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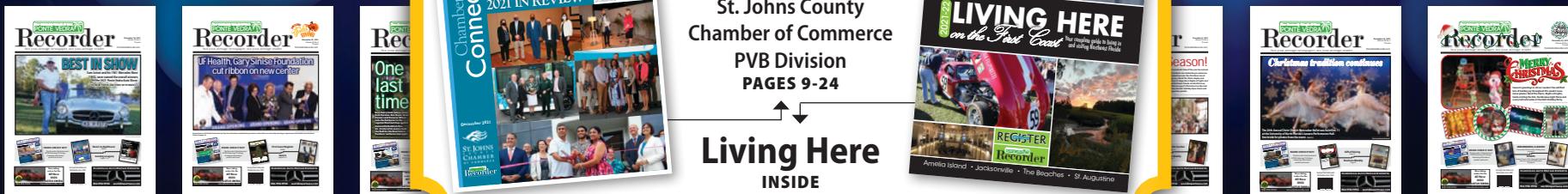
December 30, 2021

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PonteVedraRecorder.com

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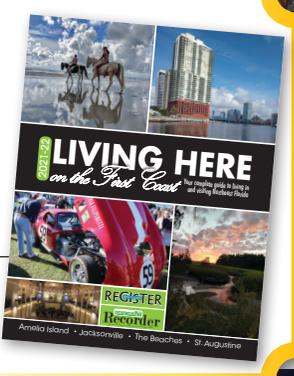


2021 YEAR IN Review



FEATURING
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St. Johns County
Chamber of Commerce
PVB Division
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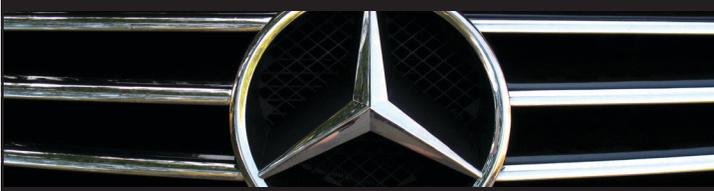
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Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. If you have hard copies of photos you want us to feature, feel free to bring them to our office — we'll scan them and hand them right back. E-mail submissions to news@pontevedrarecorder.com or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



Visit our new website at www.pontevedrarecorder.com

Plus, find the Recorder on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder

BRIEFS

Club adopts new name: Rotary Club of Palm Valley

The Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset Rotary Club is now The Rotary Club of Palm Valley.

After the members saw the confusion created by having three local Rotary Clubs with "Ponte Vedra" in their names, they looked back at the community's roots to rebrand the club.

In addition to a new name, the club now follows a new format, meeting in person on Wednesdays twice monthly (typically the first and third week of each month) at Marsh Landing Country Club. The two dinner meetings begin with social time at 6 p.m. and dinner service at 6:15. The official meeting is called to order at 6:30 and ends no later than 7:30.

During the second week of the month, club members enjoy various social events of a different nature and location each month.

During the fourth week, the club commits to a variety of monthly community service projects and philanthropic endeavors. Their efforts include work with the Peace of Heart Community, the Jeff Hart Service Above Self Scholarship, Replenish the Pantries Food Drives, Salvation Army's annual Kettle Drive and more.

For further information, go to PalmValleyRotaryClub.org, email admin@PalmValleyRotaryClub.org or call club President Zeke Paxton at 770-820-4138.

Symphony adds diversity, equity and inclusion position

The Jacksonville Symphony is adding a vice president of education and diversity, equity and inclu-

sion initiatives to its executive team. The position will be held by Marianne Rice, previously the director of music education and community engagement.

The addition comes after the symphony created the organization's first diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) task force.

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 Visitor info @ www.NightsofLights.com

The Nights Of Lights and the Park and Ride Shuttle are produced by the City of St. Augustine with support from the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council. The continued success of the Nights Of Lights is because of the enthusiastic participation of the St. Augustine community.

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

The Ponte Vedra Recorder's annual "Year in Review" takes a look back at the people, stories and events that made the biggest impact in 2021 around Ponte Vedra and the Beaches. This year marked at least a partial return to normal life following the challenges of the global pandemic that swept through last year.

Note: Some of the reproduced articles in this edition were edited for space. The articles can be found in their entirety at pontevedrarecorder.com.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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OBITUARIES

Aline Allen Hall



Aline Allen Hall

Aline Allen Hall, 96, passed away Friday, December 24, 2021 in Jacksonville, FL. She was born on March 13, 1925 in Savannah, GA to parents Nathaniel J. Allen & Sheba Sweat Allen. Her childhood was spent in both Savannah, GA and Jacksonville, FL.

In 1942 she met a handsome Navy Chief stationed at NAS Jacksonville and they married the same year. Norris N. Hall and Aline were married for 56 years. They traveled the world together and finally settled in St. Augustine, FL in 1964. After Norris passed in 1998, Aline began to travel again. She found joy going on cruises and traveling the world.

Aline loved life, her family, friends and a good party. She loved to entertain her family and friends at her home. Aline lived a fulfilled and happy life. Her motto was "Go travel while you can, there will come a time when you cannot."

She is survived by her son Sam Hall and his partner Mark Macco of Jacksonville Beach, FL and her son Brian Hall of Ocala, FL.

Since 2017, Aline has lived at The Palms in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL.

Aline will be buried alongside Norris at her family's cemetery in Blackshear, GA.

The family would like to thank the entire staff

at The Palms of Ponte Vedra for making her last few years enjoyable. Additionally, the McGraw Center Community Hospice, which made her final days comfortable with their compassionate care.

Please visit her Tribute online at www.quinnshalz.com.

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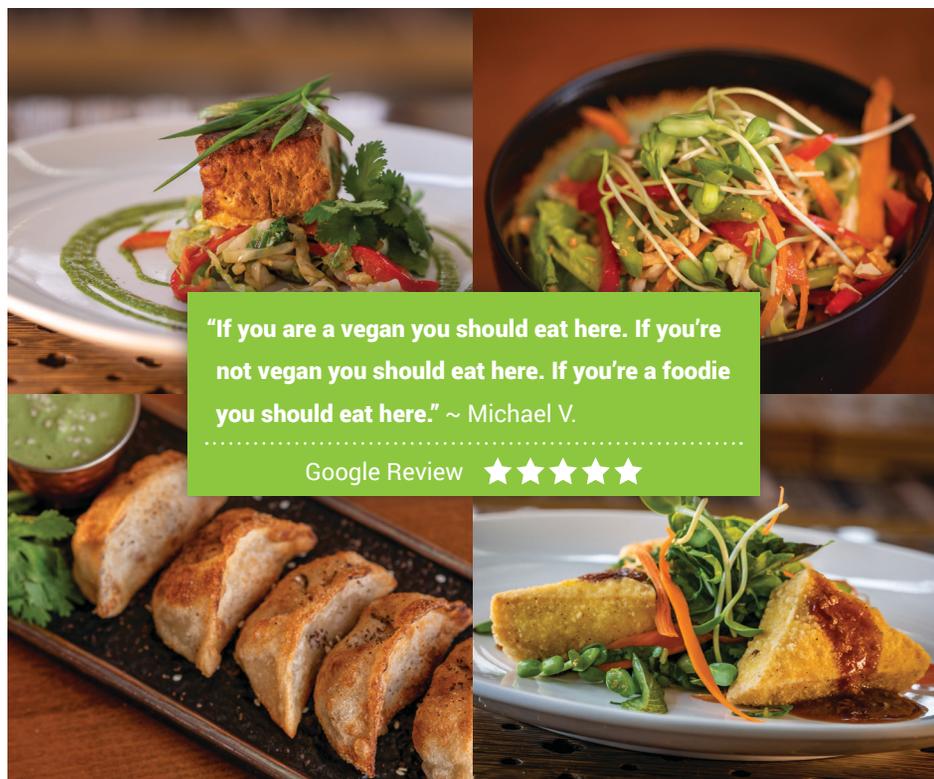
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ELIZABETH HUDGINS



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Hakka Kitchen, a new gourmet restaurant from The House of Leaf and Bean, offers Plant-based Chinese countryside cuisine made from fresh, organic ingredients paired with hand-picked teas and fine wines. Dining experience curated by Chef Marshall Ziehm.



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Hardwick sworn in as St. Johns County sheriff

Originally published on Jan. 7, 2021

Robert A. Hardwick was officially sworn in Tuesday as the new St. Johns County Sheriff. He follows David B. Shoar, who served four terms beginning with his initial election in 2004.

Hardwick had received 69% of the vote in the primary contest against opponent Chris Strickland. He won the general election with 96% of the vote against a write-in candidate.

“This morning, with my family by my side, I officially took the oath of office as your sheriff of St. Johns County,” Hardwick said Tuesday. “As we embark on the 200th anniversary of the St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office, I am honored to have the opportunity to lead this agency. The St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office is full of great men and women who put the safety and well-being of our citizens and visitors first.”

Hardwick’s law enforcement career expands 26 years. Most recently, he served as the St. Augustine Beach chief of police, a position he had held since 2013.

Prior to that, he served in the 7th Judicial Circuit State Attorney’s Office, the St. Augustine Police Department, the Flagler



Contributed photos

St. Johns County Sheriff Robert A. Hardwick

County Sheriff’s Office and the Florida Department of Corrections.

He is a combat veteran with 25 years of service in the U.S. Army and Florida Army National Guard. He and his wife, Kendell, have been married for 29 years and have two adult sons. They worship at St. John Paul II Catholic Church.

“I am excited to get to work as your sheriff and continue to serve our great county,” Hardwick said. “It is my number one priority to ensure St. Johns County remains the best place to live, work, play and raise a family.”



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Dantiel W. Moniz
Class of 2007

Dantiel is the recipient of a Pushcart Prize, a MacDowell Fellowship, the Alice Hoffman Prize for Fiction, and has been named a “Writer to Watch” by Publishers Weekly and Apple Books. Her debut collection, *Milk Blood Heat*, is an Indie Next Pick, an inaugural Roxane Gay Audacious Book Club pick, and has been hailed as “must-read” by *TIME*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Buzzfeed*, *Elle*, and *O, The Oprah Magazine*, among others. Her work has appeared in the *Paris Review*, *Harper’s Bazaar*, *Tin House*, *One Story*, *American Short Fiction*, *Ploughshares*, *The Yale Review*, *McSweeney’s Quarterly Concern* and elsewhere. Moniz is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Jacob Skiles
Class of 2016, Instrumental

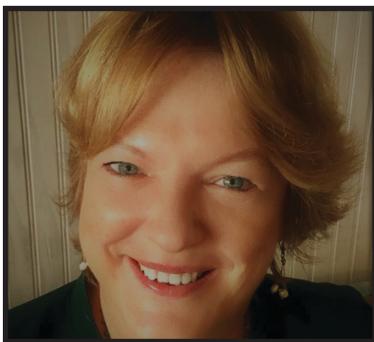
Since graduating from DA, Jacob has studied piano under 1997 Van Cliburn silver medalist, Yakov Kasman at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). In 2018, Jacob made his orchestral debut performing with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine and gave a recital in the historic house of Romanian composer George Enescu. During college, Jacob participated in and won numerous solo and Concerto competitions in Alabama. In addition to his piano studies, he conducted research on mathematical analyses of rhythm in Baroque dance forms while in the Science and Technology Honors Program at UAB. Since graduating in spring of 2020, Jacob will be continuing his studies at Florida State University, pursuing a Masters in Piano Performance with a graduate assistantship in teaching.

For more information visit DA-arts.org • 2445 San Diego Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32207

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KATHY FLEMING



RAY BOVA



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FEBRUARY



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MARCH



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APRIL



DR. STEPHANIE KINSEY



KAY NICHOLS



AUBRIE SIMPSON



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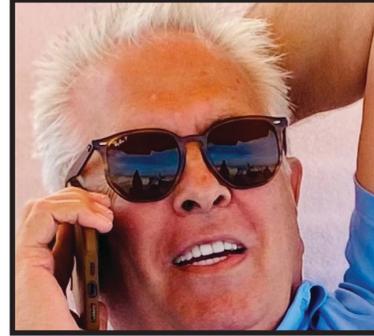
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LIZ KEPLER

JUNE



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MARK BERMAN



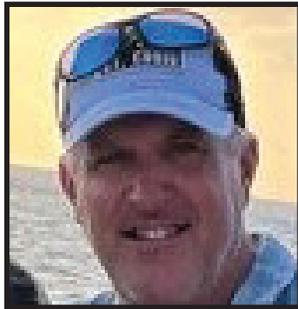
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DR. MARK MOON

AUGUST



CAPT. TRES EDENFIELD



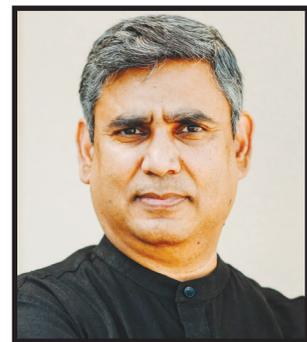
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DECEMBER

THE PLAYERS: A monumental success

Originally published on March 18, 2021

By Kathy Bissell

THE PLAYERS Championship 2021 had more fans than any golf tournament in the last 12 months. Assuming things continue to go well, the PGA Tour intends to continue to open up golf tournaments to more and more people. Attendance was capped at 20% of 2019.

Whatever the actual number was, the people created real enthusiasm, a force field of energy. And boy, did the golfers enjoy having them around.

"I'm so happy they're back," said newly minted PLAYERS champ Justin Thomas.

At the start of play, Lee Westwood led Bryson DeChambeau by two shots.

Behind them were Justin Thomas and Doug Ghim.

Thomas was tied with Doug Ghim, playing in his first PLAYERS and ranked 257th in the world.

The tournament outcome was defined by Justin Thomas' play from the 9th through the 12th where he went birdie-birdie-eagle-birdie. With that stretch, he took the lead for the first time after the eagle. Then lost the lead or was tied. Then he took it for the second time when he birdied the 16th.

Westwood was still only one back of Thomas at the end of the day. Had he made par at the 17th instead of bogey, there would have been a playoff.

DeChambeau, except for the 4th hole, didn't really squander a lot of shots. But he needed to make up three more shots to tie Thomas and four to beat him and couldn't get it done.

Thomas hit some magnificent shots on the par fives. At the 9th, he slung a 5-iron around the trees and got a great bounce for the ball to land on the green. Made birdie. At the 11th, he belted a 4-iron to within 20 feet and made the putt for eagle. At the 16th he curved a screaming, left hooking driver around the corner and then smashed a 5-wood to the green with his second shot. That's where he took the lead again.

He gave himself a scare with a 5-wood off the tee at the 18th. It started rolling left and looked for a while like it might roll into the lake, but it straightened out and Thomas made a par there for the victory. When Westwood bogeyed the 17th, it was apparent that Justin Thomas would be the 2021 PLAYERS champion.

NOTE: Read the entire story at pontevdrarecorder.com.



Photo by Craig O'Neal

Justin Thomas stormed through the final two rounds with a tournament record-tying two-day score to win THE PLAYERS Championship at TPC Sawgrass, as early frontrunners Lee Westwood and Bryson DeChambeau imploded down the stretch.

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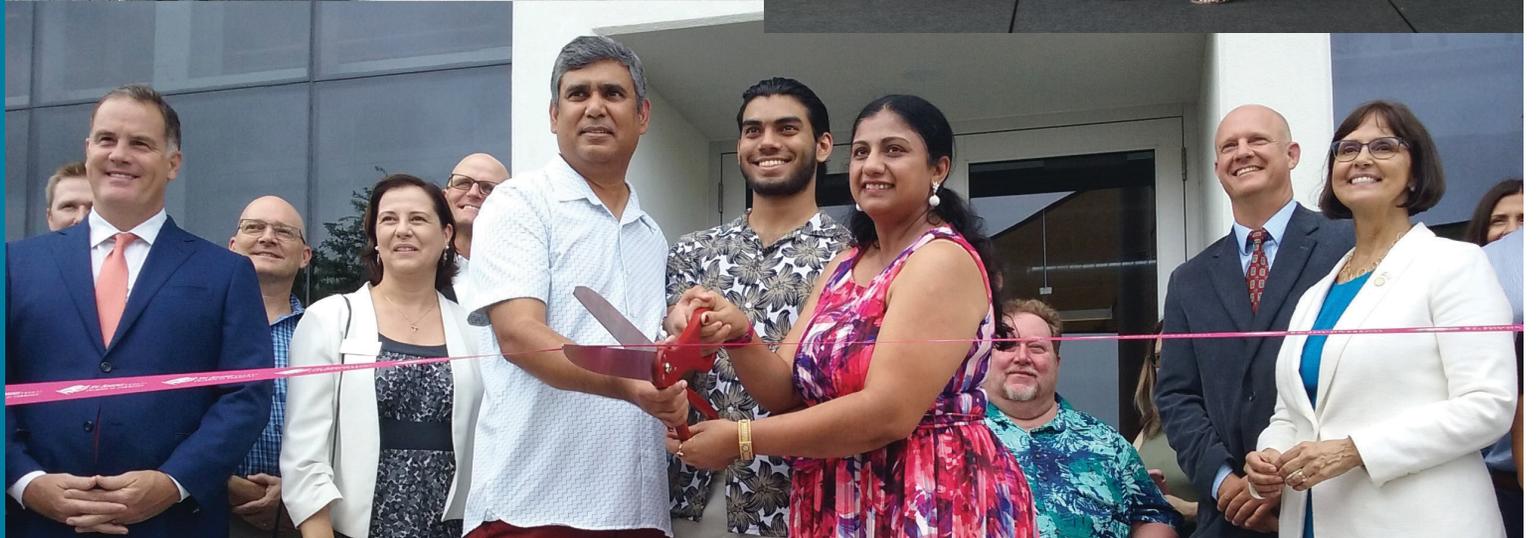
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO



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



Photo by Susan Griffin

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.

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.

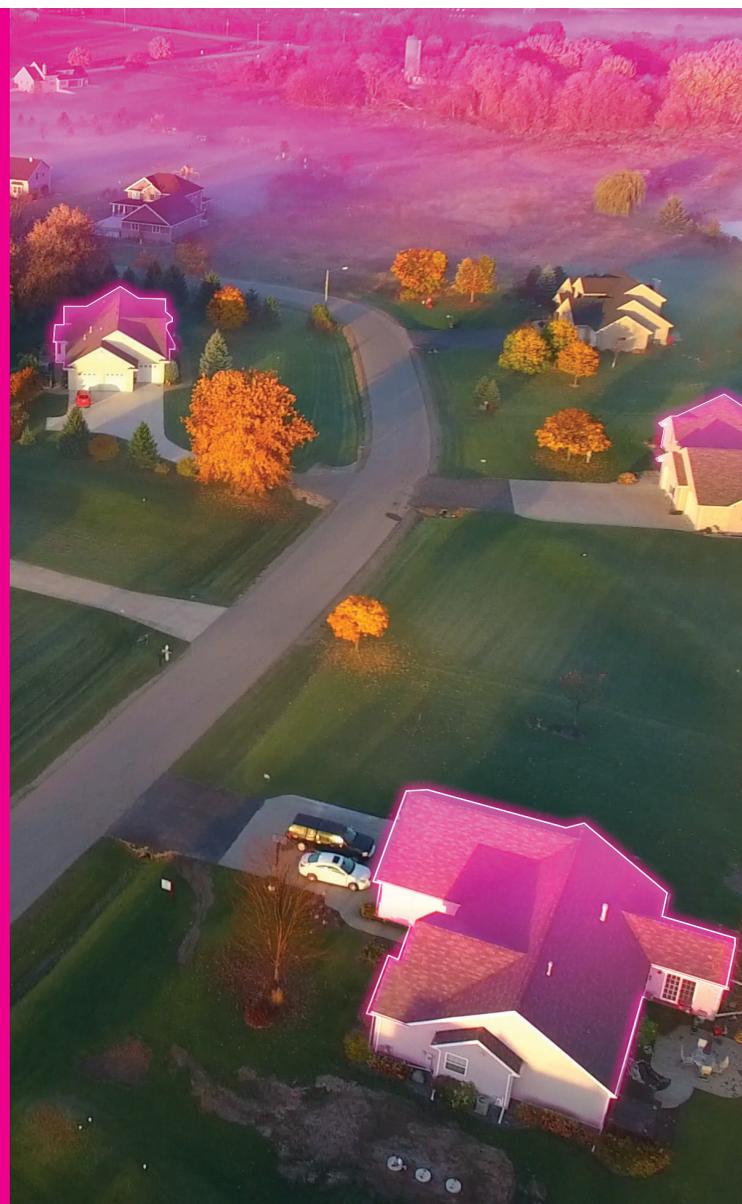
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Amason Aesthetics Med Spa holds Chamber ribbon cutting



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.

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.

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 result 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.

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.

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.

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.

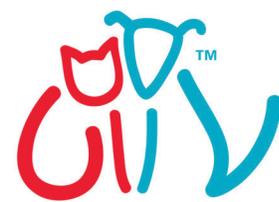
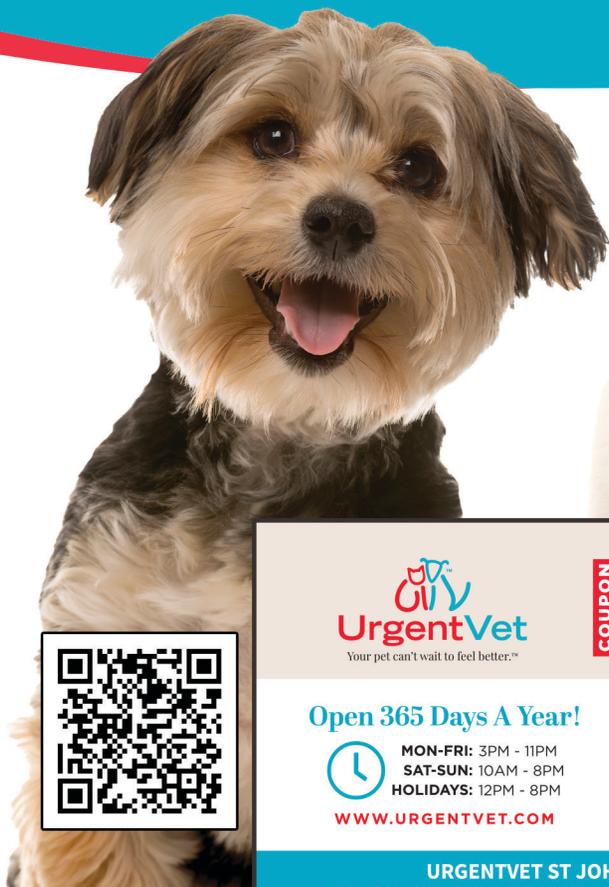
TotallyInfused holds launch party at Topgolf



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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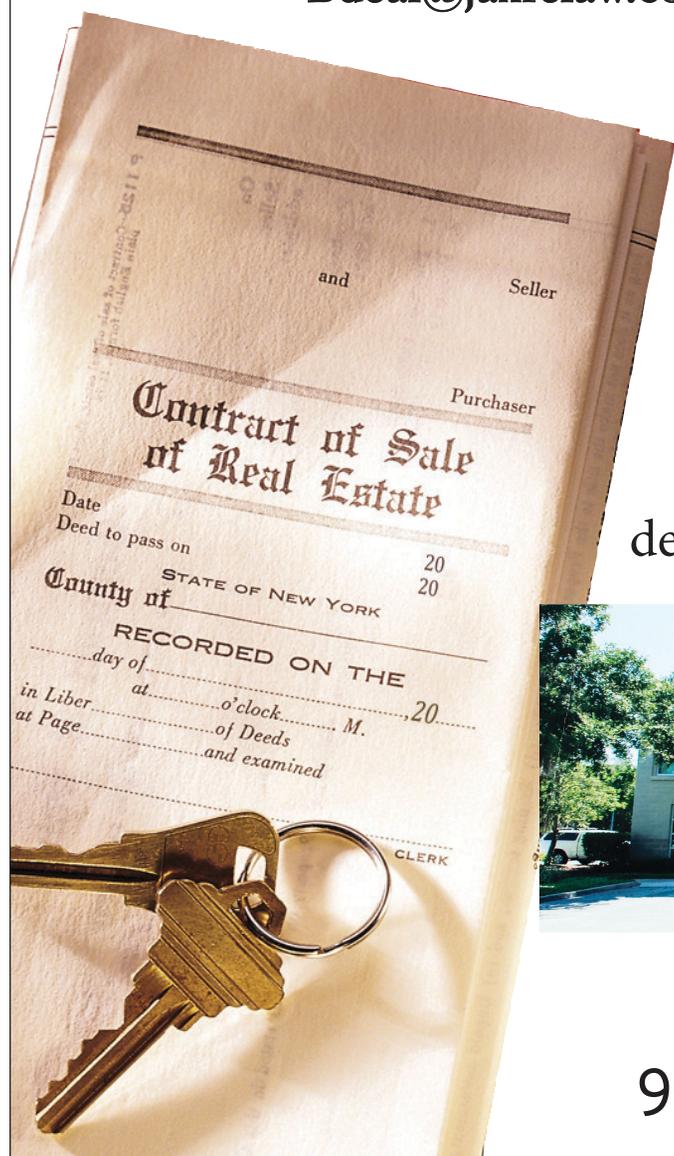
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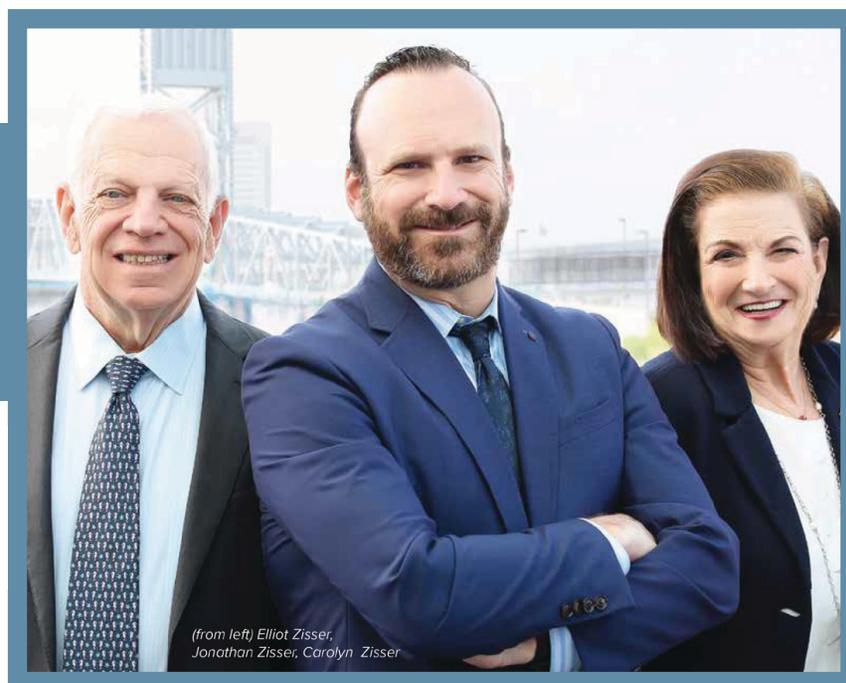
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(from left) Elliot Zisser,
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Sand Life Law

Judge John: Observations on laws that affect life at the Beaches

By John Miller

New Year's Eve. The Beaches traditionally draw revelers from near and far until the wee hours of New Year's Day. While we opine that most will wish to ring out 2021 and ring in 2022, we encourage, as the former Jax Beach police chief liked to say, for visitors to "bring their manners when they cross the ICW."

The fun of New Year's seems to bring with it a host of opportunities to break the law at the beaches and elsewhere; some infractions are serious, while others are misdemeanors/annoyances. Probably the worst most common infraction is driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Statistically, it is well known that there are a significantly greater percentage of arrests for DUI on New Year's Eve, inclusive of the early morning hours of New Year's Day, than on other days of the year. Sadly, drunken drivers are responsible for a significant number of New Year's Eve fatalities. A drunk driving conviction can change the life of the driver forever. Causing an injury to another while driving while impaired can change both lives forever. The astonishing fact about this most serious crime is that it is so easily preventable merely by planning in advance. Choose an alternative method of transportation, which methods are so readily available these days. Please plan ahead, and do not be a statistic.

At the beaches, the use of fireworks that shoot into the air is prohibited by law. For some reason, some people find particular delight in shooting off fireworks at the beach. While these can admittedly be beautiful, for those who reside close to the ocean, the all-night fireworks of the New Year's celebration are a significant nuisance. Judge John does not believe that he can deter people from the use of fireworks; however, we strongly encourage people to be as safe as possible to avoid injury. The emergency room is no place to visit on a crowded holiday weekend at the beach. We also encourage people to be courteous and to light off the fireworks only during reasonable hours.

Dedicated readers will already know Judge John's position regarding trash on our beautiful beaches. Unfortunately, like July 5th, January 1st is a day of shame on our spectacular natural wonder, our beaches. If given the opportunity, we would levy the maximum fine against those who litter. Unfortunately, our police officers have greater needs on their time than to ticket litterbugs. Please reader, do your best to pick up a little trash from our beaches each time you visit and encourage others to do so as well. For a real education on the tragedy of the effect of our garbage, especially plastics, on our environment, visit the amazing display at the Deck the Chairs festival which runs through New Year's Day.

On a brighter note, one beach's celebratory tradition has no negative consequence — the New Year's Day polar plunge! This event was canceled last year due to Covid but hopefully will take place this year on New Year's morning. There will be nothing like a plunge in the cold waters of our beautiful Atlantic Ocean to wash away the last remnants of 2021! We hope to see you there.

We wish you a very Happy New Year, including celebrating without breaking the laws we have discussed above so that you and others will have a healthy and prosperous 2022.

Do you have any questions of law or custom that are of particular interest to those living the Sand Life on our beautiful island? Please submit them to Judge John for consideration for a future article. john@rocksolidlaw.com

John Miller is the special magistrate for the City of Neptune Beach. His law firm, Rock Solid Law & Title, provides expert guidance in all areas of Estate Planning, Trust & Wills, Real Estate, Closings, Title & Escrow, and Small Business Representation. Rock Solid Law & Title has been serving the beaches community for over 30 years. 904-241-1113.



Judge John Miller seated at the bench.

Contributed photo

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THEME: FOOD & DRINK

- ACROSS**
1. *Lettuce variety
 5. Drivel
 8. *Café alternative
 11. *Cantina cooker
 12. *Waldorf salad ingredient
 13. Animal trail
 15. Radio knob
 16. Hurry up, acr.
 17. One who accepts the offer
 18. *Anise-flavored spirit
 20. "Happily ____ after"
 21. Operatic solos
 22. ____ Air in L.A.
 23. Hairy vertebrate
 26. Freed
 30. In the past
 31. Small type of drum
 34. *Wine in Italy
 35. Charleston, e.g.
 37. Chow down
 38. a.k.a. honey badger
 39. Wet nurse
 40. Hervé Villechaize on "Fantasy Island"
 42. Expression of doubt
 43. Founding Father
 45. City in Japan
 47. Shock and ____
 48. Jawaharlal's last name
 50. *Driest type of sherry
 52. *a.k.a. black treacle
 55. Softly-softly, loris' cousin
 56. A Flock of Seagulls' 1982 hit (2 words)
 57. *Cabbage amount
 59. Alexandre Dumas' "The Black ____"
 60. What seekers do
 61. Consequently
 62. Everything
 63. Temporary craze
 64. Swedish shag rugs

- DOWN**
1. Physique, informally
 2. Pelvic bones
 3. Spill the beans
 4. Certain fir
 5. *Fusilli or ziti
 6. Same as #39 Across, pl.
 7. Supreme pontiff
 8. Puff
 9. Field worker
 10. Be off base
 12. Capital of Philippines
 13. Be at the helm
 14. *Ballerina-inspired dessert
 19. All worked up
 22. *Granola serving
 23. Téa Leoni's "____ Secretary"
 24. Old World lizard
 25. Unicellular organism
 26. Stroke on a green

27. Lithograph, for short
28. Japan to U.S. in WWII
29. *Stuffed grapevine leaf
32. *Flageolet or azuki
33. *Popular breakfast cereal
36. *Type of #34 Across
38. Lion sounds
40. One little piggy?
41. Easily available (2 words)
44. One clean one?
46. *Betty Crocker fruit snack
48. Waterwheel
49. Serengeti grazer
50. Unplayable baseball
51. It will, contraction
52. Lrk
53. Like a ghost
54. Long novel
55. School support org.
58. Opposite of don'ts

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Emergency berm restoration project approved for local beaches

Originally published on June 24, 2021

By Shaun Ryan

On June 15, the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners approved a FEMA dune enhancement project that would restore sand berms along 8.9 miles of the beach and is part of a larger project encompassing 11.5 miles of dunes between the Duval County line and the southern part of Crescent Beach. The Ponte Vedra Beach segment is expected to be complete 76 working days after sand is first placed.

According to Ryan Purvis, vice president of engineering for the contractor, participants having a 100-foot lot will receive about \$40,000 to \$50,000 of "FEMA-funded sand."

The project has been a source of concern among several residents of Ponte Vedra Boulevard because it will involve trucking large amounts of sand along the narrow road. Because there are no sidewalks along the affected length of the boulevard and a high presence of cyclists and pedestrians, residents have expressed concerns for safety.

Initially, the plan called for 300-500 truckloads of sand to travel the boulevard daily. The trucks would haul the sand from their staging area in Cornerstone Park south along State Road A1A to Mickler Road and then north to a lot at 965 Ponte Vedra Boulevard, where they would cross

over to the beach.

At a public meeting June 14, residents asked project officials why they hadn't considered accessing the beach from Mickler's Landing instead of hauling the sand up the boulevard.

Purvis indicated that the project could not be completed on schedule if only Mickler's Landing was used. Still, officials left the option open as a supplemental access point.

The final decision was made June 15 by the County Commission. The board agreed to allow use of Mickler's, but only on weekdays.

Even in the midst of debate over when, where and how the project should be implemented, most everyone agreed something needed to be done.

Hurricane Matthew caused severe damage to the beach. In St. Johns County, there was an estimated \$100 million in structural damage to about 265 homes, and the storm eroded an average of 30 feet of beach. Hurricane Irma made the situation worse the following year.

Erosion from the storms endangered coastal properties and also threatened S.R. A1A.

The cost of the project is an estimated \$34 million, with \$23 million of that for the Ponte Vedra portion alone.

NOTE: Read the entire story at pontevedrarecorder.com.

Photo by Shaun Ryan

Robert Quinney, St. Johns County deputy director of disaster recovery, speaks to residents at a town hall meeting June 22 at the Ponte Vedra Branch Library. The meeting addressed the upcoming emergency berm project.



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Ceremonies commemorate Florida becoming U.S. territory

Originally published on July 15, 2021

By Anthony Richards

Two hundred years ago St. Augustine was the site of Spain's transfer of power of Florida to the United States with the signing of the Adams-Onís Treaty.

That was the case once again on July 10, but this time it was a reenactment intended to commemorate the anniversary.

The significance of the events that took place years ago was deeply expressed to the crowd of spectators that stood rows deep at the Plaza De La Constitucion to watch the ceremonies take place.

"We're here to remember a moment that dramatically shifted our history," St. Augustine Mayor Tracy Upchurch said.

Dignitaries from Florida and Spain were on hand to take in the event, including Spanish Ambassador to the United States, Santiago Cabanas, who felt it was necessary for Spain to have representation at the historical commorancy.

"It's a very emotional day for us, because we are celebrating not only the 300 years of Spanish presence in Florida, but we're also celebrating the friendship, partnership and the alliance between our two countries," Cabanas said. "At that moment when we signed the Adams-Onís Treaty, we were convinced, as we still are, that the United States and Spain are going to be friends forever."

The commemoration was broken up into two parts, the first was the initial proclamation and signing of the treaty, which took place at the Governor's House Cultural Center and Museum in historic St. Augustine.



Photo by Anthony Richards

Members of the Florida National Guard lower the Spanish flag and raise the American flag to culminate the 200th anniversary of Florida becoming a U.S. territory in St. Augustine on July 10.

Jeff Jore of Nocatee portrayed United States Col. Robert Butler during the reenactment, which was a role he embraced after having spent 36 years in the army and teaching history at the Air Force Academy and currently being an adjunct professor of history at Flagler College.

"I really enjoy the reenactments because it's all about bringing history to life," Jore said. "That's what we're trying to do out here."

Once the treaty was signed, the procession made the half of a mile march to the Florida National Guard's training field on the banks of the Matanzas River to lower the Spanish flag and raise the American flag.

"We were touched by the dignified way in which it has been organized by the state of Florida and by the City of St. Augustine," Cabanas said. "We have a shared legacy and are very proud. We have many reasons to celebrate not only the Spanish, but the Hispanic presence in the United States."

Porvasnik wins memorable match play event

Originally published on Nov. 11, 2021

By Anthony Richards

The PXG Women's Match Play Championship turned into the Jessica Porvasnik show, as she won both the stroke play and match play tournaments over the two-week showcase.

"I'm just trying to keep building on the momentum," Porvasnik said.

She had to fight through adversity to win the match play final Nov. 4 but wound up eventually defeating Julianne Alvarez after two playoff holes.

It was a torrid start for Alvarez at the Slammer and Squire Golf Course at the World Golf Village, as she started the championship match on fire and hitting one pinpoint shot after another.

"I just started pretty hot," Alvarez said. I felt really comfortable out there. I'm known for my ball striking."

That comfortability was on display when she drained a 60-foot putt on the second hole.

"You can be a lot more aggressive in match play," Alvarez said. "It really allows you to be creative with your shots."

Meanwhile, Porvasnik struggled with errant tee shots in the early part of the round en route to Alvarez was up four shots through five holes of play.

However, Porvasnik continued to chip away and just focus on hitting one shot at a time.

That philosophy worked as she was able to mount a furious comeback and close the gap and the two were tied for much of the back nine.

"I knew if I continued giving myself some opportunities, putts would fall," Porvasnik said.

Alvarez sank a huge putt on the 17th hole and followed it up with a double fist



Photo by Anthony Richards

Julianne Alvarez and Jessica Porvasnik competed in the final of the Inaugural PXG Women's Match Play Championship Nov. 4.

pump as it put her up by one stroke with only one hole left to play.

But her putt would not fall on the 18th hole and instead rimmed out and the competition went to a playoff.

As the sun went down and the temperature dropped, Porvasnik clinched the victory with a nice approach shot on the 13th green and took advantage of it with a beautifully paced putt that cozied up right next to the hole for an easy tap-in.

According to tournament promoter Mark Berman, the 20 holes they played meant that the two had played 188 holes of golf in a two-week span between the match play and stroke events.

"I've never played in a tournament like this before," Alvarez said. "I'm not going to lie, I'm pretty tired right now."



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A look back at 2021

2021 was a busy year as more businesses began to reopen and events were held once again following a tough year of restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here's a look at some of the notable news from the past 12 months:

JANUARY

- St. Johns County received its second allotment of COVID-19 vaccines.
- The Cultural Center of Ponte Vedra Beach opened its new Jacksonville Beach facility.
- Ponte Vedra High School named Steve Price its new football coach.

FEBRUARY

- K9s For Warriors founder Shari Duval passed away. She was remembered for helping hundreds of veterans and rescuing more than 1,000 dogs.
- Ponte Vedra High School student Marina Mitchell became the first female in St. Johns County to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.
- Tennis great Tony Trabert passed away. He was a 10-time major champion and 1970 International Tennis Hall of Fame inductee.
- The Ponte Vedra High School

boys basketball team won the district championship.

MARCH

- The Ponte Vedra girls soccer team won the state championship.

APRIL

- A proposed parking change on Ponte Vedra Boulevard advanced.
- Vicar's Landing began construction on a new facility.
- A new management company took over the Hilton Garden Inn in Sawgrass Village.

MAY

- The Ponte Vedra High School baseball team advanced to the regional final.
- The Ponte Vedra boys tennis team advanced to the state championship.
- Beaches, A Celebration of the Arts saluted artists and supporters.

JUNE

- Nease NJROTC was named the second most outstanding unit in the nation.
- Flagler Health+ broke ground on its

Durbin Park campus.

- American Roll-on Roll-off Carrier Group moved its headquarters to Ponte Vedra.

JULY

- Plans for a new YMCA branch in Durbin Park were announced.
- The PLAYERS Community Senior Center in Ponte Vedra reopened after being closed during the pandemic.
- The link in Nocatee Town Center officially opened its doors.
- Cyclist Greg Taylor returned to Jacksonville after his 11,500-mile, cross-country ride to raise funds for Chemo Noir.
- St. Johns County put together a time capsule in commemoration of its 200th anniversary.
- The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach became the First Coast Cultural Center.

AUGUST

- The Ponte Vedra Raiders flag football team won the Under Armour Under the Lights Flag Football National Championship.
- Dozens gathered at Vilano Beach for the Florida Skimboarding Pro/Am.

SEPTEMBER

- The Nease High School football team beat rival Ponte Vedra, breaking an 11-year losing streak.
- Starling resident Jerry Norton published a book featuring his art. He is known for painting the portrait of each U.S. president.
- Gov. Ron DeSantis visited American Legion Post 233 to thank first responders and members of the military on the eve of Sept. 11.
- Winn-Dixie added a taproom and enhancements to its Ponte Vedra store.
- Hugo's Interiors celebrated its centennial.

OCTOBER

- Ocean Palms Elementary School students raised \$100,000 for the school at their Otter Run.
- K9s For Warriors received a Back the Blue Award from state Attorney General Ashley Moody.
- The Nease High School boys swim team won the district title.

NOVEMBER

- The final Never Quit Run was held at Jacksonville Beach.
- The first PAM Jam in Ponte Vedra Beach was held at the library.
- The Ponte Vedra High School girls volleyball team won the regional title.
- Sam Joiner and his 1961 Mercedes-Benz 190SL were the overall winners at the 2021 Ponte Vedra Auto Show.
- Elite Airways began commercial flights from the Northeast Florida Regional Airport in St. Augustine.
- The Ponte Vedra High School girls swim team won its first state title in school history.
- The Ponte Vedra High School girls cross-country team won its first state title.

DECEMBER

- Sterling Joyce, the "unofficial mayor of Jacksonville Beach," passed away. The community turned out to celebrate his life and legacy at a special ceremony.
- The Ponte Vedra Municipal Service District board approved traffic calming and sidewalk studies.
- St. Johns County and St. Johns County School District approved new districts.
- Nease High School girls basketball player Sydney Gomes surpassed 2,000 points.

NOTE: Read these and other articles from 2021 at pontevedrarecorder.com.

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