

ST. JOHNS CONMERCE OF COMMERCE Ponte Vedra Beach Division

The members of the 2022-2023 Ponte Vedra Beach Division Board of Directors at the September 2022 Planning Meeting at the PGA World Headquarters building in Ponte Vedra Beach.



September 2022



ST. JOHNS



Pictured are, l to r, Kathleen Floryan, EXP Realty, Chairman; Peter verDorn, TPC Sawgrass; Matt Price, First Horizon Bank, Immediate Past Chairman; Susan Griffin, Ponte Vedra Recorder, Vice-Chairman; Felicia Cox, Secretary, First Horizon Bank; Lori Adams, Cabi Independent Fashion Stylist; Carissa Jackson, Truist Bank; Erin Waller, Flagler Health +. Not pictured are: Mark Allen, All Florida Safety Institute and To-Be-Named PGA Tour Representative.

The board's focus this year is on Retention and Member Engagement. The Ponte Vedra Beach Division is part of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, the premier business and community organization in St. Johns County. Maintaining its strong leadership position in the community, the Chamber's leadership intends to continue to deliver continuous value-added service to our members and the community, resulting in a business environment and quality of life where existing businesses have the opportunity to prosper, and new businesses find it attractive to locate in St. Johns County.



### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO



Chamber of Commerce

Thank you for reading the Connections and thanks to the Ponte Vedra Recorder for including this quarterly newsletter of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce news.

We are excited to announce some changes to the Chamber's offerings! As many of you know, we recently surveyed

the members of the Chamber. We analyzed the results, and we will:

• Communicate our news and events with more impact and timeliness

• Reorganize our programs to respond to members values: Networking, Advocacy and Educational Program. Topics will focus on: Sales, Workforce, Inflation, Access to Funds, Supply Chain

• Align with county growth. We are unifying the Ambassador Program and expanding the program into the growing Northwest area of St. Johns County.

So, thank you for responding to the survey and stay tuned for more information.

These changes will be overseen by the St.

Johns County Chamber of Commerce board of directors for 2022-2023, led by Beth Sweeny, chair, Flagler College. Joining her on the Executive Board will be Jim Bush, immediate past chairman, FP&L; Berta Odom, vice chair, RE/ MAX; Stephen Hudson, treasurer, Digital Mark; Meg Zabijaka, secretary, Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete; and Orv Dothage, chair, Economic Development Council, Northrop Grumman.

Joining the board as directors are: Emily Bellock, THE PLAYERS' Director of Community Outreach; Melissa Benes, Puroclean; Shandee Bowman, Crowley; Lori Ann Brandel, VyStar; Dave Chatterton, Old Town Trolley; John Choi, Northrop Grumman; Kathleen Floryan, eXp Realty: Chris Heibel, American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier; James Machado, Ascension St. Vincent's; Anish Patel, Vista Hospitality; Chris Pokrivnak, VyStar; Matt Price, First Horizon Bank; Dr. David Rice, Flagler Health+; Chris Shee, MasterCraft Builder Group; Sean Rotolo, Oxi-Fresh; and Richard Goldman, Visitor and Convention Bureau (ex-officio).

I look forward to meeting you at our events throughout the county and welcome your feedback at info@sjcchamber.com.

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

### MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Happy new year! The Chamber's new fiscal year will begin Oct. 1, 2022. And speaking of calendar changes, fall is in the air!

The members of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division board of directors held their annual strategy session in September at the new PGA Headquarters building, and members reflected on past successes and challenges. Their group photo is on the front, and they are listed inside. Thank them for their service when you see them out and about in our community.

Our business community is keeping our Chamber Ambassadors and Board members busy with ribbon cuttings recently throughout the county.

We gratefully acknowledge the new roles for Matt Price. He is completing two years as chair of the Board of Directors for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division and remains on the board as immediate past chairman. He also joins the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce as a director. Thanks for representing!

Please join us for our many events in the Ponte Vedra area and throughout the county in October, November and December, and come visit the Chamber's Ponte Vedra Beach office at 200 Solana Road, Ste. B. We are also a Visitor Information Center and welcome your questions.

Thanks for your continued support!

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

## Meet the Ponte Vedra Beach Division board

Here is the Ponte Vedra Beach Division Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for Oct. 1, 2022-Sept. 30, 2023:

Kathleen Floryan, eXp Realty, Chairman Matt Price, First Horizon Bank, Immediate Past Chairman

Susan Griffin, Ponte Vedra Recorder, Vice Chair

Felicia Cox, First Horizon Bank, Secretary

### The Players Championship Rep (tbd), Director

Peter ver Dorn, TPC Sawgrass, Director Lori Adams, Cabi Fashions, Director Jennifer Servello, Provision Advisors, Director

Mark Allen, All Florida Safety Institute, Director

Erin Wallner, Flagler Health+, Director Carissa Jackson, Truist Bank, Director

## Chamber Members invited to CELEBRATE 2022

Chamber members invited to attend CELEBRATE 2022 on Nov. 17 at the Lightner Museum in St. Augustine from 6 to 8 p.m.

The annual awards event, CELEBRATE, will give Chamber members an opportunity to socialize, network and celebrate the accomplishments of the past year.

"The volunteer leaders of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce have set a path to excellence," said Isabelle Renault, president and CEO, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

Awards will be presented, food from many of the county's premier dining establishments will be served and bubbly beverages will be shared at this prestigious event. Mark your calendar now; registration will be posted soon on the Chamber's website.

### CHAMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

### **PVB Division Chamber Before Hours**

**Date:** Wednesday, Oct. 5, 8-9 a.m. **Location:** Ponte Vedra Wellness Center, 880 A1A North, No. 3, Ponte Vedra Beach

### PVB Division Chamber at Noon (w/JAX Chamber)

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 12, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Speaker: Jenny Vipperman, VyStar Credit Union Location: Casa Marina Restaurant, Jax Beach Sponsor: Fields Auto Group

### PVB Division Chamber After Hours

**Date:** Wednesday, Oct. 19, 5:30-7 p.m. **Location:** Baptist HealthPlace in Nocatee, 400 Colonnade Drive, Ponte Vedra

### **PVB Division Chamber Before Hours**

**Date:** Wednesday, Nov. 2, 8-9 a.m. **Location:** Hydro Infusions, 14797 Phillips Hwy

#### **PVBD Division Chamber After Hours Date:** Wednesday, Nov. 16, 5:30-7 p.m.

**Location:** Seaside Bank, 820 A1A South, Ponte Vedra Beach

### **PVBD Division Jingle and Mingle**

**Date:** Wednesday, Dec. 14, 5:30-7 p.m. **Location:** The Yards in Ponte Vedra Beach

**Date:** Thursday, Nov. 10, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Location:** TBD

PVB Division Chamber at Noon – Veteran's Focus

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

## Chamber at Noon

St. Johns County Deputy County Administrator Joy Andrews was the speaker for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's Chamber at Noon event Aug. 17 at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa. She spoke about the importance of infrastructure and balance needed in the county. The luncheon was sponsored by Fields Auto Group.

Photo by Susan Griffin



## Joy Vision Acupuncture now open

Dr. Erica Joy Siegel, acupuncture physician, cuts the ribbon Monday, July 18, during a ceremony marking the opening of Joy Vision Acupuncture, located at Mickler's Landing, 1106 State Road A1A, Suite 201A. The business is the only acupuncture practice in the Southeast United States specializing in the complementary treatment of eye diseases with the Acunova Protocol. The event was conducted in conjunction with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. For more information, go to joyvisionacu.com.

Photo by Susan Griffin



## Sheriff speaks at Chamber at Noon event

St. Johns County Sheriff Robert A. Hardwick was the speaker for the Chamber at Noon event on Sept. 21. His topic was public safety in St. Johns County.

The event was held at the Hilton Garden Inn. The luncheons are sponsored by Fields Auto Group, and the sponsor for this specific event was Pinnacle Communications Group.

Hardwick was elected sheriff in November of 2020 and officially took office Jan. 5, 2021. Prior to serving as sheriff, he served as the 11th chief of police for the St. Augustine Beach Police Department, from 2013 to 2020. He also served as the assistant chief Investigator with the Office of the State Attorney 7th Judicial Circuit from 2008 to 2013. During his 29-year plus law enforcement career, Hardwick also worked at the St. Augustine Police Department, the Flagler County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Department of Corrections.

In August 2016, then-Gov. Rick Scott appointed Hardwick to the Criminal Justice and Standards Training Commission. He served as chair for the Officer Discipline Penalty Guidelines Task Force and chair for the Florida League of Cities' Law Enforcement Advisory Panel.

Hardwick has been married for 30 years to his wife, Kendell. They have two adult sons.



Members of the Chamber and the Sheriff's Office pause for a photo after the Chamber at Noon event.





## A look at labor

Labor Economist Ron Hetrick spoke at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Council (EDC) Quarterly Breakfast on Sept. 23. He addressed the labor crisis in St. Johns County at the Renaissance Resort in World Golf Village. The next EDC Quarterly Breakfast will be Dec. 2.



Labor Economist Ron Hetrick addresses the labor situation during the Sept. 23 EDC breakfast.

# The Yards joins Chamber with ribbon cutting

The Yards officially joined the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce with a ribbon cutting ceremony July 22. The Yards offers golf, pickleball and tennis and is open to hosting a variety of events at its complex.



The Yards joins the Chamber with a ribbon cutting.

Photo by Susan Griffin

Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery opens newest location on County Road 210

Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery opened a new location along County Road 210 with a ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony in partnership with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. It is the fifth location for Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery, with others in Ponte Vedra, Nocatee, Amelia Island and off Gate Parkway.



Ponte Vedra plastic surgery cuts the ribbon during the grand opening ceremony of its new location on County Road 210.



Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery recently opened its newest location.



Photos by Susan Griffin

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## **After Hours at the link**

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division held its Chamber After Hours at the link in Nocatee on Wednesday, June 29. Sponsors were Nissan of St. Augustine, Oxi Fresh Carpet Cleaning, Coffee News NE Florida and GEICO.



# The next wave of office complexes

Coastal Compass Executive Office Suites has been open for about a year and now they are official members of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce following a ribbon cutting ceremony July 20. The complex opened in August 2021 and is located at 4210 Valley Ridge Blvd., Suite 101 in Ponte Vedra Beach.



The ceremony also served as an After Hours event for the Chamber.



Coastal Compass Executive Suites held a ribbon cutting to join the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on July 20.

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## Dolly Llama creates sweet partnership with Chamber

The Dolly Llama Waffle Master has opened a location at 830 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach and made it official with a ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony. The business combines ice cream and waffles to give customers a unique experience.





The DRIPBaR hosted a "Before Hours" event with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division Aug. 10. The morning was full of networking possibilities, as well as food and fun.



Contributed photo Chamber members joined The DRIPBaR ownership in welcoming attendees to the Before Hours event.

## Surprisingly great rates that fit any budget.



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## **The link hosts Chamber at Noon**

The link hosted a Chamber at Noon event July 14. Owner Raghu Misra spoke to those in attendance about the state-of-the-art facility and the unique business it brings to the Nocatee community. The New York Butcher Shoppe catered food for the event.

Photo by Susan Griffin

Photo by Susan Griffin



Members of the Chamber and the link took part in a Chamber at Noon event July 14.

**Atlantic Partners** 

cutting ceremony was held on Sept. 15.

**Keller Williams Realty** 

celebrates new office

In June, Keller Williams Atlantic Partners moved to a new location, right in the heart of Ponte Vedra. The new office is located at 13000 Sawgrass Village Circle

Building 1, Suite 3, in the Village Professional Center. The grand opening and ribbon-

## Ascension opens new hospital in St. Johns

Ascension St. Vincent's Health Center opened a new hospital in St. Johns County and did so in the grandest way, as the facility hosted the public for a community event and ribbon cutting on site July 1.

Photo by Susan Griffin



A ribbon cutting and community celebration was held at the site of the new Ascension St. Vincent's Health Center on County Road 210 in St. Johns July 1.

## **Chamber Before** Hours held at TPC **Sawgrass Clubhouse**

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division held a Before Hours event for its members at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse Sept. 14. The Chamber thanked the staff at the clubhouse for all they did to help put on the network-

Photo by Susan Griffin



Margaret Sherrill, operating principal, cuts the ribbon for Keller Williams Realty Atlantic Partners' new office in Sawgrass Village as team leader Mark Dilworth looks on. St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division conducted the ceremony.

ing event.



Mark Rvan, Kathleen Florvan and Peter verDorn

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## The Yards hosts Chamber social event

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division held a social gathering for its members at The Yards. The night was full of networking, drinks and socializing by all who attended.

Photo by Susan Griffin



The event was a time to socialize and network.



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## Renovated Hilton Garden Inn, Mulligans hosts After Hours

The Hilton Garden Inn Jacksonville Ponte Vedra Sawgrass hosted the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce for an "After Hours" event Aug. 24. The event was held at Mulligan's Pub, the hotel's on-site restaurant, which was recently renovated along with the hotel.

Photo by Susan Griffin



Bob Arndt, general manager at Hilton Garden Inn Jacksonville Ponte Vedra Sawgrass.



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## **Chamber hosts Politics St. Johns event in Ponte Vedra**



Candidates line the inside of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall during the Politics St. Johns event July 27.

### **By Anthony Richards**

Political candidates running in this year's election were given the opportunity to spread their messages and interact with residents during the Politics St. Johns event at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall July 27.

The event was hosted by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and was something that according to Chamber president/CEO Isabella Renault, was started more than a decade ago and has become a tradition each election cycle.

"As a Chamber, we feel like we have

a responsibility to put on a platform for our residents and local businesses to meet the candidates before they start casting their votes," Renault said. "Our mission is education and informing our residents."

The event was unique from other political outings that typically take place because each candidate had the ability to setup a table and residents can freely move and visit them.

"We're really happy with the turnout, and the candidates seem to be really happy meeting the people as well,"



Political signs lined near the entrance of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.

Renault said. "It's also non-partisan, so everybody that's running for office was invited to come and take part."

As a result, there was a more casual feel in the air as opposed to a forum or debate setting.

"It's kind of like an expo feel to it," Renault said. "It's really just a meet and greet."

Attendees were able to move freely from one table to the next and hold conversations with the candidates naturally. "You can just walk around and ask

questions face-to-face," Renault said.

"This is also a great platform for anyone who is new to Florida or St. Johns County to understand a little better about why certain decisions are made. You can ask really specific questions and likely get the answer you want in a setting like this."

Food trucks were also on hand so that people could have something to eat as they made the rounds.

The last Politics St. Johns event held at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall was in 2018, after doing the event virtually during the pandemic.

## A different approach to aging Meet our new internist

Anjali Gupta, MD Internal Medicine

We're pleased to welcome **Anjali Gupta**, **MD**, a board-certified internist with over 12 years of experience. Fluent in five languages, Dr. Gupta is passionate about helping others and aims to provide her patients with high-quality medical care, while empowering them with information related to their overall health and well-being. Her areas of expertise include:

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