

Chamber Connections



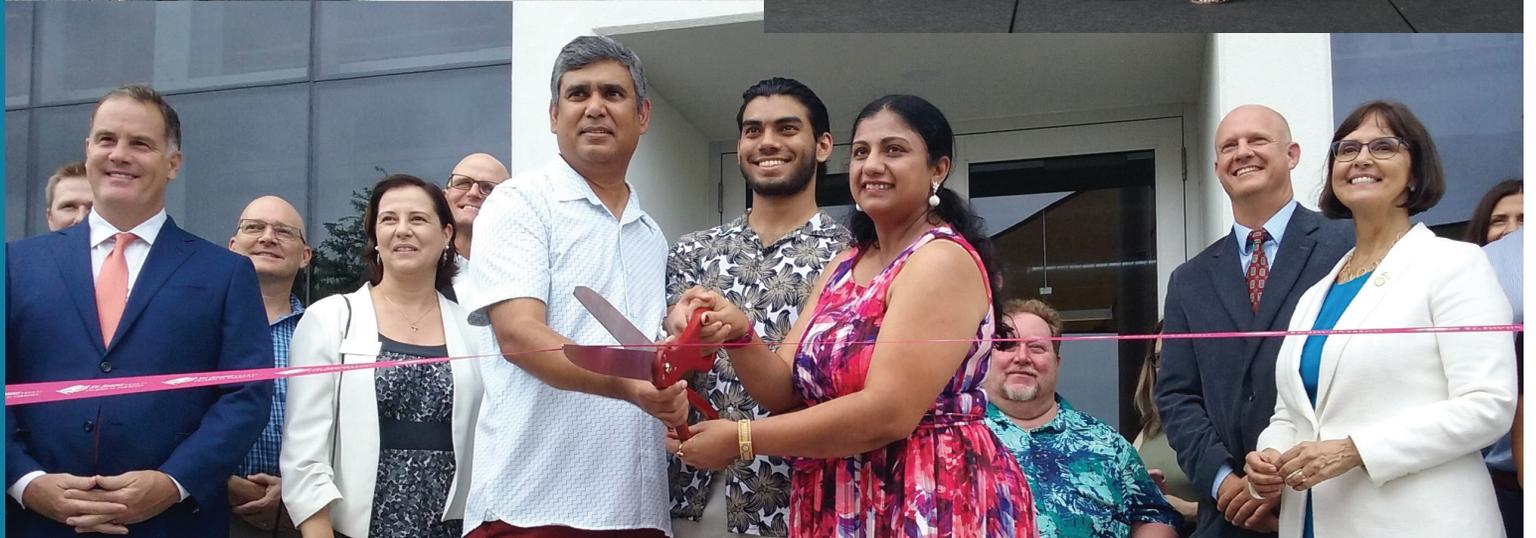
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Ponte Vedra Beach Division

2021 IN REVIEW

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December 2021



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO



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

Onward to a new year! We have been busy planning an exciting year of opportunities for Chamber members for 2022 and look forward to seeing you soon.

We didn't allow an unusual year to keep us from awarding our leaders. Many of you gathered with us on Nov. 18 in St. Augustine for fellowship as we honored some of our members. We also honor our top ambassadors — David Permenter, St. Augustine Ambassador of The Year, and Trudy Toche, Ponte Vedra Ambassador of The Year (also known as the Grace Hayes Award).

Other award winners were recognized at Celebrate 2021 on Nov. 18 at the New Renaissance St. Augustine Historic Downtown Hotel on West Castillo Drive. Randy Bradley, Kanti Patel, Nancy Dering Mock and Amy Upchurch were chosen to receive the 2021 Leadership Awards from the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

Randy Bradley, Northrop Grumman, received the Member of The Year Award for his outstanding commitment to the business community and his authentic leadership. For her six years of outstanding contributions to The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the staff, and the Leadership St. Johns program, Nancy Dering Mock received the President's Award. Amy Upchurch, founder, Pink Stork, was presented the Small Business of The Year Award for choosing her hometown to grow her mission-oriented, woman-led global company and for encouraging other businesses to invest at home. And Kanti Patel, Jalaram Hotels, received the Fred Schroeder Economic Development Council Member of The Year Award for his vision and commitment to investing in the history of St. Augustine one hotel at a time.

Congratulations to these leaders and thanks for your support of the Chamber. Your involvement helps us all!

Regards,
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

The Chamber year will begin with a bang. The Chamber staff met to plan the events for 2022. It will be a busy year filled with opportunities for our members.

The members of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division board chose to call on members and future members earlier this month. The best advocates for new members are current members. Let me know how I can support your efforts.

And speaking of powerful advocates—Trudy Toche was named the Ambassador of the Year at our Jingle and Mingle on Dec. 7. She attends ribbon cuttings, recruits new members and can tell the Chamber story! Congrats Trudy!

Hope to see you at our events in 2022. We have two in the Ponte Vedra area ready for registration. See you

Jan. 12 for a luncheon with the Jax Chamber to hear from Jared Rice, director, THE PLAYERS Championship, and at the Chamber After Hours on Jan. 19 at Halo Spa in Nocatee. THE PLAYERS recently confirmed that a pair of tickets to the TPC Finals will be raffled off at the Jan. 12 luncheon!

And do visit the Chamber's Ponte Vedra Beach office at 200 Solana Road, Ste. B. We are also a Visitor Information Center and welcome your questions and suggestions for visitors and new employees.

Thanks for your continued support!

Regards,
Karen Everett
Director, Ponte Vedra Beach Division
St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Trudy Toche earns Grace Hayes Award

One of the highlights at the annual Jingle and Mingle is the award for the Grace Hayes/Ponte Vedra Beach Division Ambassador of the Year Award. For the second year in a row, the award went to Trudy Toche.

Through her efforts, current and new members succeed in business. She is the "rising tide that lifts all boats," which is her motto.

She was also selected by her fellow Ambassadors to chair the Ambassador group in 2022.

The Ambassadors attend all Chamber ribbon cuttings, coordinate community service projects and serve as ambassadors for the Chamber in our community. They corralled the many contributions to Fostering Connections St. Johns at the Jingle and Mingle.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Trudy Toche, Ambassador of the Year for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division at the Jingle and Mingle party.

CHAMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

PVB Division Joint Chamber at Noon with JAX Chamber

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Speaker: Jared Rice, Director, The Players Championship

Location: Casa Marina Hotel, Jacksonville Beach

Sponsor: Fields Auto Group

PVB Division Chamber After Hours

Date: Wed, Jan. 19, 2022 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Location: Halo Spa, Nocatee, 320 Town Plaza Avenue, Ste. 116, Ponte Vedra

Sponsor: Halo Spa

Chamber After Hours at The Players with Jax Chamber

Date: Thursday, March 3

Location: The Players in Ponte Vedra Beach

Sponsors and food vendors needed.

More information and to register at The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce website: sjcchamber.com.

PLAYERS Update



Executive Director of THE PLAYERS Championship Jared Rice speaks to attendees at a St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Chamber at Noon luncheon on Jan. 27 at TPC Sawgrass. Rice announced the return of the tournament but said attendance would be held to 20% of maximum capacity. Attendees networked and enjoyed the luncheon.

Photos by Susan Griffin

Cultural Center cuts ribbon on new facility



The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach opened its new facility Jan. 4 in Jacksonville Beach, marking the first step in expanding its services to reach more artists, art students and art lovers throughout the area.

The new studio is located at 3972 Third St. South in the Trader Joe's shopping complex. Classes in visual arts and music, workshops, camps for children and the Market, where local artists sell their work, will be available at this location.

Photo by Susan Griffin

Driftwood Realty Group opens in Nocatee Town Center



Photo by Susan Griffin

After more than five years of running a successful residential real estate team based in St. Johns County, Kristin and Quinton Doakes – known as the Doakes Team – launched their own independent brokerage, Driftwood Realty Group, with a ribbon cutting at its location in Nocatee Town Center. The brokerage makes use of the latest technology, combining automated systems, a fully developed marketing library and an in-house marketing team.

Buc-ee's opens first Florida travel center near World Golf Village



Photo by Susan Griffin

Buc-ee's officially opened its first travel center in Florida Feb. 22 near World Golf Village. A ribbon-cutting ceremony conducted by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce was held at 11 a.m. The center at 200 World Commerce Parkway occupies 52,600 square feet and has 104 fueling stations. The gas station and convenience store are open 24 hours, and the latter features thousands of snack, meal and drink options. Signature favorites include Texas barbecue, homemade fudge, kolaches, Beaver nuggets, jerky and fresh pastries.



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Chamber holds inaugural Glow Golf Outing & Soirée



Photo by Susan Griffin

Gathering outdoors on the lovely Palencia Golf Clubhouse Patio, members of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce socialized and networked on March 4 while many golfers tried their luck with “Glow Golf.” The event was sponsored by Florida Power and Light (Illumination Presenting); T-Mobile (Radiance) and Glow Sponsors: OxiFresh, WaveFly, Yellowstone Landscape, ASAP Towing, St. Augustine Lighthouse, Koehn Outdoor, Jackson Law Group, CGC Kinetico and Southern Vibes Tasting Room and Wine Cellar.

Body 20 packs a punch with ribbon cutting

Amy Yorio, a physician and fitness instructor from Ponte Vedra, recently accomplished her goal of bringing more health and wellness options to the community by opening a new franchise of the Body 20 workout studio in Ponte Vedra Beach with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Body 20 is a boutique fitness studio with a unique take on a fast yet effective workout routine, which only takes 20 minutes and provides the effect of 3-5 hours at the gym.

Photo by Susan Griffin



Painting with a Twist event



Photo by Susan Griffin

Painting with a Twist hosted an “After Hours” event on Aug. 25. Pictured are Karen Patino, Libbi Poole, Lesley Vitel and Jade Smith.

Future of transportation discussed at EDC meeting



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

At its first indoor, in-person event in more than a year, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce welcomed area transportation experts to participate in a panel discussion as the Chamber’s Economic Development Council held its quarterly breakfast March 26 at Sawgrass Marriott.

Panelists included Florida Department of Transportation District 2 Secretary Greg Evans, Jacksonville Transportation Authority CEO Nat Ford and St. Johns County Transportation Development Manager Phong Ngyuen.

Business lending options explored during EDC meeting



Contributed photo

As business owners – or prospective business owners – look ahead to the post-COVID period, many are asking how they might best finance improvements or a start-up.

On April 14, the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Council hosted a panel discussion at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse on the many forms of lending available. One thing the panelists emphasized was how they can work with one another when it’s in the best interest of the client.

Fit20 comes to Nocatee



Photo by Susan Griffin

On April 29th, the St. John’s County Chamber of Commerce held an official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Fit20 workout studio in Nocatee, Northeast Florida’s third Fit20 location. The 1,100 square-foot workout studio in Nocatee is one of the 160 studios spanned over eight countries. Jacksonville’s other two Fit20 studios, in Jacksonville Beach and Tapestry Park, welcomed their third franchise with an opportunity to bring the fast and effective workout training to the Nocatee area.

Ownership change



Photo by Susan Griffin

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held May 12 for a change in ownership for Don's Barber Shop, 226 Solana Road in Ponte Vedra Beach. Raquel Turnbull, a third-generation master barber with 25 years of experience in the profession officially bought the shop March 10. Don Brown opened the barbershop in 1990 and was joined by wife Ann Brown and daughter Shirley Dutcher in the family business. Brown has retired after 59 years of barbering.

Olea at Nocatee hosts Chamber After Hours



Photo by Susan Griffin

Olea at Nocatee hosted an After Hours event with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division on March 24. The outdoor event gave Chamber members and guests the opportunity to network as well as enjoy refreshments and gifts. Olea at Nocatee is a luxury apartment community that offers resort-style amenities, spacious grounds and an active community.

Chamber at Noon event offers info on hurricane preparedness



Photo by Susan Griffin

The Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held a Chamber at Noon event Wednesday, June 16, to help members and businesses prepare for hurricane season.

Kelly Wilson, the deputy director of Emergency Management for St. Johns County, was the guest speaker at the event held at the Hilton Garden Inn Ponte Vedra. Wilson shared tools and tips to keep people and businesses safe during hurricane season, which runs through Nov. 30.

Celebrating 5 years



Photo by Susan Griffin

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center owner Dr. Erika Hamer speaks to guests at a Chamber After Hours event and the celebration of her clinic's fifth anniversary at its Nocatee location on May 19.

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Bluewater Health & Wellness holds ribbon cutting, Before Hours event



Photo by Susan Griffin

Bluewater Health & Wellness held a official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the business June 9, and hosted a Before Hours event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber.

The event gave Chamber members and guests the opportunity to network, enjoy refreshments and learn more about the new business.

Bluewater Health & Wellness is located at 340 Town Plaza Ave., in Ponte Vedra.

The link officially opens its doors



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Members of the public had a unique opportunity to see firsthand the next step in the evolution of working July 14-16 during the grand opening festivities at the link.

The \$7 million, 22,500-square-foot co-working space, multi-use innovation incubator and membership-based venue in Nocatee Town Center has been in the works since 2018. It is the creation of visionary entrepreneur Raghu Misra and the nonprofit Sapna Foundation, which helps displaced workers sync their talents with employment opportunities.

Blocker speaks at Chamber at Noon event



Photo by Susan Griffin

County Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker was the guest speaker at the St. Johns County Chamber – Ponte Vedra Beach Division Chamber at Noon luncheon on Aug. 18 at Ruth's Chris Steak House.

Members and guests enjoyed lunch and the opportunity to network at the event, which was sponsored by Fields Auto Group.

Hudson & Grace ceremony



Photo by Susan Griffin

Kellyann Costanzo cuts the ribbon with her husband Tommy Costanzo during a ceremony on June 25 to welcome Hudson & Grace Consignment Boutique as a member the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

Link is subject for Chamber at Noon



Photo by Susan Griffin

The link was the subject of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division's Chamber at Noon event on July 14.

The speaker was link founder Raghu Misra, and the meeting was held at the facility.

Misra spoke about the genesis of his idea for this new 22,500-square-foot facility in Nocatee Town Center and how his plan was realized.

Talking about the Jaguars



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held its Economic Development Council Quarterly Breakfast on Aug. 13, and Mark Lamping, president, Jacksonville Jaguars, far right, was the keynote speaker. Joining him are, from left, Andy Jackson, Jackson Law Firm and Chamber Economic Development Council chair; Isabelle Renault, president and CEO, St. Johns County Chamber; and Dr. Erika Hamer, owner, Ponte Vedra Wellness Center and Chamber Board of Directors chair.

New Geico in St. Augustine joins Chamber



Photo by Anthony Richards

For Christopher Brown opening a Geico location in St. Augustine was too much to pass up for the Georgia-native and his family. Brown's family was on hand when the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the business on Friday, Sept. 17. The business is located at 224 Florida 312, St. Augustine, 32086 and had not even been open for a week when the ribbon was cut.

Forson gives overview of schools during Chamber at Noon event

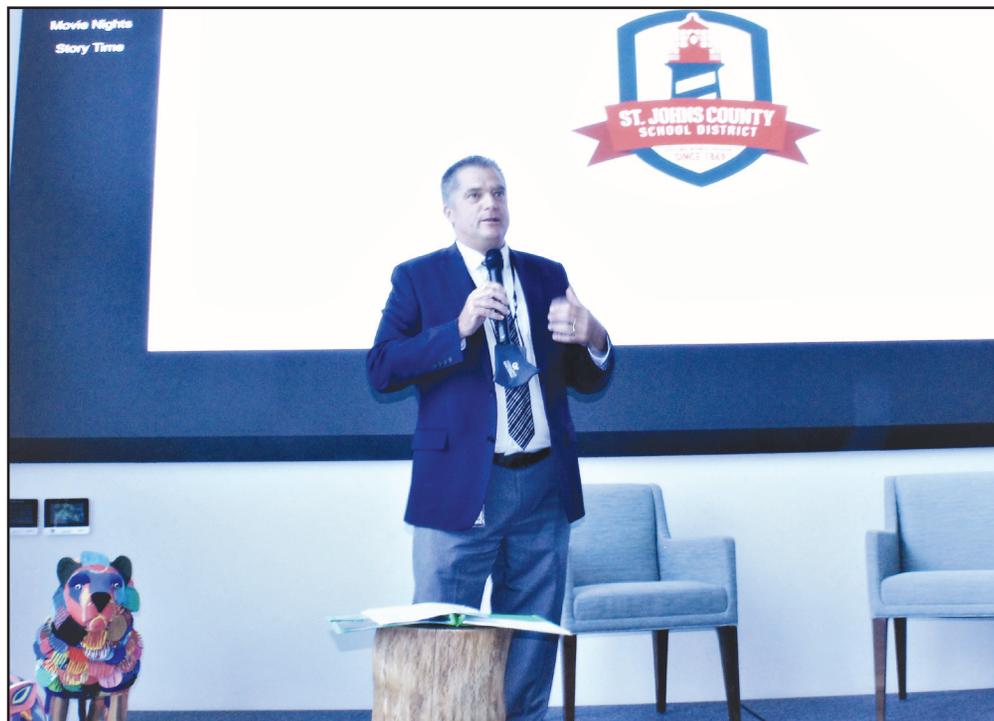


Photo by Shaun Ryan

In many ways, it is a new era for Florida schools – and nowhere is it more apparent than in St. Johns County, where district officials are working to address challenges in the aftermath of COVID-19, security following the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and elimination of the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA).

Tim Forson, superintendent of St. Johns County Schools, spoke about these and other issues Sept. 15 during the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division's Chamber at Noon event. The luncheon and presentation were held at the link, a new facility in Nocatee.

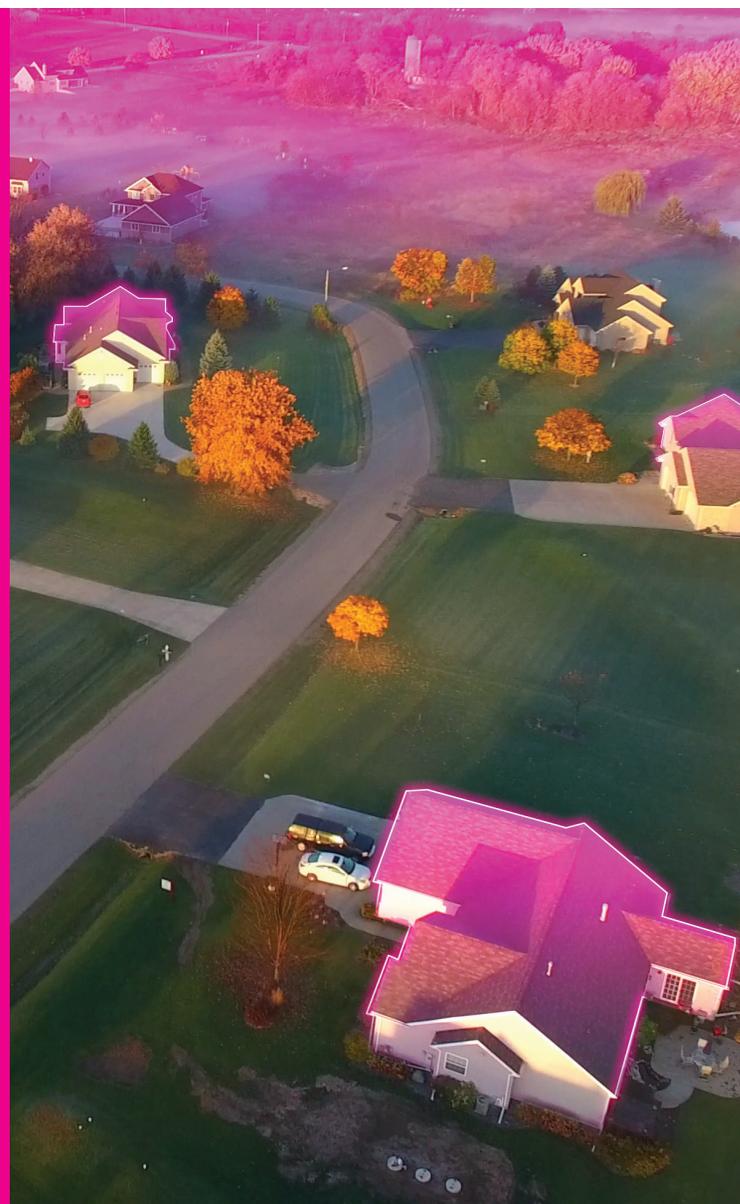
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Amason Aesthetics Med Spa holds Chamber ribbon cutting



Photo by Susan Griffin

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce ambassadors join staff, family, friends and clients to mark the ribbon cutting for Amason Aesthetics Med Spa on Sept. 15. Amason is located at 1515 County Road 210 West, Suite 104 near the County Road 210 and Interstate 95 interchange. An appointment with Amason can help you look your best.

Halo Spa holds ribbon cutting, joins Chamber



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Halo Spa in Ponte Vedra had its grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony Oct. 1 and has also become a new member of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. Halo Spa offers a full range of services and products, such as a salt room, red light therapy, vitality booth, Glo Skin Beauty mineral makeup, facials, waxing and even more to come. Halo Spa is located at 320 Town Plaza Avenue, Suite 110.

Le Dental Spa in Nocatee hosts Chamber Before Hours



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Le Dental Spa in Nocatee sponsored the Sept. 8 St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce "Before Hours" event. It allowed this group of Chamber members and Le Dental Spa staff to network and learn more about services provided by the Chamber member. It was the perfect location for coffee and networking at a busy business.

Chamber welcomes Code Ninjas with ribbon cutting



Photo by Susan Griffin

Code Ninjas had a ribbon cutting celebrating its membership with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Sept. 30. The business is located at 258 Solana Road in Ponte Vedra Beach. Code Ninjas is the nation's fastest growing kids' coding franchise. The center will offer children ages 5 to 15 years old the opportunity to learn to code in a fun, non-intimidating way by playing and building video games they love.

Amara Med Spa joins Chamber during Before Hours event



Photo by Susan Griffin

Amara Med Spa was welcomed to Ponte Vedra Beach by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce during a before hours social event held on July 21. The med spa is the results of a vision of Greg Smith. It is the first of three locations that will be in the Northeast Florida area, with the other two currently being constructed in Jacksonville in the Avondale area and at the St. Johns Town Center.

The Morris Center hosts Chamber After Hours

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Division hosted an After Hours event Sept. 22 at The Morris Center. The Morris Center is a transdisciplinary learning center that works with children and adults with learning disabilities, such as Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, Dyscalculia and other learning disabilities. They offer an intensive learning experience, a speech pathologist, occupational therapist, psychologist and tutors that interact with the clients on an individual basis.

Photo by Susan Griffin





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Chamber announces new website to promote Ponte Vedra Naturally

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce has announced the launch of a new website designed to showcase natural assets found in the Ponte Vedra and Palm Valley communities [www.pontevedranaturally.com].

Depicting activities under five different themes, the website can be found at pontevedranaturally.com. The themes are: hiking, biking, kayaking, birding and fishing.



B Social Boutique curates unique styling



Photo by Susan Griffin

Brittney Patty opened B Social Boutique with the goal of offering local women the opportunity to shop from a unique selection of clothing and gifts all under one roof located at 2220 County Road 210 West, Suite 101 in St. Johns. Taking on such a venture was nothing new to Patty, who had been in the boutique industry for 10 years, including living and owning a store in Ocala for eight years, as well as having one in Gainesville.

Chamber, Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge partner for Before Hours event



Photo by Susan Griffin

Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge is in the midst of constructing the next phase of its venture, but it played host to the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division for a Before Hours event Oct. 6. The phase is a retirement community project taking place in Sawgrass with all phases expected to be completed by the summer of 2022 with a total of 175 independent living units, 42 assisted living units with extended congregate care and 18 memory care units constructed once finished.

Chamber welcomes Anderson Agency



Photo courtesy of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony Oct. 6 for the Anderson Agency of Northeast Florida at its Ponte Vedra Beach location at 822 State Road A1A, Suite 310.

The Anderson Agency joined as a Chamber member and is an insurance company that has provided more than 20 years of services to the Beaches area.

It was voted the top insurance company by the residents as part of the Ponte Vedra Recorder's 2021 "Best of the Best" contest.

UrgentVet 'bridges the gap' with ribbon cutting

Photo by Susan Griffin

The recent UrgentVet location that opened on County Road 210 in St. Johns has already been leaving its mark on the pet owners in the area. The business opened its doors with a "soft opening" on October 21 and followed it up by joining the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce with a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house Dec. 8. UrgentVet offers "fear free" tools, which are designed to make the animals as comfortable as possible by limiting the stress of the environment.



Chamber of Commerce hosts annual golf tournament

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held its annual golf tournament at Slammer & Squire Golf Course in World Golf Village Monday, Sept. 27.

Golfers were treated to beautiful weather for playing golf and pristine course conditions.

The full field enjoyed competing, meeting members, interacting with sponsors and eating a barbecue lunch at the awards ceremony.

Attention has already gravitated to the planning of next year's event.

Watch for information about the 2022 golf tournament!

Photos submitted by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



Welcome to the 2021 St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament sponsored by SouthState Bank.



Much appreciation goes out to the many sponsors that offered their support of the event, such as the team at Ponte Vedra Wellness Center, which includes owner and 2020-21 Chairman of the Chamber Board Dr. Erika Hamer, left, Janine Parker and Isabelle Renault, president and CEO, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.



The putting green, sponsored by Blue Ocean Title, was enjoyed and began the golf tournament.



The golfers begin the day.



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Linda Johnson, Director of Community Outreach

Putting community first

Photos by Anthony Richards

Mann speaks at joint Chamber lunch about future Y initiatives

By Anthony Richards

Making the community better for everyone was a major talking point for YMCA of Florida's First Coast President and CEO Eric Mann, who was the guest speaker for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division Chamber at Noon event Oct. 13.

The event was a joint lunch between the PVB Division and the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce and was held at Casa Marina Restaurant in Jacksonville Beach.

According to Mann, the YMCA of Florida's First Coast has been around for 112 years and throughout that period the goal of improving their local community has remained.

"We generate all the resources here (First Coast area), and 99.9% of those resources stay here," Mann said. "That's just the Y and what we do."

St. Johns County is one of five counties the Y serves with Baker, Clay, Duval and Nassau being the others.

Mann stated that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic the Y was serving about 150,000 residents in the coverage area. That number has increased to about 120,000, as they continue to approach pre-pandemic numbers again.

However, there are about 100 children currently on a wait list to enter the after-school care programs the Y offers.

According to Mann, the wait list is in place due to not having the manpower available to support the amount of need that exists.

Despite encountering the current lack of workforce, that so many of the Chamber businesses have experienced themselves, the Y pushes on because they realize their community obligation does not stop.

"We're about empowering people and making the community better," Mann said. "We have a responsibility to work with everyone in accomplishing this."

The Y has 14 branches, including one each in Ponte Vedra and Nocatee, as well as 50-plus before-and-after-school sites and 25 summer day camps.

In recent years the Y has expanded its footprint in St. Johns County with the creation of the YMCA at Flagler Health+ Village in St. Augustine in 2019 and the YMCA at Nocatee in Ponte Vedra that opened in 2020 thanks to a partnership with Baptist Health.

Mann used the YMCA at Nocatee as an example of how the Y has approached developing partnerships when looking at new projects in recent years.

In the case of the YMCA at Nocatee, Brooks Rehabilitation Center and the Y are tenants to Baptist, who built and owns the building.

"That's how we're thinking smarter," Mann said. "It's an efficient use of both space and capital."

The next ventures in line include opening a YMCA at Durbin Park in St. Augustine in 2023 and future expansion plans for the Ponte Vedra facility that will add an additional 3,400 square feet.

Like many people and businesses in the world, the COVID-19 pandemic led to a re-evaluation of the way things were being done.

Part of that re-evaluation for the Y was the introduction of gaming and e-sports as part of its list of programs. The initiatives tend to focus on the STEM aspects involved in those areas.

"I love continuing to make the Y relevant to its communities," Mann said.



YMCA of Florida's First Coast President and CEO Eric Mann was the guest speaker at the PVB Division's joint lunch Oct. 13.



PVB Division Director Karen Everett with Lucia Miller and Bri Guzinski.



Joannah Owens, Cindy Reis and Shannon St. John.



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Jingle and Mingle

On Dec. 7, the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held its annual holiday party, Jingle and Mingle. Donations were taken from attendees to benefit Fostering Connections, a nonprofit organization founded in 2019 that provides support for children in foster care and foster parents through fundraising, volunteerism and advocacy. Pictured are: Karen Everett, Aimee Stafford, Ericha Gore and Isabelle Renault.

In the second photo, Aubrie Simpson-Gotham, founder and CEO of Fostering Connections St. Johns, stands next to a box of toys donated at the Jingle and Mingle party.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Chamber names new economic development director

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce has announced the hiring of Scott Maynard as the new economic development director.

Maynard brings more than 32 years of experience in higher education, economic development and workforce development. He is the former program director for employer relations at Florida State University's Career Center and currently serves on the board of directors for the Cooperative Education and Internship Association (CEIA), an international organization focused on work-integrated learning.

Prior to his role at Florida State University, Maynard was the CEO and president of the Greater Starkville Development Partnership in Starkville, Mississippi. The partnership is an umbrella organization that houses the Chamber of Commerce, Oktibbeha County Economic Development Authority, Starkville Visitors and Convention Council and the Starkville Main Street Association.

Maynard was named director emeritus of the Career Center and Cooperative Education Program at Mississippi State University, where he retired after 29 years. While at the university, he was involved in local government and economic development and served on the City Council of Starkville.

He holds a bachelor of business administration degree and a master of business administration degree from Mississippi State University in Starkville. He taught in the College of Business at Mississippi State University, and served as an instructor at the CEIA Academy in Vail, Colorado.

"I am thrilled that Scott has joined our Chamber team," Chamber President and CEO Isabelle Renault said. "His diverse experience and background will be a tremendous asset as we strengthen and advance our economic development efforts to benefit our members and the business community."

"I am very excited about this new role and look forward to working with all of the local and regional economic development partners to continue to enhance and grow our community," Maynard said. "Our goal is to provide opportunities for existing businesses and to attract new business and industry to complement what is already in place."



Scott Maynard

Painting with a Twist holds ribbon cutting



Photo by Susan Griffin

Painting with a Twist new owners Lesley Vitel (second from left) and Libbi Poole (front, third from left) celebrate with employees and representatives from the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division during a ribbon-cutting ceremony April 8. The ceremony celebrated the grand re-opening of the new Ponte Vedra Beach business, which offers unique art-related events including Girls' Night, Date Night, Trivia Night and Paint your Pet, as well as private events and specialized art categories and design.

Grand Oaks Funding expands



Photo by Susan Griffin

Grand Oaks Funding branch manager Carolina Garcia De Mattera cut the ribbon during a grand opening ceremony at the business's Ponte Vedra location Oct. 21. The company is new to Ponte Vedra and Florida and recently opened its location at 360 Town Plaza Ave., Unit 315-D. Grand Oaks specializes in residential and commercial mortgages.

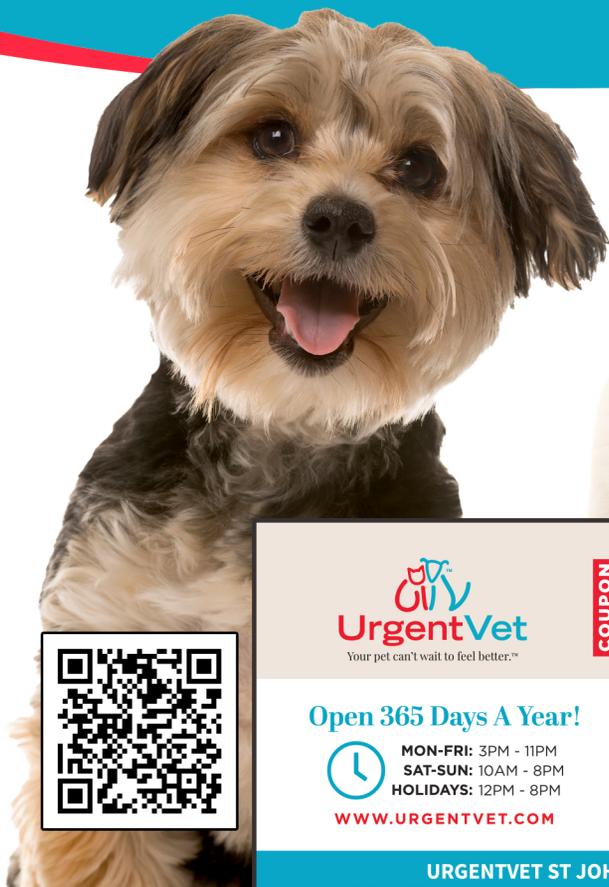
TotallyInfused holds launch party at Topgolf



Contributed photo

TotallyInfused Digital Marketing held a launch party November 9 at Topgolf in Jacksonville. The web design and digital marketing company recently relocated to Jacksonville. The company was established in 2012 in Alabama to help business owners grow their business through smart and efficient marketing strategies. Using their local domination roadmap, TotallyInfused explains which strategies to implement and when.

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