.

Prime IV Hydration & Wellness



A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held May 4 for Prime IV Hydration & Wellness.

Let's get social!
 "LIKE" US ON
facebook

Stay up to date on contests, advertising specials, and real-time news in Ponte Vedra. Our fans get access to exclusive content you can't find anywhere else!

THE RECORDER

KELLERWILLIAMS
Luxury
 INTERNATIONAL

kw ATLANTIC PARTNERS
 KELLERWILLIAMS REALTY



WEST END

284 Cool Springs Avenue
 Price: \$648,000
 MLS ID: 1233934
 Lisa Barton Team
 (904) 465-9139
 LisaSellsPonteVedra.com



FRANKLIN SQUARE

67 Carousel Drive
 Price: \$725,000
 MLS ID: 1232649
 Lisa Barton Team
 (904) 465-9139
 LisaSellsPonteVedra.com



CROSSWATER

71 Constitution Drive
 Price: \$1,150,000
 MLS ID: 1230734
 Lisa Barton Team
 (904) 465-9139
 LisaSellsPonteVedra.com

Visit Our Luxury Office in Ponte Vedra Beach

13000 Sawgrass Village Circle,
 Bldg 1, Ste 3
 Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
 (904) 247-0059

YEAR TO DATE PV OFFICE
 Closed Units-235
 Closed Sales Volume-\$173,975,970.50



LOOKING FOR A LUXURY VEHICLE LOOK NO FURTHER THAN FIELDS!

THE PREMIERE LUXURY AUTO GROUP

JAGUAR

JAGUAR OF JACKSONVILLE
JAGUARJACKSONVILLE.COM



LAND ROVER JACKSONVILLE
LANDROVERJACKSONVILLE.COM



PORSCHE

PORSCHE JACKSONVILLE
PORSCHEJACKSONVILLE.COM

FIELDS IS A PROUD SPONSER OF THE
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS



MERCEDES-BENZ OF JACKSONVILLE
MERCEDESBNZOFJACKSONVILLE.COM

MERCEDES-BENZ OF ORANGE PARK
MERCEDESBNZOFORANGEPARK.COM



FIELDS CADILLAC JACKSONVILLE
FIELDSCADILLACJACKSONVILLE.COM

FIELDS CADILLAC ST.AUGUSTINE
FIELDSCADILLACSTAUGUSTINE.COM



LEXUS OF JACKSONVILLE
LEXUSOFJACKSONVILLE.COM

LEXUS OF ORANGE PARK
LEXUSOFORANGEPARK.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)