



Chamber
Connections

A Night at THE PLAYERS 2023

Photos by Susan Griffin and provided by St. Johns Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division



March 2023



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO



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

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and Ponte Vedra Beach Recorder are celebrating 10 years of Connections this month. From established sports icons like the PGA TOUR and THE PLAYERS to

fantastic local entrepreneurs like Ocean Sole, our Ponte Vedra members are great examples of the thriving and evolving St. Johns County business community. The Chamber has also grown along with you, and I'm excited for what's to come over the next 10 years.

Your Chamber continues to offer fantastic Chamber Before & After Hours and At Noon events, but you will see our public policy and economic development efforts more and more in headlines as we work to be a consensus builder on crucial

business and community needs.

The Public Policy Committee is researching policy solutions to ensure housing for our county's essential workers, such as teachers, health care and emergency personnel. Our Economic Development Council will be working to ensure the county's long-range plan includes space for industrial/business development. And the Chamber will be launching a 501(c)(3) this year to support communitywide programming in which the business community can make an impact.

The St. Johns County Chamber team and volunteers serve St. Augustine and its beaches, Ponte Vedra Beach, Nocatee and the ever-growing community of St. Johns. It's a big county, and our commitment is to meet you where you work. The St. Johns County Chamber is one of the best in the region because of you. We will be in your neighborhood soon, making meaningful connections for years to come.

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

CHAMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

April

- **Chamber Before Hours St. Johns:** April 5 at Slate Real Estate
- **Chamber Before Hours Ponte Vedra Beach:** April 12 at AAA
- **Networking 101 – Perfecting Your Pitch:** April 13 at Ascension St. Vincent's
- **Chamber at Noon Ponte Vedra Beach:** April 13 at Casa Marina
- **Historic St. Augustine Area Council Meeting:** April 14 at The Mission
- **Tourism and Hospitality Council Meeting:** April 20
- **Chamber After Hours Ponte Vedra Beach:** April 26 at Disc Centers of America PV
- **Chamber Business Mixer – Newcomer Event:** April 27 at Ascend Durbin Creek Crossing

May

- **Chamber Golf Classic – Golf Tournament:** May 8 at Hammock Beach Resort
- **Chamber Before Hours Ponte Vedra Beach:** May 10 at Cabana Beach Club
- **Historic St. Augustine Area Council Meeting:** May 12
- **Chamber at Noon Ponte Vedra Beach:** May 17 at Ponte Vedra Library
- **Legislative Breakfast:** May 19 at Embassy Suites St. Augustine
- **BIZZed:** May 23
- **Chamber After Hours Ponte Vedra Beach:** May 24 at Modern Aesthetics

- **Chamber Pop-Up Shop:** May 26 at Peterbrooke Durbin Pavillion

June

- **Women with Vision Council Meeting:** June 1
- **Chamber Before Hours Ponte Vedra Beach:** June 7
- **Networking 101:** June 8
- **Chamber at Noon Ponte Vedra Beach:** June 14
- **Tourism & Hospitality Council Meeting:** June 15
- **EDC Breakfast:** June 16
- **Chamber After Hours Ponte Vedra Beach:** June 21
- **Chamber Pop-Up Shop:** June 23

July

- **Women with Vision Council Meeting:** June 1
- **Chamber Before Hours Ponte Vedra Beach:** June 7
- **Networking 101:** June 8
- **Chamber at Noon Ponte Vedra Beach:** June 14
- **Tourism & Hospitality Council Meeting:** June 15
- **EDC Breakfast:** June 16
- **Chamber After Hours Ponte Vedra Beach:** June 21
- **Chamber Pop-Up Shop:** June 23

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

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Ponte Vedra Beach Division Director Karen Everett Retires

Karen Everett, director of the St. Johns County Chamber Ponte Vedra Beach Division, has retired.

Everett has been a member of the Chamber for more than six years, starting as the economic development manager. In 2019, she was promoted to the position of director of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division. She was instrumental in the transition of the auto show, the execution of the destination architect plan, running the visitor center and the many division activities.

“Karen utilized her experience in corporate public relations to help give Chamber members the best service possible, and it will be hard to fill her shoes,” said Cham-

ber President and CEO Isabelle Renault.

“While I will miss seeing everyone at the Chamber events after retirement, I will still be in the area and will remain active in the community,” Everett said.

The Chamber staff gave Everett a fond farewell on Feb. 24, with a gathering at the TPC Clubhouse. They toasted her with good wishes, a gift basket filled with all her favorite things, and a birthday cake as her retirement coincided with her birthday.

Everett plans to spend her retirement traveling the world and spending time with her grandchildren, but she promises that she will come by an event or two in the future to say hello.



Photo by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Karen Everett, front row, left, pictured with Chamber staff, recently retired as director of the St. Johns County Chamber Ponte Vedra Beach Division.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Karen Everett and Mark Ryan, director of sales and marketing for America's Choice, show off a cake marking Everett's retirement.



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PLAYERS executive director addresses luncheon

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



Photo by Anthony Richards

America's Choice Title Company hosts Chamber After Hours, ribbon cutting

On Feb. 22, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division held its monthly After Hours event at America's Choice Title Company.

It also served as a ribbon-cutting event because America's Choice rejoined the Chamber after several years of absence.

The event was held at America's Choice headquarters at 171 A1A North in Ponte Vedra.

A large turnout attended the event at the company's newly remodeled building. Kathleen Floryan, chair of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division board of

directors welcomed everyone prior to the ribbon cutting.

Once the open house activities were underway, Christine Micieli, the president of America's Choice, addressed the crowd and thanked them for attending.

She mentioned that America's Choice Title Company is in its 22nd year of business serving the community in an unprecedented, efficient manner. Over the years, they have closed thousands of real estate transactions and have helped families achieve their dream of a great home to raise their families.

Photo by Susan Griffin



Peace, Love and Little Donuts opens in historic downtown



Photo by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Peace, Love and Little Donuts held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Feb. 14 at its location, 12 Cathedral Place, St. Augustine.

Sawgrass Marriott hosts Chamber After Hours



Doug Gleason, Martha Gleason and Ericha Gore

The following photos are from the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division Chamber After Hours event hosted by Sawgrass Marriott March 22.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Sawgrass Marriott staff members stand alongside Ponte Vedra Beach Division Chair Kathleen Floryan during the Chamber After Hours event.

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Establishing an export plan the focus of EDC March breakfast

The following photos are from the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development quarterly breakfast March 24. The focus of the breakfast was ways to establish one's export plan and featured director and trade specialist Jorge Acre and Vested Metals International president Viv Helwig as guest speakers.

Photos by Susan Griffin



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



Isabelle Renault, Jorge Acre, Viv Helwig, Orv Dothage and Scott Maynard



Latisha Akerele and Paige Stanton

Tropical Smoothie opens new location



Photo by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Tropical Smoothie held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 3 at their new location, 2375 State Road 16, St. Augustine.

Wells Fargo opens branch in Nocatee



Photo by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

On Feb. 22, Wells Fargo cut the ribbon on its new branch, located in Nocatee at 152 Capital Green Drive, Suite 28. It was an afternoon of networking, food and celebration. Heather McDougal is branch manager.

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Pepper's opens its doors



Photo by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Pepper's Cocina Mexicana — St. Johns held its grand opening and ribbon-cutting on March 10 at its location, 55 Harpers Lane off Racetrack Road.

Tersak's opens Silverleaf location



Photo by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Tersak's Family Martial Arts Academy held a ribbon-cutting on Feb. 8 at its Silverleaf location, 70 Silver Forest Drive, St. Augustine.

Disc Centers of America cuts ribbon



Photo by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Disc Centers of America held a ribbon-cutting Feb. 3 at 1400 Marsh Landing Parkway, Suite 107, Jacksonville Beach. It was an afternoon of networking, food and celebration.

Riddle Wellness holds ribbon-cutting for Ponte Vedra Beach location



Photo by Susan Griffin

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

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Answer Aide ribbon-cutting



Photo by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division joined David and Amy Kimble on Jan. 17 for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate the grand opening of their new office in Nocatee. Answer Aide provides an answering service for businesses.

John Beard Gallery provides artistic Chamber 'After Hours'

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division and the John Beard Art Gallery partnered to host an "After Hours" event. Many Chamber members attended the event and enjoyed a night of networking, food and drinks.



Photo by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division
A great crowd was on hand at the John Beard Art Gallery, which hosted a St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division "After Hours" event on Jan. 18.

Cadence at Nocatee welcomed



Photo by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

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

Cravings and More Bakery opens for business



Photo by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Cravings and More Bakery held its grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 21 at its location at 4010 U.S. 1, No. 103, St. Augustine.

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Coastal Compass hosts Chamber Before Hours

Coastal Compass Executive Office Suites hosted a Before Hours event for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division and its members Feb. 8.



Photo by Susan Griffin

There was a great turnout at the Chamber Before Hours at Coastal Compass's location at 4210 Valley Ridge Blvd. in Ponte Vedra.

Hardage-Giddens opens at St. Johns location



Photo by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

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

Ponte Vedra Tap Room creates new vibe, franchise opportunities

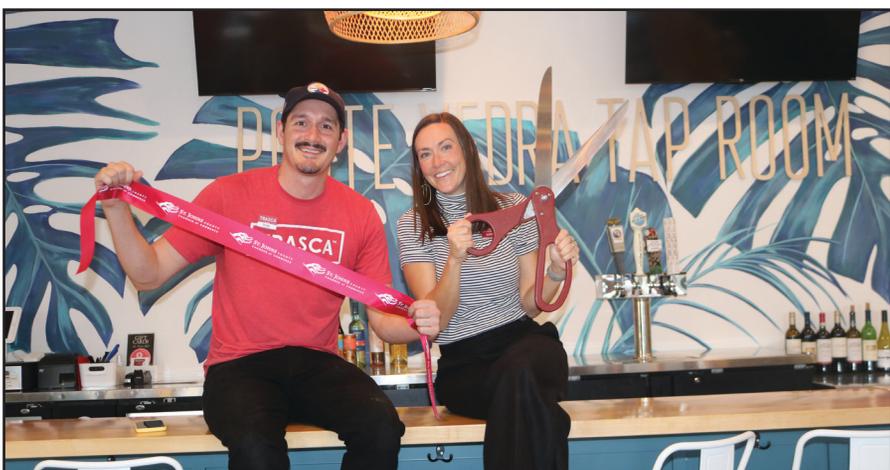


Photo by Susan Griffin

The Ponte Vedra Tap Room, 155 Tourside Drive, Suite 1510, Ponte Vedra Beach, held a ribbon-cutting recently to become a member of the Chamber.

Cutie Pies opens



Photo by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce cut the ribbon on Feb. 10 to celebrate the opening of Cutie Pies Bake Shop located at 62 Cuna St., St. Augustine. Cutie Pies focuses on making made-from-scratch mini pies and other treats with the goal of satisfying anyone's sweet tooth.

Flagler's Delaney speaks at Chamber At Noon

Flagler College president John Delaney was the guest speaker at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division's Chamber At Noon event Feb. 15 at Marsh Landing Country Club. He spoke about how the college benefits the county and the school's new classics program.



Photo provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division

Beth Sweeny, Isabelle Renault, John Delaney and Kathleen Floryan.

Compass Real Estate joins Chamber, welcomes new location

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



Photo by Susan Griffin

Compass Real Estate is now a member of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division.

Tips for tax season was the 'chamber at noon' topic

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division held a Chamber At Noon event March 15 at Marsh Landing Country Club. Certified public accountant Jennifer Howard, owner of Accounting Results and Consulting, was the guest speaker during the event. She spoke about being compliant with taxes and gave helpful record keeping tips.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Juan Carlos Balcazar, Jennifer Howard and Karina Coryell

After Hours at THE PLAYERS

The following are photos from the joint After Hours event hosted by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce. The member event was held on THE PLAYERS grounds and took place March 2. Pictured: Kim Scott, Jimmy Briggs and Nicole Briggs.



Photo by Susan Griffin



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