

# Connections

## 2017 IN REVIEW



December 2017



ST. JOHNS  
COUNTY  
CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

Ponte Vedra  
Recorder

# YEAR IN REVIEW

*St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce*

## Message from the President/CEO: 2018 and Beyond



**Isabelle Renault**

It's been more than three years since we announced our plan to Elevate, Innovate and Accelerate, which was adopted in 2014, and our successes have created the foundation for us to step forward as a much more proactive organization and leading business representative.

It has been a collective effort of staff, leadership and members, and as we move on to the next phase, our vision is

*"...Our vision is to be a fierce advocate for our members' success and to increase our capacity to adapt. We will impact the ever-changing business reality with proactive solutions, and we will be a known influencer of public policy."*

**Isabelle Renault**

President and CEO of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

to be a fierce advocate for our members' success and to increase our capacity to adapt. We will impact the ever-changing business reality with proactive solutions, and we will be a known influencer of public policy.

After gaining unanimous approval for the 2018 and Beyond plan from our board of directors, we are excited to continue increasing our capacity to predict and adapt to new challenges and opportunities, and to make a positive

impact on our community through our programs and our increasing influence in the business sphere, which includes those public policy agendas that may affect the way we do business.

An important aspect of our plan focuses on Ponte Vedra as our growth from simply hosting a visitors center to becoming a destination architect will help shape which tourism drivers in the area are marketed to potential visitors. After concluding the University

of Florida lead study commissioned in 2016, we are in the process of creating a product development working group comprised of stakeholders in Ponte Vedra's tourism industry to vet and accelerate the area's most valuable, current and/or new assets.

We've been through a lot in the last 15 months, including two hurricanes and the challenges brought on by rapid growth—especially in the north part of the county; and in response we are streamlining, planning and predicting. Yet the work we are doing as a destination architect is a great example of building from the foundation that—with your help—we created during Elevate, Innovate, Accelerate. So, as we continue to expand on that foundation, we hope that you continue in our never-ending mission to make St. Johns County a better place to do business.

To find out more about our new three-year plan, 2018 and Beyond, I hope you will join me in February for the Chamber at Noon, where I will present and answer the questions of those in attendance.

## CHAMBER RECOGNIZES BAER FOR COMMITMENT TO ORGANIZATION

The Chamber of Commerce would like to thank Bob Baer for his membership and long-standing commitment to the organization. His dedication is greatly appreciated, and he has been an inspiration to all within the Chamber.



## Meet the Ponte Vedra Beach Division Board of Directors for 2017-2018

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce welcomes the 2017-2018 board of directors for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division. The incoming board represents a broad cross-section of industries and individuals, each of whom brings years of professional experiences and business acumen to their board duties.

**Chair:** Susan Griffin, *Ponte Vedra Recorder*

**Vice Chair:** Rob Schlingmann, *The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach*

**Secretary:** Sarah Alexander, *Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Florida Network Realty*

**Immediate Past President:** Ed Mercel, *Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty*

**Board Member:** Lori Adams, *cabi/Harbor View Advisors /TPC Sawgrass*

**Board Member:** Nancy Hallett, *Gateway Business Advisors*

**Board Member:** Janet Collins, *Sawgrass Country Club*

**Board Member:** Jennifer Belisario, *TPC Sawgrass*

**Board Member:** Jen Hendrich, *THE PLAYERS Championship, PGA Tour*

**Board Member:** Wiam "William" Battah, *Ruth's Chris Steak House*

**Board Member:** Gloria Dongara, *AAA- The Auto Club Group*

# YEAR IN REVIEW

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

## Message from the Director

Now that the holidays have passed, we turn our attention to reflecting on the past year.

Since becoming the division director in March, my time with the Chamber has been filled with countless highlights. The ongoing commitment from our past and current division board of directors, ambassadors and volunteers continues to be a key ingredient in the success of the Chamber.

Our signature events included, first, our Annual Membership Appreciations Awards in May where we recognized outstanding Chamber members going above and beyond the everyday. Our Annual Golf Tournament held in June attracted a full field of players—many of whom are business and community leaders throughout the region who were out swinging their clubs, networking and enjoying the great outdoors.

The 15th Annual Ponte Vedra Auto Show held in September featured more than 125 classics and new cars. The weather was absolutely perfect despite having to reschedule due to Irma. This Ponte Vedra tradition welcomed over 2,500 automobile



**Toni Boudreaux**  
PVB Division Director

lovers and enthusiasts from across the Northeast.

Our Veterans Luncheon was a salute to veterans in business and featured Joe Padlo, who was named a Veteran of Influence by the Jacksonville Business Journal in 2016. Special guests also included Justin Justice, executive director of Operation New Uniform; Richard Tryon, Lieutenant

General, USMC (Ret), senior fellow in international leadership at Hicks Honors College at the University of North Florida; and a board member of the Wounded Warrior Project. Representatives from WWP and K9s for Warriors were in attendance.

Lastly, we rounded out the year with a little Jingle and Mingle, the Chamber's Ponte Vedra Beach Division holiday party this year held at a stunning home in Harbour Island. The evening was filled with beautiful music provided by the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras, setting the tone for a lovely evening celebrating all the wonders of the holidays.

As we head into the new year, I encourage residents and visitors alike to look at Ponte Vedra Beach with a fresh perspective, delighting in all the natural beauty that surrounds us while enjoying the multitude of pleasures that transform the ordinary into the extraordinary. We look forward to enhancing existing assets, such as outdoor recreation, arts and heritage, wellness and passive nature-based activities to create a more dynamic experience for everyone to enjoy. I look forward to seeing you out and about, and best wishes in the new year!

## SJC Chamber promotes Porter, appoints Everett

To meet its new advocacy and economic development goals, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce recently promoted Bob Porter to director of public policy and appointed Karen Everett as economic development manager.

Porter joined the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce in 2015 and previously served as executive director and CEO of Paws for Purple Hearts, an organization that trains and places service dogs with wounded warriors suffering

from post-traumatic stress or traumatic brain injury during combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. He has spent most of his career working in Washington, D.C., and his experience includes work as a Congressional staffer, serving as the director of government relations for the law firm of Collier Shannon & Scott and serving as vice president at the international business consulting firm headed by former Secretary of Defense William Cohen.

Everett has a background in economic

development and public relations and communications. She worked for the department of economic development for St. Mary's County in Maryland as the county's lead for business retention, expansion and recruitment. More recently, Everett was a senior account executive for Clockwork Marketing Services in Jacksonville, where she provided public relations services to multiple clients. She will work closely with the St. Johns County Economic Development Department.

### UPCOMING ST. JOHNS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PONTE VEDRA BEACH DIVISION (PVBD) EVENTS

#### PVBD Chamber Before Hours

**Date/Time:** Jan. 10, 2018, 8-9 a.m.

**Location:** Mainstream Boutique

**Information:** Enjoy your breakfast while networking among members and guests. This is a great way to start your work day with a little breakfast and conversation!

**Cost:** Free to members, \$5 for non-members

#### PVBD Joint Luncheon with JAX Chamber Beaches Division

**Date/Time:** Jan. 11, 2018, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**Location:** Sawgrass Golf Club

**Topic:** State of our cities

**Keynote speakers:** Michael Wanchick, county administrator, St. Johns County; Mayor Elaine Brown, City of Neptune Beach; George Forbes, city manager, City of Jacksonville Beach; and Mayor Ellen Glasser, Atlantic Beach

**Cost:** \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door

#### PVBD After Hours/Ribbon Cutting

**Date/Time:** Jan. 24, 2018, 5:30-7 p.m.

**Location:** New Life Healthcare

**Information:** Chamber After Hours is a PVBD event designed for busy professionals who can't get out of their offices or off the job until the close of business. Join us to network among members and guests. The host will provide beverages and delicious bites. Bring your business cards!

**Cost:** Free for members and guests

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Vice President



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PV2-LV45713

January 2017

# Visit from acclaimed Spanish painter highlights Cutter & Cutter grand opening

Local residents had an opportunity to meet one of the art world's noted stars Jan. 20, when acclaimed Spanish painter ROYO visited Ponte Vedra Beach for the grand opening celebration of the Cutter & Cutter Fine Art gallery in Sawgrass Village.

The event featured a ribbon cutting ceremony with representatives from the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County

Chamber of Commerce.

The artist, who traveled from Valencia, Spain, for the event, participated in the gallery's ceremony before visiting with guests and art collectors, who came to Ponte Vedra to view a special exhibition of works the artist painted especially for the occasion. In addition to attending cocktail receptions held Jan. 20-21, ROYO also signed copies of his book showcasing his works.



Photo by Jennifer Logue

Acclaimed Spanish artist ROYO joins The Cutter Family, gallery staff and representatives from the chamber of commerce as they cut the ribbon on the new Cutter & Cutter Fine Art gallery in Sawgrass Village.



# SEASIDE BANK CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Representatives from the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce joined with Seaside Bank officials on Jan. 12 to celebrate the bank's 10th anniversary.

Photo courtesy of the Chamber of Commerce

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PV2-LV45712

January 2017



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Isabelle Renault, Chris Goerge, Wayne Hogan, Ed Mercel, Amanda Patch and Sarah Hewett

# Attorney urges Chamber members to implement policies on distracted driving

Wayne Hogan, a personal injury attorney at Terrell Hogan Law Office, spoke to members of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Beaches Division and the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce at a Jan. 26 joint luncheon about the need for businesses to implement policies that prohibit cell phone use and other forms of distractions while driving.



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from the team at Ponte Vedra Wellness Center.

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Photos by Susan Griffin

Sandra Ingram, Isabelle Renault, Ed Mercel, Marge Cirillo, Lin Jones and Felicia Cox

## Small business trends the focus of 'Chamber at Noon' luncheon

Small business trends for 2017 was the focus of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division's "Chamber at Noon" luncheon Feb. 15 at Sawgrass Country Club.

The luncheon featured a presentation by Marge Cirillo of the University of North Florida's Small Business Development Center. Also on hand was St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce President Isabelle Renault, who presented a farewell gift to departing PVB Division Director Lin Jones, who relocated to Indiana.



Marge Cirillo of UNF's Small Business Development Center



Maury Lester and Adam Robinson



Meredith Forham Hughes and Steve Austin

## CHAMBER CELEBRATES OPENING OF PIVOT CPAs NOCATEE OFFICE



Photo by Susan Griffin

Members of the Pivot CPAs staff join with representatives of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's Ponte Vedra Beach Division on Feb. 28 to mark the opening of the firm's new Nocatee location with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

## Morning on the Farm: EDC quarterly breakfast

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Council (EDC) held its quarterly breakfast Feb. 24 at Blue Sky Farms in Elkton. Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam served as the event's featured guest, discussing his priorities while in office, including fostering the growth and diversification



Farmer Jeb Smith brought his Florida cracker cattle to the event for attendees to see.

of Florida agriculture and expanding access to Florida's fresh produce and seafood.



Photos by Susan Griffin

Victor Raymos, Adam Putnam, Isabelle Renault and Jeb Smith

## Chamber's PVB Division 'After Hours' celebrates opening of State Farm Insurance office

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division held a ribbon cutting ceremony Feb. 22 for State Farm Insurance, which shortly before opened an office in Nocatee Town Center at 466 Town Plaza Ave.

In addition to the ribbon cutting, the Chamber hosted an "After Hours" social gathering at the State Farm office, which provided members with the opportunity to network and enjoy an evening of complimentary hors d'oeuvres and refreshments.



Photo courtesy of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

State Farm Insurance staff and St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division representatives gather at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

# Business leaders meet new Ponte Vedra Beach Chamber director

Local business and community leaders had an opportunity to meet the new director of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on March 27, when the Hilton Garden Inn hosted an “After Hours” reception.

Director Toni Boudreaux met with

guests and shared with them some of her plans to strengthen the PVB Division, drawing on her background in fundraising and event management. Guests also had an opportunity to network with other business leaders while enjoying complimentary hors d’oeuvres and refreshments.

**Dr. Rob Karol, Isabelle Renault, Toni Boudreaux, Ed Mercel, Carol Maurer, Ted Hayes, Kathleen Floryan, Anna Washington, Chuck Schoonmaker and Anette Saalmann.**

Photos courtesy of SJC Chamber



Ponte Vedra Beach Division Director Toni Boudreaux and former Board Chair Ed Mercel



Victor Raymos and Art Wildblood



Barry McDonald and Rob Schlingmann

March 2017

## FirstAtlantic Bank hosts Chamber ‘Before Hours’

FirstAtlantic Bank welcomed local business and community leaders March 8, when the bank hosted a “Before Hours” networking get-together for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to networking, the event showcased the complete makeover of the bank’s financial center and featured a drawing for gift baskets as well as breakfast catered by KC’s Kitchen.



Photo by Susan Griffin

First Atlantic Bank staff members join Ed Mercel (right), former chairman of the board of directors for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce PVB Division, at the “Before Hours” social gathering March 8.

## Jumbo Shrimp owner discusses power of branding at Chamber’s annual breakfast

Ken Babby, owner of the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp minor league baseball club, addressed the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce’s annual membership meeting March 9 at the Renaissance in World Golf Village.

The event offered Chamber members a chance to learn more about Babby’s creative approach to building successful brands.

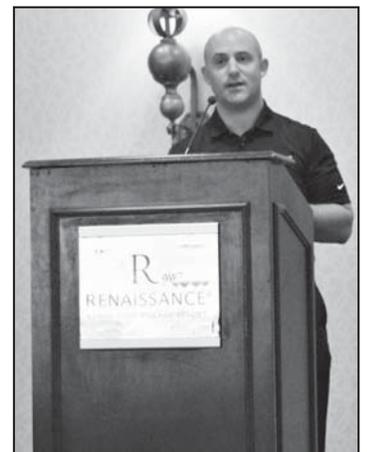


Photo by Susan Griffin

Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp Owner Ken Babby

## LE MACARON HOLDS GRAND OPENING



Le Macaron representatives gather with representatives from the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce’s Ponte Vedra Beach Division on March 11 for the French pastry shop’s grand opening celebration, which featured a ribbon cutting ceremony, face painting, balloons, a mime and more.

Photo courtesy of Le Macaron

April 2017

# Rice: THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP is a boon to local economy

THE PLAYERS Championship is more than just a world-class golf tournament, Executive Director Jared Rice told local business leaders at an April 13 joint luncheon for the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Beaches Division and the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. It's an economic engine, he said, that pumps millions of dollars into the local economy while showcasing Northeast Florida to a global audience.

**THE PLAYERS Championship Executive Director Jared Rice addresses members of Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Beaches Division and the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.**

Photo by Jennifer Logue



John Schaum and Ann Terrell

Photo by Susan Griffin

## Arbor Terrace hosts Chamber 'After Hours'

Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra hosted an "After Hours" event April 19 for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. Chamber

members and guests enjoyed complimentary hors d'oeuvres and refreshments while networking with other business and community leaders.

# PONTE VEDRA

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May 2017



Award recipients Felicia Cox, Len and Sonya Cutter, Sarah Alexander, Steve Carn (accepting on behalf of Advanced Disposal), Melissa Nelson (accepting on behalf of Victoria Long), Jamie McDonough (accepting on behalf of Chef Tommy McDonough) and Carla Miles.

# Chamber of Commerce presents Member Appreciation Awards



**ABOVE:** Greg Voss and Steven Beyer tackle the Jenga tower.

**RIGHT:** Le Macaron provided sweet treats for the event.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Kay and Steve Carn



Stephanie Bedsaul and Lynn Kettell-Slifer

The Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce recognized its most active and engaged members May 24 at its annual Member Appreciation Awards.

Held at Sawgrass County Club, the celebration recognized members who actively participate in chamber events and initiatives. The 2017 Jeff Jenkins Community Service Award was presented to Advanced Disposal, while the Pat Morgan Outstanding Member Award went to Rob Schlingmann, general manager at The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach. The Board Member of the Year Award went to Sarah Alexander of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices.

Additional award categories and their recipients included: Crushing It: Matt Price, Regions Bank; Going the Distance: Victoria Long, United Way; Key Contributor: Felicia Cox, Iberia Bank; Rookie of the Year: Carla Miles, Mainstream Boutique; Dedicated Service: Chef Tommy McDonough, Flavor Palette; and Spotlight Award: Cutter & Cutter Fine Art.

Sponsors of the Member Appreciations Awards event included Sawgrass Country Club, Pivot CPAs, the Ponte Vedra Recorder, VyStar Credit Union, Clean Getaway Car Wash and Le Macaron, which provided refreshments.

May 2017

# EDC panel: Businesses should prepare now for hurricane season

Learning the lessons of Hurricane Matthew was the focus of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's quarterly Economic Development Council breakfast held May 25 at the Renaissance in World Golf Village.

The event featured a panel discussion during which participants urged business leaders to take steps to prepare for potential future storms. Panelists included St. Johns County Administrator Michael Wanchick, St. Augustine Beach Police Chief Robert Hardwick, St. Augustine Fire Chief Carlos Aviles and Marge Cirillo of the Florida Small Business Development Center.



Photo by Jennifer Logue

Panelists Michael Wanchick, Chief Robert Hardwick, Chief Carlos Aviles and Marge Cirillo



Photos courtesy of Susan Griffin

Jennifer Belisario, Susan Griffin, Victoria Crawford, Christine Ondek, Gloria Dongara and Carol Maurer

# Jacksonville, St. Johns County chambers of commerce host 'After Hours at THE PLAYERS'

Members of the Jacksonville and St. Johns County chambers of commerce got a head start on the festivities surrounding THE PLAYERS Championship when the two chambers hosted an "After Hours" event May 4 at TPC Sawgrass.

Held at THE PLAYERS Stadium Village, the event attracted an estimated 500 business and community leaders from across the First Coast.



Chris Guzewich, Scott Showalter and Kimberly O'Steen

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PV2-LV45705

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June 2017



Photo by Susan Griffin

Toni Boudreaux, Stephanie Bedsaul, Lynn Kettell-Slifer, Emily Slifer and Ed Mercel

## Health Partners LLC joins Chamber of Commerce

Health Partners LLC, a functional medicine practice in Ponte Vedra Beach, celebrated joining the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division with a ribbon cutting ceremony June 26.

Located at 100 Executive Way across from PVPV-Rawlings Elementary School, the practice provides area residents with a “relationship-focused” option that staff members say bridges the gap between traditional, prescription-based primary care and alternative treatment.



Photos by Susan Griffin

Karsten Jacobson, Sarah Alexander, Toni Boudreaux and Steven Beyer

## Jacobson discusses economic perspectives at ‘Chamber at Noon’ luncheon



Sarah Alexander helps Toni Boudreaux select the door prize winner

The current economic climate was the focus of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division’s “Chamber at Noon” luncheon June 21 at Sawgrass Golf Club.

The luncheon featured Edward Jones financial advisor Karsten Jacobson, who discussed timely market topics and potential investment strategies.

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 MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

# Wounded Warrior Project CEO provides Chamber of Commerce members with positive forecast for organization



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

**St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce PVB Division Director Toni Boudreaux, Wounded Warrior Project CEO Mike Linnington and Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Beaches Division Manager Kathy Sutton**

At a July 13 joint luncheon for the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Beaches Division and the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, Wounded Warrior Project CEO Mike Linnington told local business professionals that he's optimistic about the future of the nonprofit organization, which offers a variety of programs and services for wounded veterans of military actions following Sept. 11, 2001.

The luncheon was held at the Sawgrass County Club.



**Adam Petrus, Ellen Taylor and Lou Delaney**

July 2017

# Local officials share accomplishments from legislative session at Chamber's EDC breakfast

Providing bonuses for St. Johns County teachers, increasing statewide funding for mental health and substance abuse and revising and improving Enterprise Florida and Visit Florida were among the accomplishments of the 2017 legislative session shared by local officials at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development Council (EDC) breakfast July 28.

Rep. Cyndi Stevenson, Sen. Travis Hutson, Rep. Paul Renner and St. Johns County Commission Chair James Johns provided these updates to business leaders from around the county at the Chamber event at the Renaissance hotel in World Golf Village.



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

**Sen. Travis Hutson, St. Johns County Commission Chair James Johns, Rep. Cyndi Stevenson and Rep. Paul Renner participate on the EDC panel July 28.**



**Chamber President/CEO Isabelle Renault**



**Emily Stimler, John Eaton, Aaron Emmel and Kyle Murdock**



**Heather Sciartelli, Denise Hagan and Mary Ann Steinberg**

July 2017



## BHGRE LIFESTYLES REALTY OPENS NEW OFFICE IN NOCATEE

Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate (BHGRE) Lifestyles Realty staff celebrates the opening of its Nocatee office with a ribbon-cutting ceremony July 10, which was attended by representatives of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

Photo by Susan Griffin

## Berkshire Hathaway hosts Chamber 'Before Hours' event

Sarah Alexander with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty hosted a "Before Hours" networking event July 12 for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber members gathered at the real estate company's Ponte Vedra Beach office for conversation and a continental breakfast. Door prizes were given, and coffee and pastries were provided by Trasca & Co Eatery.

Alexander currently serves as the secretary of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division Board of Directors.



Toni Boudreaux, Ed Mercel, Sarah Alexander and Dr. Erika Hamer

Photo by Susan Griffin



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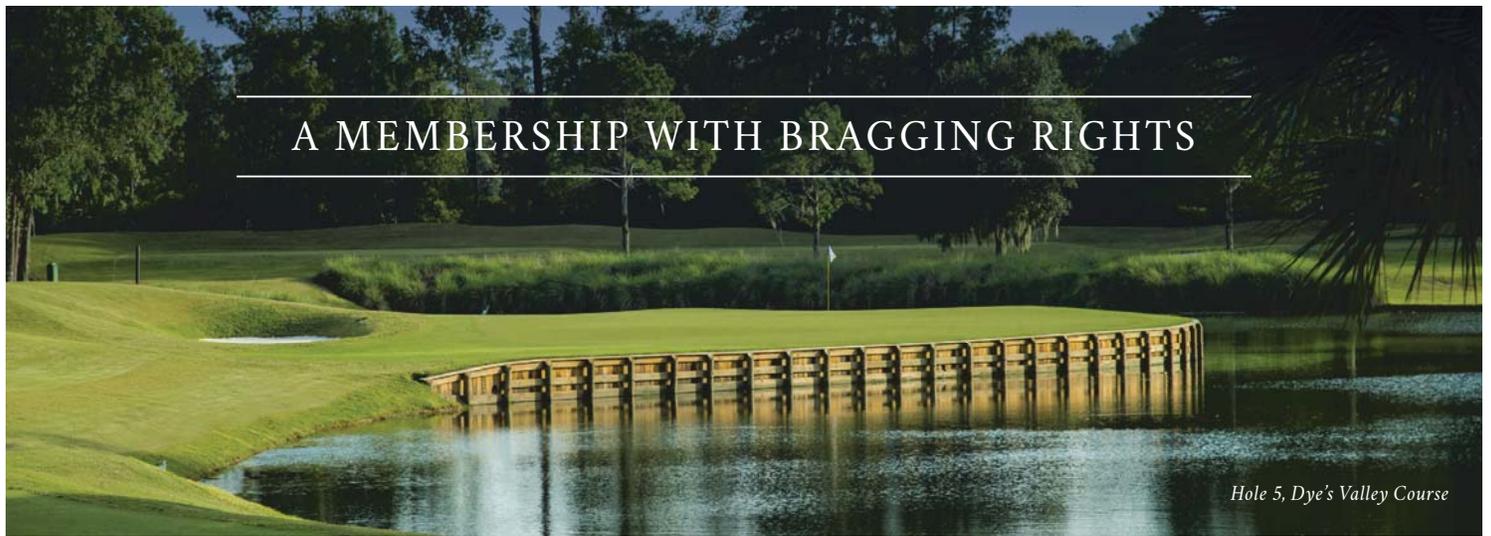
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July 2017

# MY HOUSE FITNESS OPENS IN PONTE VEDRA BEACH



Photo by Susan Griffin

The My House Fitness team participates in a ribbon cutting ceremony with representatives of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce as part of the gym's July 27 grand opening event.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Rocky Nightingale, Kelly Green, Beth D'Augerot, Bryan Fazio and Jennifer Hooper

# TPC Sawgrass hosts Chamber 'After Hours' event

TPC Sawgrass hosted an "After Hours" networking event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce July 19.

and their guests were invited to the TPC Clubhouse to chat, mingle and take in the views of the famed and picturesque golf course. Attendees were also served complimentary hors d'oeuvres and refreshments.

After work, Chamber members

August 2017



Photo by Susan Griffin

Isabelle Renault, Richard Goldman and Toni Boudreaux

# Ponte Vedra Beach Division provides tourism update at 'Chamber at Noon'

The Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hosted speaker Richard Goldman at the Sawgrass Beach Club Aug. 16 for a "Chamber at Noon" event.

The Executive Director of the St. Johns County Visitors & Convention Bureau, Goldman presented "How Tourism Affects You" at the event, which was sponsored by the Browning Agency.

# Pivot CPAS hosts 'After Hours' event for Chamber

Pivot CPAs hosted an "After Hours" networking event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on Aug. 23. Attendees enjoyed food and drink from food trucks and Victory Beer and St. Augustine Distillery, as well as music from Jim Kelly.



Photos by Susan Griffin

Brian Anderson, Jennifer Belisario and Mark Berman



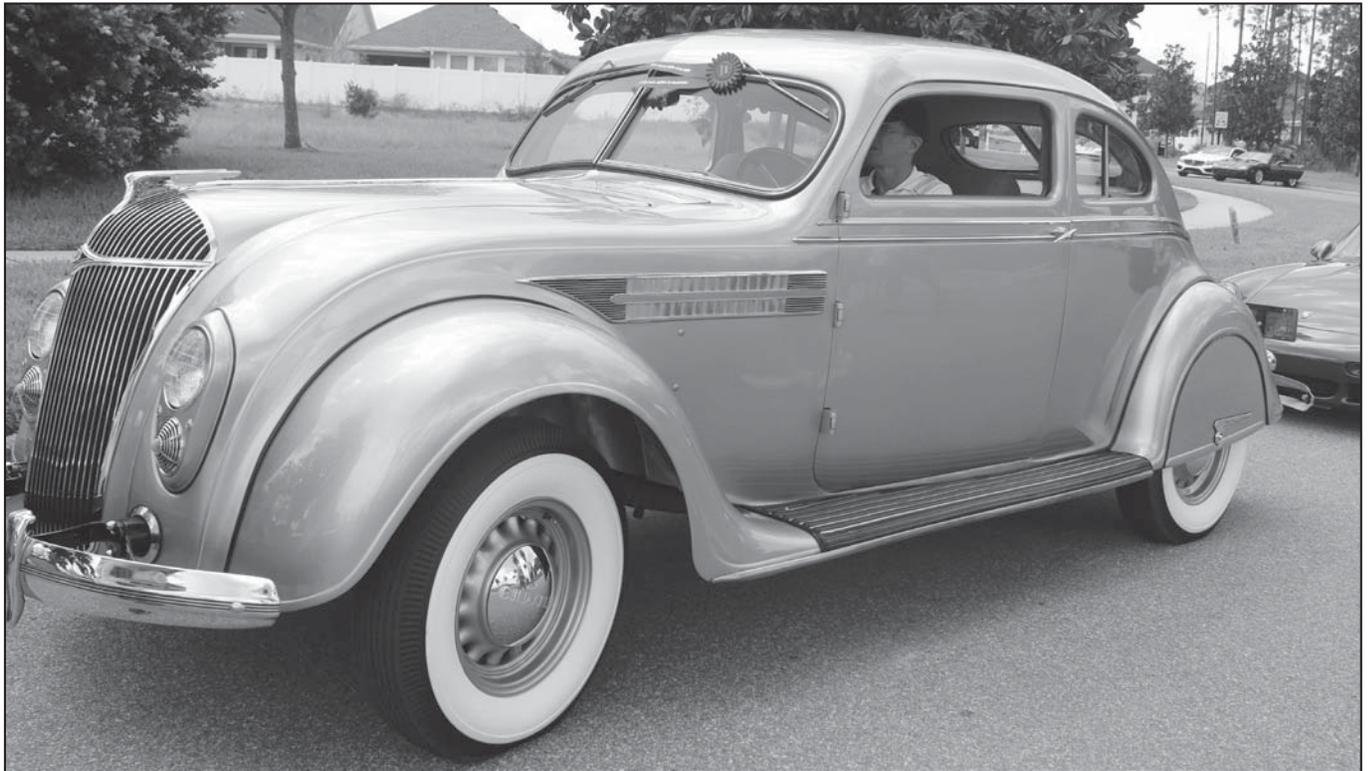
# MULLIGAN'S PUB HOSTS CHAMBER 'BEFORE HOURS' EVENT

The Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce gathered before work Aug. 9 for networking and refreshments at Mulligan's Pub in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Photo by Susan Griffin



George McCaughan, Clare Berry and Greg Totten



Mark Becker sits inside his 1936 Chrysler C-9 Airflow Coupe, which was named the event's Wells Fargo Advisors Best in Show Classic.

# 1936 Chrysler C-9 Airflow Coupe wins top honors at Ponte Vedra Auto Show

**Karen Everett, Ricki Taylor, Lori Adams and Cindy Bishop sell Auto Show apparel at the 15th annual event.**



Photos by Susan Griffin

A 1936 Chrysler C-9 Airflow Coupe received the Wells Fargo Advisors Best in Show Classic award at the 2017 Ponte Vedra Auto Show Sept. 24, claiming one of the event's most coveted prizes.

Owned by Mark Becker, the acclaimed automobile was one of more than 150 classics and collectables on display at the 15th annual event hosted by the St. Johns County (SJC) Chamber of Commerce at the Nocatee Town Center.

In addition to Becker and his

coupe, Rob Sewell received the "Porsche for the Spirit of It!" award for his 1997 Porsche Carrera S, and Mitt Layton won the award commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Shelby Super Snake with his 1968 Shelby GT500KR. In total, participants vied for 31 awards at the Auto Show, which was presented by Fields Automotive. The event, which ultimately hosted about 3,500 visitors, was originally scheduled for Sept. 10 and postponed due to Hurricane Irma.

## The Pineapple Corporation hosts Chamber 'After Hours' event

Luxury home builder The Pineapple Corporation hosted an "After Hours" networking event at one of its model homes at The Vista at Twenty Mile in Nocatee Sept. 27 for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

Attendees enjoyed conversation and building relationships while touring the model home.

The Vista at Twenty Mile is characterized by its Spanish architecture and is located in Nocatee's Twenty Mile neighborhood just west of the Intracoastal Waterway.



Spencer Calvert and Kurt Morgan



Amanda Johnson and Malcolm Anthony

Photos by Susan Griffin

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September 2017

## PALM VALLEY PRIMARY CARE OPENS, JOINS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Photo courtesy of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The Palm Valley Primary Care team participates in a ribbon cutting ceremony with representatives from the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on Sept. 29 to celebrate its opening and Chamber membership.

October 2017

## PONTE VEDRA WELLNESS CENTER HOSTS CHAMBER 'BEFORE HOURS'



Ponte Vedra Wellness Center hosted a "Before Hours" event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on Oct. 11. Pictured above is Dr. Casey Means, Marissa Daniels, Dr. Erika Hamer (Ponte Vedra Wellness Center owner), Daniel Brauch, Daniel Tirado and Lejla Karic.

Photo by Ed Johnson

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

PV2-LV45714

October 2017



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Bill Constrain (front row, from left), Kathy Sutton, Rep. John Rutherford, Dustin Vaughn, Sandy Ford (middle), Steven Beyer (back row, from left) Toni Boudreaux and Suzan Lupton

## Rep. Rutherford calls for procedural changes at Chamber luncheon to promote bipartisanship in Congress

U.S. Rep. John Rutherford told a group of local business leaders at an Oct. 19 luncheon in Ponte Vedra that two procedural changes must be made to mitigate the partisanship that currently characterizes Congress: Bring back earmarks and kill the rule in the Senate that requires 60 votes to end a filibuster and ultimately pass a bill.

Rutherford, R-Fla., delivered these remarks at the Sawgrass Beach Club to members of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Beaches Division and the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

## HILTON GARDEN INN HOSTS CHAMBER 'AFTER HOURS'

Local business professionals networked and enjoyed refreshments by the pool at the Oct. 25 "After Hours" reception hosted by Ponte Vedra's Hilton Garden Inn and Mosquito Squad for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. Pictured from left to right: Carol Maurer, Nikol DeWoody and Ted Hayes.



## NEW FREEDOM BOAT CLUB LOCATION CELEBRATES OPENING



Photo courtesy of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Representatives from Freedom Boat Club and the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division participate in an Oct. 17 ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new Ponte Vedra business.



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SJC Chamber President and CEO Isabelle Renault, PVB Division Director Toni Boudreaux and Chamber Sales and Marketing Manager Erin Cook

## Starling at Nocatee hosts Chamber 'Before Hours'

Local business professionals in the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division gathered at the Starling at Nocatee before work Nov. 8 for breakfast and networking.

Located across from Nocatee's Splash Waterpark, the Starling senior living community offers concierge living, assisted living and memory care services.



Photos by Susan Griffin

Isabelle Renault and Daniel Lewis

## Recorder hosts Chamber 'After Hours' event

The Ponte Vedra Recorder hosted an "After Hours" event Wednesday, Nov. 29 for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

The event also served as an artist reception featuring art from various First Coast artists, as well as a holiday open house. In addition to networking, guests enjoyed food from KC's Kitchen and cupcakes from Sweet By Holly; music by Chase Rideman of Chillula; wine from Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room and tastings from St. Augustine Distillery; door prizes and more.



ABOVE: Artist Bill Adams displays his work

LEFT: Event guests enjoy food from KC's Kitchen.

FAR LEFT: Kylie Trundle and Zoe Gombar from the St. Augustine Distillery

Photos by Jon Blauvelt



Pam Brunell, Ilene Thrasher and Lisa Atkinson



Starling at Nocatee Executive Director Megan Kennedy addresses the guests at the event.



## THE PINEAPPLE CORPORATION CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF NEW MODEL HOMES IN VISTA AT TWENTY MILE

Representatives from The Pineapple Corporation and Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce celebrate the grand opening of new model homes in the Vista at Twenty Mile with a ribbon cutting ceremony held Nov. 9.

Photo provided by the Pineapple Corporation

November 2017



Photo by Samantha Logue

Justin Justice, Tim Crosby, Mollie Malloy, Joe Padlo, Dennis Volpe and David Godwin

# St. Johns County Chamber salutes veterans in business

At a “Salute to Veterans” luncheon held Nov. 15 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Ponte Vedra, the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

treated local business and community leaders to several speakers, including keynote speaker Joe Padlo — a veteran of the United States Marine Corps.

# OPULENCE OF SOUTHERN PINES OPENS IN SAWGRASS VILLAGE



Photo provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Representatives from Opulence of Southern Pines and the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division celebrate the opening of the new Sawgrass Village store with a ribbon cutting ceremony in late November.



# CHAMBER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (EDC) BREAKFAST FEATURES REMARKS FROM NAR CEO STINTON

St. Johns County Chamber leaders gather following the Nov. 17 Economic Development Council breakfast at the Casa Monica Hotel in St. Augustine, which featured a keynote address from Dale Stinton, CEO emeritus of the National Association of Realtors (NAR). Pictured from left: Rob Matthews, president of Matthews Design Group and Economic Development Council chair; Isabelle Renault, president and CEO of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce; Victor Raymos, CEO of the St. Augustine & St. Johns County Board of REALTORS & MLS and Mary O'Brien, chairman of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Photo courtesy of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

# SJC Chamber PVB Division holds 'Jingle & Mingle' holiday party

The Ponte Vedra Beach (PVB) Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held its “Jingle & Mingle” holiday party Dec. 6 at a private home in Marsh Landing.

Event attendees enjoyed networking opportunities, cocktails provided by St. Augustine Distillery and hors d'oeuvres from Sawgrass Events. The party also featured entertainment from the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras (JSYO) and a raffle and silent auction.



Mel and Felicia Cox



Malcolm Anthony and Isabelle Renault



Dave Danzeisen, Barry McDonald and Suzan Lupton

Photos by Susan Griffin

December 2017



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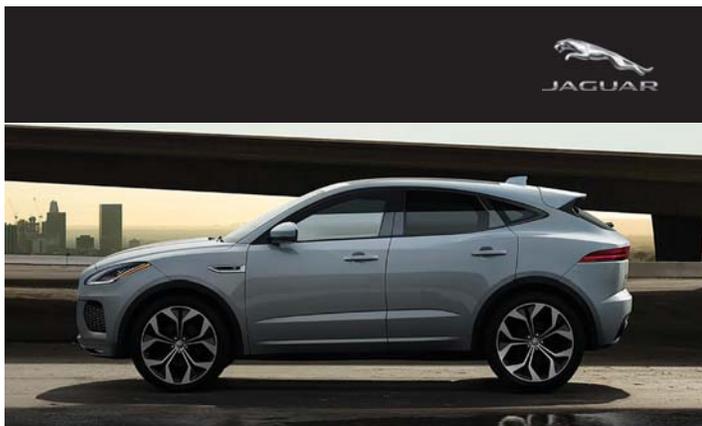
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