

The Greater Panama City Beaches Chamber of Commerce

# THE CIRCUIT

*your connection to the beach*

## dining out IN PANAMA CITY BEACH

MEMBER NEWS  
AROUND TOWN  
GRAND OPENINGS  
CALENDAR OF  
EVENTS

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- Grilled 16 oz. USDA Prime Ribeye Steak  
*Served with Roasted Red Pepper Butter Broccoli Hollandaise & Buttermilk Mashed Potatoes*
- Grilled Mahi-Mahi & Fried Lobster Tails  
*Served with Wild Rice, Spaghetti Squash, Asparagus & an Orange Ginger Glaze.*
- Dijon Crusted Rack of Lamb  
*Served with Mint Jus Lie Lyonnaise Potato & Baby Green Beans.*
- Sinfully Decadent Desserts



Daily Early Bird Specials 5-6 p.m. Canopies, *The Art of Casual Fine Dining.* Open 5 p.m. daily, reservations encouraged but not required. **4423 W. Hwy. 98,** (1 mi. E. of Hathaway Bridge) Panama City. 872-8444.

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## 4 More Opportunities To Be Seen This Year!

Advertise your business in **The Circuit**.

### 2007 Spotlight Schedule:

- JAN/FEB  
Chamber's Annual Report
- MAR/APR  
Special Restaurant Guide
- MAY/JUN  
Shopping & Things To Do Guide
- JUL/AUG  
Resorts & Real Estate
- SEP/OCT  
Health & Wellness
- NOV/DEC  
Marketing Our Destination

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## chairman's report

**T**he Chamber is off to a great start in 2007. All of our committees have met and are working on projects geared toward the Chamber's mission. Our committee Chairs for this year are: New Building Task Force – Anthony DuBose, Economic Development Council – Deborah Hunt, Hospitality Training – John Hamati and Karen Blackerby, Governmental Affairs – Fritz Hoehne and David Tipton, Ambassadors – Skip Stoltz, Workforce Committee – Bob Zamboni, Hospitality Committee/ Presidents Council – Russ Smith, Special Events – Terri Huggins and Lisa Powell. I'd like to thank all the committee chairs for their time and effort.

I would like to congratulate our award winners at last month's Annual Awards Banquet. In case you missed it, Ramon and Marsha Duvall won the Ambassadors of the Year Award. They moved here in the summer of 2005 and have spent countless hours at grand openings, groundbreaking, beautification award presentations and other Chamber events. The Small Business Person of the Year Award went to Chris and Judy Pariseau at Allegra Print & Imaging. They moved here in the fall of 2004 and purchased what was then Curry Printing. They have won several

awards with Allegra and have become heavily involved in the community. State Representative for District 6, Jimmy Patronis was honored for his work in the community, the State of Florida, and our Chamber by being presented with the Dick Arnold Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award. Jimmy has shown outstanding leadership, willingness and desire to serve the community. He also makes some great grilled bay shrimp dish that some of you may have heard of! And finally, the Pioneer of the Year Award went to a veteran of Bay County,



Julian Bennett, for his leadership, accomplishments and contributions to the community. A long-time attorney, Julian has been extremely active in civic and community life, serving on many committees and boards. I would also like to thank our many sponsors for the evening, and a special mention to the Boardwalk Beach Resort for their generosity.

I hope everyone is looking forward to the Business Expo coming up on April 24th. This year's theme, "Panama City Beach Creates Superheroes!" should prove interesting. It will be hard to fit into my tights if I eat at all the restaurants represented in this issue. Booths for this event will sell out fast, so call the Chamber for your reservation today.

## president's report

**Y**ou may have heard a great deal lately regarding Panama City Beach's CRA – Community Redevelopment Agency. Your city and other business and community leaders are working on a plan to focus on enhancing various transportation, parking and beach access and safety issues.

The plan proposes redeveloping the beach area as an attractive, inviting, easily accessible and economically sustainable pedestrian-oriented public beach and world-class tourist corridor. This is also a priority with new and current businesses, marketing nationally and internationally and for the residents of Panama City Beach. We will keep you informed and

send out additional information to our business members regarding workshops and meetings. Your involvement and support will make a difference in our quality of life and how our community evolves.



I would also like to thank our sponsors and Boardwalk Beach Resort, including our Special Events Committee – Terri Huggins, Lisa Powell, Marta Rose and Beth Oltman, and others for making the Annual Awards Banquet a huge success and wonderful event.

We have an exciting year ahead of us with many opportunities. This is our Twentieth Anniversary and we have a great deal to be proud of.

*David Powell*

*Debi Knight*



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# THE CIRCUIT

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**2006-2007**

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### The Greater Panama City Beaches Chamber of Commerce

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Online: [www.pcbeach.org](http://www.pcbeach.org)

## CHAMBER OFFICERS

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**Annual Awards Banquet  
February 23, 2007**



Front cover photo, "Pier at Sunset" at St. Andrews State Park, by Teddy Meeks. Above, clockwise from upper left: Pioneer of the Year Julian Bennett; Dick Arnold Distinguished Citizen of the Year Jimmy Patronis Jr. (in middle); Small Business Persons of the Year Judy and Chris Pariseau; Ambassadors of the Year Ramon and Marsha Duvall.

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If you live, work, worship, or go to school in Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Franklin, Jackson, Okaloosa, Washington, or Walton Counties, you may be eligible for membership.

For more information about membership, go online to [www.tyndallfcu.org](http://www.tyndallfcu.org). Or, call us at (850) 769-9999 or toll-free at (888) 896-3255. We invite you to stop by our Beach Branch at 10916 Hutchison Boulevard where you'll enjoy receiving personal, prompt and courteous service. We look forward to serving you.



# Real Estate Corner



## Pelican Real Estate

**E**stablished in 1996, by William H. Smith, Pelican Real Estate and Development Co., Inc. is the largest locally owned real estate company serving the Gulf Coast and beyond. With over 22 branch offices, Pelican Real Estate has more than 200 innovative and hard-working agents offering dedicated, professional service. Projects range from high-rises to subdivision developments to single family homes.

Some of our success stories include:

- Majestic Sun – Miramar Beach, FL
- Mediterranea – Miramar Beach, FL
- Pointe of View – Santa Rosa Beach, FL
- Calypso Resort and Towers – Panama City Beach
- Harbor Walk / Emerald Grande – Destin, FL

...and many more!

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We are also members of an exclusive relocation network, Leading Real Estate Companies of the World. Leading RE is the largest network of independently owned real estate companies in the world, represents over 30 countries, and traces its beginnings to the formation of RELO® in 1963. Leading RE is continually recognized as a leader among broker networks.

Whether you are buying or selling a home, or moving to a new city, we can provide you with relocation assistance services and international relocation. For more information all Pelican Real Estate at (850) 230-4574.

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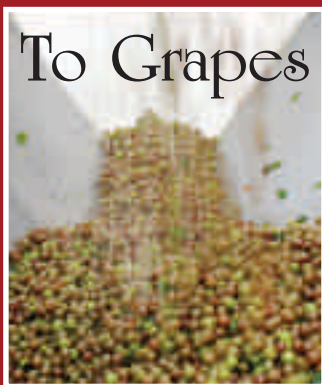


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# Biz Spotlight

## Urban, Chic, Natural... and a Little Bit Funky!

**L**iz and Jane Clothes is no new name to Panama City Beach. The 17-year-old company has been providing locals and tourists with originally designed apparel, and the customers just keep coming back for more.

In 1989 Liz Bennett launched Tyart Originals (the former company name) along with sister-in-law Janie Bennett. "Janie and I started the business as a hobby, making clothing solely for ourselves,"

says Liz of the early days. "In no time people everywhere were asking where they could find it." A new business was formed.



Liz Bennett with her clothing patterns inside the Liz and Jane factory/warehouse on Front Beach Rd.

In the beginning the young designers frequently traveled around Florida doing the art show circuit. "Those first few years we got many breaks," remembers Liz. "Everything seemed to click at the right time and place. It's because of that we were able to take a leap into the bigger picture." They steadily built the company's capital and became more immersed in the national design industry.

In 1992, when Liz and Jane Clothes decided to go wholesale, sales reps were hired for all major fashion markets including Dallas, New York, Atlanta, Boston, Los Angeles, Chicago and Miami. "Our first big accounts were Disney World and Macy's Department Store," Liz recalls. "We were both thrilled and scared to death! To leap into those kinds of quantities is challenging, but things just kept falling into place which told us loud and clear we were on the right track. It was so exciting to enter into unexplored territory."

And today the company continues to thrive. When Janie moved on to explore other artistic endeavors two years ago, Liz took over the sole design of the label. She has since hired an assistant designer, and the two work tirelessly designing and refining Liz and Jane's signature look: urban, chic, natural and a little bit funky. "Design is in my heart and soul.... this is a talent which is a God given gift, and I will continue to create as long as our wonderful customers keep asking for more." Asked about how she feels after seventeen years in the business Liz responds, "Fabulous! I'm still on fire. This industry is continuously changing and we have to be on our toes to keep up. Five times a year I wipe the slate clean and design all new collections.... it's almost 200 new body styles per year. In this business it is required!"

To check out Liz and Jane Clothes go to one of their company stores in Panama City Beach (on Front Beach Rd. near Gulf World) or in Destin Commons, or visit [www.lizandjane.com](http://www.lizandjane.com).

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# dining out

## IN PANAMA CITY BEACH

With new bistros and bars arriving around town almost daily, dining out – and *going out* – in Panama City Beach has never been better.

Panama City Beach boasts a wide array of colorful dining establishments, from casual beachside cafes serving up fresh Gulf seafood to gourmet



restaurants offering fine wines and specialties by award-winning chefs.

The Beach also has a vibrant nightlife, with lounges featuring live music and nightclubs for dancing. No matter what your “scene,” there is a place for you to enjoy in Panama City Beach.

### BAKERIES / CAFÉ'S

**Andy's Flour Power Bakery**  
3123 Thomas Drive, Panama City Beach  
☎(850) 230-0014

**Bagels & Beyond**  
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☎(850) 230-0014

**Emma's Snack Shop**  
127 Damon Circle, Panama City Beach  
☎(850) 230-1981

**Liza's Kitchen**  
7008 Thomas Drive, Panama City Beach  
☎(850) 233-9000

**Mike's Diner**  
17554 Front Beach Rd., Panama City Beach  
☎(850) 234-1942

### BARBEQUE

**Big Daddy's Hickory Smoked Bar-bque**  
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☎(850) 236-2050

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☎(850) 234-8485

**Sonny's Real Pit BBQ**  
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### FAST FOOD / PIZZA

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**Domino's Pizza**  
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**McDonald's**  
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16990 Front Beach Rd., Panama City Beach  
☎(850) 233-3060

**Papa John's Pizza**  
15402 Front Beach Rd., Panama City Beach  
☎(850) 235-6161

**The Fudge Factory**  
15620 Front Beach Rd., Panama City Beach  
☎(850) 230-3469

**The Pizza Factory Pizza Buffet**  
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Above: Shuckum's Oyster Pub on Front Beach Road has been shucking for over 30 years.

**Wendy's**  
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☎(850) 249-4554

**Chinatown Restaurant**  
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**De Cajun Shak**  
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## dining out IN PANAMA CITY BEACH

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☎ (850) 234-2531

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2310 State Rd. 77, Suite 350, Lynn Haven  
☎ (850) 271-0064

#### Calypso Beach Café & Sports Grille

15812 Front Beach Rd., Panama City Beach  
☎ (850) 234-6788

#### Capt's Table Fish House Restaurant

1110 Beck Ave., Panama City  
☎ (850) 767-9933

#### Capt. Jack's Family Buffet

12627 Front Beach Rd., Panama City Beach  
☎ (850) 236-8555

#### Dirty Dick's Crab House

9800 Front Beach Road, Panama City Beach  
☎ (850) 234-7900

#### Hammerhead Fred's

8752 Thomas Dr., Panama City Beach  
☎ (850) 249-7093

#### J. Michael's

3901 Thomas Drive, Panama City Beach  
☎ (850) 233-2055

#### Key West Bar & Grill

653 W. 23rd St. #183, Panama City  
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#### Montego Bay Seafood House

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4920 Thomas Drive, Panama City Beach  
☎ (850) 234-8686

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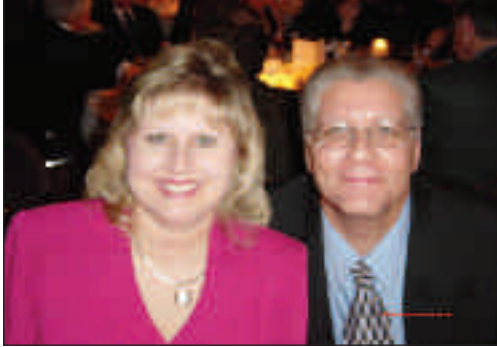
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# Friday at the Beach

with Paris Janos of WJHG Channel 7

March 9th, 2007

8:00-9:00AM Bay Point Marriott Resort

Susan Story, President/CEO of Gulf Power, will discuss recognizing our community's economic strengths, and the special initiatives that can help Florida's economy grow.



April 13th, 2007

8:00-9:00AM Edgewater Beach Resort

Guest Speaker: Mark Bowen of the EOC



Call the Chamber to RSVP at 235-1159

## Excitement Surrounding Pier Park Builds

On February 9th Simon Property Group gave an up-to-date overview of Pier Park at **Friday at the Beach** held at Edgewater Beach Resort. The event was sponsored by Simon Property Group; Tipton, Marler, Garner & Chastain; and the Bay County Association of Realtors. Paris Janos of WJHG Channel 7 emceed the event.

Pier Park is forecasted to be the new "Downtown of Panama City Beach," with its grand 16-screen state-of-the-art movie theatre and collection of enchanting eateries, espresso bars and chic retail shops. Scheduled for first phase completion by spring 07 and full completion by spring 08, Pier Park will serve as the premier shopping destination for the Panama City Beach market and the entire Emerald Coast.



Paul Ajdaharian, Regional Vice President of Simon Property Group, spoke at Friday at the Beach on February 9th.

Friday at the Beach is designed to share ideas and opportunities that will affect the beaches area and local businesses. Each program presents community and business leaders in a casual, "face-to-face" setting. This event is open to the public at no charge, however, RSVP for this event is required.



# Calendar of Events

## March & April 2007

March 6 9:00 am	Tuesday	County Commission Meeting Panama City Hall	April 3 9:00 am	Tuesday	County Commission Meeting Panama City Hall
March 6 10:00 am	Tuesday	New Building Task Force Peoples First Community Room	April 3 10:00 am	Tuesday	New Building Task Force Peoples First Community Room
March 6 12:00-1:00 pm	Tuesday	12@12 Luncheon Peoples First Community Room	April 3 12:00-1:00 pm	Tuesday	12@12 Luncheon <i>Location to come</i>
March 8 6:00 pm	Thursday	City Council Meeting City Hall Annex	April 5 12:00 noon	Thursday	Executive Board Meeting Peoples First Community Room
March 9 8:00-9:00 am	Friday	Friday at the Beach Bay Point Marriott Resort Guest: <i>Susan Story from Gulf Power</i>	April 11 3:00 pm	Wednesday	Chamber Board Meeting Vision Bank
March 13 9:00 am	Tuesday	TDC Meeting City Council Chamber	April 12 6:00 pm	Thursday	City Council Meeting City Hall Annex
March 14 3:00 pm	Wednesday	Chamber Board Meeting Vision Bank	April 13 8:00-9:00 am	Friday	Friday at the Beach Edgewater Beach Resort Guest: <i>Mark Bowen from EOC</i>
March 15 5:30-7:30 pm	Thursday	After Hours Mixer Calypso Beach Café	April 17 9:00 am	Tuesday	County Commission Hall Panama City Hall
March 20 9:00 am	Tuesday	County Commission Meeting Panama City Hall	April 17 3:00 pm	Tuesday	EDC Meeting Vision Bank
March 22 2:00 pm	Thursday	City Council Meeting City Hall Annex	April 24 9:00 am	Tuesday	TDC Meeting City Council Chamber
March 27 9:00 am	Tuesday	TDC Meeting City Council Chamber	April 24 10:00 am	Tuesday	Airport Authority Meeting Airport Board Rm (2nd FL)
March 27 10:00 am	Tuesday	Airport Authority Meeting Airport Board Rm (2nd FL)	April 24 4:00-8:00 pm	Tuesday	15th Annual Business Expo Boardwalk Beach Resort
March 27 3:00 pm	Tuesday	EDC Meeting Vision Bank	April 26 2:00 pm	Thursday	City Council Meeting City Hall Annex



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## Chamber After Hours

### Calypso Beach Cafe & Sports Grille

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GSC Systems, Inc.  
H2O Properties  
Hilton Garden Inn Panama City  
Keegan Imports & Exports  
La Quinta Inn & Suites  
LA Weight Loss Centers  
Lowe's  
Luxor, LLC  
Liquid Dream Surf Shop  
Majestic Beach Properties, LLC  
Marco's Gulf Pizza  
Mary Kay Cosmetics - Individual  
Miller Steel Builders of N.W. Florida  
North Florida Linen Service  
Nostalgic 1950's Beach Cottage  
Nova Engineering and Environmental,  
Inc.  
Outback Storage Company  
Pelican Walk  
Penske Truck Leasing  
Phillips, Howard  
SkyBlue Images  
Smith Hospitality Consulting  
Snowbirds Gulf Coast  
The Pizza Factory Pizza Buffet  
TMS Tinting  
Toys for Kids Foundation  
Wave Break Facility Services  
Wealth Creation NW Florida, LLC

# Renewals

A Smart Move Home Inspection-1  
Allstate-1  
Arthur Rutenburg Homes-1  
Bay Broadcasting/WBPC-FM (B95.1)-1  
Bonfish Grill #7091-1

Brannan Aluminum, Inc.-1  
Fowhand's Furniture-1  
Holiday Terrace Motel (Referral  
Member)-1  
Jackson Hewitt Tax Services-1  
Melody Finlaw Photography-1  
Panama City Beach Real Estate, LLC-1  
Superior Bank-1  
Triton Services, Inc.-1  
Beachside Interiors, Inc. d/b/a  
HomeWerks-2  
Bellezza Salon and Spa-2  
Cabana West Apartments-2  
Dive Locker-2  
GulfCrest Condominiums (Referral  
Member)-2  
Ibis Lake Development, Inc.-2  
Jamison Bedding, Inc.-2  
Merry Maids-2  
NAI Halford Commercial Real Estate-2  
ResortQuest Central Reservations-2  
U.S. Postal Service-2  
Whately & Darty Real Estate &  
Development-2  
Aqua Condominiums-3  
Bent Palms Condo Rentals (Referral  
Member)-3  
Brewer Amusements of Panama City  
Beach-3  
Dirty Dick's Crabhouse-3  
GM Appliance-3  
Kincaid Coach Lines-3  
Retina Specialists, PA-3  
Windswept Dunes-3  
Noah's Flood Restoration-4  
Postnet-4  
Sacred Heart Hospital on the Emerald  
Coast-4  
Scott Ingraham, Real Estate Group-4  
Visual Arts Center of Northwest Florida-4  
World Gym Fitness Center-4  
ADT Security Services-5  
American Cancer Society-5  
Coastal Community Mortgage-5  
Coldwell Banker-5  
Ecological Resource Consultant, Inc.-5  
Golf Depot, Inc.-5  
Impact Tax and Accounting-5  
Mortensen, Keith-5  
New York Life Insurance Company-5  
Noah's Ark-5  
Panama City Dental Studio-5  
Panama City Toyota-5  
Stroud, Thomas-5  
T.G.I. Fridays-5  
Affordable Beach Rentals (Referral  
Member)-6

Dunes of Panama (Phase I) (Referral  
Member)-6  
Homeplace Furniture-6  
Long Beach Resort (Referral Member)-6  
Panama City Chiropractic-6  
Bay County Property Appraiser's Office-7  
By The Bay Gift Shop-7  
Capt. Jack's Family Buffet-7  
Coral Reef Condominium (Referral  
Member)-7  
Gulf Coast Community College Small  
Business Development Center-7  
Mr. Surf's Surf Shop-7  
PCB Embroidery & Gifts-7  
Peek's Motel (Referral Member)-7  
Sea Side Villas Condominium, Inc.  
(Referral Member)-7  
ID's and More-8  
BankTrust Bank-9  
Bay Street Deli & Bagel Bakery-9  
Beach TV-9  
Hall Insurance Agency-9  
McKinney Family Properties at Sugar  
Beach Condos-9  
Edgewater Beach Resort (Referral  
Member)-10  
Grease Pro, Inc.-10  
Inside Story Interiors-10  
Wachovia Bank-10  
Business Loan Center-11  
Eye Center of North Florida-11  
Summerhouse Condominiums (Referral  
Member)- 11  
Dunes of Panama Management  
(Referral Member)-12  
Sunspot Realty (Referral Member)-12  
WTVY-TV Channel 4-12  
Getaway to the Gulf Vacations-13  
Gulf Coast Community College-13  
Leitz Office Products-13  
Rail Management Corp-13  
Coastal Communications-14  
Lewis Advertising & Distribution-14  
Sandpiper Beacon Beach Resort  
(Referral Member)-14  
The Shores Homeowners Association  
(Referral Member)-15  
SunTrust Bank-16  
Laguna Place-17  
Palmetto Motel (Referral Member)-17  
Shuckum's Oyster Bar-17  
Sugar Sands Inn & Suites (Referral  
Member)-18  
Wendy's-18



# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Update from Tom Mixon & Skip Alford

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Ever wonder if your membership in the Chamber of Commerce is really that important? Is the money you contribute for annual dues really doing anything for you and your business? Well consider this: The Greater Panama City Beaches Chamber of Commerce is a private, not-for-profit organization funded through member investments. Simply put, the money you contribute for membership enables your Chamber staff to lure corporate business, industry and permanent residents to our community.

We are proud to say that along with your Chamber staff, approximately 1,000 business and individual members are currently working together to make Panama City Beach a better place to live and work. Don't think for one minute that your support and contribution is unimportant or irrelevant; it is vital to the success of your own business as well as the future of this community!

We're working for you!

## LEADS

Please Join Us If You  
Want Your Business to Grow!

The Chamber's two Leads Groups meet twice a month to share business leads and information. We strive to keep our group industry specific, and allow one of any profession to avoid conflict. We invite anybody interested in furthering their careers or business to join us.

### LEADS GROUP A

Where: Boatyard at 5323 North Lagoon Dr. (850) 249-9273  
When: Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 12:00 Noon  
Erven Sewell: (850) 784-0032 or esewell@copyproductscompany.com

### LEADS GROUP B

Where: Boatyard at 5323 North Lagoon Dr. (850) 249-9273  
When: Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 12:00 Noon  
Jared Jones: (850) 303-1989 or jared.jones@knology.com

## AMBASSADORS



At the February 7th Ambassador Meeting held at Dirty Dick's Crab House, the following Ambassadors received badges: **White** - Ron and Irene Phillips of Irene & Co.; Diane Williams of the Betsy Ann; Scotty Thomann of ADT Security Systems; Tara Thomas and Holy Halstead of Cabana West Apartments; Daniel and Patricia Reeves of Beach Bum Newspaper. **Gold** - Carol Hook of Abate of Florida; George Seaman of G.W. Home Inspections. **Platinum** - Bonnie Atkinson of By The Bay Gifts; Gloria Lee of New York Life Insurance Company.

## MEMBERS ARE SAYING...

### Mike Bennett, Towne of Seahaven:

"The Chamber is a great resource. It has helped raise awareness of the Towne of Seahaven, as well as connected us with great commercial contacts for our village. The Beaches Chamber is definitely on our *must call* list when we need to know what's going on, or schedule our own event."



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# AROUND TOWN

## Updates on Community, Workforce & Governmental Affairs

### Community Update

#### Mayor Gayle Oberst, City of Panama City Beach

Restaurants, shops, and other facilities continue to submit their permits for building in Pier Park. Some are slated to open in March and May of this year, while several others will open in the fall. The City has requested permits from DEP for replacing the Dan Russell Pier, and work should begin late summer/early fall. Plans are also being approved for rebuilding the structures in front of the Pier as well.

The City is holding a series of workshops through the month of April in the City Council room each Wednesday morning at 8:00 am. This will allow the City to do more effective strategic planning. The 90-minute workshops focus on issues that are facing the City and allow for council discussions and public input.

Canopies is closing, but will "arise" under the same ownership and management with a new name and location. The even more upscale restaurant will be named **Firefly** and located in the Shoppes at Edge-water shopping center. Discussions are underway for the building of a supermarket and several other retail and restaurant facilities in the Home Depot complex.

The water and light show at Lake Town Wharf was introduced recently at a special occasion, and it promises to be another attraction in that area. When officially opened, the show will be conducted periodically during the day and night, and the public will be able to view it.

### Local Government Update

#### Bert Howell, Bay Solutions

Bay County

#### Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

The BOCC highlights for last month are as follows:

- The County has joined with the City of Panama City Beach in a contract to rebuild the M.B. Miller Pier simultaneously with the City Pier; it should save tax dollars on both projects.
- Final ownership of Highway 388 is still undecided. Negotiations are continuing with FDOT.
- The County is supporting the effort for Universal Waste Collection for the entire island that will be franchised to the City of Panama City Beach.
- The zoning appeal on the Grand Cayman Condominium has been set for February 20, 2007.
- The first reading on the rezoning of the property for the new airport was passed 5-0. No one spoke in opposition.
- A Special Workshop was held for 2008 Budget Priorities. Discussions included capital projects and major expense centers. Priorities will be finalized as the new state policy for property valuation is passed on to the counties.

#### City of Panama City Beach

City of Panama City Beach Council highlights are as follows:

- The City Council has agreed to purchase the site identified as the best for the inter-modal transportation transfer center. This is a major milestone in implementation of the tram system on front beach road.

- Monument signage is now the approved type of commercial sign for Middle Beach Road and Panama City Beach Parkway.
- In a workshop meeting the Council began work on Universal Waste Collection from bridge to bridge. This is a three year process and will involve Bay County as well as the City. The City will receive a franchise from the County for waste collection as they currently have for water and sewer.
- In a workshop meeting the Council discussed the following capital projects funding and design as proposed by the staff:
  - o City Pier
  - o New Library
  - o New Administration Building
  - o Redevelopment on the South Side of Pier Park
  - o New West End Fire Station
  - o New Police Station

#### Panama City-Bay County Airport Authority

The Airport Authority received updates setting the dates for the bidding of the new airport site work, hiring of a construction management firm, review of construction plans for bid packages, and sale of the existing airport property. The construction related items remain close to schedule during the first half of 2007 and the sale of the existing airport will be discussed during the meeting of February 27, 2007 as final bid packages are due five days in advance. The last required permit, the Army Corps of Engineers 404 Permit, is due within the month.

### Gulf Coast Workforce Board Recognized for Exemplary Performance

#### Kimberly Bodine, Executive Director, Gulf Coast Workforce Board

The Gulf Coast Workforce Board was recently recognized by Workforce Florida Incorporated for exemplary performance in workforce programs for the 2006 program year.

Overall the Board ranked higher than any other workforce region in the state, scoring in the top quartile on six of fifteen performance indicators. The Gulf Coast Workforce Board consistently ranks in the top 25% of the state in terms of performance as defined by federal and state performance indicators.

Workforce Florida is a Governor appointed board that provides planning and oversight for Florida's workforce system. Gary Ross is a resident of Indian Pass in Gulf County. The Gulf Coast Workforce Region consists geographically of Bay, Gulf and Franklin Counties.



Shown is Gary Ross, Past Chair and Kim Bodine (right), Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Workforce Board receiving the award for performance from Katherine Wilson, Chair of the Workforce Florida Board.

# GRAND OPENINGS

*and Re-Openings, Groundbreakings & Beautifications*



McDonald's, 1/16



Hospitality Depot Beautification, 1/16



FSU-PC Academic Center, 1/17



Lowe's on the Beach, 1/24



UPS Nautilus Station, 1/24



Noah's Restoration, 1/31



World Gym Beautification, 2/8



La Quinta Inn, 2/13



Waterside Chiropractic, 2/15



Granite Cafe, 2/20



Pizza Factory, 2/21



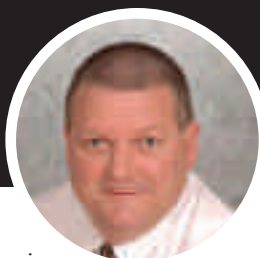
Pasta Grill Beautification, 2/22



Wal Mart, 11/29

## AMBASSADORS

*Update from Skip Stoltz Ambassador Chairman*



**H**ello from the Ambassador Team of The Greater Panama City Beaches Chamber of Commerce. 2007 has gotten off to a busy start with new Members and new Ambassadors. We have a lot to do out in the marketplace to help our fellow business folks, so come have some fun with us and make your business grow.

We would like to give special thanks to our meeting sponsors: In January thank you to Bobby at Triple J's Steakhouse, and in February thank you to Bryan at Dirty Dick's Crab House.

*Skip Stoltz*

**To schedule a ribbon-cutting or beautification call Tom Mixon at 814-0616 or Skip Alford at 814-4292.**

# MEMBER NEWS

## Sabiston Named Award Winner

Pat Sabiston, owner of The Write Place, a Panama City-based marketing and public relations firm, has been named the Robin Mays Award Winner. This was announced at the recent Publishers Association of the South's Annual Winter Conference held in New Orleans.

The Robin Mays Award, named in honor of the legendary Publishers Weekly representative, who was a co-founder of Publishers Association of the South (PAS), is given to an individual who has made a substantial contribution to book publishing in the region. (Sabiston served as Association Executive for PAS for more than a decade.)

Pat Sabiston is a native of North Carolina and was raised in the Piedmont area in both Greensboro and Charlotte. After graduating from King's College in Charlotte, she began her career in writing and publishing that encompassed working within the industries of newspapers, magazines, radio, TV, and book publishing before opening her own firm.

Since 1985, The Write Place has provided writing, marketing/public relations consulting to numerous clients in the region. Ms. Sabiston relocated The Write Place to Panama City in 1992 and most recently was elected to the Bay County School Board.

## Girls, Inc. of Bay County Announces New Executive Director

Girls Incorporated of Bay County is pleased to announce the appointment of Tricia Mayo as the new Executive Director for its Panama City program.

A graduate of Florida State University Mayo recently served as Communications/Development Coordinator with the United Way of Northwest Florida. Mayo is active in the community with the Junior Leadership Bay

Steering Committee (Bay County Chamber of Commerce); Gulf Coast Media & Marketing Association Board Member; FSU-Panama City Alumni Club Board Member; and was selected to the Leadership Bay Class of 2003-2004 for the Bay County Chamber of Commerce. Girls Inc. is pleased to add Mayo to its team.



Pat Sabiston

ability and interest in science, math and technology. They



Tricia Mayo

Grounded in research and tested in the field, Girls Inc. programs address the whole girl. They build her athletic skills and competitive spirit; nurture her

also equip her with critical health information, provide leadership experience, teach media literacy and money management skills, and foster self-respect and self-determination. For more information about Girls Inc. of Bay County call (850) 769-6703 or visit [www.girlsincofbaycounty.com](http://www.girlsincofbaycounty.com).



Rendering of a warehouse by Business Condos USA

## Business Condos USA Coming to the Florida Panhandle

Business Condos USA, the nation's largest developer of commercial condominiums, has teamed with local businessman and Business Condos USA franchisee, Harry Patel to develop The Beach Commerce Business Center. The warehouse business condominium project is located in the Beach Commerce Park in Panama City Beach.

The project will have 48,000 square-foot of warehouse condo space. Individual unit sizes are 2,400 square-foot and up. Patel and Business Condos USA are also planning a 32,000 square-foot Medical/Office Condo on Harrison Avenue and a 28,000 square-foot Retail Condo project on the West End.

Key benefits to business condo ownership are that buyers will enjoy all the benefits that their landlord has previously enjoyed. They will build their own net worth through the reduction of the mortgage and appreciation. They also receive all the tax benefits, such as depreciation, that their landlord has previously enjoyed, and they control the property through their condo association.

For more information about these projects and business condominium ownership, contact Harry Patel at Business Condos USA, (727) 504-3029 or visit [www.businesscondosusa.com](http://www.businesscondosusa.com).



## The Boeing Championship Golf Day at Hombree

On Friday, March 23rd Hombree Golf Club will host a unique golf event, presented by the Boeing Championship at Sandestin. Registration and lunch begin at 11:30 am, with a shotgun start at 12:30 pm. Corporate teams and singles are welcome.

Fabulous prizes will be awarded, courtesy of The Boeing Championship. The event costs \$100 per golfer. Call Hombree Golf Club to reserve your space in this limited field at (850) 234-3673, or email Lisa Powell: [lisa@hombreegolfclub.com](mailto:lisa@hombreegolfclub.com).

## Russ Smith Joins Seahaven

Seahaven Management has hired Russ Smith to be their new Vice President of Resort Operations, overseeing the company's existing hotel operations, the Quality Inn and Best Value Inn as well as the "World Famous Sharky's Beach Restaurant." In addition, Smith will assist in planning and operating the hospitality aspects of the spectacular 50-acre Towne of Seahaven Resort, the first phase of which, "Origins," is scheduled to open in the fall with 325 units.

"We are very excited to have Russ join our team," says Mike Bennett, one of the developers

# MEMBER NEWS

of the project. "He brings tremendous and varied experience to our organization, from our current hotel and restaurant operations, to the ongoing design and development of the Towne of Seahaven."

Smith was previously Vice President of Royal American Hospitality where he was responsible for the Condominium Rental & Management Company becoming the largest in Bay County, with over 1,500 units in 15 properties. Prior to moving to Panama City Beach, the New York native was the General Manager of the 1,300 room Milford Plaza Hotel on Times Square. He is also a past Chairman of The Greater Panama City Beaches Chamber of Commerce and board member of the Bay County Tourist Development Council.

## Thunder Beach

Thunder Beach is expecting its upcoming 9th Annual Spring rally to attract record-breaking crowds in Panama City Beach during the first week in May. This translates into much appreciated revenue for area businesses who benefit from this fast growing event. In response, Thunder Beach is currently contacting local businesses to solicit advertising sponsorships that are designed to drive our two-wheeled, affluent visitors to merchants, restaurants, lodging establishments and other area businesses. To find out more about becoming a Thunder Beach business sponsor, contact John Steele at (850) 591-2053.



## ADDYR Awards

Cyber Sytes, Inc. was awarded one gold and three silver ADDYR awards for Web site design at the Emerald Coast Advertising Federation Addy Awards Banquet held February 17th at the Sandestin Beach Hilton.

The gold award went to Barefoot Development Group's Andante Development, LLC website. The silver was awarded for Compass Resorts Luxury Vacation Rentals website, and two silver awards went to the official site of Songwriter and Performing Artist Marty Casey.

The ADDYR awards are the industry's largest and most competitive annual contest for creative excellence. The local ADDYR

Awards is the first step in a three-tiered national advertising competition conducted annually by the American Advertising Federation (AAF).

## Take Stock in Children

The Bay Education Foundation is recruiting mentors and raising funds to support its mentoring and scholarship program, which is Take Stock in Children. The campaign will continue through April 15, 2007. The goal is raise at least \$125,000, which will allow the foundation to purchase 25 or more prepaid college plans for students who show promise but lack the financial resources to attend college. At least 25 mentors are needed for new students and to replace mentors who stopped participating in the program.

Take Stock in Children (TSIC) is a comprehensive program administered by the Bay Education Foundation that assists students who demonstrate a financial need. The aim is to keep students in school to earn a high school diploma, then, attend and graduate from college as productive citizens ready to enter the workforce. The hope is to begin a family cycle of success with each student that will impact future generations.

"I would like to see more students who have the desire to attend college to have that chance," said Marilyn Garrett-Fenimore, TSIC Campaign Chairwoman. "I know as a community we can make that happen."

For more information call (850) 873-7157 or send contributions to Bay Education Foundation TSIC, 1311 Balboa Avenue, Panama City, Florida 32401.

## Hospitality Training

As a business owner or manager, imagine the benefits of sending your employees to a classroom at Gulf Coast Community College for service behavioral and cultural training. They will learn about professionalism and what it really means to take care of their customer's wants and needs. They will learn about fiscal

responsibility and the value of taking care of your assets. Along with other core values, they will learn that hospitality comes from the heart. As visitors to Panama City Beach come and go, the level of hospitality service will increase and as a community we will truly "be making memories" for thousands of people.

We envision the work of our committee evolving over the years, with the program being managed by the Chamber. Our next step is to conduct a retreat in March. The purpose of the retreat is to determine how the program will be branded (name, logo, etc.), establish the core values to be taught, discuss the award components and other fine-tune other program details. Our goal is for classes to commence in August.

If you would like to get involved with this wonderful opportunity please contact the Chamber at (850) 235-1159.

## Florida State University's New Academic Center

The new Academic Center to be constructed at Florida State University Panama City will serve as the centerpiece of the approximately 26-acre campus located along North Bay in Panama City.

The 100,000 square-foot, three-story facility



will provide approximately 21 general purpose classrooms, 10 teaching labs in support of engineering and criminology programs, a 500-seat multi-purpose lecture hall / community room, 10 seminar rooms, student study rooms, meeting rooms, and a state-of-the-art Information Learning Commons as well as faculty and staff offices.

FSU-PC's academic opportunities include 36 under-graduate and graduate degree programs in a variety of disciplines. For additional information call the Office of Advancement at (850) 522-2008, or visit [www.pc.fsu.edu](http://www.pc.fsu.edu).

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## Panama City is named #1 market to buy in by CNN Money.com

Also reporting a 72% projected gain in home prices (5 years), national media has stirred quite a BUZZ concerning the Emerald Coast's forgotten city. Pre-construction pricing allows the lowest purchase price point, now.

## Panama City-Bay County International Airport completion is expected in 2009

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