# Chamber Onnections



# 2023 IN REVIEW

Photos provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, Jackie Hird Photography, and Susan Griffin





















# **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO**

# Ponte Vedra Wellness and your healthier lifestyle



In continuing our partnership with the Tourism and Development Council, we have taken the next step in enhancing our visitors' experience in Ponte Vedra with the launch of the Ponte Vedra Wellness website. This website focuses on the luxuries of wellness that Ponte Vedra has to offer

guests and locals alike.

On this site, you'll find ways to rejuvenate, nourish, contemplate and evaluate: a place to discover various ways to experience a wide range of wellness options that will help you decompress, improve yourself and indulge in some pampering.

Rejuvenation, or the process of reviving, and Ponte Vedra Wellness has plenty of options for you to discover just how you can bring renewed life to your self-care process. Perhaps you want to enjoy yoga on the beach with the crashing waves as your background music or indulge in a massage and facial at one of the many spa experiences known all around the country — whatever it is you do to rejuvenate, Ponte Vedra Wellness can help you find it

Nourishment for your body is a critical element of wellness. A healthy dining experience, a fresh beach picnic or healthy snacks on the go — with so many great choices in Ponte Vedra, healthy choices at mealtimes are easy. Plus, some of the best restaurants are also on the water, giving you

two perks in one place. Finding your next favorite place is as easy as a quick search on the site.

We all need some downtime now and then, and one of the best ways to get that is to take some quiet time in nature, enjoy the sound of birds singing away and relax to the sound of waves crashing against the sand. Contemplate, or meditation can help you center yourself and slow down, enjoy the world around you and destress from the chaos of everyday life. Discover your next peaceful excursion on the site.

Ponte Vedra is part of the healthiest county in Florida, and that's thanks to the extensive array of medical experts, facilities and educational resources in our region. Whether you are looking for a new doctor or specialist, medical ways to improve your health or learn more about how Ponte Vedra is quickly becoming a hub for those on the autism spectrum, our Evaluate section will help you find direction to a healthier lifestyle.

Whether your focus is on one area or you want to indulge in all "ways of wellness," we want to help you see how you can embrace Ponte Vedra Wellness. The Ponte Vedra Wellness website along with its sister's site Ponte Vedra Naturally can be found at www.experiencepontevedra.com. In addition, for more information visit our official Ponte Vedra Visitor Information Center (VIC) at 200

Solana Road where visitor information center team members will be happy to assist all visitors to Ponte Vedra.

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

Visit Ponte Vedra Wellness



**PVWellness.net** 

# **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

#### **JANUARY**

- Ribbon Cutting: Cycle Bar St. Johns, Jan. 5
- Chamber Before Hours St. Augustine: Encompass Health, Jan. 10
- Chamber at Noon w/UF Health St. Johns: Digital Marketing, Jan. 11
- Ribbon Cutting: Effect Spa, Jan. 18
- Ribbon Cutting: Fleur de Lis Boutique, Jan. 22
- Chamber After Hours St. Johns: Longleaf St. Johns, Jan. 24
- Chamber After Hours St. Johns: Basecamp Fitness, Jan. 25

#### **FFRRUARY**

- Women with Vision Council w/Jacksonville Jaguars: Touchdown Marketing, Feb. 1
- Chamber Before Hours PVB: RISE at Nocatee, Feb. 7
- Chamber Before Hours St. Augustine: Visitors & Convention Bureau, Feb. 8
- **Historic St. Augustine Area Council w/City of St. Augustine:** St. Augustine Parking Code & Traffic Update, Feb 9
- Chamber at Noon w/THE PLAYERS: THE PLAYERS Update, Feb. 14
- Tourism & Hospitality Council w/Business Panelist: Digital Domination, Feb. 15
- Chamber 101: Zoom, Feb. 16
- Chamber After Hours PVB: YMCA, Feb. 21
- Chamber After Hours St. Augustine: bestbet, Feb. 22
- Economic Development Council w/ SJC County Administrator, Joy Andrews: St. Johns County Plan, Feb. 23

#### MARCH

- Night at THE PLAYERS w/ Jax Chamber: TPC, March 7
- Chamber at Noon: March 20
- Business Development: Small Biz Best Practices, March 21
- Chamber After Hours PVB: Florida Exchange, March 27
- Chamber After Hours St. Augustine: Liberty Landscape, March 28

### **Register Now**



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Interested in hosting or sponsoring an event? Contact info@sjcchamber.com

#### STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Ericha Gore was promoted to Director, Membership & Events.

# St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Board retreat



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors gathered for their board retreat. Participants included, from left, front row, Dr. Erika Hamer, Beth Tate, Leila Bedoian, Melissa Cecil, Isabelle Renault, Elizabeth Bernardino, Jamie Johnson, Cindy Delaparte, Nancy Derring-Mock, Sean Rotolo; back row, Beth Sweeny, Jennifer Howard, Cecil Gibson, Cory Darling, Meg Zabijaka, Scott Maynard, Berta Odom (Chair), Matt Lahti, Bob Porter.

# **Ponte Vedra Division Board**



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Front row, from left: Carissa Jackson, Felicia Cox, Elizabeth Bernardino, and Peter verDorn. Back row, from left: Lori Adams, Dr. Erika Hamer, Susan Griffin, and Erin Wallner

Not pictured: Mary Anne Thomas, Miranda Rossum, and Mark Allen.

# St. Johns County Chamber honors business leaders at awards ceremony



Photo by Jackie Hird Photography

Chamber President and CEO Isabelle Renault, left, stands next to the award winners.

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held its CELEBRATE Annual Awards Ceremony on Nov. 15, and various business leaders who made their mark in the community this year were recognized.

The event, which more than 200 guests attended, was held at the Treasury on the Plaza in historic St. Augustine. Six business leaders were recognized for their dedication to St. Johns County and the community in which they live.

# After Hours at K9s for Warriors



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The Sept. 13 After Hours was held at K9s for Warriors.



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# 1912 ribbon cutting



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

A ribbon-cutting event was held Sept. 5 for 1912 Ocean Bar & Rooftop.



Betty Griffin Center is the only certified local center to provide quality services, at no cost, to survivors of domestic and sexual violence in St. Johns County.

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# **Hyatt Place ribbon cutting**



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

A ribbon-cutting event was held Oct. 10 for The Hyatt Place St. Augustine/Vilano. The property features a 7,000-square-foot ballroom and more than 20,000 square feet of indoor/outdoor flex space. The rooftop bar provides 360-degree views of Vilano Beach.

# Scalice Land Surveying ribbon cutting



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

A ribbon-cutting event was held Nov. 2 for Scalice Land Surveying in Nocatee.





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# Liberty Landscape Supply holds ribbon cutting



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

A ribbon-cutting event was held Oct. 13 for Liberty Landscape Supply.

# **First Coast Cultural Center's new address**



Photo by Bonnie Hayflic

The First Coast Cultural Center cut the ribbon Dec. 14 for its new home at 6000B Sawgrass Village Circle, Ponte Vedra Beach.



# You're invited!

We're turning ONE and we hope you'll come celebrate with us!

**When:** December 23rd, 2023 **Where:** Ponte Vedra Tap Room

155 Tourside Dr. Suite 1510 Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082



NEW! SEASONAL FROSÉ

# **Vicar's Landing hosts Before Hours**



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The Nov. 1 Chamber Before Hours was held at Vicar's Landing Oak Bridge Campus. Bruce Jones and his staff hosted the morning of networking, food and coffee.

# Attainable housing is meeting topic

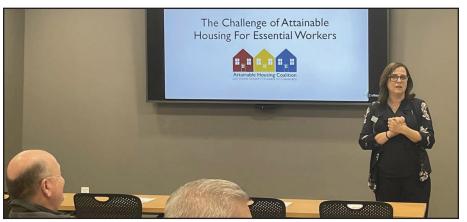


Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Attainable housing was the topic of a public meeting held Nov. 7.

# Jaguars executive speaks



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerc

Whitney Meyer, senior vice president and chief community impact officer for the Jacksonville Jaguars, spoke at the Oct. 12 Joint Chamber at Noon event with the JAX Chamber. Meyer spoke about the Jaguars community impact initiatives, the Jaguars Foundation and community activities in connection with local development projects.

# JAXUSL's Lebesch speaks



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

At the Dec. 1 Economic Development Breakfast, Isabelle Renault, president and CEO, and Scott Maynard, vice president of economic development for St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, welcomed Dr. Anna Lebesch, senior vice president strategy and talent for JAXUSA Partnership, who spoke about the vision for the future of economic growth in the region.



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# **EDC discusses workforce housing**



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The focus of the Sept. 22 Economic Development Council Breakfast was workforce housing.

# **Ponte Vedra Church ribbon cutting**



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

A ribbon-cutting event was held Nov. 1 for Ponte Vedra Church.

# Veterans Day luncheon held



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Lt. Scott Mackes spoke at the Ponte Vedra Beach Division's Veterans Day Chamber at Noon luncheon on Nov. 9. Mackes shared his story and how he transitioned from the military to civilian life.

# **Nothing Bundt Cakes ribbon cutting**



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

A ribbon-cutting event was held Nov. 1 for Nothing Bundt Cakes.

# After Hours at The Blake



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held its After Hours event Oct. 25 at The Blake at St. Johns. Attendees said it was a wonderful evening of networking, food and drinks. The Blake at St. Johns is an assisted living and memory care community in St. Johns.

# **FYZICAL Therapy ribbon cutting**



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerc

A ribbon-cutting event was held Sept. 26 for FYZICAL Therapy and Balance Center.

# Vivere Meliora Dentistry ribbon cutting



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commercial

A ribbon-cutting event was held Oct. 19 for Vivere Meliora Dentistry.

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# **2023 YEAR IN REVIEW**

#### PLAYERS executive director addresses luncheon



Photo by Anthony Richards

THE PLAYERS Senior Vice President and Executive Director Jared Rice spoke about the upcoming 2023 event during a joint luncheon Jan. 11 hosted by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division and the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce.

# Establishing an export plan the focus of EDC March breakfast



Photo by Susan Griffin

Nicole Briggs, Matt Price, Aimee Stafford and Mary O'Brien.

#### Hardage-Giddens opens at St. Johns location



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Hardage-Giddens Funeral Homes held a grand opening and ribboncutting Feb. 16 for its newest location, 1285 St. Johns Parkway, St Johns. Several people dressed up to embrace the "Roaring '20's" theme for the party.

#### **Chamber Golf Classic**



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hosted its Annual Chamber Golf Classic on May 9 at Hammock Beach Golf Resort & Spa.

# America's Choice Title Company hosts Chamber after hours, ribbon cutting



Photo by Susan Griffin

On Feb. 22, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division held its monthly after hours event at America's Choice Title Company. It also served as a ribbon cutting event because America's Choice rejoined the Chamber after several years of absence. The event was held at America's Choice headquarters at 171 A1A North in Ponte Vedra.

# Riddle Wellness holds ribbon cutting for Ponte Vedra Beach location



Photo by Susan Griffin

Riddle Wellness officially joined the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division with a ribbon cutting ceremony Feb. 1.

# Compass Real Estate joins Chamber, welcomes new location



Photo by Susan Griffin

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was hosted by Compass Real Estate to celebrate their newest location at 601C A1A North in Ponte Vedra Beach and partnership with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division.

# Memory Lane joins Chamber with ribbon cutting



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

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

# **Sawgrass Marriott hosts Chamber after hours**



hoto by Susan Griffin

Sawgrass Marriott staff members stand alongside Ponte Vedra Beach
Division vice chair Kathleen Florvan during the Chamber after hours event.

#### Cadence at Nocatee welcomed



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Assistant Community Director Gretter Anderson and Community Director Brieanna Houk wielded the scissors for the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Cadence at Nocatee apartments on Jan. 24. Members and ambassadors of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce participated.

# **Joint After Hours event held at TPC Sawgrass**



Photo by Susan Griffin

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce held a joint After Hours event at TPC Sawgrass and took place March 2. Pictured: Kim Scott, Jimmy Briggs and Nicole Briggs.

#### **Chamber Before Hours at AAA**



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

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.

































If you want to be among the most recognized names in community and business leadership, contact Elizabeth Bernardino at Elizabeth.Bernardino@sjcchamber.com



# **St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors**



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The 2023-34 St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors are: Sean Rotolo, Amanda Brown, Akinkawon Frierson, Adam Gregory, Jr., Adele McGraw, Brian Walker, William Barnes, Lori Brandel, Robin Burchfield, Jackie Hird, Joshua Hull, Michele Kuziola, Michael McCarthy, Melissa Mezick, Roderick Moore, K.C. Padget, Lisa Payne, David Permenter, Tracey Phillips, Marion Richardson, Jennifer Tarbert, Trudy Toche, Cecile Nusbaum and Elizabeth Bernardino.

# Modern Day Dental ribbon cutting



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

A ribbon-cutting event was held Sept. 21 for Modern Day Dental



# **2023 YEAR IN REVIEW**

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# **Arthur Murray hosts Chamber before hours event**



Arthur Murray owner Heiko Leyhausen dances with his daughter during the event.

# **Signature First Coast Reality** holds ribbon cutting



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

# TruTechnology's Nicolitz speaks on cybersecurity



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

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.

# **PROTACTX Brazilian Jiu Jitsu opens**



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Members of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce were on hand June 29 for a ribbon cutting ceremony at PROTACTX Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. which recently opened at 200 Sterling Plaza Drive, Suite 204, Ponte Vedra.

# **Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery hosts Chamber Before Hours**



Photo by Susan Griffin

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division held a Before Hours event at Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery on Aug. 9. Members were able to mingle and network inside and outside the location.

# **Snyder Air Conditioning,** Plumbing & Electric cuts ribbon



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Snyder Air Conditioning, Plumbing & Electric held its ribbon-cutting ceremony Aug. 22. It was a morning of networking, food and celebrating.

# Riptide team cuts ribbon



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Riptide Home Furniture had its ribbon cutting event on Aug. 31. The

# **Wells Fargo hosts Chamber After Hours**



The St. Johns County Chamber Ponte Vedra Beach Division's Chamber After Hours was held at Wells Fargo in Nocatee. Heather McDougal, regional branch manager, and her team hosted the wonderful evening of networking, food and drinks.

# **New THE PLAYERS executive director** speaks at Chamber lunch



New executive director of THE PLAYERS, Lee Smith (fourth from the left) spoke at a joint lunch event hosted by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division and the Jax Chamber on July 19 at Marsh Landing Country Club.

# **Bank branch opens**

business is located on U.S. 1 north of Palencia.



Photo by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce A ribbon-cutting event was held July 26 for TD Bank — Durbin Creek.

# Hardage-Giddens hosts Chamber after hours



Photo courtesy of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division hosted an After Hours event at Hardage-Giddens St. Johns on Aug. 23. The evening included networking opportunities as well as food and drinks.

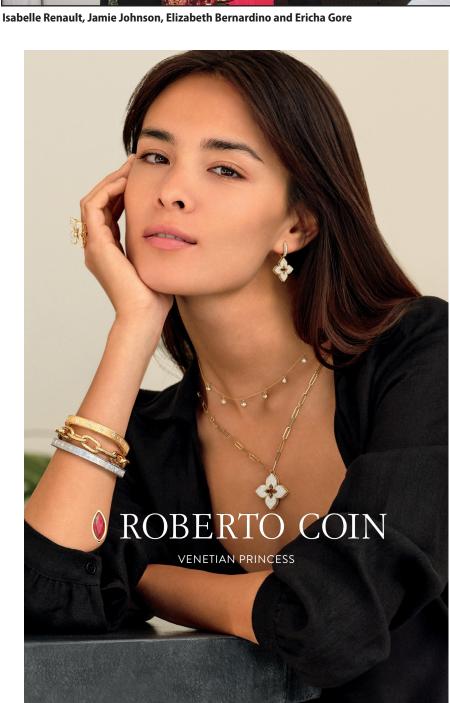
# GROW YOUR BUSINESS BY BECOMING A CHAMBER MEMBER TODAY!



# Chamber gets festive with Jingle Mingle

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division held its annual Jingle Mingle holiday social at Marsh Landing Country Club on Dec. 7. It was a festive night of networking, holiday spirit and door prizes.







Avondale 3617 St. Johns Ave. (904) 388-5406 San Marco 2044 San Marco Blvd. (904) 398-9741 Jacksonville, Florida 32207



Liesl Savage and Pam Ducas.



Scott Maynard, Elizabeth Bernardino and Trudy Toche.





Photo by Jackie Hird Photography

# UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **February 3, 2024**

Children Are Rock Stars (C.A.R.S.)

The Brumos Collection

#### February 25, 2024

Riverside Craft Beer Festival

Riverside Arts Market

#### February 29 - March 3, 2024

The Amelia
The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island

#### May 4, 2024

The Derby Run

Tringali Barn, St. Augustine

#### May 18, 2024

Women's Leadership Council Fashion Show The Glass Factory

#### October, 2024

Halloween Doors & More

For event details and updates please visit

TheFoundationCares.org

All event dates and details are subject to change.





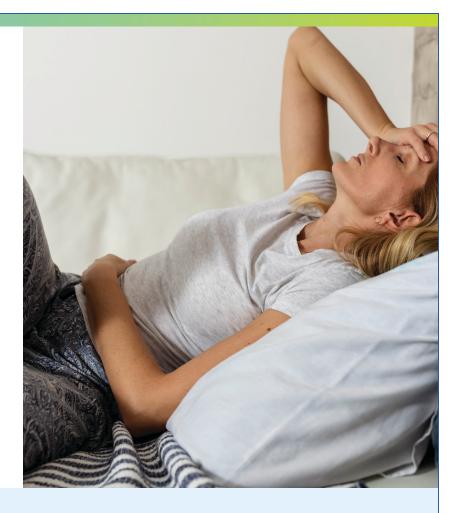
# From Your St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Thanks to you and our members, 2023 was a prosperous year: Grew our Chamber membership by 5% Hosted 150 member events for more than 5,000 guests Launched Attainable Housing Coalition Launched Autism Certification initiative Launched Chamber Foundation Official announcement coming in 2024! Deck the halls with business calls! Wishing you a joyful holiday season filled with more networking than your office Wi-Fi. May your meetings be merry and your profits be plenty.

# Could it be a hernia? 8 silent signs

The signs of a hernia are not always obvious. Most common is a bulge in the abdomen, but here are some other symptoms that you may be more likely to ignore:

- Pain in the pelvic area
- Nausea and vomiting
- Fever
- Constipation
- Feeling full and bloated
- Heartburn
- Weakness and muscle fatigue in the upper leg or groin
- Pain when lifting or coughing

If left untreated, your hernia could grow, get more painful, or even become dangerous at some point. And a hernia won't go away on its own. The good news is today's minimally invasive hernia treatment options, including robotic-assisted surgery, can offer you fast recovery.





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