

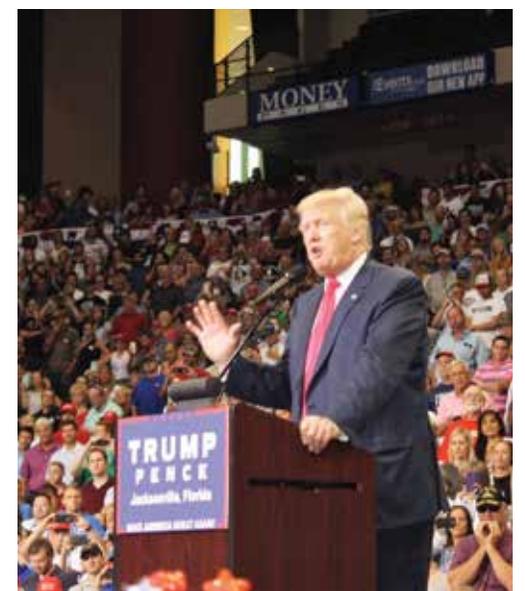
Ponte Vedra Recorder



December 29, 2016
Volume 46, No. 52
75 cents

PonteVedraRecorder.com

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

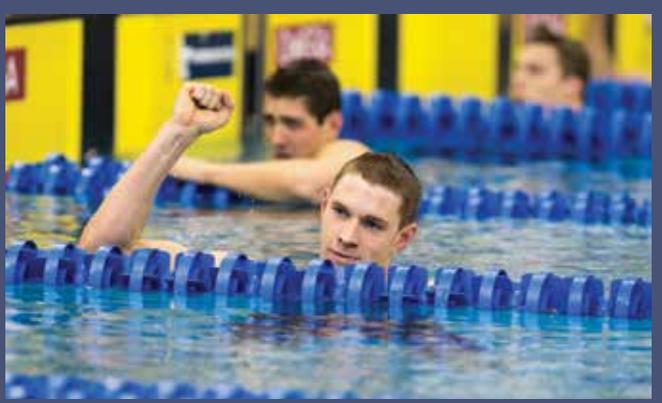


Upcoming Events

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2016

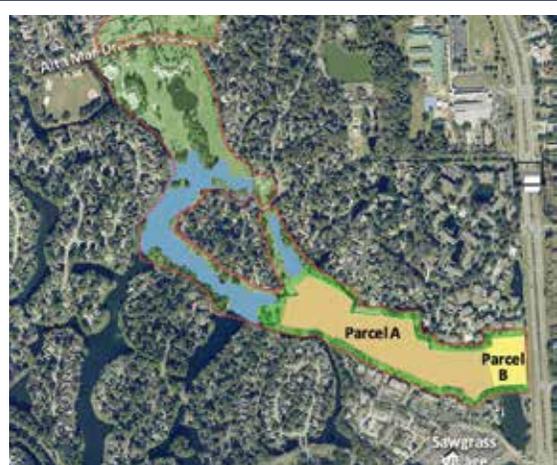
The Year in Review



Connections:

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

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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. E-mail submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



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WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

Email your answer to jennifer@opcfla.com by Monday at 5 p.m.

All correct entries will be entered into a random drawing to win tickets for two adults and two children to the Jacksonville Zoo. In order to allow as many families as possible to win, participants are only eligible to win a ticket prize pack once every four months.

Two readers correctly identified last week's photo as Seaside National Bank in Ponte Vedra Beach. Winner of the random drawing was **Jennifer Lobrano** – congratulations, Jennifer! You may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during regular business hours.

Don't forget — incorrect but entertaining guesses might also be rewarded with a trip to the zoo.



ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

Hi there, my name is Socks and I am a 3-year-old who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center as a stray. As this animal was a stray there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit us today here at the pet center! #35411



DOG OF THE WEEK

Hi, I'm Tego and I am a 2-year-old male dog who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center by my owners because they did not want me anymore. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #35558

Any new pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to their new environment. Please reinforce house-training and behavioral training and be mindful of interacting with other pets.

St. Johns County Pet Center

Cat adoptions at the St. Johns County Pet Center are \$30 for males and \$40 for females. Dog adoptions are \$45 for males and \$60 for females. Adoption fees include microchipping, neutering/spaying, rabies vaccinations and shots. The pet center is located at 130 N. Stratton Rd., off US 1 between County Road 210 and International Golf Parkway. Business hours are Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center is closed to the public on Sunday. On Monday, the office is open by appointment only to claim a lost pet. For more information, please call the **St. Johns County Pet Center at (904) 209-6190.**

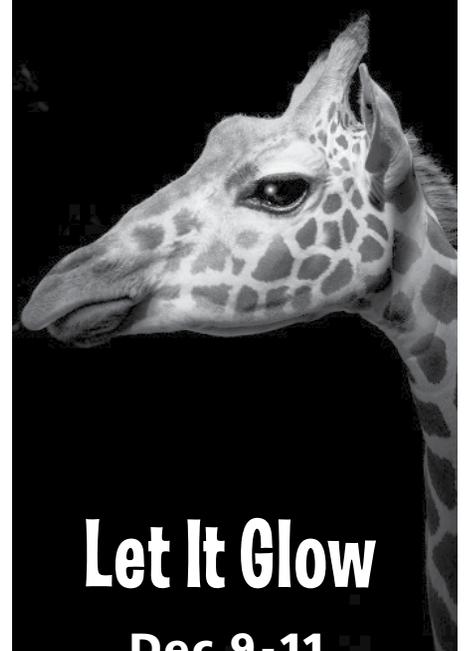
PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

DEATH	CAB	SASS
VIDEO	OVA	POLIO
DRAMS	PER	ORGAN
EMPIRE	BIGBANG	
TEA	USSR	
HIP	RICK	MODEMS
ENID	LORE	MASAI
CAVE	STARS	STYX
KNOBS	SIGH	HOOT
SETTER	NOUN	PRY
NOSE	SIP	
KITCHEN	SHARKS	
IDAHO	EST	COALS
TENOR	EVE	ISLET
HASP	RUM	NEEDY

9	2	7	3	8	5	4	1	6
6	3	4	2	9	1	8	5	7
8	5	1	6	7	4	3	9	2
1	4	8	9	2	6	5	7	3
5	6	2	4	3	7	9	8	1
3	7	9	5	1	8	2	6	4
4	9	6	7	5	2	1	3	8
2	8	5	1	6	3	7	4	9
7	1	3	8	4	9	6	2	5

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

ZOOLIGHTS



Let It Glow

Dec 9-11,
Dec 16-Jan 7
Closed Christmas Day



jacksonvillezoo.org

JANUARY YEAR IN REVIEW



Photo provided by Mission House

The addition of a second floor enables Mission House to better serve its clients and patients by moving existing staff upstairs and reconfiguring the bottom floor to a more practical layout.

Mission House celebrates grand re-opening

Mission House celebrated its official facility reopening Jan. 11 with a ribbon cutting ceremony. As the sole day facility in the Beaches area helping men and women become active, contributing members of the community, the organization expanded its programming, counseling and health care services in addition to

adding a second level to the building for administrative offices. The second floor's renovations saw the addition of a multi-purpose conference room, which doubles as a waiting room for clinic patients, and private offices to allow staff to confidentially meet clients and patients. The clinic also added two exam rooms.

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YEAR IN REVIEW ONE OF US

JANUARY



Jerry Norton



Amy Ring



Muriel Hattori



Robert Thaggard

FEBRUARY



Abigail Levrini



Dr. Lindsay Maples



Rocky Leary



Mary Lyn Jenkins

MARCH



Bradley Akers



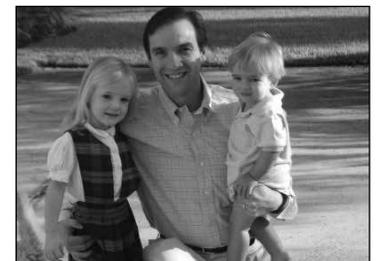
Steve Lourie



Dr. Patrick Basile



Julie Brigman



Dr. Anthony Magnano

APRIL



Robert Rooks



David Mariotti



Ed Burr



Jennifer Belisario

MAY



Michele McManamon



Darlene Riggs



Tommy Roy



Pat Caulfield

JUNE



Seth Movsovitz



Jack Schmidt



Toni Chrobot



Tim Blin



Jill Wu

ONE OF US YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY



Dr. Rajesh Shetty



Dan McCarron



Don Cline



Ed Malin

AUGUST



Christine Hoffman



Michael Hannon



Jennifer Ryan



Stephanie Augusta

SEPTEMBER



Len Knight



Blair Sharpe



Ryan Player



Yasmin Adamy



Kelli Votaw

OCTOBER



Kristin McLaughlan



Emily Rhodin



Dr. Katherine Falwell



Norwin Voegeli

NOVEMBER



Michael Bruce



Sandy Bennett



Anna Washington



Ellen Leroy Reed

DECEMBER



Victoria Proctor



Worley Faver



Bruce Jones



Kathy Moran-Clarson

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YEAR IN REVIEW JANUARY**M*A*S*H bash benefits no-kill animal rescue**

By Kelly H. McDermott

The stars aligned Jan. 23 in Ponte Vedra for the benefit of local animals in need.

St. Augustine-based Ayla's Acres No-Kill Animal Rescue presented "The M*A*S*H Gala" at The TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse, and local supporters were offered the chance to rub elbows with some of the most well-loved stars of TV.

The event was emceed by actor Ed Asner, best-known as television's iconic Lou Grant, and featured a reunion of cast members from the award-winning television series M*A*S*H. Attending cast members included Mike Farrell (Captain B.J. Hunnicut), Jamie Farr (Corporal Maxwell Klinger), Loretta Swit (Major Margaret "Hotlips" Houlihan), and a special appearance by Gary Burghoff (Corporal "Radar" O'Reilly).

The M*A*S*H Gala also featured a silent auction and a live auction where attendees bid for encounters with cast members, such as a round of golf, brunch or dinner. The gala included a gourmet dinner and music by Gainesville's Gosia and Ali featuring Harold Fethe. All proceeds from the M*A*S*H Gala benefited the building of Peter's Friends Animal Resource Center's low and no-cost spay, neuter and vaccination clinic in St. Johns County.

According to Ayla's Acres Executive Director Fran Charlson, the M*A*S*H Gala is a once-in-a-lifetime event put together thanks to the efforts of Swit.

"Loretta has been a tireless advocate for Ayla's Acres and our mission for several years now and for her to put in so much time to coordinate and bring her friends together to support this cause is simply monumental," Charlson said.

Ayla's Acres is a St. Augustine-based non-profit supporting animal adoption, spay and neuter services, and responsible care of animals. Along with education, outreach, adoption and fostering programs, the organization maintains a 45-acre sanctuary where "unadoptable" animals may live out their lives with peace, love, and dignity. The organization launched a \$2.6 million capital campaign to raise funds to build Peter's Friends Animal Resource Center in St. Johns County. Ayla's Acres receives no government funding, relying instead on private donations of money, supplies, and items



Photos by Susan Griffin

Back row: Ed Asner, Carol Maurer, Zlate ("Izzy") Sipinkoski, Chuck Schoonmaker, Loretta Swit, Mike Farrell, Randy Pickering and Brian Williams; From row: Sioby Wiggins, Jamie Farr and Gary Burghoff.



Jim Stockton and Brenda David

that are sold through their thrift shop, Ayla's Attic.

Hilton Garden Inn in Ponte Vedra Beach sponsored the fundraiser and housed Loretta Swit, Jamie Farr, Mike Farrell, Gary Burghoff and Ed Asner during their stay.



Sadie the Shop Dog and Fran Charlson, executive director

FEBRUARY **YEAR IN REVIEW**

Former Nease teacher arrested on sex charges

A former physical education teacher at Allen D. Nease High School was arrested Feb. 25 on two counts of unlawful sexual activity with a minor. Dionne Younce, 28, was placed on paid leave and then dismissed during a Feb. 9 meeting of the

school board after allegedly engaging in inappropriate communications with multiple students.

Written allegations from at least three students indicated that Younce texted and sent direct messages to students, along

with interacting with them on Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat. After investigations began, the sheriff's office said a

17-year-old student came forward, saying he and Younce engaged in intercourse at her home several times.

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Thursday, Dec. 29	Friday, Dec. 30	Saturday, Dec. 31	Sunday, Jan. 1
<p>Lightner After Hours The Lightner Museum will host its last Lightner After Hours event of the year Dec. 29 from 5 to 7 p.m. Guests are invited to listen to live music and enjoy hors d'oeuvres, wine and art in the museum's Café Alcazar in the historic pool area. Admission is free and beverages will be available at happy hour prices. Donations of \$3 per drink are encouraged. Free parking is available after 5 p.m., and the café will be open with a specialty dinner menu beginning at 6 p.m. and closing at 8 p.m. The Lightner Museum is located at 75 King St. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Volunteers Needed Ponte Vedra Therapeutic Adult Day Health Care at 1050 A1A North is in need of a volunteer any weekday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This volunteer will help participants in activities such as games, music, chair exercises and simple arts and craft projects. Certified pet therapy dogs are also welcome. Call (904) 209-3686 or email aleach@stjohnscoa.com for more information.</p> <p>MOCA Winter Art Camp: Pop Art MOCA Jacksonville will host a Winter Art Camp Dec. 29, from 1 to 5 p.m. Children in kindergarten through fifth grade will learn skills, history and techniques from experienced art educators as part of the museum's winter break art camp series. This session will feature a lesson on the pop art movement, where students will learn pop art practices and techniques to create their own vivid pieces of art. The half-day class is \$25. To register, visit www.mocajacksonville.unf.edu/events/Winter-Art-Camp--3-D-Mixed-Media. MOCA is located on 333 N. Laura St. in Jacksonville.</p>	<p>Adult Coloring Class at Hot Shot Bakery St. Augustine's Hot Shot Bakery will host an adult coloring class Dec. 30 from 7 to 9 p.m. A brief instruction of artistic techniques using Prismacolor pencils will be offered, and guests will color drawings of copies of works by artist Jean Drayovitch, which can be kept as souvenirs. Learn basic color shading, use of multi-color or palette approaches and directional techniques in addition to simple pencil techniques such as cross-hatching and scrumbling. Guests will receive a Florida-themed coloring book comprised of 16 drawings plus supplemental pages featuring St. Augustine landmarks. This class features spots for eight guests at \$40 per person. The cost includes two glasses of wine. RSVP to (904) 824-7898.</p> <p>Toy Train Display at MOSH Jacksonville's Museum of Science History and Toy Train Collectors of Jacksonville join forces to host a special motorized holiday train display on MOSH's third floor through Jan. 7. Collector volunteer operators will engage visitors and discuss trains, engineering and model building from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The trains will be rotated throughout the day as they travel through a winter wonderland themed display. On Dec. 30, a special showing of historic trains will be featured. Admission to the museum is \$12.50 for adults, \$10 for seniors and children. MOSH is located at 1025 Museum Circle in Jacksonville. For more information, call (904) 396-MOSH.</p> <p>Coastal Wine Market Wine Tasting Coastal Wine Market will host a Friday wine tasting from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B, Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p>	<p>Beach Blast Off: Celebration of New Year's Eve At this beachfront New Year's Eve celebration in St. Augustine Beach, visitors will experience live music, food and drink, and brilliant fireworks over the Atlantic Ocean. The Kids' Zone features face painting, human hamster balls, a mechanical bull, balloon twisting and rock climbing wall. Thirty food vendors, a beer and wine tent, champagne and live stream of Times Square festivities will add to the fun. The event will be held at the St. Augustine Beach Pier. For more information, call (904) 669-5670 or visit www.sabevents.com/beach-blast-off.</p> <p>Enchanted Christmas Village Join the Keeler Property for its final day of the Enchanted Christmas Village Dec. 31. Featuring more than one million Christmas Lights, the village brings together an immersive holiday experience for First Coast families. Guests can visit several attractions on the property, including a nativity scene, Santa's vacation home, ice sculptures, Santa's workshop and more. To learn more and to purchase day passes or event tickets, visit www.jacksonvillechristmas.com. The Keeler Property is located at 17255 Normandy Blvd in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Dressing of the Palms Vilano Beach will be aglow with the "Dressing of the Palms" through Dec. 31. In true coastal style, see palm trees adorned with lights and holiday trimmings thanks to the talent of local businesses, artists, residents and organizations. The display is free and can be seen on Main Street in Vilano Beach.</p>	<p>Jax Illuminations Catch a local holiday tradition for its final day. Jax Illuminations features a drive-through illuminated Christmas display featuring more than half a million LED lights animated in time to classic Christmas songs. This mile-long stretch of lights will be open through Jan. 1 from 6 to 9:30 p.m. The cost of entry is \$20 per car for up to seven passengers and \$2.50 for each additional passenger. Vehicles taller than seven feet cannot be accommodated. Jax Illuminations is located at 3800 St. Johns Bluff Rd. S. in Jacksonville. For more information, visit www.jaxilluminations.com.</p> <p>Nights of Lights The historic city of St. Augustine comes to life yet again with its famed Nights of Lights celebration. More than 3 million lights will illuminate the city through Jan. 31, alongside holiday music and the lighting of the city's own Christmas tree. For information about shuttles and parking visit www.floridashistoriccoast.com/nights-lights.</p> <p>ZooLights Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens' ZooLights returns for the holiday season with thousands of LED lights, moving sculptures, lighted treats and animal silhouettes. The show includes work by student artists from the University of North Florida, a fairy village and a lighted train in addition to carousel rides and a 4-D theater. ZooLights runs through Jan. 7. To learn more about show times and ticket prices, visit www.jacksonvillezoo.org/zoolights.</p>

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Monday, Jan. 2	Tuesday, Jan. 3	Wednesday, Jan. 4	Thursday, Jan. 5
<p>St. Augustine Alligator Farm Camps The St. Augustine Alligator Farm is offering one-day camps including zoo tours, animal encounters, shows, arts and crafts and games among other attractions. Held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the cost of the camp is \$40 per child per day for members and \$50 for non-members and includes lunch. Camps are available for kids in grades K-5 and will take place Jan. 2-4. Registration is required and can be completed at www.alligatorfarm.com. Space is limited. The St. Augustine Alligator Farm is located at 999 Anastasia Blvd. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Travel Training Program The Council on Aging's Travel Training program is designed to assist seniors in learning to ride the Sunshine Bus. Residents interested in expanding their transportation options or who would like to increase their confidence as a bus rider can receive assistance from trained volunteers in navigating routes, reading time tables and making transfers. Contact the mobility manager at the Council on Aging at (904) 315-6505 or email Katie Arnold at karnold@stjohnscoa.com.</p> <p>Life Enrichment Group This group is designed for those with memory changes who want to remain mentally, physically and socially active, while giving caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. The program is offered daily, serving the Jacksonville Beach and Ponte Vedra area. For more information call: 904-417-7354 or email life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com.</p>	<p>Wild Child Yoga for Kids The Adele Grage Cultural Center hosts Wild Child Yoga for children Tuesdays. From 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for ages 4-8 and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. for ages 8-12, young yogis will enjoy music, movement and meditation. During these weekly classes, kids will be taught the science of yoga and learn methods that will inspire them to relax and connect with one another. For more information, call Lindsay Strohecker at (904) 377-3402 or email wildchildkidsyoga@outlook.com.</p> <p>Civil War Discussion Group The monthly meeting of the "Understanding the Civil War" discussion group will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3 at the Anastasia Island Branch Public Library located in the Seagrove subdivision on A1A South in St. Augustine Beach. The topic will be: "Medical Care in the Civil War." The meeting is open to the public. For information, email Charlie Smith at smithc32@bellsouth.net.</p> <p>Tapas Tuesday The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens presents Tapas Tuesday at the Cummer Café. Every Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. take in the sunset on the Cummer Café patio while listening to local musicians with beer, wine or artfully inspired tapas for sale at the Café. Reserve your table by calling (904) 899-6022. For more information, visit www.cummermuseum.org. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville.</p> <p>Sunset Rotary Club Meeting The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset meets Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn. Community leaders are welcome to attend. For more information, call club President Janeene Hart at (904) 412-5409 or email jwhart1208@gmail.com.</p>	<p>Jacksonville Art Walk Join the community at Jacksonville Art Walk for the first Art Walk of 2017. Taking place on the first Wednesday of every month, this rain or shine event features more than 60 Art Walk venues across Downtown Jacksonville. Connect with artists and support the local art scene on the First Coast with a selection of more than 250 artists. The event will be held from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.; the month's theme is Interactive Art. For more information, visit www.jacksonvilleartwalk.com, contact Art Walk manager Hana Ashchi at hana@downtownjacksonville.org or call (904) 634-0303, ext. 225.</p> <p>Care Connection Volunteers Needed Adult volunteers are needed at Care Connection, located at 180 Marine St. in St. Augustine, to mentor young adult volunteers on weekend minor repair and home improvement projects for seniors who can no longer do the work themselves. These volunteers will help youth engage with seniors while learning career skills and professional behavior in the field of community service. For more information, call (904) 209-3686 or email aleach@stjohnscoa.com</p> <p>Well-being Wednesday During and after the Mid-Week Market in Bull Park, free well-being classes will be held at the Adele Grage Cultural Center. Qigong classes, including Tai Chi, are now available Wednesday mornings at the Adele Grage Center from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Instructors and speakers are encouraged to contact the department of recreation and special events at (904) 247-5828 for more details about providing the community with Well Being information and classes.</p>	<p>Life Enrichment Day Retreat Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra hosts a Life Enrichment Day Retreat every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra, 5125 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra Beach. The group is designed for those with memory changes who would like to stay active mentally, physically and socially. For more information, call (904) 834-7578 and ask for Ilene Thrasher or visit www.at-pontevedra.com.</p> <p>'Visions: Ancient and Modern' The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach will display "Visions: Ancient and Modern" in its main and community galleries through Jan. 5 featuring hand-coiled pottery from Worley Faver and a selection of abstract, acrylic paintings by Mary Lou Gibson. The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach is located at 50 Executive Way. For more information, visit www.ccpvb.org or call (904) 280-0614.</p> <p>Annual Activity Member Become an Annual Activity Member at The Players Community Senior Center. Membership includes discounts on fee-based classes, designated events and coastal travel along with complimentary participation in a wide variety of scheduled activities. Call Darlene Mahany at (904) 280-3233 for more information.</p>

Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to jasmine@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.

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Saturday, January 14th | 2:00 - 5:00 PM
\$20.00++

Taco Night
Enjoy margarita specials & build your own delicious tacos.
Tuesday, Jan. 17th & Wednesday, Jan. 18th | 5:00 - 9:00 PM
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YEAR IN REVIEW MARCH

Rubio stumps at outdoor rally in Nocatee

By Kelly H. McDermott

Republican presidential candidate Sen. Marco Rubio drove home just how vital Florida will be to the success of his campaign at a rally in Nocatee on March 8.

Rubio's delegate count lagged behind

competitors Donald Trump and Sen. Ted Cruz ahead of Florida's Presidential Preference Primary March 15, the winner of whom – Trump – took all 99 delegates.

Rubio was joined in Nocatee by thousands of supporters, as well as St. Johns County Clerk of Courts Hunter Conrad and St. Au-

gustine City Commissioner Todd Neville.

"The Democrats know that I will win," Rubio said, receiving cheers from those gathered. "I cannot wait to run against Hillary Clinton because Hillary Clinton is unquali-

fied to be president of the United States."

The rally was Rubio's second on the First Coast in a week, with the first at the Morocco Shrine Auditorium in Jacksonville on March 5.

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PV2-LV34000

APRIL **YEAR IN REVIEW**

New owners propose developing 40 acres of Ponte Vedra golf club

Property along A1A would house retirement community, cultural center

By Jennifer Logue

Forty acres of the former Ponte Vedra Golf and Country Club would be developed for use by a continuing care retirement community and the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach under a proposal presented by new club owners Alta Mar LLC at the Sawgrass Players Club’s master board of directors meeting.

Held April 8 at the Sawgrass Marriott, the board meeting attracted a standing-room-only crowd of more than 200 Sawgrass Players Club residents, who came to hear Alta Mar’s Dave Miller present his plans for the golf course and club now known as The Oak Bridge Club. Board President John Flynn opened the meeting by saying that informal communications – including an anonymous letter circulated among residents – had created confusion and misconceptions about the status and details of Alta Mar’s plans.

“This board is committed to transparency,” said Flynn, who stressed the board would be seeing Alta Mar’s presentation for the first time along with those present. “We’re not going to be in a hurry to make a decision and we will be guided by the opinions of a majority of the community members.”

Tom Jenks, the board’s attorney, said much of the confusion and rumors surrounding the proposal



stemmed from a misunderstanding about a vote the community took several years ago to extend its covenants through 2041. Those covenants were separate from the covenants and restrictions governing the golf course, he said, which state that the property only has to be maintained as a golf course through 2023.

“If I understand this correctly, after seven years Oak Bridge Golf and Country can do anything they want to do without the authorization of the Sawgrass community?” board member Debbie Skorewicz asked.

“The one word answer to that,”

Jenks said, “is yes.”

A ‘failed community asset’

“Some of you view me as a villain,” Dave Miller said in beginning his presentation. “When I looked at myself this morning brushing my teeth, I kind of looked at myself as a martyr.”

Noting that he and partner Jeff Miller both own homes in the Sawgrass Players Club, Miller said he was hailed as a hero just two months ago when he took ownership of the golf course after the club’s former operator went into default.

“We’re not some shark develop-

er coming out of Atlanta trying to swoop in on your asset,” he said. “We’re here to give out facts and present some realities we’re all facing. Sawgrass Players Club has a failed community asset which does not benefit the property values throughout the community.”

\$5 million renovation

Alta Mar’s proposal calls for the company to invest \$5 million in renovations to Oak Bridge, including \$750,000 for greens reconstruction, \$750,000 for fairways improvements, \$500,000 for clubhouse and golf shop renovation, and \$500,000 to rebuild the tennis facilities. Other planned improvements include new maintenance equipment, bunker improvements, driving range renovation and a new \$1.8 million irrigation system.

To make the project financially viable, Miller said Alta Mar would need to reconfigure the golf course and “monetize” the project by developing 40 acres. That land – which Alta Mar proposes splitting into two parcels – would become the site of a continuing care retirement community and the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach.

Addressing potential traffic concerns, Tony Robbins of engineering firm Prosser said the proposed retirement community and cultural center would only be accessible from A1A. “None of (the traffic) will come through your neighborhoods,” he said. Buildings on

the section of the property closest to residents (parcel A) would be limited to one story, with a three-story limit for buildings located on parcel B on A1A near Sawgrass Village.

“I think our new proposal benefits the entire community,” Miller said. He added, however, that the community needs to make a decision, since in 2023 the restrictions will be removed and Alta Mar will be able to sell the property without community approval.

Some residents expressed doubts and reservations about Alta Mar’s plans.

“It’s kind of hard for me to believe you didn’t know the condition of the property (when you purchased the mortgage),” resident Bill Livingood said.

Other residents sought to gain assurance that if the community approved Alta Mar’s plans, the owners would commit to maintaining the golf course until at least 2041.

“If we monetize it, then yes, we would extend it to 2041,” Miller said.

Salt Creek resident and Realtor Linda Ostoski said she felt such a commitment was critical in terms of gaining the community’s approval. “But what they say is true,” she said. “The condition of the golf course is a dilemma homeowners are going to have to face. It does need a lot of money to bring it up to standards.”

YEAR IN REVIEW APRIL

Council on Aging marks opening of new adult day care program

By Jennifer Logue

County and state officials joined with the St. Johns County Council on Aging and members of the community to celebrate the opening of the Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center's new state-licensed adult day care program April 21.

Held at the Memory Care Center – located adjacent to the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall – the event included refreshments, tours of the facility and a presentation on dementia by Robert Trenholm of the AgeWell Center for Senior Health. Also on hand was state Secretary for Elder Affairs Sam Verghese, County Commissioner Jay Morris and Council on Aging staff and board members who helped raise the funding needed to create the center.

Former Council on Aging Executive Director Cathy Brown said that an estimated 1,200 residents in Ponte Vedra Beach alone are struggling with Alzheimer's or some other form of dementia. To address that need, the Memory Care Center offers programs for people at various

stages of memory loss. The Integrative Memory Enhancement Program offers an ongoing program for individuals with either diagnosed or suspected early-stage memory loss. The five-hour program meets from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. twice a week and incorporates a variety of games, activities and mental stimulation exercises, along with chair aerobics and meditation.

The newly opened adult day care program provides services for individuals with more advanced memory loss or dementia. In addition to a large general gathering space known as the "Sunshine Center," the facility includes an activities room where participants can take part in arts and crafts and music therapy. Rehab services are also provided on-site by therapists from Brooks Rehab.

"Day services are one piece of the puzzle," Brown said. "It provides family members with peace of mind and some respite and buys some time during that downward slope. It's the rational, kind thing for us as a community to do."



Board Member Dr. David O'Brien, Executive Director Becky Yanni and Board Member Bruce Barber

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MAY **YEAR IN REVIEW**

Rotary, Recorder salute 'Local Heroes'

By Jennifer Logue

When Todd Blake was 18, he was diagnosed with stage four cancer.

Over the next six years, Blake would battle the disease while continuing his studies at the University of Florida. Along the way, he gained an appreciation for the particular challenges faced by his peers who were also battling the disease.

"I recognized the incredible need for support for young adults with cancer," Blake said. "You're so isolated, surrounded by older people."

To address that need, Blake founded the Live for Today Foundation – a non-profit organization that brings together cancer survivors ages 18 to 35 for events and activities that uplift and encourage members. And for his efforts, Blake was recognized when the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach and the Ponte Vedra Recorder honored him as one of eight local residents to receive the 2016 Local Heroes Award.

"One of the greatest things we get to do as a Rotary Club is recognize individuals who give back so much to the community," said Rotarian Jim Clark, who organized this year's Local Heroes Awards, which were presented at two Rotary Club meetings. "We identify individuals who do outstanding things."

Now in its 24th year, the Local Heroes Awards honor individuals who give back to the community and reflect the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self." In addition to honoring Blake – who received this year's Volunteer Hero Award – honors were presented to local volunteers in the categories of arts, education, vocational service, corporate and youth volunteer.

Recipient of the 2016 Local Arts Hero Award was Walter Dickinson, who was recognized for his long-standing support of the local arts community.

"Walter's passion and commitment to growing the arts is demonstrated through his generous personal service and financial support for nonprofit arts organizations," said Rotarian Sam Hall, who served as the event's master of ceremonies.

The Education Hero Award went to Vance Edeker and Connie Smith. In their roles as media specialists at the PVPV/ Rawlings Elementary School, Edeker and Smith have created a world-class learning facility.

The Vocational Service Hero Award went to Pat Philo, Willie Lee Toby and Roy Lee Barrett of Sawgrass Country Club, who have been serving the club's members since it opened in 1974.

"Our honorees are professional and can be counted on to be on the job rain or shine," Hall said.

The 2016 Corporate Hero Award was presented to Natural Life Founder Patti Hughes for her efforts to give back to the community.

"Patti used her God-given talents to create a wonderful company that delivers

unique items for the home, to wear or to give," Hall said.

The Youth Hero Award, meanwhile, was presented to Ponte Vedra High School junior Tess Reiman. In addition to founding Project Storybook – an award-winning

national organization that provides books to children moving into Habitat for Humanity homes – she also co-founded Project Play, which donates outdoor play equipment, board games and craft supplies to Habitat families.

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YEAR IN REVIEW MAY

Jason Day wins THE PLAYERS



By Kathy Bissell

Jason Day, world No. 1, played almost like Tiger Woods in closing out the 2016 PLAYERS Championship, winning by four shots after leading from wire-to-wire. All week, he throttled back his length advantage, using 2-iron and 3-wood off the tees, in order to overcome the treacherous angles of the golf course. He outplayed the legendary Pete Dye. And boy, did he set records.

He tied the low 18-hole score with his 9-under 63, now shared with five players. He set the new, low number for the first 36 holes, at 15-under, at 129; previously 14-under, 130, set by Greg Norman in 1994.

He tied the low start by a winner with Greg Norman and Martin Kaymer. He set the new largest 36-hole lead of 4 shots, previously 3, by Lanny Wadkins and Greg Norman.

According to Day, he's just getting started. "It's very stressful being the number one player in the world," Day said. "You're in the limelight a lot...But I wouldn't change it in any way because this is exactly where I want to be, and I want to try and stay here as long as I can while I can, because nothing beats this feeling."

Clearly overcoming the best field in golf on a very difficult golf course is extra satisfying to the world No.1.



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Year
in Review



(Top L-R) Chamber Member of the Year Susan Griffin (L) with Chamber President Isabelle Rodriguez (R), Chamber Golf Classic. (Middle) EDC Quarterly Breakfast exploring Transportation in St. Johns County. (Bottom L-R) Politics in St. Johns in Ponte Vedra Beach, PVBD Board of Directors Secretary Rob Schlingmann, PVBD Ambassador of the Year Lori Adams (R) with Rodriguez (L).



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

When I was asked to write a year in review, my first thought was “where in the world do I start?” Next I thought, “and where do I finish?”

So much has happened in my almost-first-year (shy by one month) as director, and as much as I would love to go down the list of things the division has accomplished, there just isn’t enough space.

Instead I will focus on the highlights. First, I am proud to have been named the director of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division. Isabelle Rodriguez, our president and CEO, was charged with the tough task of filling the shoes of my predecessor, Sandy Kavanaugh. Sandy had been with the Ponte Vedra Beach Division for a number of years and was well-known and dearly loved throughout the community. I was fortunate to have Sandy show me the ropes and start me on the right path.

One of the division’s largest responsibilities is the Ponte Vedra Auto Show. The annual event is held in September and has become a Ponte Vedra tradition. The auto show features more than 100 classic and new show cars and brings over 3,000 people to the area annually.

In the past, it has been held on the grounds of TPC Sawgrass and this year was hosted at the Nocatee Town Center. Even with a new director, a new location, sweltering hot weather and the first Jaguars home game of the season, we were able to execute an extremely well



LIN JONES

attended family-friendly event, exceeding our normal attendance and expectations. We couldn’t have been happier!

This year, I experienced my first major hurricane living close to the shoreline and in an evacuation zone! It was an eye opener, but the tenacity I witnessed from business owners in St. Johns County, quick to pick up and rebuild not just their own properties but also help their neighbors do the same, was truly heart-warming to see.

This year also saw the election of five new board members onto the Ponte Vedra Beach Division Board of Directors. The prior board consisted of several long-time members, some that served for over six years.

Their commitment to the board and the community is commendable and greatly appreciated. My sincere thanks to Felicia Cox with Iberia Bank, Frances King with King & Associates, Michele Smith with ReMax Coastal Real Estate, Dr. Erika Hamer with Ponte Vedra Wellness Center and Christine Adams with Rogers Towers for your service. Their presence is missed at monthly meetings, but their smiles are always a welcomed sight at events.

Their support can still be felt. In fact, former board members along with the current board came together this past holiday season to help Santa.

With all that goes into preparing for Christmas, Santa needed a little assistance getting letters up to the North Pole in a timely manner. He contacted the group, and within just a few weeks the Letters for Santa Mailbox was set up at Sawgrass Village.

The Ponte Vedra Beach Division Board, along with the Ponte Vedra Family YMCA, worked together behind the scenes to get those special letters up to Santa to be answered. He was so impressed, plans are already in place to do the same thing next year.

The year was rounded out by a great

Holiday Merriment Party, where it was our pleasure to award Lori Adams the Ambassador of the Year award.

Adams is a long-time ambassador, chamber supporter and all-around great person. We are very fortunate to have her and all the volunteer ambassadors who give their time to represent and assist the chamber.

We also had the wonderful opportunity to honor Ponte Vedra Recorder Publisher Susan Griffin with the St. Johns County Chamber Member of the Year Award.

This distinctive honor is awarded to an outstanding individual and strong supporter who goes above and beyond in their commitment to expanding and improving the St Johns County Chamber of Commerce. Susan has been a member of the chamber since 1997.

She served for many years as the chair of the Ambassador Committee and was awarded Ambassador of the Year in 2004 as well as the 2016 Pat Morgan Outstanding Member Award. She is also currently the vice chair of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division Board.

She is a high-energy leader who is always willing to step up whenever asked and can always be found attending chamber events.

Thank you, Susan, Lori and all of you for the great support we’ve received from our members in the business community here in Ponte Vedra Beach. We cannot wait to get 2017 off to another great start!

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS CALENDAR

Chamber Before Hours: Held the second Wednesday of the month, this networking event introduces a new host business at each gathering.

Chamber at Noon: Held on the third Wednesday of the month, the event begins at 11:30 a.m. with registration. Members then have the opportunity to network before enjoying lunch. Each Chamber at Noon event includes an educational component, such as health care reform. The event also provides time for the sponsoring company to be recognized before a captive audience. It is a cost-effective way to get your company known among members and guests.

Chamber After Hours: Chamber After Hours events are held every fourth Wednesday of the month, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Each month has a different host location, making for a lively and enjoyable event. Most After Hours are free, or a nominal fee is charged to

members and guests. Chamber After Hours is the perfect way to showcase your business location and amenities! For more information about chamber events, visit www.stjohnscountychamber.com and click on the “Members” tab.

Power Networking Luncheon (PNL): Held on the second Tuesday of every month, this business-to-business networking luncheon program allows participants to introduce their business to all attendees. Remember to bring a small gift or door prize to promote your business. The event is open exclusively to chamber members, and seating is limited to the first 50 respondents each month.

Chamber Business Councils Agricultural & Environmental Council: Meeting on the fourth Thursday of every other month, this council aims to promote, educate and provide a forum to advance agricul-

tural and environmental issues and show how these industries contribute to our quality of life. Council programs focus on our agricultural heritage and the economic contribution that this industry brings to the county. Environmental programs focus on promoting and addressing issues associated with our natural and environmental resources, sustainable development, permitting, conservation and eco-tourism.

Historic St. Augustine Council: Held on the second Friday of every month, council meetings are designed to bring members the most current information on tourism trends. The sessions also spotlight local and state initiatives that have economic impact on business in the historic district and work to make the nation’s oldest city a better place for residents and visitors.

Small Business Council: Held on the fourth Tuesday of every month,

this council works to support small businesses throughout St. Johns County. The council also strives to increase commerce while educating and serving as a resource to small business owners and their managers.

South Beaches Council: Meeting on the third Thursday of every month, the South Beach Council is designed for chamber members with a professional or general interest in the South Beaches area. The council is characterized by its dedication to the community and advocacy for local business issues.

Tourism & Hospitality Council: Meeting on the first Wednesday of every month, this council aims to further enhance the abilities of St. Johns County tourism businesses to provide first-class service to their visitors. The council aims to achieve this by being a resource for industry-specific training and educational opportunities.

JANUARY

Chamber After Hours: Dance Alday Dance Studio

The St. Johns Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division's Chamber After Hours event took place Jan. 27 at Dance Alday Dance Studio in Ponte Vedra Beach. Dance Alday, a locally owned and operated ballroom and Latin dance studio, was established 15 years ago by Allan Alday. The studio just celebrated its three-year anniversary in its current location in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Alday said they were honored to host the Chamber After Hours event and celebrate their anniversary with chamber board members and ambassadors. Dance Alday offers private lessons, group classes, practice parties and other dance options at the studio located at 820 A1A N., E17 in Ponte Vedra Beach.



Adam Horna, Carolyn Morriss, Megan Wallace and Allan Alday

Photos by Susan Griffin



Allan Alday, owner of Dance Alday



Cindy Bishop, Carol Maurer and Jeanell Wilson



Michael Lenahen and Mary Price

FEBRUARY

Chamber Before Hours: Palm Valley Dentistry

The Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hosted a special Chamber Before Hours event on Feb. 10 from 8 to 9 a.m. The event offered members a chance to enjoy breakfast while networking among members and guests, and was offered for free to preregistered members and guests with \$5 charged at the door for those who didn't register. The event was hosted at and sponsored by Palm Valley Dentistry, 3791 Palm Valley Rd., in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Palm Valley Dentistry offers comprehensive dentistry for the entire family with office procedures, modern facilities, an infection control program, up to date technology and a staff with a commitment to continuing education. The office has options for cosmetic dentistry, crowns and tooth whitening as well as implants, veneers and same-day care for dental emergencies. For more information, call (904) 834-2736 or visit www.palmvalley-familydentistry.com.



MARCH

Collaboration critical to elevating small businesses, Ross tells St. Johns Chamber

St. Johns Chamber of Commerce Annual Breakfast Highlights

Chamber Benefits

St. Johns County Chamber Chair Michael Scine outlined just a few of the benefits of chamber membership, including:

- Increased business presence through event sponsorships
- Advertising opportunities
- Ability to build relationships
- Information
- Education
- Advocacy

"We speak with so much more volume when we speak as a group," Scine said.

Chamber Accomplishments

President Isabelle Rodriguez reviewed recent chamber accomplishments, including:

- Sale of chamber's former home and move to new offices
- Visitor information center working to analyze and define the visitor experience
- Addition of Lin Jones as new head of Ponte Vedra Beach Division
- New partnership with Ponte Vedra Recorder to increase communications
- Greater advocacy under the direction of Government Relations Manager Bob Porter

By Jennifer Logue

In 1928, Walt Disney was riding high off the phenomenal success of his cartoon character, Oswald the Lucky Rabbit, when the young cartoonist was dealt a stunning business setback. While in New York on business, Disney discovered that not only did his film distributor own the rights to the Oswald character, but that the company had hired away most of Disney's animation staff. Virtually overnight, Disney's dream had fallen apart.

As he prepared to board the train back to California, however, Disney cabled his brother: "Don't worry. Everything OK." And on the trip across country, he sketched out a new character – one that

would become known as Mickey Mouse.

Today's entrepreneurs and small business owners can learn from Walt Disney's never-say-die attitude, business expert Jerry Ross told attendees at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's annual breakfast, held March 4 at the Renaissance World Golf Village Resort.

"Don't worry. Everything OK." Who thinks like that?" asked Ross, president of the National Entrepreneur Center. "We all need to start thinking like that."

Addressing the several hundred local business and community leaders in attendance, Ross noted that 99 percent of all U.S. businesses have fewer than 100 employees.

"We're a small business country," he said. "So anything we can do to move small businesses to the next level is critical to strengthening communities."

The key to reaching that next level, Ross said, is collaboration. Drawing on his experience with the National Entrepreneur Center, Ross recounted how the center was born after the September 11 terrorist attacks and consumers' fear of flying crippled the Orlando tourism industry. With funding and support from the City of Orlando and key business partners – including Disney – the center was founded to help revive the local business economy.

Today, the center coaches thousands of businesses each year through the efforts of a dozen organizations, all of which collaborate and share office space in the center's Orlando offices.

"At the National Entrepreneurship Center, our mission is helping small businesses move forward," Ross said. "If someone doesn't agree with that mission, they don't live in my center."

But collaboration isn't always easy. "The day we opened with eight businesses, we had eight coffee pots in the breakroom," Ross recalled. "So we had a funeral that afternoon for seven coffee pots. I told them, 'If we can't even share a coffee pot, this will never work.'"

Ross pointed to the St. Johns County Chamber's recent initiatives – including merging with the Ponte Vedra Beach chamber, moving to new offices, increasing communication and government advocacy efforts, and implementing a three-year strategic plan – as examples of how businesses can embrace the unity of purpose that transforms "cooperation" into "collaboration."

He also encouraged chamber members to collaborate with one another, sharing their successes and their setbacks so that others may benefit from the lessons they've learned.

"There are people in this room who have already gone through what you're going through right now," Ross said. "Business is not a solo sport. It's a team sport, and you can't play it alone."

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PV3-LV33931

Chamber selects Lin Jones to lead in Ponte Vedra Beach

Chamber names new Ponte Vedra Beach Division Director

Lin Jones, the new Ponte Vedra Beach (PVB) Division director for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, is no stranger to the Atlantic coastline. She grew up in Howell, New Jersey, not far from the ocean, and graduated from Rowan University, just a short drive from the famed Jersey shore.

Jones, who has formerly held positions as the director of marketing and media at Warm Glow Candle Company and as the executive director of Tour Indiana, succeeds Sandy Kavanaugh, who retired Feb. 16.

The director will oversee operation of the chamber's PVB Division that serves many of the chamber's 1,100 business members that have professional interests in the northeastern part of St. Johns County. She will also be charged with operating the Ponte Vedra Beach Visitor Information Center.

"Her extensive expertise in marketing strategies and sales, membership organizations and event management will prove to be an asset to the division director's position and her knowledge of the tourism industry will enhance the efforts of our Visitor Information Center at the PVB Division," said Chamber President and CEO Isabelle Rodriguez.

Jones began her career in tourism and marketing after moving to the Midwest, where in addition to Tour Indiana she worked at four destination marketing organizations, promoting three different cities in varying positions. During her 15 years in the industry, she also served as the marketing manager of the Columbus, Indiana Visitors Center and the group leisure sales manager of Visit Indy.

"I am excited to be here and I look forward to showcasing Ponte Vedra Beach and its great enterprising busi-

nesses," Jones said.

The Rowan University graduate also has extensive event planning experience. She was responsible for event staff in a 5,000 seat arena; was the event manager for Celebrate Science, a one day children's science event with over 4,000 in attendance and has planned several retail events during her time with Glow Candle Company that saw over 5,000 customers during a three-day weekend.

Kavanaugh, the former director, will stay on part-time as a resource during the leadership transition and will remain working with the chamber to plan and execute the Ponte Vedra Auto Show in September.

"Sandy (Kavanaugh) has done a phenomenal job, and I consider the opportunity to build on the successes and the strong foundation she has built a privilege," said Jones.



St. Johns County Chamber photo
Chamber of Commerce President Isabelle Rodriguez and Ponte Vedra Beach Division Director Lin Jones

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MARCH



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Dr. Erika Hamer cuts the ribbon on the Nocatee location of Ponte Vedra Wellness Center.

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center opens new Nocatee location

Chamber officials and members were in attendance March 9 when Ponte Vedra Wellness Center opened a new second location in Nocatee.

“We are thrilled to be able to open a wellness center in Nocatee and look forward to serving this community so focused on active lifestyles and healthy living,” Dr. Erika Hamer said. “We have had the support of the Ponte Vedra Beach

community for over 11 years and we really felt this was the right time to expand services into this growing, active, family-friendly community.”

Founded in 2004, Ponte Vedra Wellness Center is a traditional chiropractic neurology clinic for adults, children and pregnant women. The current Ponte Vedra Beach office is located at 100 Corridor Rd., Ste. 220.



Felicia Cox, Michele Smith and Kari Zerahn

Photos by Susan Griffin

APRIL

Flavor Palette holds ribbon cutting

Chef Tommy McDonough officially cut the ribbon opening his new Ponte Vedra Beach sandwich shop, Flavor Palette, April 12.

Members of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce welcomed McDonough and his family to their new restaurant, located in the Ponte Vedra Pointe Shopping Center at 880 A1A N, Suite 9.

Guests enjoyed a variety of samplings of Flavor Palette’s menu offerings, including its homemade gelatos.

“I just want to make people happy and I do that by giving them true flavor to enjoy,” McDonough told guests.



Savannah Madaffari offers guests samples of the falafel burger.



The Flavor Palette team: Yvonne Belardo, Tom and Jamie McDonough, Abigail Lieberman, Emma Cramer, Savannah Madaffari, Natalie Altmire and Jarod Magdon

Photos by Susan Griffin



Photo by Lucia Miller

THE PLAYERS Executive Director Matt Rapp with Lin Jones (left) and Isabelle Rodriguez

Joint chamber luncheon updates attendees on THE PLAYERS 2016



David Henderson and Bob Tackett



Rae Mansoor and Thea Jeffers



Photos by Jasmine Marshall
Nan Kreamer and Sharon Sacks



Lisa Leath and Lawrence Dioso

By Jasmine Marshall

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's Ponte Vedra Beach Division held a joint luncheon with the JAX Chamber's Beaches Division April 14 to discuss updates for THE PLAYERS Championship 2016.

Guest speaker at the luncheon was THE PLAYERS Championship Executive Director Matt Rapp, who detailed a number of improvements undertaken to improve

the fan experience. The chamber luncheon also recognized Rock Solid Business Law Owner and Founding Attorney John Miller for being named 2016's overall Small Business Leader of the Year by JAX Chamber. Miller thanked the chamber once again for the award and introduced two new associates, Yasmin Adamy and Teri Mai. Miller has been a part of the Beaches business community since he opened his own firm and relocated it to the area 25 years ago.

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MAY

Membership Appreciation Awards

A dozen local business leaders were recognized for their commitment to fostering a thriving business community last week, when the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce presented its annual "Membership Appreciation Awards."

Held May 25 at the Sawgrass Golf Club, the cocktail reception and awards ceremony honored Ponte Vedra Beach Division members in a variety of categories. Ponte Vedra Recorder Publisher Susan Griffin received the Pat Morgan Outstanding Member Award and Clare Berry of Berry & Co. was recognized with the Jeff Jenkins Community Service Award. Rob Schlingmann of The

Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach was recognized as Board Member of the Year, while Former Executive Director Sandy Kavanaugh, was honored for many years of service to the chamber's Ponte Vedra Beach Division. Additional awards presented included:

Crushing It!: given to the member that has made the most of his/her chamber membership – Brian Anderson, Fluffy Cuts

Curious Traveler: recognizing the member who attended numerous events throughout the county – Carole Everitt, Colonial Quarter

AWARDS continues on Page 23



Chamber photo

Back: Sandy Kavanaugh, Rob Schlingmann, Susan Griffin, Felicia Cox, Michele Smith and Dave Danzeisen. Front: Janet Collins, Dr. Erika Hamer, Lin Jone, Isabelle Rodriguez and Frances King.

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MAY



Ilene Thrasher and Lori Adams



Dr Erika Hamer and Jeff White



Clare Berry, Susan Griffin and Sandy Kavanaugh

Chamber photos



Bill and Nicole Constain



Carol Maurer and Anette Saalman



Awards

Continued from 22

Pinch Hitter: honoring the member who steps up at the last minute – Carol

Maurer, Hilton Garden Inn
 Rookie of the Year: given to a new member who has shown great initiative in attending chamber events – Dr. Sharyl Truty, Balanced Physician Care
 Master of Social Media: recognizing the member who is most supportive of

chamber social media initiatives – Michael Mitchell, ServPro
 Dedicated Service: given to the member who never says no and sponsors chamber events – Michelle Nemeth, FirstAtlantic Bank
 5 Star Hospitality: given to the

member or venue that has gone above and beyond when hosting a chamber event – Sawgrass Country Club (Barry McDonald)
 The Showman: given to the member who hosted a creative special event – Ilene Thrasher, Arbor Terrace.

JUNE

Mainstream Boutique ribbon cutting

Mainstream Boutique held a ribbon cutting June 1 at its new location at 880 A1A N., Ste. 4, next to the Beach Diner.

Representatives from the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce joined owners Kurt and Carla Miles for the ribbon cutting at the boutique, which features a diverse assortment of women's clothing – everything from tops and jeans to little black dresses and ankle pants.

The boutique also features an exclusive line known as Mac and Me.

Part of a franchise founded 25 years ago in Minnesota, the Ponte Vedra location is the second Mainstream Boutique to open in Florida, following the opening of a store in Tampa.

The boutique was listed in the Franchise 500 list of fastest growing companies in 2015.



Mainstream Boutique owners Carla and Kurt Miles cut the ribbon on their new store, Mainstream Boutique.

Photos by Susan Griffin

JUNE

Chamber holds annual golf classic, 'Seasonal Blend'

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held its annual Golf Tournament and summer Seasonal Blend June 8, bringing together business and community leaders from across the county for a day of golf and networking.

Held at the Slammer & Squire in World Golf Village, the event featured a golf tournament with a variety of course games. The daylong event concluded with a cocktail reception featuring awards, raffles, door prizes and more.

Winners of the various contests included:

- Putting contest: Sam Sissine of Brennan, Manna & Diamond
- Best dressed golfers: Pat and Jay Kane, Pop A Lock
- Longest Putt: Greg Otte, Beach 105.5
- Closest to the Pin: Chad Prizzia, Web.com
- Longest Drive: Julie Ownes, FLC Contracting; and Bill Lodise, BBT
- 1st Gross: Rogers Towers
- 2nd Gross: Ponte Vedra Wellness Center
- 1st Net: FLC Contracting
- 2nd Net: Malcolm Anthony, P.A.



Photos by Susan Griffin

1st Place Net Team FLC Contracting; also pictured: Cathy Johnston and Isabelle Rodriguez



Best dressed golfers Pat and Jay Kane of Pop A Lock



2nd Place Net Malcolm Anthony team; also pictured: Cathy Johnston and Isabelle Rodriguez

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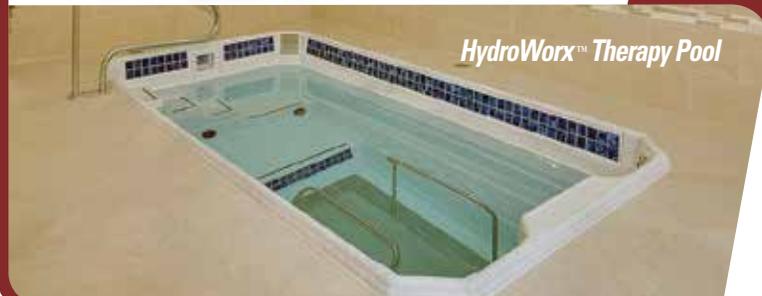
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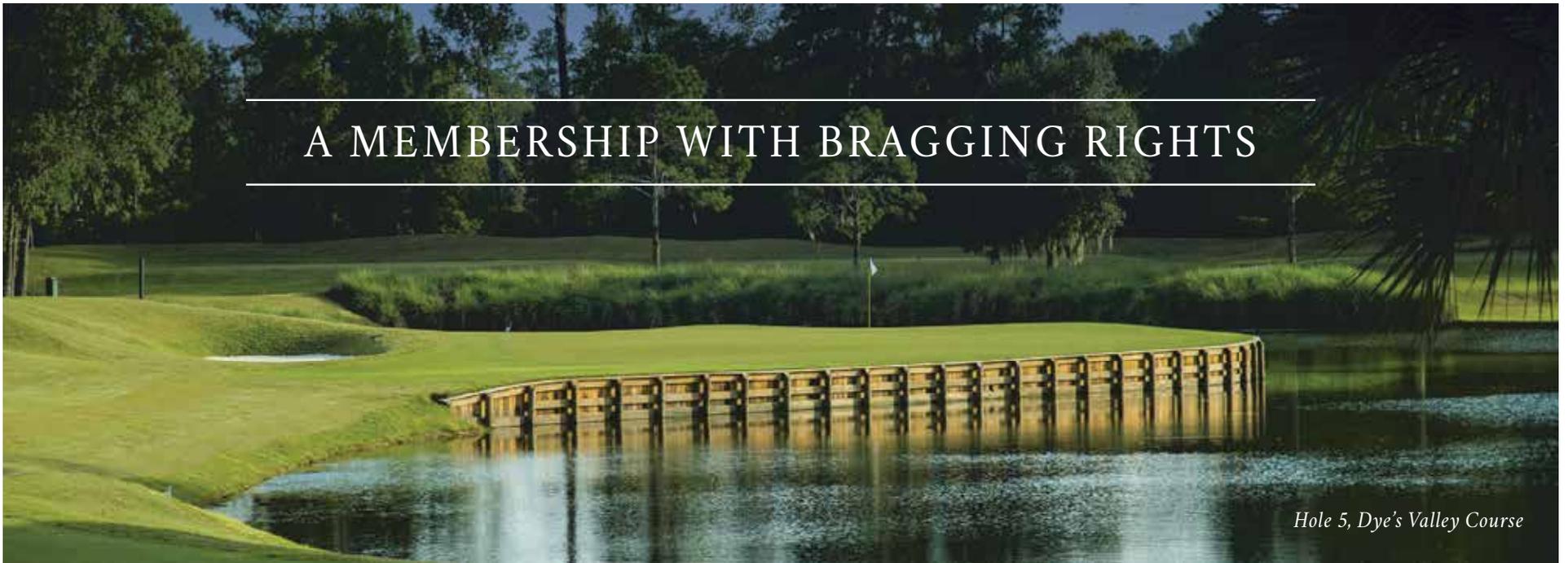


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Shapiro Group, 2012.

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JULY

TPC Sawgrass upgrades key to club's future, general manager says

By Jennifer Logue

When it comes to planning for the future of TPC Sawgrass and its signature event, THE PLAYERS Championship, General Manager Bill Hughes says it all comes down to three little words.

Grow the game.

“(At TPC Sawgrass) we are all in charge of growing the game,” Hughes told attendees at the July 14 joint luncheon meeting of the St. Johns County and Jacksonville chambers of commerce. “Because if we don’t grow the game, we have no game.”

Achieving that goal, he said, requires an understanding that, unlike other golf clubs, TPC Sawgrass is all about showcasing THE PLAYERS Championship and serving an increasingly global audience that flocks to Ponte Vedra Beach each year for golf’s “fifth major.” He pointed to the opening of the \$32.5 million clubhouse in 2007 as a seminal mo-

ment in the elevation of TPC Sawgrass and even the PGA Tour as a whole.

“The clubhouse changed the whole complexion of what the tour is,” Hughes said. “To see what has happened since then – and it didn’t happen by luck. It’s the result of a strategic business plan, and (Executive Director) Matt Rapp and his team have executed that plan on every pillar.”

Now, Hughes and his staff are preparing for the next phase in TPC Sawgrass’s evolution as the golf course undergoes a \$50 million renovation. Hughes outlined for chamber members a number of the major upgrades happening, including re-grassing all the greens with new varieties of grass, enlarging eight greens and lengthening two holes. Other improvements underway include ripping up the driving range and making it bigger and building a new golf course maintenance facility.



Dave Danzeisen, Lin Jones, Bill Hughes and Amanda Patch

Photo by Susan Griffin

AUGUST

Candidates meet constituents at ‘Politics in St. Johns’

A capacity crowd filled the Hilton Garden Inn in Ponte Vedra Beach, as dozens of candidates turned out to meet with constituents and supporters at “Politics in St. Johns.”

Co-sponsored by the Ponte Vedra Recorder and the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, the event attracted candidates from races up and down the ballot including the races for county

commission, St. Johns County sheriff and the 4th congressional district race.

The following week, the chamber hosted a second Politics in St. Johns event at the Solomon Calhoun Center in St. Augustine that attracted an estimated 500 people. Nearly 350 votes were cast in the event’s straw poll, which included national as well as local races.



Photos by Susan Griffin

County Commission Candidate (District 3) Paul Waldron, Ashley Zapata and Stephanie Waldron



Elizabeth Granite-Amato, County Commissioner – and 4th Congressional candidate – Bill McClure and Kim McClure



Circuit judge candidate Malcom Anthony, Waine Banyas and Chef Izzy Sipinkoski

AUGUST



Photo by Susan Griffin

Ed Johnson, Malcom Anthony and Recorder Managing Editor Jennifer Logue

Recorder, Chamber of Commerce host 'Coffee with the Editor'

More than 60 business and community leaders visited the Ponte Vedra Recorder offices to attend "Coffee with the Editor."

Held Aug. 10 in conjunction with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's Ponte Vedra Beach Division, the event gave attendees an opportunity to meet Managing Editor Jennifer Logue and learn about the role the

Recorder plays in the community.

"The great turnout here today is both a testament to the strong St. Johns County business community and the Recorder's well-established reputation as the community's paper of record since 1969," Logue told attendees. "We are committed to being the paper readers turn to for local, original reporting they can trust."



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SEPTEMBER



Photos by Susan Griffin

Best In show

1954 Cadillac El Dorado takes top honors at Ponte Vedra Auto Show

By Jennifer Logue

A 1954 Cadillac El Dorado took top honors at the 2016 Ponte Vedra Auto Show Sept. 11, claiming the coveted trophy from a field of hundreds of both new and vintage automobiles ranging from the 1920s to today.

The red convertible El Dorado owned by Ed Schenck received the Wells Fargo Best in Show Classic at the event, which featured the presentation of 30 trophies in a variety of categories. New this year was a category for golf carts, which shared space alongside displays and booths from



The Best Exotic Trophy, sponsored by the Ponte Vedra Recorder, went to Ralph Nuanez, shown here with St. Johns County Chamber CEO Isabelle Rodriguez and Brandon Starks of sponsor Fields Auto Group.

Auto

Continued from 28

local businesses, the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and more. The daylong event also featured a memorial tribute to mark the 15th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Sponsored by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, the annual Ponte Vedra Auto Show regularly attracts thousands of attendees. This was the first year the event was held at Nocatee Town Center.



Berry & Co Real Estate

Photo by Susan Griffin

Ponte Vedra welcomes Nona Blue

By Jennifer Logue

Hundreds of local residents turned out to celebrate the grand opening of Nona Blue last week, marking the latest restaurant to open in Ponte Vedra's burgeoning Sawgrass Village.

The restaurant's Sept. 14 grand opening was preceded by a VIP reception the night before. Guests walked the red carpet and posed for photos with PGA Tour golfer Graeme McDowell and his Nona Blue founding partners Joe Davi and Bill Bona.

Inside, guests enjoyed cocktails and generous samplings of the restaurant's appetizers, including firecracker shrimp, fried calamari, "Mama's meatloaf" sliders, flatbreads and more.

The following day, McDowell and his partners held a formal ribbon cutting ceremony to inaugurate their second Nona Blue location.

"It's so amazing," McDowell said of joining the Ponte Vedra community. "I've played many PLAYERS Championships here."

In addition to representatives from the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, the Nona Blue team was joined by former New York Giants Coach Tom Coughlin, who accepted a \$15,000 donation for his Tom Coughlin Jay Fund representing all the gratuities the Nona Blue staff collected during their "Practice with a Purpose" soft opening.



Photos by Susan Griffin

Representatives from the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce were on hand Sept. 14 to mark the grand opening of Nona Blue. Handling ribbon cutting duties was PGA Tour golfer Graeme McDowell, who owns Nona Blue with partners Joe Davi and Bill Bona.



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OCTOBER

Meet the Ponte Vedra Beach Division 2016-2017 Board of Directors

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce welcomes the 2016-2017 board of directors for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division. The incoming board represents a broad cross-section of industries and individuals, each of whom brings years of professional experience and business acumen to their board duties.

Chair
Ed Mercel
Coldwell Banker
Vanguard Realty

Ed Mercel is a successful Realtor with a penchant for network building in both sales and property management. He has more than 18 years of experience in the real estate industry, having worked for a number of leading real estate firms and property management divisions.

Vice Chair
Susan Griffin
Ponte Vedra Recorder

Susan Griffin is publisher of the Ponte Vedra Recorder, the community paper of record serving Ponte Vedra and the Beaches since 1969. Griffin also serves as publisher of the bimonthly First Coast Register magazine. The Register covers First Coast social events as well as fashion, dining and home décor trends throughout the year.

Secretary
Rob Schlingmann
The Plantation at
Ponte Vedra Beach

As general manager and chief operating office of The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach, Rob Schlingmann reports directly to the president and has full financial and operational responsibility for the club, which in high season has a staff of more than 140 employees in 16 departments. In addition to managing all club operations, he oversees all functions of the Plantation's homeowners' association.

Jennifer Belisario
TPC Sawgrass

Jennifer Belisario has worked for TPC Sawgrass, home of THE PLAYERS, for more than six years, the past four years as director of sales and marketing. She brings 10 years of successful sales, marketing and leadership experience and is responsible for managing the membership and annual pass sales, and implementing new marketing strategies and promotional initiatives to further solidify TPC Sawgrass's commitment to its members and the surrounding community.

Steven Beyer
VyStar Credit Union

As vice president of the Jacksonville Beach branch of VyStar Credit Union, Steven Beyer is responsible for extending credit union services to more people while making a positive impact in the community.

Toni Boudreaux
Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach

As director of development for the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, Toni Boudreaux is responsible for managing all fundraising activities for the nonprofit organization. Working with the executive director, she oversees and coordinates all aspects of the center's contributed income, including memberships, annual fund, sponsorships, corporate partnerships, non-program events and donor retention.

Janet Collins
Sawgrass Country Club

Janet Collins is the director of member services at Sawgrass Country Club, where she has been a key member of the staff for more than 18 years. A certified marketing professional, Collins leads the development of the club's marketing plans, overseeing membership development, budget management, social media, promotional presentations and the production and distribution of marketing materials.

Dave Danzeisen
Clean Getaway Car Wash and Detail

The immediate past chair of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division board, Dave Danzeisen has more than 40 years of experience in the transportation and car wash industries. Danzeisen is the owner and CEO of Clean Getaway Car Wash, Classic Car Wash and Duckys Car Wash. In 2006, he developed Showboat Car Wash in St. Augustine.

Gloria Dongara
AAA

Gloria Dongara is the life and annuities specialist for AAA Life. In this role, she helps clients ensure they are prepared for the unforeseen. A New Jersey native, Dongara moved to Ponte Vedra in 1992 as part of a relocation with Merrill Lynch, where she worked for 15 years and managed teams in the client service, cash management, draft processing and training areas.

Sarah Hewett
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Florida Network Realty

Sarah Hewett is a professional sales associate with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty. Based in Ponte Vedra Beach, she offers her clients full-service representation when they are looking to buy or sell their home.

Rachel Landis
PGA Tour

As sales manager for THE PLAYERS and Web.com Tour Championship, Rachel Landis works with the executive director on budgets, inventory, sponsorships and more.

In addition to generating sales of event packages and corporate sponsorships, she is responsible for sales reporting, concept marketing and promotions.

OCTOBER



Photo by Susan Griffin

Branch Manager Leidy Cuartas cuts the ribbon at the new Chase Bank branch in Nocatee Town Center. Members of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce were on hand to welcome the bank to the local business community.

Chase Bank opens in Nocatee

Chase Bank held a ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening celebration last week at its new branch location in Nocatee Town Center. Branch staff include Branch Manager Leidy Cuartas (front) and (from left) Teller Connie

Mignone, Multisite Manager Travis Ramsey, Relationship Banker Ledio Simoni, Mortgage Banker Denise Cambron, Lead Teller Operations Specialist Donna Specht-Rariden and Private Client Banker Chris McLaughlin.

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NOVEMBER

Chamber of Commerce hosts second annual veterans luncheon

By Jennifer Logue

The panelists came from starkly different backgrounds.

One grew up in a trailer with a single parent. Another enjoyed an upper middle-class upbringing as the child of a college professor and chemist. The third joined the army so he could “blow stuff up.”

Yet it was their military service and desire to help other veterans make a successful transition to the civilian world that united the three speakers at the second annual St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce veterans luncheon. Organized by the chamber’s Ponte Vedra Beach Division, the Nov. 9 luncheon at The Plantation clubhouse gave local business and community leaders an opportunity to learn about opportunities to hire veterans and how the skills military men and women develop make them responsible, valuable contributors in the workplace.

“The Marine Corps built in an exceptional level of confidence in me,” said Joe Padlo, who spent 11 years in the military before founding a commercial cleaning business that provides employment opportunities for other veterans. “When I make a decision, I’m going to stick to that decision and I’m going to run with it.”

John Fails said when he joined the military, he saw service as a way to make money that he could send home to his struggling family. “I was just thrilled to have three square meals a day,” he said. “So for me, (enlisting) was about making my own path and helping to make a path for my family.”

Serving in the military taught him how to analyze situations and problems, Fails said – skills he now uses as executive director of Bunker Labs Jacksonville, a nonprofit that helps veterans start and grown their own businesses.

Each of the veteran panelists described how serving in the military changed them as individuals and made them the people they are today.

“Remember the shy kid in school? That was me,” SFC Michael Kube said. “Becoming a drill sergeant was the last thing I ever imagined I would do.”

Doing so, however, helped him develop leadership skills while also imparting those skills to others.

“Seeing parents’ expressions when they would see how much their sons had grown up was a rewarding experience,” said Kube, who has also started his own business. “The army gave me the opportunity to help other people change their lives.”



Photo by Susan Griffin

SFC Michael Kube, John Fails and Joe Adlo share how their military experiences have translated to the workforce at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce’s second annual veterans luncheon, held Nov. 9 at The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach clubhouse.

Economist: No recession on the horizon, but 2017 may bring inflation

By Jennifer Logue

Economists don’t foresee a recession happening in 2017 or 2018, but inflation may prompt the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates in the coming year.

Those were a few of the economic assessments shared by Dr. Lawrence Yun at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce’s quarterly Economic Development Council breakfast Nov. 18. Yun – the chief economist and senior vice president of research for the National Association of Realtors – contended that the zero rate of inflation seen in recent years was actually the result of lower gas prices, which offset increases in the price of food, college education and other key indicators to keep inflation at bay. He doesn’t see that continuing for much longer, however.

“In order to have another year with no inflation, gas would have to be \$1 a gallon,” Yun said, predicting that the nation could see inflation of 3 to 4 percent and prompting the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates.

In a presentation that reviewed a



Dr. Lawrence Yun

number of economic indicators – such as lifetime wealth, homeownership rates, new housing starts and increases in jobs – Yun noted that St. Johns County has bucked the trend of more significant declines in those areas seen in other parts of the country.

“The level of growth (in St. Johns County) is very unique – one of the bright stars in the whole country,” he said. “St. Johns County has been very immune.”



Photos by Susan Griffin

Flagler Hospital President Joe Gordy (center) receives the Fred Schroeder EDC Member of the Year Award from EDC Chair Victor Raymos (left) and Schroeder’s son, Dirk Schroeder.

NOVEMBER



Chamber Before Hours: Regions Bank

Regions Bank in Ponte Vedra Beach recently hosted local business and community leaders for a “Before Hours” networking breakfast. Members of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

joined with bank officials to welcome chamber members and guests.

Attendees included Magen Doyle, Jeff Adams, Chelsea Schuler, Dennis Cox, Matt Price, Ed Mercel, Dane Addison and Christina Simpson.

DECEMBER



Will Williams (center) recently celebrated one year of business at Willness Fitness in Ponte Vedra Beach with a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

Photo by Susan Griffin

Willness Fitness celebrates first anniversary

Willness Fitness in Ponte Vedra Beach celebrated one year of business at a ribbon cutting ceremony in December attended by the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

Located on Solana Road, Willness Fitness offers private training and spin classes with plans to offer yoga classes in the future.

Williams works with clients ranging from 16 to 74 years old. In addition to training clients at his gym, Williams – an Army veteran – is partnering with his wife Alison to build Operation Green Zone, a nonprofit organization that helps veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

DECEMBER

Chamber's PVB Division hosts holiday party

By Jennifer Logue

The Cutter & Cutter Fine Art Gallery in Sawgrass Village was the setting for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce’s “Holiday Merriment Party” for its Ponte Vedra Beach Division.

Guests enjoyed cocktails, entertainment and a buffet provided by Chef Tommy McDonough of Flavor Palette as they viewed the gallery’s art displays and networked with other business and community leaders.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of the chamber’s top two awards. St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Isabelle Rodriguez presented the Grace Hayes Ambassador of the Year Award to Lori Adams. The Chamber Member of the Year Award, meanwhile, was presented to Ponte Vedra Recorder Publisher Susan Griffin.



Sponsors of the Ponte Vedra holiday party for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Photo courtesy of SJC Chamber of Commerce

Mel Cox, Sandy Kavanaugh and Felicia Cox

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Chef Tommy McDonough of Ponte Vedra Beach’s Flavor Palette provided the food for the Chamber of Commerce holiday gathering.

Photo by Jennifer Logue



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JUNE YEAR IN REVIEW

Grassroots group advocates for Ponte Vedra, Palm Valley greenway

By Carrie Resch

A local community group is proposing the creation of a seven-mile greenway trail that would span from Solana Road to Landrum Lane and could be used for hiking, biking and equestrian use.

The PV Greenway and Preserve Initiative, a grassroots group dedicated to making its vision of seven miles of designated greenway area a reality, proposes using existing infrastructure from county-owned property as well as neighborhood and private owners in a public/private partnership. Founder Deb Chapin said the group is collaborating with a number of public and private entities and associations such as the East Coast Greenway, the Florida Greenway & Trails System, and the Palm Valley Community Association.

Chapin, who formerly owned and operated an equestrian center in Palm Valley, said she was already familiar with some of the off-the-map trails that would comprise the greenway.

“It was really my equestrian background that gave me the idea of an interior corridor,” she said.

The proposed greenway trail would extend from Solana Road down to Landrum Lane and up to Sawgrass Village. Additionally, Chapin noted, there is the possibility of miles of sidewalk connectivity to destinations such as Mickler’s Landing, Nocatee and Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve.

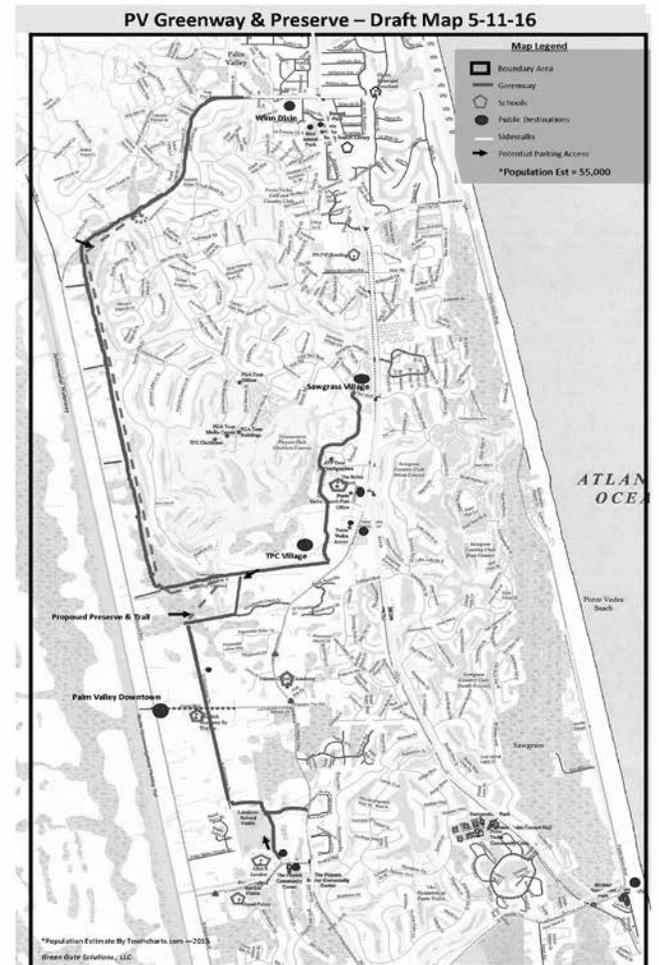
The group also proposes the greenway as a possible alternate route to THE PLAYERS Championship, a topic Chapin said the group has broached with the PGA TOUR.

In addition to the recreational standpoint of such a trail, the group is also promoting the idea from a safety standpoint. In 2013, the wife of one of the group’s members was the victim of a hit and run when she was struck while riding her bike on Palm Valley Road. She survived the incident and has become an advocate for building a sidewalk on the western side of Palm Valley Road between Landrum Lane and A1A. The Palm Valley sidewalk project also plays a role in the greenway initiative.

Chapin said the greenway could also serve as a traffic-separated route for children to walk to one of the numerous area schools, including Landrum Middle School, Ocean Palms Elementary and The Bolles School. Other uses include an alternate route to Sawgrass Village, the Ponte Vedra YMCA or THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center.

Long-term, the vision for the greenway involves a number of possible amenities such as a dog park, community garden, a pavilion or nature center.

Chapin said the group hopes to gain official support from the county but realizes the budget for such an endeavor is limited. To that end, the group is searching for alternative funding in the form of state, federal and private grants.



Map submitted by Deb Chapin

The proposed greenway trail would link Solana Road to Landrum Lane.

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YEAR IN REVIEW JUNE

Opening of new Nocatee K-8 school delayed one year

The new K-8 school slated to open next year in Nocatee's Twenty Mile neighborhood has been pushed back and scaled down, with a smaller school now projected to open for the 2018-2019 school year, the St. Johns County School District has announced.

In a statement posted on its website, the district said it received only one bid to construct the new school, and that bid exceeded the construction budget.

"Awarding this bid is clearly not in the best interest of the district and community," the statement read. "The stewardship of resources provided by taxpayers is paramount and the district will not violate the trust of the community by inappropriately spending these funds in a way that exceeds acceptable limits."

Under the revised construction plans, both the Nocatee school and

another K-8 school planned for the Aberdeen community will be scaled back to accommodate approximately 1,000 students instead of the original 1,490.

The revised plans will also include a two-story classroom wing as an alternate bid item in order to bring the school to the original planned capacity of 1,490.

"Depending on the availability of revenue, the two-story wing will either be built as part of the original school construction beginning this summer, or at a later date as an addition to the school," the district's statement read. "It is anticipated that the extension of time to complete the K-8 schools, along with the revised scope, will provide the opportunity for additional firms to participate in the bid process and ultimately result in a cost savings and the ability to bring these projects back into the planned budget."

Ponte Vedra man found murdered in home

By Jennifer Logue

A 70-year-old Ponte Vedra man was found murdered in his Sawmill Lakes home June 22, setting off a manhunt that ended the following morning at a Daytona Beach motel, where authorities found the bodies of the victim's son and daughter-in-law.

Deputies had been seeking Joseph Carmichael Reddock Jr., 41, in connection with the murder of his father. Joseph Reddock Sr., 70, was found by sheriff's deputies in the bedroom of his Sawmill Lakes home after the authorities received a request to attempt to contact him. The discovery launched a search for Reddock's son, who had a long criminal record and was believed to have been driving his father's car.

Authorities issued an alert for a 1999 Silver Honda with a faded hood and Florida plate number 635RHY. Reddock Jr. was believed to have been traveling with his wife, Samantha. After crime scene technicians began examining the Sawmill Lakes home, officials issued an arrest warrant for second degree murder and possession of ammunition by a convicted felon



REDDOCK

for Reddock Jr.

On June 23, Daytona Beach police conducting a narcotics investigation discovered the victim's car parked near the Regency Motel on North Ridgewood Ave. in Daytona Beach.

Noting the suspect was believed to be armed and dangerous, police evacuated several nearby rooms and businesses, and requested assistance from the Volusia County Sheriff's Office SWAT team. The bomb squad and a robot were also brought to the scene. After the robot entered the room, the authorities found Reddock dead on the bed, while his wife, also deceased, was found on the floor. Several weapons were also found in the room.

The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office inmate database indicates Joseph Reddock Jr. had been arrested numerous times on various domestic assault and battery-related charges since 2000. His father had also taken out two domestic violence injunctions against him.



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JULY **YEAR IN REVIEW**

All Ponte Vedra public schools earn 'A' grades

St. Johns County schools still tops in state

By Jennifer Logue

Every one of Ponte Vedra's public schools earned an "A" rating in school grades released July 8 by the Florida Department of Education.

"A" ratings were awarded locally to Ocean Palms and PVPV/Rawlings elementary schools, K-8 school Valley Ridge Academy, Alice B. Landrum Middle School, and both Nease and Ponte Vedra high schools. In addition, the rankings show that the St. Johns County School District was the top-performing district in the state for the eighth year in a row and

one of just three districts statewide to earn the coveted "A" rating. St. Johns County had 22 "A" schools, six "B" schools, four "C" schools and one "D" school.

"I am very proud of the performance of our children; this has been a strategic effort by our outstanding teachers to implement the new and more rigorous standards," Superintendent Dr. Joseph Joyner said. "It is gratifying to see how our teachers have embraced the standards and continue to be committed to every student's success."

Across the county, 11 elementary schools, four middle schools, all three of

the district's K-8 academies and four high schools received a grade of "A" this year. Durbin Creek Elementary School's grade is pending and is expected to be an "A."

In addition to Ocean Palms and PVPV/Rawlings, St. Johns County elementary schools receiving "A" ratings included Cunningham Creek, W.D. Hartley, Hickory Creek, R.B. Hunt, Julington Creek, Mill Creek, Palencia, Timberlin Creek and Wards Creek.

"A"-rated middle schools included Fruit Cove, Pacetti Bay and Switzerland Point, while Liberty Pines and Patriot Oaks also received the top grade. Bartram Trail and

Creekside high schools also earned "A" rankings.

Ketterlinus Elementary, South Woods Elementary, R.J. Murray Middle, Gamble Rogers Middle, and Pedro Menendez and St. Augustine high schools received a "B" this year. John A. Crookshank Elementary, Otis A. Mason Elementary, Osceola Elementary and Sebastian Middle schools received a "C" this year. The Webster School received a "D."

This is the first year the new, more difficult school grading system is in place under the Florida Standards Assessment which includes a change in the metrics used to calculate learning gains. To review the state report, visit <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org>.

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YEAR IN REVIEW AUGUST

Trump stumps in Jacksonville

By Jennifer Logue

Republican presidential nominee Donald J. Trump stumped for votes in Jacksonville Aug. 3, attracting a standing-room-only crowd for a rally and wide-ranging speech that outlined in broad strokes the businessman's key policy objectives amid jabs at President Barack Obama and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

The 15,000-seat Veterans Memorial Arena was filled to capacity with a diverse crowd that waved Trump signs, sported "Make America Great Again" hats and at various times broke into chants ranging from "Trump! Trump! Trump!" to "Lock her up!" — a reference to Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton. The attendees — who ranged in age from small children to senior citizens — included a group of teens who traveled from Baker and Nassau counties to hear Trump speak.

In an hour-long address presented without a TelePrompTer, Trump touched on a number of key issues, including the economy.

"What we need is leadership," Trump said. "Our leaders are incompetent. Our debt has doubled under Barack Obama. He doesn't know what he's doing. We have a big, fat, horrible problem."

Noting that in recent years manu-



facturing jobs across the country had been shipped to other countries, Trump pledged that if elected businesses that moved jobs outside the United States would face a 35 percent tax when they tried to import their products back into America for sale.

Pointing to the problems European countries such as the United Kingdom, France and Germany have experienced due to the influx of millions of Middle Eastern immigrants, Trump charged his opponent with wanting to create a similar problem here in America.

"Hillary Clinton wants to bring in people by the tens of thousands," Trump said, shaking his head slowly. "Not gonna happen."

He also criticized Obama for refusing to use the term "radical Islamic extremism."

"If you're afraid to say what the problem is, if you're unwilling to talk about the problem, you're never going to solve the problem," Trump said. "We're going to make our country safe again and make America great again. We are going to have law and order."



Photos by Jennifer Logue

Presidential nominee Donald Trump addresses the crowd Aug. 3 at Jacksonville's Veterans Memorial Arena.

PZA recommends transmittal of Vilano hotel proposal

By Jennifer Logue

The St. Johns County Planning & Zoning Agency board voted 5 to 1 Aug. 4 in favor of recommending that the Board of County Commissioners approve transmittal of a comprehensive plan amendment that would allow the construction of a hotel resort complex on Coastal Highway.

At the meeting — attended by hundreds of residents who came to voice their opposition to the project — board members Jeffrey Martin, Brad Nelson, David Rice, Archie Wainwright and Jon Woodard voted to recommend transmittal of the requested zoning change, citing the jobs and tax revenue that would be generated by the project. Dick Williams was the lone board member to vote against the project, saying the size and scope of the proposed Watermarke resort was not compatible with the surrounding area.

"I'm not going to say yes if I'm not convinced it really belongs there," said Williams, noting he had received hundreds of emails from Vilano Beach residents expressing their opposition to the project. "It's not compatible in my mind."

The Aug. 4 hearing on the issue began with a presentation by county Chief Planner Danielle Handy, who

explained that a comprehensive plan amendment was necessary because the property in question — a 43-acre parcel located on Coastal Highway approximately 1.5 miles north of Vilano Town Center — is currently zoned residential C, which does not allow hotels or beach clubs. In order to build the proposed project, the property would have to be rezoned as residential D, which allows such facilities.

Following Handy's presentation, the developer introduced some last-minute changes to the project in the form of a text amendment. Working from a photocopied page of the proposal upon which text had been crossed out and handwritten changes inserted, attorney Ellen Avery-Smith said that in response to community concerns about population density and traffic, the developers had decided to scale back the project. Far from appeasing those in opposition, however, the last-minute changes prompted questions from PZA board members and criticism from attorney Jane West, who represents members of the Save Our Vilano group that opposes the project.

"This is just a procedural mess," West said. "We should not be changing the comprehensive plan based on a piece of paper we all just received 10 minutes ago."

Numerous residents spoke in opposition to the project,

including several speakers who brought letters from their homeowners' and condo associations opposing the project. One resident, a former longtime traffic engineer and federal highway employee, disputed the projected traffic impacts of the project. Others pleaded with board members to consider the concerns of Vilano Beach residents.

"Developers have one goal in mind and that is to make as much money as possible," resident Linda Doherty said. "We truly have an idyllic paradise. If not for vigilant zoning, it may slip away and turn into everywhere else."

Attorney Avery-Smith disputed residents' contention that the area is primarily residential, pointing to several restaurants along A1A. As for traffic, she added, planned FDOT improvements to the St. Augustine intersection of May Street and San Marcos Ave. were expected to ease traffic backups over the Usina Bridge to Vilano Beach.

In the end, the majority of PZA board members said they were reassured by the studies conducted by county staff indicating that traffic increases would be negligible and the overall impact of the project positive.

"For me, it comes down to the tax revenue generated," PZA Chair Jeffrey Martin said. "(This project) creates jobs, tourism, a bed tax — those are all good things. We need those things."

AUGUST **YEAR IN REVIEW**

Proposed development on Ponte Vedra Outpost draws opposition

Residents launch 'Save Guana Now' campaign to preserve land

By Carrie Resch

A proposal to build a 77-home development on 99 acres of Ponte Vedra land known as The Outpost is drawing opposition from both local residents and environmental groups.

Located at the end of Neck Road and adjacent to the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, the property is owned by Gate Petroleum.

Last month, the Ponte Vedra Corp. – a subsidiary of Gate – submitted an application to rezone the land from rural to residential in order to build the proposed housing development, to be known as Vista Tranquila.

Neck Road residents Nicole Crosby and Gary Coulliette, however, have launched the “Save Guana Now” campaign to stop the development and preserve the property. Their opposition is outlined on the website www.saveguananow.org.

The group maintains that such a development would have a far-reaching impact on the environment and wildlife in the area, including migrating birds, threatened species, and species of special concern. Both the Northeast Florida Sierra Club group and the Florida Audubon Society have also expressed public opposition to the project. In addition, the environmental impact of potential pollution from fertilizer, pesticides and run-off could contaminate the GTMNERR waterways, Crosby noted.

“It’s going to be catastrophic environmentally – not only because of the destruction of habitat on the 70 acres

itself where they want to put in those 77 houses, but also because of the effect it’s going to have on the surrounding Guana Preserve and even the National Estuarine Research Reserve that Lake Guana flows into,” she said.

On top of the environmental impact, Crosby said she and neighbors living on Neck Road are concerned about traffic and safety. The proposed subdivision

has only one entry point for the neighborhood via Neck Road – a two-lane road that dead ends at The Outpost property.

This isn’t the first time the Outpost’s owners have proposed developing the property.

“The county received an application in 2014 for the property to be recognized with a Residential C land use designa-

tion, which could have allowed up to approximately 306 homes with a companion rezoning,” St. Johns County Director of Communications Michael Ryan said.

“In July, asserting their interpretation of a Residential C land use designation, the land owners filed a rezoning application requesting approximately 77 homes.

That application is currently under review at the staff level.”

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YEAR IN REVIEW AUGUST



Bolles School alumnus Ryan Murphy won gold medals in the 100- and 200-meter backstroke finals, in addition to the 400-meter medley relay, at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Murphy wins three gold medals in Olympic debut

Olympian and Bolles graduate Ryan Murphy has won three Olympic gold medals with the completion of the men's 400-meter medley relay and the men's 100-meter and 200-meter backstrokes.

Fellow Bolles alumni and U.S. teammate Caeleb Dressel and Joseph Schooling – who represented Singapore – also won gold. Dressel claimed two gold medals with his performance in the men's 400-meter medley relay as well as the men's 400-meter free relay. Schooling captured the gold medal over Michael Phelps in the 100-meter butterfly in an Olympic record time, claiming the first-ever Olympic gold medal for Singapore.

Rubio, Rutherford, Shoar among big election winners

By Jennifer Logue

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, former Jacksonville Sheriff John Rutherford and St. Johns County Sheriff David Shoar were among the big winners in the Aug. 30 primary election.

Rubio won the Republican primary for U.S. senator, receiving 1,029,000 votes or 72 percent of the ballots. On the Democratic ballot, U.S. Rep. Patrick Murphy received 665,053 votes, or 59 percent of the votes. Joining Rubio and Murphy on the Nov. 8 final election ballot will be Libertarian Paul Stanton, who received 2,944 votes.

In the race to replace retiring U.S. Rep. Ander Crenshaw in the 4th Congressional District, Rutherford secured the Republican nomination, receiving 37,390 votes and 39 percent of the vote. Rutherford will face Democrat David Bruderly and Gary Koniz (no party affiliation) in the final election.

David Shoar easily won re-election to his fourth term as St. Johns County sheriff, capturing nearly 86 percent of the vote (23,731).

Hunter Conrad, meanwhile, won re-election to the office of Clerk of Court, winning with 15,241 votes.

In the race for Board of County Commissioners, District 1 Commissioner Jimmy Johns retained his seat, while



Henry Dean was the winner in District 5. The District 3 race proved to be the most competitive with Paul Waldron winning the contest by just seven votes over Jerry Cameron.

In the races for 7th Judicial Circuit, Stasia Warren topped the Group 4 race, while Scott DuPont won re-election in Group 10. The Group 13 race went to challenger Kathleen McNeilly, while incumbent Howard McGillin was the victor in the Group 17 contest.

For the first time in 16 years, residents of the Ponte Vedra Municipal Service District (MSD) had an opportunity to vote for trustees. In the race for Seat 2, Catherine "Kitty" Switkes won election. Seat 4 went to John Cellucci, while Brad Wester won Seat 6.

In other election contests, U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis won the Republican contest to reclaim his seat, while Democrat Bill McCullough topped the Democratic ticket.

YEAR IN REVIEW SEPTEMBER

Gate subsidiary sues county to act on Outpost development application

By Jennifer Logue

A Gate Petroleum subsidiary has filed a lawsuit against St. Johns County, asking the court to force the county to act on its planned unit development (PUD) application for "Vista Tranquila," a 77-home development it wants to build on the 99-acre Outpost property in Ponte Vedra Beach.

In the lawsuit, the Ponte Vedra Corporation (PVC) charges that county officials have failed to act for more than three years on its request for a routine administrative interpretation regarding the limits of the Conservation designation of the 99-acre Outpost property, which is located at the end of Neck Road and adjacent to the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine

Research Reserve.

After failing to receive a response to the request submitted in 2013, PVC filed a PUD zoning application in July 2016, which the lawsuit charges also has not been acted upon within the typical time frame.

"By refusing to process and/or by delaying the processing of PVC's application for administrative interpretation and the Vista Tranquila PUD application," the lawsuit states, "county staff has illegitimately imposed procedural barriers to PVC's ability to seek any final agency action from the BOCC concerning development of the Outpost site under the current Comp Plan."

The lawsuit asks the court to issue an injunction requiring the county to process the PUD application in a timely

manner, interpret the property's Conservation designation and declare that county staff have violated PVC's right to due process by delaying consideration of the project.

"This is not to get damages or monetary benefit," Gate Petroleum Vice President Ken Wilson said of the lawsuit against the county. "It's just to force them to act."

Resident opposition

In response to the proposed Vista Tranquila development, local residents have organized a group called "Save Guana Now." Led by Neck Road residents Nicole Crosby and Gary Coulliette, the group says the Outpost property is home to wildlife and aims to prevent development on the property so

it may be preserved.

"I think Ponte Vedra Corporation is behaving like a bully," Crosby said. "They've filed a lawsuit to circumvent public process because they don't like the laws on the books. We get emails every single day from people who are furious about how Ponte Vedra Corporation wants to destroy that land."

St. Johns County Communications Director Michael Ryan said the county was unable to comment on the facts of the case due to the pending litigation.

"The PUD application filed this summer is currently under review and the county will continue to process the request accordingly," Ryan said. "But it's safe to say the county may have a difference of opinion regarding the events and issues outlined in the suit."

SEPTEMBER **YEAR IN REVIEW**

Watermarke developers withdraw application for comp plan amendment

By Jennifer Logue

Moments before a county commissioner could make a motion to deny their application, the developers of the proposed Watermarke resort withdrew their application for a comprehensive plan amendment that would allow them to construct a private resort and beach club on Coastal Highway at Vilano Beach.

At the Sept. 20 meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, Commissioner Rachel Bennett concluded nearly five hours of presentations, discussion and public comment by making a motion to approve transmittal of the proposed amendment. When no one seconded Bennett's motion, however, Commissioner Jay Morris indicated his intention to make a motion to deny the application, prompting the developers' attorney to request its withdrawal. County commissioners then voted to accept the application's withdrawal.

The hearing was but the latest chapter in the proposal to build a resort with 120 hotel rooms, 50 villas, a 39-slip marina and 70,000 square feet of resort amenities on Coastal



Highway/A1A approximately 1.5 miles north of Vilano Town Center. The proposal has sparked community opposition, with some Vilano Beach residents forming the group Save Our Vilano to oppose the project.

The Sept. 20 BCC meeting was held before hundreds of residents wearing white, many of whom sported white t-shirts proclaiming their opposition to the resort plan.

"It was clear that, with the numbers of opposition present, we were not going to get the votes needed for transmittal," developer Steve Magiera said. "By withdrawing the application, we preserved the option to reassess the plan and potentially resubmit our application in the months ahead."

While saying that he and his project partners appreciate the passion of the Save Our Vilano members, Magiera said he doesn't believe the group is representative of the views of the wider community.

"Since the hearing, we have received numerous phone calls, text messages and emails from the working residents of the Vilano area expressing concern that the Save Our Vilano group purports to represent all of the Vilano area," he said. "Their message to us is that the 150 people that attended the hearing... do not represent the other 3,000 plus Vilano area residents."

Following the application's withdrawal, Magiera said the Watermarke team was

reassessing its resort proposal "to determine whether a mutually agreeable and financially feasible alternative exists." In the meantime, he said, the developers will move forward with the residential option for which the property is already zoned.

Bill Nesbitt, a spokesman for Save Our Vilano, said the group has no issue with that project.

"Save Our Vilano recognizes the right of this or any responsible developer to build out the currently in force residential PUD that the land owner requested and was granted in 2007," Nesbitt said.

Should the resort proposal be resubmitted, however, the group will reassert its opposition.

"Save Our Vilano remains vigilant and opposed to any change in the comp plan that would allow higher densities and large commercial projects along A1A," he said. "The prevailing view across this barrier island of 5,000 residents is to continue as an area of residential neighborhoods along with a vital town center on Vilano Road."

OCTOBER **YEAR IN REVIEW**

Plantation celebrates opening of newly renovated golf course

By Jennifer Logue

Redesigned holes, state of the art traps, two new chipping areas and an enhanced practice area are just a few of improvements golfers will find at the newly

renovated Plantation golf course, which formally reopened for play Oct. 22.

Plantation residents celebrated the completion of the multimillion-dollar makeover with a breakfast and ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by PGA Tour golfer

and Plantation resident Billy Horschel.

"I think people are going to enjoy it," said Horschel, praising the redesigned course for its clean lines and the Planta-

tion staff for their tradition of keeping the course in top condition. "There's no doubt it will be the best conditioned course in the entire state."



Photo by Jennifer Logue

PGA Tour golfer Billy Horschel (with scissors), course architect Greg Letsche (center right) and Plantation President Steve Booma (center left)

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YEAR IN REVIEW OCTOBER

Hurricane Matthew hammers First Coast

By Jennifer Logue

Massive flooding, severe property damage, extensive erosion. Hurricane Matthew roared onto the First Coast in October as a Category 3 storm, unleashing devastation along the coast but moving on from St. Johns County with no local loss of life.

The first major hurricane to hit the Jacksonville area in more than 50 years, Matthew brought down trees and power lines, flooded streets and damaged more

than 600 structures, washing away the very ground beneath many oceanfront homes and causing damage estimated to be in the billions of dollars.

Bridges to the barrier islands were closed and fallen trees and power lines left many residents without power. Along the coast, Matthew's storm surge flooded homes and cities, with downtown St. Augustine and Jacksonville Beach hit particularly hard by the storm's ferocity.

According to JEA, more than 245,000 of its customers were without power at

the height of the storm, and residents outside of the evacuation zone hunkered down, keeping in contact online via their cell phones.

By Saturday, Oct. 8, however, Matthew had moved on and recovery operations were already underway, as utilities companies worked to restore power and grateful elected officials reported no fatalities.

"It's a new day, Jacksonville," Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry said. "Over the past 72 hours, we have experienced an event that the weather experts in our community have not seen."

Three dozen mutual aid crews from across the state and outside of Florida came to assist in the recovery operations, as power was restored. In those coastal areas that suffered the most damage, officials went house to house inspect-

ing for damage, with more than 600 properties marked as sustaining damage from the hurricane. The Salvation Army established mobile food trucks in five county locations, distributing hot meals and clean-up kits to affected residents.

As clean-up and recovery efforts continued, many residents expressed praise for the way local and state officials responded to Hurricane Matthew.

"Kudos should go out for the excellent service and response," Rich and Mary Ann Woods wrote.

In the aftermath of the hurricane, the Municipal Service District Board of Trustees pledged to advocate for efforts to restore Ponte Vedra's dunes. The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners also scheduled an emergency meeting to discuss further recovery efforts.



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Photos by Susan Griffin

A house in South Ponte Vedra Beach that sustained significant erosion as a result of Hurricane Matthew.

NOVEMBER **YEAR IN REVIEW**

St. Johns County voters prove critical to statewide, national elections

By Jennifer Logue

St. Johns County voters once again proved critical to deciding statewide and national elections Tuesday, as big electoral wins in Northeast Florida propelled Republican candidates up and down the ballot to victory.

All eyes were on Florida Nov. 8, with election observers noting that Republican nominee Donald Trump needed Florida's 29 electoral votes if he were to have any chance of capturing the presidency. After several hours of neck-and-neck voter tallies, Florida was moved into the Republican column thanks in large part to the sizable vote totals Trump amassed in Northeast Florida, which offset Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton's strength in the southern part of the state.

Both the Trump and Clinton campaigns recognized the importance of Northeast Florida to securing Florida's 29 electoral votes. Trump held no fewer than four major rallies in the Jacksonville/St. Augustine area on his way to the White House, and in the final week before the election, both former President Bill Clinton and President Barack Obama visited Jacksonville to campaign on Hillary's Clinton's behalf – with Obama and Trump holding dueling rallies Nov. 3 in Jacksonville. In the end, however, First Coast voters helped deliver a Florida win for Trump.

U.S. Senator Marco Rubio also benefited from First Coast Republican votes, retaining his senate seat and fending off a strong challenge from U.S. Rep. Patrick Murphy. On the congressional side, former Jacksonville Sheriff John Rutherford easily bested Democratic rival David Bruderly and Independent Gary Koniz to capture the 4th congressional district seat.

Historic upset

At press time, Trump was the projected winner of 276 electoral votes to Clinton's 218, with several state tallies incomplete but projected to be leaning Republican. The key battleground state of Pennsylvania's swing to Trump – securing the presidency – left media pundits in shock.

"It just is stunning to me that Donald Trump has won the presidency," said FOX News commentator Chris Wallace. "I just can't believe it."

At 2:45 a.m. EST, Trump took the stage to the jubilant cheers of his supporters.

"Now it's time for America to bind the wounds of division," Trump said. "To all Republicans and Democrats and Independents across this nation, it is time for us to come together as one united people. I pledge to every citizen of this land that I will be president to all Americans."

County results

In St. Johns County, more than 80 percent of the county's 172,073 voters turned out, delivering large victories for Republican candidates up and down the ballot. Trump

carried the county with 88,633 votes (64.36 percent) compared to Clinton's 43,037 (31.25 percent). Libertarian Gary Johnson received 3,608 votes (2.62 percent) and Green Party Candidate Jill Stein 860 (.62 percent).

Down ticket, Rubio and Rutherford enjoyed even larger victories. Rubio garnered more than 70 percent of St. Johns County ballots, with 95,693 to Rep. Patrick Murphy's 35,525. In the 4th congressional race, Rutherford captured 71.74 percent of the vote

to David Bruderly's 26.20 percent and Gary Koniz's 1.96 percent.

At the state level, Sen. Travis Hutson easily won re-election, receiving 91,840 votes (70.77 percent) against Curtis Ceballos, who garnered 37,938 votes (29.23 percent). District 24 State Rep. Paul Renner also won re-election, tallying 13,233 votes (65.31 percent) against Adam Morley, who received 7,030 votes (34.69 percent).

In the contest for Tolomato Community

Development District seat 3, William Fitzgerald unseated incumbent Stephen Grossman, receiving 2,293 votes (52.05 percent) to Grossman's 2,112 (47.95 percent).

Statewide, the proposed solar energy amendment failed to meet the required 60 percent approval threshold, but amendments approving medical marijuana, a tax exemption for disabled first responders and a homestead tax exemption for some seniors all passed handily.

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THEME: FINISH THE LYRICS

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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16						17				18				
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64						65	66			67				
68						69				70				
71						72				73				

ACROSS

- Face fringe
- Go low, as in jeans
- "Oh, my!"
- Underway
- Tire measurement
- Wear away
- Luciano Pavarotti, e.g.
- Roman goddess of plenty
- Previously an Oiler
- "*I'm ready, yes, I'm ready for you. I'm standing on my own _____"
- "*On a dark desert highway, cool wind in _____"
- It's all the rage
- Person, place or thing
- PC brain
- Bingo-like game
- Moses' older sister
- Be in pain
- Sail support
- "*Come on, shake your body, baby, do the _____"
- "Heat of the Moment" band
- Single-cell protozoan
- "*Then along comes _____"
- Great white, e.g.
- "Goodness gracious!"
- Commoner
- "*Raindrops are falling on _____"
- Saharan-like
- "Cause I'm a woman! W-O-M-A-N..." singer
- Like Roman Empire
- ENT's first concern
- "*My daddy's sleeping

DOWN

- Quilter's stuffing
- Not many
- Something that's unacceptable
- Disappear, like into the sunset
- Unbroken series of events
- See him run!
- Cleopatra's cause of death
- Whatchamacallit
- "Summertime" or "Porgy and Bess," e.g.
- "Laughing on the inside" in text
- Month of Purim
- D.C. bigwig
- Thai or Mexican food, e.g.
- a.k.a. dropsy
- Delish!
- Small bouquet
- Geological rift
- Aggressive

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9		4				2	1	
	7						8	
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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.

- "Umble" Heep
- "*I've got a blank space, baby, and I'll write your _____"
- Boisterous play
- Collectively
- Come to terms
- "*...Here's my number, so call me _____"
- Container weight
- Kind of ski lift
- "Farewell" in Paris
- V.I.P. in Hawaii
- Draper of "Mad Men"
- Actress Fanning
- Parkinson's drug
- Updike's "Rabbit _____"
- Turkish honorific
- "*All you get is pain. When I wanted sunshine I got _____"
- Sound on Old MacDonald's farm
- Audience's rejection
- Hillary's hubby
- British river
- December 25th, for short
- Pre-college challenge
- Party bowlful



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YEAR IN REVIEW DECEMBER

Nocatee to build new water spray park, expanded activity field

By Jennifer Logue

A new four-story water "spray playground" and an expanded activity field twice the size of Nocatee Town Center field will be the newest amenities added to Nocatee, The PARC Group announced.

In what the developers say is the largest addition of new amenities since the master-planned community was founded a decade ago, The PARC Group unveiled plans for the new offerings, the first of which – an expanded activity field to be located behind the Nocatee Swim Club – is expected to be completed in Summer 2017. The new Spray Park has an anticipated completion date of Summer 2018.

Nocatee Spray Park

Building on the popularity of its signature Splash Water Park – which features a resort-style lagoon pool, lazy river, a water slide tower and a 330-foot zipline – The PARC Group has developed plans to build the Nocatee Spray Park. To be located between the Nocatee Swim Club and the Nocatee Community Park, the

four-story "water playground" will enable guests to be sprayed with water while sliding, climbing and playing. The new park will also feature a deck, food court and bar. Construction is scheduled to begin in Summer 2017.

Activities Field

The new activity field, officials said, will provide expanded parking and twice as much space as Town Center Field for community events and activities, including the popular monthly Nocatee Farmers Market and drive-in movie nights. A band stage, meanwhile, will accommodate concerts and special events such as the annual Roscolusa songwriters' festival.

The announcement of the new amenities follows the continued growth of Nocatee, which for the past several years has ranked as the third best-selling master-planned community in the nation. In November, Nocatee surpassed 5,000 homes, with nearly 1,000 of those homes sold during 2016. Nocatee's amenities, PARC Group officials said, are key to that growth.

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