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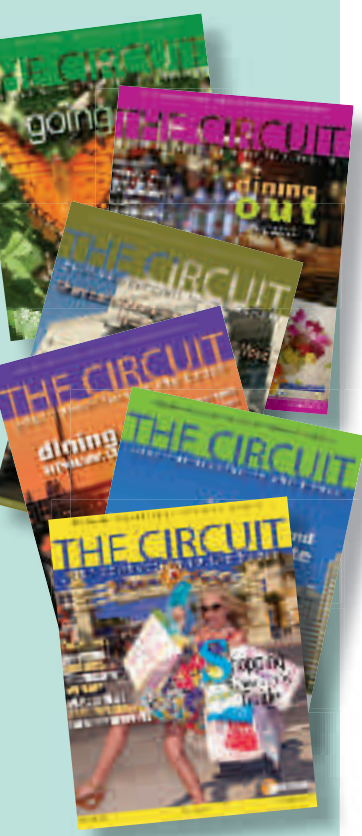
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## chairman's report

*Al McCambry*

**W**e are now halfway through the year, and what a year it's been so far. We achieved a milestone during the first half of the year with the opening of our new Chamber Building, a facility that the entire community can be proud of.



We are also in the process of developing our new and improved Vacation Planner. This edition will have more focus on content and "sticking value" for the reader. You do not want to miss out!

Additionally, we have re-energized our Governmental Affairs Committee. As your Chamber, we are committed to keeping you informed regarding those issues which affect you. This information channel may come in the form of our *Friday at the Beach*, where Representative Patronis spoke; public candidate forums; the award-winning *Circuit* magazine or our Monday Morning Report Email Blast.

Remember, your Chamber is here for you. Looking forward to a great second half of the year...

## president's report

*Debi Knight*

**B**y the time you read my comments in this issue, the NEW Pier Park Express will be in full service. The Bay County Transportation Planning Organization along with businesses and local organizations have come together to offer additional trolley service on the beach during the summer season. Multiple trolleys are available for tourists, locals and employees to travel from Walmart Super Center all the way to Pier Park with five stops in between. This service is available Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 am until 12:00 am (midnight). The cost is only 50 cents. The trolley is an attraction in itself. Not only will it help with traffic, it will also be a great source for employees and tourist to use and save on gas.



This month we welcome Cyndi Ainsworth, our newest member of the team! Cyndi joins Skip Alford in Membership Services.

Your Chamber is also planning a mid-year retreat later this year. This will help us stay focused on the important challenges that face our community and the country every day. We are here to listen to your needs, and our members are our first concern. You will be

receiving a survey in the coming weeks to ask for your comments; please give us your feedback. We look forward to your participation.

Thank you for making this organization one of the best in the country!

## message from the editor

*Marta Rose*

**S**ummer is in full swing here at the Beaches Chamber, and a plethora of fun events are taking place this season. The FSU Flying High Circus performs six nights a week at Frank Brown Park (see page 13). The Visual Arts Center is featuring the Guild Hall Exhibit: "An Adventure in the Arts" thru August 13th (see page 31). Outdoor Summer Concert Series are happening all over town: the Carillon Beach Resort's **Groovin' On The Green**



every Monday evening; **Concerts at McKenzie Park** on Thursday evenings; **Sheffield Park Concert Series** in Lynn Haven every Tuesday evening, and the **Pier Park Summer Concert Series** on Thursdays at Aaron Bessant Park. If you haven't yet made it to one of these concerts, why not try it this week? Don't forget to pack a picnic basket - and bring the kids! Visit the *Events* page on PCBeach.org to view details and schedules.

## Are You Connected to the Beach?

Advertise your business in The Circuit!

2008 Spotlight Schedule:

JAN/FEB

Chamber's Annual Report

MAR/APR

Dining Out in PCB

MAY/JUN

Shopping & Things To Do

JUL/AUG

Resorts and Real Estate

SEP/OCT

Health & Wellness

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Skip Alford

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Cyndi Ainsworth

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Dr. Jim Kerley,

Gulf Coast Community College

## CONTENTS

### Features

18 Resorts & Real Estate in PCB

### Events

46 After Hours

46 Fridays at the Beach

### Around Town

40 Community Update

40 FSU-Panama City

41 Gulf Coast Community College

42 Pier Park Express

43 Gulf Coast Workforce Board

43 Local Government Summary

43 Grand Lagoon National

43 Florida Welcome Centers

### Membership

34 Member News

47 Grand Openings

48 New & Renewing Members

49 High Voltage Membership

49 Ambassador Update

### In Every Issue

8 Chairman's Report

8 President's Report

8 Message from the Editor

12 Banking Center

12 Real Estate Corner

14 Biz Spotlight: Meet the Dream Team

17 A Few Minutes With Annie Holcombe

44 Biz Spotlight: S.C. Designing, Inc.

### The Greater Panama City Beaches Chamber of Commerce

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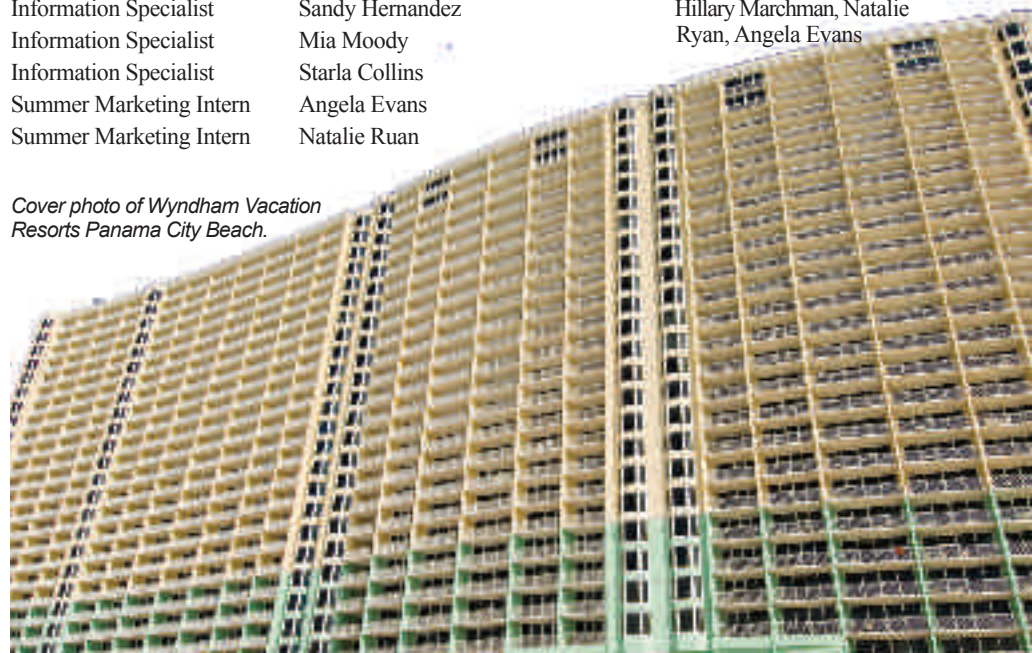
Bodine, Mayor Gayle

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Cover photo of Wyndham Vacation Resorts Panama City Beach.





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**Front Row, left to right:** Robert Guilford, Matt Duncan, Wade Spears, Teresa Peterson. **Back Row, left to right:** Lennie Butler, Heather Hate, Priscilla Lewis, Dawn Butler, Alyson Ford, Kathy Ludwig.

Superior Bank entered the Bay County market in 2006, under the leadership of Lennie Butler, Market President. We entered with a Panama City business loan center on Jenks Avenue, home to Commercial Lenders Wade Spears and Robert Guilford in addition to Mr. Butler.

“Having a separate location geared specifically for business lending is important,” says Butler. “It allows us to focus on meeting the needs of the small business owner. Being flexible and responsive to the needs of our business customers is our key to success.”

Next, we opened a full service branch located at 400 W. 23rd Street in April 2007. Priscilla Lewis manages the 23rd Street office and a top notch staff of experienced bankers. Butler says, “We are glad to be here. The Panama City market has welcomed Superior Bank and we continue to earn our customers’ business every day by providing superior services.”

Superior currently operates 31 branches in Florida alone, featuring locations in Panama City, Port St. Joe, Mexico Beach, and Marianna. Visit your local Superior Banker...you’ll appreciate the difference.

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# Real Estate Corner Whatley & Darty

Whatley & Darty Real Estate & Development, LLC has been part of the Panama City Beach real estate community since 2002. Their agents have years of experience in the Panama City Beach market in sales and property management.

In addition to Kenny Whatley, Broker, the team consists of four agents in the Commercial/Development Division and seven agents in the Residential Division. The Commercial/Development Division focuses on waterfront assemblages, commercial and residential development properties and build to suits for commercial tenants. Due to the major growth in this area, this division is being expanded to meet the demands of the market.

The Residential Team is relentless in its efforts in this ever changing market, staying current with all the mortgage, insurance and short sale/foreclosure guidelines. Due to their repeat clientele and extensive marketing, Whatley & Darty’s agents have maintained a great relationship with their Buyers and Sellers, handling single-family homes, condos, residential lots, rentals and property management.

Whatley & Darty is located at 22200 Panama City Beach Parkway in Integrity Park on the West End of Panama City Beach. Contact Whatley & Darty at (850) 249-5577 or visit them on the web at [www.whatleydarty.com](http://www.whatleydarty.com).



**Back Row, left to right:** Ron Herring, Realtor, Kenny Whatley, Owner/Broker, Keith Adams, Realtor. **Middle Row, left to right:** Jordan Maynard, Realtor, Bobbie Brigman, Realtor, Kelli Sullivan, Realtor, Linda Coleman, Realtor. **Front Row, left to right:** Angie Wiggins, Realtor, Lee Sullivan, Realtor. **Single Picture:** Tommy Watts, Realtor.



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*Big Spotlight*

# Meet the **Dr**

**T**he Resort Collection of Panama City Beach's Director of Food and Beverage, Danny Lyon and Executive Chef, Shawn Barrera, with the support of their staff have been coined "The Dream Team" when it comes to catering events and food in general. With the talent and experience of these two combined, anything is possible!

Four years ago, Tony Lucero, Director of Operations for The Resort Collection introduced Danny and Chef Shawn and granted them the freedom to experiment and expand the horizons for the food and beverage department. The complementary strengths of these two gentlemen have worked to produce many phenomenal events and guest experiences, in turn resulting in continuous growth and prosperity for their department.

Danny Lyons began his career with Disney at The Grand Floridian. During his career with Disney, he helped with the opening of "Port Orleans" and "Dixie Landing." Before making the move to Panama City Beach, Danny spent time working in the Florida Keys with the Marriott chain. It was during these years where he gained a generous amount of valuable experience in resort management and creating top notch guest experiences.

According to his teammate, Mr. Lyons is a mastermind when it comes to creating the ultimate atmosphere and setting in order to invoke a most memorable experience for their guests. When asked what was most valuable to him in his career with The Resort Collection, Danny was quick to say that his staff, also known as his "second family," is what makes each day fun, successful and rewarding.

When Danny is not working, he enjoys spending time taking part in our di-



# eam Team

verified community with his family and relaxing on our beautiful beaches.

A native of Tampa, Florida, Chef Shawn Barrera joined The Resort Collection's team nine years ago. Prior to his move to Panama City Beach, Shawn spent ten years working in Los Angeles. He received his degree from Pennsylvania Institute of Culinary Arts and gained a great deal of experience working in places such as The Four Seasons Beverly Hills, The Westin LAX, and top 50-rated restaurant Dighilev. He has traveled to EPCOT four years in a row to put on food demonstrations in different venues including the Odyssey Center.

Many of the weddings that Chef Shawn has catered have been nominated for national spotlight awards. His food creations are sure to please even the most discernable palates. He treats banquets like putting on a show and feels certain in his abilities to accommodate any type of event, regardless of theme.

Much like his teammate Danny, Shawn is most appreciative of his staff, most of which have been with him for six years and also serve as his "second family." In his career as Executive Chef, he strives to pass the love of food along to others as well as his enthusiasm for cooking. According to Danny, it is Chef Shawn's passion for the food he creates that makes designing the setting and creating the atmosphere so much fun. While away from the kitchen, Shawn enjoys playing golf and fishing the gorgeous gulf coast.

The Resort Collections dedicated catering facilities and restaurants accommodate individuals and groups from two to two-thousand. From the light and healthy to the sinful yet heavenly, this team is certain to provide you with the perfect dining experience...no matter what the occasion!



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**Annie Holcombe**



After growing up in the exciting atmosphere of Washington, DC with her parents and two sisters, Annie Holcombe relocated to Panama City in the spring of 1991 to start a new chapter in her life. Not knowing the direction that she wanted to head, Annie took a Front Desk job at the Ramada Inn on the beach. This was her first step into the world of hospitality. A step that brought new adventures, new people and exciting activity on a daily basis. That is, until winter arrived.

It was that first quiet winter when Annie realized there had to be bigger and better things out there for the beautiful beaches that she now called "home." In the later months, she seized the opportunity to take a position in the Sales Department and learned what it took to promote the beaches to groups and prospective visitors. After spending two years in Sales and rising to Sales Manager in charge of Tour & Travel, Annie was recruited to be a part of a revitalized project - The Boardwalk Beach Resort.

It was there that she truly learned the ropes of Panama City Beach by attending trade shows around the country, greeting and recruiting groups of all sizes, and specializing in Religious, Sports and Special Event segments of the business. During that time, she played a vital role in a group effort to bring Ironman Florida to the area. Something she felt would help those "quiet" winter months she first experienced, and knew had to change, back in 1991.

After ten years with the Boardwalk team, Annie's dream job arrived with an opportunity to work with her closest, and most respected co-workers to start a management company from the ground

up. In March 2008, Oaseas Resorts (OaseasResorts.com) was formed headed by herself, Marty McDaniel, Mike Griffin and Annie's best friend and husband, Pat Holcombe. As V.P. of Business Development and Marketing, she oversees the promotion of the company along with its plans for future growth and relations with their growing client list.

Since March, Oaseas Resorts has been managing and promoting Shores of Panama and is rapidly increasing their portfolio. With numerous properties and projects under negotiation and soon to be added, Annie's sights are set on the entire Gulf Coast, south Florida and even the Caribbean as possible locations for Oaseas management and rental opportunities. Her hard work has truly paid off since her early days at the Front Desk.

Anyone who has met Annie knows she has the energy and drive to make Panama City Beach and Bay County the best place to vacation and live. One of her favorite quotes is by Walt Disney and sums up her motivation in working with local businesses to build partnerships that will take Panama City Beach to the next level: "You can design and create, and build the most wonderful place in the world. But it takes people to make the dream a reality."

Currently, Annie Holcombe is a member of Beaches Chamber's Board of Directors, Bay County Chamber PR Committee, and Vision 3000. Over the years she has held seats on many local charity boards. In her spare time she likes to relax with Pat, their seven year old son Marshall, and mini-schnauzer, Ripken. Her favorite getaway spots include Disney World, "The Swamp," Jamaica, and the mountains.

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# resorts & real estate



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Aqua offers an array of pampering amenities to enhance your vacation experience including aromatherapy and steam treatment rooms, free DVD movie library, Kid's Club, poolside party room and more. Plus, a location at the heart of the new Panama City Beach, within walking distance of the fabulous 240-acre high-energy Pier Park shopping and entertainment complex, Gulf World Marine Park, and much more. For more information, visit [www.aqua-gulf.com](http://www.aqua-gulf.com).

## Aqua Vista Condominiums

**A**qua Vista Condominiums, located at the intersection of Hwy. 79 and Front Beach Road, is a perfect spot to unwind and recharge.

Consisting of privately owned, two and three bedroom units, Aqua Vista is a home away from home. Private balconies over-

look the Gulf and the City Pier is within view, with a wonderful 4th of July fireworks display visible from the balconies, beach and pool areas. Heated swimming pool, hot tub, sauna and exercise rooms overlook the Gulf providing a beautiful view of the sunset. Many area attractions and businesses are within walking distance of Aqua Vista.

Aqua Vista maximizes your experience of the sugar-white sands and azure blue water of the Gulf of Mexico. Here, your thoughts may drift away on the whisper of gentle sea breezes, disturbed only by the seagulls call. Clean, salt air refreshes you. Endless beaches beckon you to stroll and relax.

## Beach Tower Resort Motel

**B**each Tower Resort Motel is family owned and operated. The owners take pride in being involved in every aspect of the motel. The rooms at Beach Tower Resort Motel are all Gulf front with private balconies.

The motel was built in 1998, and the staff prides themselves in providing you with a clean, comfortable place to enjoy the beach. The pool is heated during the colder months so winter guests can enjoy it as well. Beach Tower Motel has a large sun deck so guests can perfect their tans before heading home.

Looking to cool off with a cold drink? The "Beach Bar" has fast become a favorite serving just the right items for a summer day. Beach Tower Motel is located down the street from Shipwreck Island Water

# IN PANA CITY BE





# MA ACH

*Contributing Writers: Jessica Summers, Hillary Marchman, Natalie Ryan and Angela Evans. Pictured top: Aqua Condominiums. Pictured left top: Aqua Vista Condominiums; Left bottom: Beach Tower Resort Motel.*



*Clockwise from above:* Beachcomber pool; Beachbreak by the Sea; Calypso Resort & Towers; Carillon pool; Carillon Beach Resort.



Park and within walking distance to shopping, motorcycle rentals, and the County Pier. Other amenities offered include free Wireless internet access and complimentary beach service.

## By The Sea Resorts

**B**y The Sea Resorts consists of three gulf-front hotels, Legacy by the Sea, Beachbreak by the Sea and Beachcomber by the Sea. While each property's rooms are priced to appeal to different visitors—from families on a budget to couples seeking a luxurious getaway—the hotels share a singular goal: to provide guests with outstanding service and a front row seat on Panama City Beach!

### Legacy by the Sea

**L**egacy by the Sea is ideally located across the street from Gulf World Marine Park and minutes from Pier Park. The 14-story Legacy boasts an airy lobby where guests can enjoy stunning views of the gulf with their free continental breakfast. Other amenities include gulf-front rooms with private balconies and fully-equipped kitchens, posh penthouse and Jacuzzi suites, a heated gulf-front pool and whirlpool, a laundry facility, a snack bar/sundries store and more.

### Beachbreak by the Sea

**N**ext door to the Legacy is Beachbreak by the Sea. While the resort may be small—it stands only four stories in a sea of high-rises—the Beachbreak is big on warmth and charm. The Beachbreak offers an array of room types including accommodations with private, gulf-front balconies and fully-equipped kitchens. The resort also features a gulf-front restaurant and bar, a heated gulf-front pool and whirlpool, a new beach-



themed playground, a laundry facility and several other amenities.

### Beachcomber by the Sea

**F**urther west, comfort meets convenience at Beachcomber by the Sea. Ball teams prefer the Beachcomber because of its proximity to Frank Brown Park. Families love the heated gulf-front pool and picnic area. Couples crave the Jacuzzi suites. Church groups and brides-to-be adore the affordable rooms and banquet room located across the street at the Beachcomber Retreat. Other amenities include gulf-front accommodations with private balconies and fully-equipped kitchens, a heated gulf-front whirlpool, a laundry facility, a business center and more.

### Calypso Resort & Towers

**T**he beautiful Calypso Resort & Towers is the perfect place for a fantastic beach vacation. This grand resort's location on the Gulf of Mexico is highlighted by its close proximity to Pier Park. Within walking distance of this popular area attraction, Calypso is ultra convenient to some of the very best dining, shopping and entertainment Panama City Beach has to offer.

The deluxe accommodations are beautifully appointed with designer furnishings and all

the comforts of home. Each unit features a fully-equipped kitchen, washer/dryer, TVs, DVD players, walk-in closets, and private balcony. Calypso offers a variety of unit configurations including one, two and three bedroom units.

Calypso's exceptional amenities include two beachfront pools, a tiki bar, fitness center, covered parking facility, complimentary DVD rentals, high speed Internet access and beach service. Professionally managed by Waterstone Resorts & Vacation Homes, guests of Calypso Resort & Towers can be assured of a quality vacation experience.

### Carillon Beach Resort

**A**t Carillon Beach Resort, we are in the business of "creating exceptional experiences." Carillon was created as a refuge from the outside world. The resort's 104 acres contain over 3900 feet of pristine white sand beaches, two lakes, and acres of precious community green space.

Carillon is a unique development designed with people as the primary element instead of the automobile. With this in mind, Carillon Market Street has dining and shopping opportunities as well as live music several nights a week. Along with cottage rentals, Carillon Beach Resort now has a new 70-room inn featuring luxury suites as well as

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26 three-bedroom condominiums complete with a large resort pool. The community has three additional pools and an abundance of other amenities.

Whether you're planning a family vacation, a weekend getaway, a wedding or a business retreat, Carillon Beach Resort can meet your every need. Visit us on the web at [www.carillonbeachresort.com](http://www.carillonbeachresort.com) or call (886) 668-7803 for reservations.

### Commodore Condominiums

The Commodore condominiums provide guests of Panama City Beach with a fun, family-oriented vacation experience. Beautiful gulf-front condominiums with large private balconies await you at The Commodore. Each of the 134 units offers master bedroom suites with private adjoining bath, a great room for living and dining and large, well-equipped kitchens. One, two and three bedroom condos are available; each fully-furnished down to washer-dryer, premium cable television and free Wi-Fi, along with a spectacular view of the Gulf.

The Commodore is conveniently located at the quieter east end of Panama City Beach very close to St. Andrews State Park. The



Left to right: Commodore Condominiums, Osprey; Grand Panama Beach Resort.

Commodore offers amenities such as a luxurious pool, kiddies pool, hot tub, beach volleyball, shuffle board, basketball courts and barbeque grills in the picnic area to make your experience most enjoyable.

For more information visit [www.commodorecondo.com](http://www.commodorecondo.com).

### Coral Reef

Coral Reef is one of the most modern luxury communities on the Gulf Coast. Located on the East end of Thomas Drive, Coral Reef is near St. Andrews



State Park and close to several locally owned fine dining establishments.

Inside Coral Reef you'll find high community standards while enjoying a quality family atmosphere. Eighty-two spacious

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units are available with fully equipped kitchens and your very own private balcony overlooking the tropical pool area and sugar white beaches. Amenities include two beachside pools, large sun deck, beachfront gazebo and club house, computer room as well as free wireless internet service, fitness room and a grilling and picnic area.

Coral Reef is one of very few properties large enough to offer private garages so you will find parking to be hassle free. Visit their website at [www.coralreefcondos.com](http://www.coralreefcondos.com) where you will be able to view the interiors of all the units, check for re-sales and make reservations online.

### The Driftwood Lodge & The Osprey

The Gilmore family has been operating resort motels such as The Driftwood Lodge and The Osprey, on Panama City Beach since 1969. The properties have been continually maintained and upgraded to compete in the Panama City Beach marketplace. All the accommodations face the gulf with over 500 feet of beachfront. Both properties are rated by former guests in the top five on the Travelocity website.

If one word can describe the Driftwood and Osprey, it would be "family." The properties have family-oriented activities all year long. Daily watermelon time and games have been a summertime tradition since 1971. Many families have been vacationing there for 30 years or more.

The Driftwood and Osprey are conveniently located on Front Beach Road near many restaurants and attractions including

Pier Park. With fewer and fewer family-operated businesses in our area, guests of these two properties have the unique experience of a truly family-oriented vacation.

### Grand Panama Beach Resort

This beautiful and lush tropical resort located on the magnificent shores of the Gulf of Mexico in Panama City Beach, Florida defines true southern traditions, offering a sweet respite for relaxation and fun.

The Grand Vista at Grand Panama Beach Resort with 112 luxury condominiums includes a business center, a well-appointed conference room, Wi-Fi Internet connections and a coffee shop. Grand Vista displays stunning views of the city, the Gulf and the surrounding beachscape.

The Grand at Grand Panama Beach Resorts boasts 187 luxury condominiums, a tropical Gulf side luxury pool with water spas and a full service Tiki Bar. The beautiful Gulf front building offers grand architecture, luxurious accommodations and a front row seat to the breathtaking sunsets of the Gulf of Mexico. Wi-Fi Internet connections, along with complete beach and concierge service add to the convenience and luxury that make Grand Panama the perfect vacation experience.

### Hidden Dunes

Enjoying life is what it's all about at Hidden Dunes Condominiums. This complete luxury resort condominium boasts 91 elegantly detailed units, each with its own private balcony.



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Clockwise from above: Moonspinner; aerial view of the Marriott; Palmetto Motel; Holiday Inn SunSpree; Hopetown Lane in Martinique.



overlooking the Gulf of Mexico. When you need to recharge your senses, let the grace and elegance of Hidden Dunes bring you back to life. Experience a beautiful sunset while enjoying the two-person Hot Tub located on your gulf front balcony. You will enjoy a unique gulf front swimming pool and a modern fitness center. Take in cool breezes under the spacious cabanas or utilize the barbeque facilities located by the pool.

Hidden Dunes Condominiums is a family-friendly resort located on Thomas Drive in Panama City Beach. Enjoy the convenience of being located to award-winning restaurants, shopping and family entertainment. If you are ready to take a spectacular vacation with family and/or friends, let Hidden Dunes courteous staff help you plan the ultimate beach getaway.

### Holiday Inn SunSpree

The Holiday Inn SunSpree is a family resort with programs just for kids. The Under The Sea Activities Center and Aqualand, the kid's water playground are bigger and better this year with more games, fun, and prizes!

After a full day of play with the kids, the Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort takes care of the adults in the SunSet Lounge. This new addition to the resort features all glass walls that allow you to take in the most beautiful sunsets, a wide variety of martinis for adults to enjoy, and live entertainment such as the smooth jazz band "On Call" that frequently plays at the SunSpree.

At the Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort in Panama City Beach, each room is tropical in décor and has a private balcony with a spectacular view of the Gulf of Mexico. To find out more about what the Holiday Inn SunSpree has to offer, visit our website [www.hipbeach.com](http://www.hipbeach.com) and check out our latest Beach Hotel Packages!



### The Bay Point Marriott Golf Resort & Spa

The Bay Point Marriott Golf Resort & Spa is famous as a destination for families and business visitors who seek waterside accommodations, an abundance of activities, great dining choices and outstanding service. The Resort is located on a scenic 1,100 acre nature preserve overlooking the beautiful St. Andrew's Bay.

Exclusive to The Bay Point Marriott, is the new complimentary boat service for registered guests to #1-rated Shell Island. The Bay Point Marriott boasts two top-rated golf courses, the Meadows Course and the challenging Nicklaus Design Course. Serenity at Bay Point, the new state-of-the-art luxury spa is a 12,000 square foot oasis. Great dining choices offer four on-site restaurants, including the award-winning 30° Blue.

With newly remodeled and spacious guest rooms and golf villas and endless amenities, the Bay Point Marriott Golf Resort & Spa is the area's premier Resort offering something for everyone!

### Martinique

If you love the architecture and ambience of 'Old Florida' and desire to have access to marinas, boat storage, concierge boat service, and waterfront restaurants within walking distance to your home,

Martinique is your opportunity!

Tucked away in a remote spot on Grand Lagoon and directly across from Captain Anderson's Restaurant and Marina and The Boatyard you will discover Martinique. Residents stroll the nature trails and enjoy the parks, lakes, playground, and dock or simply relax by the cabana island pool just beyond the wooden bridge walkways. With new construction, existing model homes, and land available at fantastic values, this is a prime property for someone desiring a second home, a solid investment or primary residence.

Visit the on-site model homes built by John Spillers and Ledman Construction and see why Martinique is a great place to call home. Century 21 Ryan Realty, Melissa Ryan or Katie Patronis at (850) 233-7926 or (800) 238-7926 or visit [www.martiniquehomes.com](http://www.martiniquehomes.com)

### Moonspinner

Here at the Moonspinner we pride ourselves on exceptional customer service. Our rental office and maintenance staff is on property for your convenience. Offering various amenities to suit all your different needs. We offer: 24 hour security, lighted tennis courts, heated swimming pool, Jacuzzi, exercise room, basketball and shuffle board and much much more. During the season our beach service offers dolphins



tours, wave runners, and parasail rides along with beach chair and umbrella rentals. If you enjoy fishing, bicycling or just being part of nature, the state park is the way to go. You are only minutes away from Captain Anderson's Restaurant and Marina, boat launching and scuba diving just to name a few. Moonspinner has something for everyone, so let us make a new tradition for your family. Call us today for a reservation!

## Palmetto Motel

The Palmetto has evolved from one of Panama City Beaches first motels in the 1920's, offering 50 vacation units to a seven story hotel with 122 guest units currently providing visitors with a relaxed, family-oriented vacation spot. The Palmetto offers both beachside and north side accommodations with multiple amenities including: an indoor heated pool, outdoor pool, hot tub, game room, fitness room and a colorful gift shop.

The owners of the Palmetto, Rick and Pattie Hughes take pride in serving as a repeat vacation destination for many families across the United States who vacation in Panama City Beach. According to the Hughes, the most enjoyable part of owning one of the beaches favorite family vacation spots is the opportunity to see kids who have grown up coming here during their childhood, coming back as married couples with their own children.

## Pinnacle Port

Pinnacle Port Vacation Rentals wants you to visit "Our Quiet Little Corner of the World." Pinnacle Port is located directly on the Gulf of Mexico and is situated on 26 acres between the Gulf and Lake Powell. From your private balcony, you will awaken to the view of the glistening waters and white sand of the world's most beautiful beaches. Pinnacle Port is a planned community consisting of six mid-rise buildings, and a 12-story tower building. Amenities include: 1, 2 and 3 bedroom condos; washers and dryers in each unit; full kitchens; private balconies; and cable TV. This is a gated community with 24/7 property patrol, two pools, exercise room, separate his and hers saunas, slip marina and boat ramp, picnic area, game room, shuffleboard courts, lighted tennis courts, canoe and kayak rentals, horseshoe pits, wireless internet and basketball court. Call (800) 874-8823 or visit [www.pinnacleport.com](http://www.pinnacleport.com) for more information.

## Regency Towers

Regency Towers is the perfect resort to offer you and your family a lifetime of memories. Located on the quieter end of Thomas Drive, Regency Towers offers 540 feet of private sugar-white beaches and emerald green Gulf waters.

Regency Towers offer its guest an array of amenities including two large pools, a large shallow wading pool for children, indoor Jacuzzis, full beach service and Tiki bar. Also available on-site are areas to park boats and RV's. Lighted tennis courts and a newly revamped exercise room are an added plus for sporting enthusiasts. Renovations and modernizations are being made to the interior and exterior of the building, condos and penthouses. Condominium Association Manager, Bernie Rohm states, "The goal at Regency Towers is to fulfill the dreams of our weekly and monthly guests,

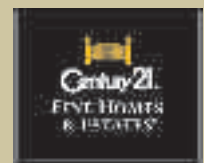


## Cover the Coast

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Clockwise from above: Pinnacle Port; Edgewater Beach Resort Pool Deck; EBR Banquet Lagoon Deck; Shores of Panama pool; Sterling Reef.



at the same time fulfill the dreams of the full time owners. Visit them on the web at [www.resencytowers.net](http://www.resencytowers.net)

## ResortQuest

**R**esortQuest manages several beautiful Gulf-front resorts in Panama City Beach: Celadon Beach Resort, Sunrise Beach Condominiums, Palazzo Resort, Tidewater Beach Resort, Seychelles Beach Resort and the charming five-bedroom beach house Surf Song.

ResortQuest provides a vacation experience with excellent value and service. As demonstrated in their "Passport to Fun" complimentary amenities program, each ResortQuest guest receives one admission to Gulf World Marine Park each day, ticket to Emerald Falls Family Recreation Center each day, one deep sea fishing trip aboard the Gemini Queen each day and a ride on the glass-bottom boat to Shell Island each day.

ResortQuest Real Estate is also the area's leader in real estate sales with over 100 knowledgeable and professional real estate experts in Mississippi, Alabama and Northwest Florida. ResortQuest recently opened two new sales offices in Panama City Beach at Tidewater and Palazzo. For ResortQuest Vacation Rentals call (866) 478-3401. For ResortQuest Real Estate call (866) 649-9813 or visit [www.ResortQuestNWFL.com](http://www.ResortQuestNWFL.com).

## Resort Collection

**W**hether you're planning a holiday party, business meeting or if you simply need to escape for awhile, the Resort Collection of Panama City Beach can help ensure that your experience is not only memorable but relaxing and stress-free. With six stunning properties: Emerald Beach Resort & Spa, Majestic Beach Re-



sort, Long Beach Resort, En Soleil, Marina Landing, and Edgewater Beach & Golf Resort, you can be sure to find the perfect place to fit your needs.

The Resort Collection's signature property, Edgewater Beach & Golf Resort, is Panama City Beach's only full-service Resort. It boasts a meticulously manicured executive 27-hole golf course nestled among wetlands, marshes, lakes and preserves. There are 11 all-weather tennis courts with private lessons and clinics, fitness classes, beach yoga, 11 pools, four Jacuzzis, a full gym and even a personal spa to keep you active, pampered and completely content.

As the winner of the Pinnacle Award and the Planner's Choice Award, Edgewater Beach & Golf Resort is a wonderful place to plan meetings, conventions, weddings or parties. The expansive conference center caters to groups ranging in size from 10 to 2,000 and their experienced staff can assist with everything from arranging speakers to organizing icebreakers and team-building exercises.

Edgewater Beach & Golf Resort is joining the Florida Green Lodging program, a group of lodging facilities that is committed to help conserve and restore Florida's unique natural resources. By reducing water use, conserving energy, improving air quality, and decreasing waste, the Resort and its guests contribute directly to this important cause. For more information visit [www.resortspcbeach.com](http://www.resortspcbeach.com)

or call (866) 203-1164.

## Royal American Group of Companies

**R**oyal American Hospitality is a leader in the local property and rental management industry. Hotel & Motel Management Magazine ranked the 6-year-old company among the Top 100 management companies in the country. Most recently, Laketown Wharf, the beach's newest and largest resort, has been added to the already diverse portfolio. The property's main attraction is the striking water fountain show on display each night.

The extensive knowledge of the local and regional market has made Royal American Real Estate a respected leader in waterfront and resort property sales. "We have the unique ability to help a customer find their vacation home, then have our sister companies offer the best services to help them acquire and manage their property," says Scott Clemo, Royal American Real Estate's broker.

For more information on Royal American Hospitality call (850) 234-3834 or visit [www.rahospitality.com](http://www.rahospitality.com). For more information call (850) 230-4600 or visit [www.royalamericanrealestate.com](http://www.royalamericanrealestate.com)

## Seclusion Bay

Seclusion Bay is a unique up-and-coming fractional ownership community to be built on St. Andrews Bay in Tyndall. Its most prominent features is the focus on water sports and outdoor activities. The build out will include a 49-slip deep water marina for guests, a small private beach area for Seclusion Bay residents and a yacht club. The location is also within short driving distance to Mexico Beach.

This gated community will be mid-rise, styled to have the "Old Florida" look and feel. The units will range in size from two to four bedrooms. Seclusion Bay guests will have access to all the amenities of a resort including a fitness center, pool and concierge service.

## Shores of Panama

Managed by Oaseas Resorts, Shores of Panama offers a luxurious stay like none other in the area. This resort surrounds the guest in warm earth tones, rustic iron and wood with just a hint of tropical flavor. The structure itself is a horseshoe shape facing the Gulf—a

design that captures the soothing sound of the crashing waves.

Past the beautiful lobby and luxurious units, the magnificent pool area boasts 14,000 square feet of gently winding pools around an atrium featuring live music and an outdoor snack bar. Soon, Shores of Panama will open their own full-service spa featuring separate male and female treatment areas. The spa is slated to be fully operational by the Independence Day weekend.

Summer and Winter, both are great times to visit Shores of Panama, with year-round activity programs and theme nights, indoor and outdoor cafes, 2500 square feet of meeting space and much more.

## Sterling Resorts

### Sterling Breeze

In addition to its top-notch décor and boutique hotel-style sensibility, Sterling Breeze offers a spectacular array of amenities. Each unit features designer furnishings, a 42" flat-screen plasma TV, granite countertops in the kitchen and bathrooms and a large balcony complete with an electric grill. In addition, all units boast free high-speed Internet, Gilchrist & Soames bath amenities and Wolfgang Puck coffee. Beyond

beautiful accommodations, Sterling Breeze's guests will also enjoy amenities such as a wine bar, Internet café and a poolside fire pit, plus a state-of-the-art fitness center and granite water wall in the lobby. Other highlights of the property include a 2,000 square-foot heated outdoor pool, whirlpool spa, community activity room, umbrella and beach chair service, kids' programs (seasonally) and secure parking.

### Sterling Reef

Located in the heart of Panama City Beach, Fla., Sterling Reef offers a combination of luxury and fun that is ideal for any Gulf Coast family vacation. With spacious accommodations boasting spectacular views of the Gulf's emerald green waters, luxurious amenities and a convenient location near area attractions, every guest will find something to love about this 126-unit beachfront condominium.

Sterling Reef's two- and three-bedroom condominiums are well-appointed with all the comforts of home, such as a full-sized kitchen, washer/dryer, and cable TV and DVD player. Other amenities include free unlimited DVD rentals, free high speed internet access, a bi-level pool, activity center



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*Clockwise from above:* Sunrise Beach Condominium; Splash; children's area; Splash lobby; Origin at Towne of Seahaven; Sterling Beach.



and grilling area.

Guests benefit from the Sterling Plus program which offers added benefits including an orientation tour at check-in, a complimentary Wolfgang Puck first-morning coffee-starter kit, Gilchrist & Soames bath amenities, on-site equipment rentals, discounts and preferential treatment at participating restaurants and shops.

### *Sterling Beach*

Located directly on the beach on Thomas Drive, Sterling Beach is the perfect vacation destination for families as well as groups or small corporate meetings. Sterling Beach offers some of the most spacious suites, 2-, 3- and 4-bedroom condominiums on Panama City Beach. Resort amenities include a 4,000 square-foot free form pool, hot tub, gulf-front fitness room, private theater and meeting room, and club room. And with only 92 units nestled within five beautiful acres, you'll always be able to find the perfect spot by the pool or on the beach. As with all the other Sterling properties guests receive complimentary DVD rentals during their stay.

### *Reflections*

Reflections, developed and managed by Sterling, overlooks St. Andrews Bay in Panama City Beach and offers guests unparalleled luxury with a 10,000-square foot resort-style pool, concierge service and fitness center. In addition, guests of the resort will enjoy membership rates and access to Bay Point amenities including 36 holes of championship golf featuring Northwest Florida's only Nicklaus-design golf course, tennis and the new Serenity at Bay Point Spa, a full-service European spa and salon. Visitors are also invited to enjoy Bay Point's marina and four distinctive restaurants. Reflections at Bay Point features 86 one- to



four-bedroom units ranging in size from 1,049 to 2,903 square feet. These spacious units are lavishly appointed with full-size kitchens, washers & dryers, TVs and DVD players, in addition to private balconies overlooking the Bay, Gulf and golf course.

### *Splash*

Splash is a 276-unit condominium resort designed as the ultimate destination on Florida's Northwest coast. From the on-site water park and direct access to the crystal blue waters of the Gulf of Mexico, Splash takes full advantage of its dynamic water-front location.

Beyond affording guests panoramic views of Florida's Gulf Coast, each of Splash's condominiums are well-appointed with all the luxuries of home, including: a full-kitchen, washer and dryer and ceramic tile floors.

The true centerpiece of Splash is the expansive water park complete with two distinct pool environments, lazy river, aqua play structure featuring water slides and spray toys and a dive-in movie theater. Other amenities include pool side bar and grill, health club with state of the art fitness facility, video arcade, mini bowling alley, beach service and kid's programs.

For more information about Sterling Resorts or to make reservations, visit [www.SterlingResorts.com](http://www.SterlingResorts.com) or call 1-866-5RESORT.

### *Sunrise Beach Condominium*

Sunrise Beach Condominium, managed by ResortQuest Vacation Rentals, is located directly on the award-winning beaches, just steps away from Pier Park. This beautiful resort has 1, 2 and 3 bedroom condos which also highlights an elevated gulf front deck with two tropical pools, relaxing Jacuzzi's, cascading mushroom fountain, gulf front exercise room as well as convenient on property covered parking. Sunrise also features a club house meeting room overlooking the beautiful emerald waters and sugar white beaches that many weddings and special occasions have come enjoy.

### *Towne of Seahaven*

The Towne of Seahaven promises to be unique destination. A beachside pedestrian village, filled with atmosphere and charm on a breathtaking 52 acres with 1,400 feet directly on the shimmering Gulf of Mexico. All the elements that comprise an authentic seaside village will be found here.

Architectural elements come alive at The Town of Seahaven. Village designs call for the full effects of "Architectural Imagineering," where a stroll down Seahaven's Main Street will take you back to a bygone era of brick-paved lanes, quiet courtyards, and casual yet sophisticated shopping and



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- Upscale Martini Lounge
- 4000 sq ft meeting space
- HD DLP Projector
- 14' ceilings
- 180" screen



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# SEAWATCH

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**Holiday Inn**

SunSpree<sup>®</sup> Resort  
Panama City Beach, Florida



SUNSET LOUNGE

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dining...the perfect setting for the memory-making relaxation of a family seaside experience, coupled with the convenience and vibrancy of village life. Anyone who is considering a second home or resort investment should take a look at us now!

## Wyndham Vacation Resorts

**W**yndham Vacation Resorts Panama City Beach is a sleek modern resort that beckons visitors like a gem glistening in the sun to a unique, upscale vacation experience.

This 25-story resort with 267 vacation ownership units offers visitors all the amenities they've come to expect from a Wyndham property - beach-side pools, exercise facilities and hot tubs, and packs a few unexpected surprises as well. With an outstanding view of the Gulf of Mexico, guests can enjoy a relaxing cocktail in the resort's Sky Bar - the only establishment of its kind in the area.

Wyndham Vacation Resorts in Panama City Beach includes a combination of spacious



one-, two- and three-bedroom fully-furnished, condominium-style units. The well-appointed units all feature a private balcony; full kitchen; living room; dining room; and washer and dryer, and become a home-away-from-home to rest and relax after enjoying the Panhandle's beautiful scenic beaches and outdoor activities.



Top: Wyndham Vacation Resorts Panama City Beach chic SkyBar; Bottom: Rendering of the future Towne of Seahaven, just east of Pier Park.

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## BamaJam

Known locally in Northwest Florida for his excellent skills as chef and food & beverage specialist, local chef Shawn Barrera made his debut at the BamaJam Music & Arts Festival in June, preparing a variety of tasty foods for celebrities such as ZZ Top and Lynyrd Skynyrd backstage in the VIP tents. "It's exciting to be requested to cater an event of this magnitude," he said.

Barrera currently manages and organizes all food and beverage functions at The Resort Collection restaurants, including Oceans Bar & Grill at Edgewater Beach and Golf Resort, the H2O Bar and Grill at Majestic Beach Resort, two markets, several pool bars, a Pizza Hut, and 90,000 square feet of banquet space within the resorts. Barrera earned his culinary degree from the prestigious

Pennsylvania Culinary Institute, and worked at several nationally reputed restaurants like Patina, Daighilev and the Four Seasons Hotel in Los Angeles before coming to the Resort Collection eight years ago.

BamaJam is an annual weekend music festival held on 600 acres off of Hwy. 167 north of Enterprise, AL. The festival features a line up of southern rock bands and famous musicians including Hank Williams, Jr., Trace Adkins, Tracy Lawrence, Ricky Skaggs and others. The three-day event focuses on celebrating music, food and art. Artisans and vendors showcase their talents in the Bama Market while musicians keep music flowing in the music lounge. For more information visit [www.bamajammusicfestival.com](http://www.bamajammusicfestival.com).

*Pictured above from left: ZZ Top on Stage at BamaJam 2008; Top Attorney Chris Patterson.*

## 'Florida Super Lawyers' Names Patterson Top Attorney

Chris Patterson, a member of The Panama City Beaches Chamber of Commerce, has been named by *Florida Super Lawyers* magazine as one of the top attorneys in Florida for 2008. Only five percent of the lawyers in the state are recognized by the magazine. Chris Patterson was previously awarded this distinction in 2006 and 2007.

The selections for Super Lawyers are made by Law & Politics, a division of Key Professional Media, Inc. of Minneapolis, Minn. Each year, Law & Politics undertakes a rigorous multi-phase selection process that includes a statewide survey of lawyers, independent evaluation of candidates by Law & Politics' attorney-led research staff, a peer review of candidates by practice area, and a good-standing and disciplinary check.

Law & Politics publishes *Super Lawyers* magazines across the country. In addition to the magazines, Law & Politics publishes newspaper inserts and magazine special sections devoted to the chosen lawyers. In 2008, *Super Lawyers* will reach more than 13 million readers.

*Super Lawyers* can be found online at [superlawyers.com](http://superlawyers.com), where lawyers can be searched by practice area and location.

## MEDIA MATTERS

### DEALING WITH THE MEDIA IN A CRISIS

In the last year, a number of local businesses have experienced situations which require crisis communications. It's a reminder for all of us, large and small business owners, that we could be thrust into the spotlight when we least expect it, and that we need to have a plan in place before this happens.

**1.** Whether the media attention is local or national, the advice is the same: ***You must be accessible.*** If something happens in the middle of the night, reporters have morning papers and morning news shows which may want to carry the story. If your cell phone goes straight to voicemail because it's 2:00 a.m., you may hear about the crisis at 5:00 a.m. - on the morning news - along with everyone else.

**2.** If you wait to talk to the media because you don't have approval on a press release, reporters will find someone else who will talk to them - a maid, a security guard, a spring breaker... someone who probably has less information than you do. ***Always respond to a media request, even if it's just to tell them you'll have more info for them later.*** When issuing a press release, be cognizant of a reporter's deadline. If you issue it too late in the day, incorrect info may circulate for another 24 hours; the reporter may have moved on to another story and the information you provided could be ignored.

**3.** Before a crisis happens be sure to know ***who, within your organization, will serve as a media contact*** and be sure to provide those individuals with media training. During a crisis they'll need to have the answers to these questions - who, what, where, when, why and how. Good media training should provide confidence and competency.

***Ultimately, a reporter only needs three things for a story: a theme, facts, and a quote. The quote is the only thing they need from you.***

*Joanna Banks-Morgan is the President of Diva Productions, a firm specializing in providing video production services and media training for clients throughout the Emerald Coast. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a degree in Communication, and is a member of the Public Relations Society of America and Women in Communications.*



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## The Miracle League

Every child deserves a chance to play baseball and Panama City Beach's Rotary Club, Gulf Coast Community College Rotaract Club and the Miracle League of the Emerald Coast are working diligently to make this possible for over 5,000 physically or mentally disabled children residing in Bay County.

In 1998, The Miracle League was originally formed in Rockdale County, Georgia with the mission of providing opportunities for all children to play baseball regardless of their ability. With no programs in place to mock, ground rules were formed for the program that includes:

- o Every player bats once each inning.
- o All base runners are safe.
- o Every player scores a run before the inning is over.
- o Community children and volunteers serve as 'buddies' to assist the players.
- o Each team and player wins every game.

The Miracle League complex offers a custom designed field with cushioned rubberized turf to help prevent injuries, wheelchair accessible dugouts, and a completely flat surface to eliminate any barriers to wheel-chair bound or visually impaired players. These special concessions allow children of all ages, who might not have otherwise had the opportunity, to enjoy the experience of participating in the team sport coined "America's favorite past time." The City of Panama City Beach, under the direction of former mayor, Lee Sullivan and with council approval, graciously donated the land, located at Frank Brown Park, for

the Miracle League field to be constructed. With having raised approximately half of the money needed to complete this project from private donations and a donation from the Bay County Commission, the Panama City Beach Rotary Club and Miracle League held a ground breaking ceremony at Frank Brown Park on June 12th at 4 pm.

The members of these organizations are actively seeking donations and holding events to continue raising money for the completion of this project. With the goal of raising approximately \$150,000 more in donations, the members of these two organizations hope to have the Miracle League field completed by the end of this year. Once the field is completed, the City of Panama City Beach's recreation department will organize the league by recruiting players and volunteer buddies. If you would like to help make thousands of disabled children's dreams of playing baseball come true, you can find more information by visiting [www.emeraldcoastmiracleleague.com](http://www.emeraldcoastmiracleleague.com) or by contacting Jeannie Quave at (850) 249-6100.

*Checks for The Miracle League made payable to:*

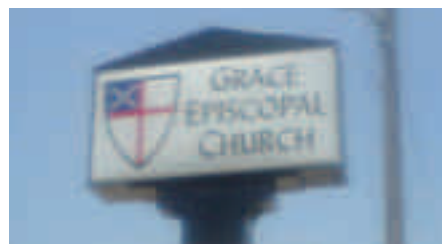
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*Mail to:*

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## FAITH COMMUNITY

### GRACE EPISCOPAL ON PCB PARKWAY



Maybe you've noticed the big new sign outside of Grace Episcopal Church at 9101 Panama City Beach Parkway—or the lovely landscaping and the new entrance to welcome visitors and members alike—and have wondered what goes on inside.

The building started life as the former Saint Bernadette Roman Catholic Church, but was leased for Episcopal services in 1988—and ultimately purchased in 1991—to serve the needs of Episcopalians on the east end of the beach. Originally an outpost of the Episcopal Church in Laguna Beach, "Saint Thomas' East" separated and became Grace Church in 1992.

Grace Church is a congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast and a part of the world-wide Anglican Communion—which also includes the Anglican Church of Canada and the Church of England among others. Services of Holy Communion are offered on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am in the summer, and on Wednesday evenings at 5:45 pm. Grace Church is especially blessed with Ken Brown as organist and a talented choir.

We also take seriously the care of "the least of the brethren" Supper at Grace, the weekly meal provided every Thursday night for the hungry, the poor, the homeless and the lonely in our community. Responsibilities are shared with other local churches.

Father Joe Hagberg has served Grace Church as parish priest since late 2006, and last year the church joined the Beaches Chamber of Commerce. If you're without a church home, why not give us a call at (850) 235-4136 or better yet, come visit on Sunday morning!

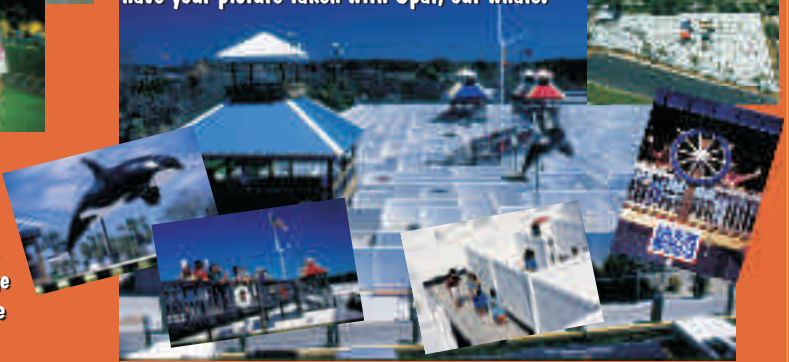
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# a round Town

Updates on Community, Education, Workforce & Government

## Community Update

Mayor Gayle Oberst, City of PCB



It is interesting and exciting to be living in Panama City Beach! The weather is hot and so is Pier Park. Shops and restaurants have been opening since January.

People watching and strolling are becoming favorite past times for many and the foot traffic has been unbelievable. Those of us who live here and visitors from over the panhandle are enjoying time spent there. Construction on the City Pier "Dan Russell" has started and plans are being made for a small shop, restrooms, and a boardwalk on the south side of Front Beach Road. Aaron Bessant Park in Pier Park is hosting the annual concerts in the park with several hundred attending each concert. Numerous events such as Relay for Life, Heart Walk, July 4th Celebration, concerts, and meets are taking place there.

The community is working on designing a library building and raising funds to match the state grant and impact fees pledged to build a new Panama City Beach library. Doug Gilmore is chairing the library committee and is receiving great support from our community. Anyone who is interested please join the efforts.

The second mile of the Highway 79 multi-use trail was completed and opened in June. The third mile of the trail is being engineered during the summer and construction will begin late 2008 or early 2009. The trail will tie into the West Bay bridge and school. Department of Transportation Enhancement grant funds are being used for the project.

The City is nearing completion of the permitting process for its wet weather discharge area located west of Highway 79. Construction and installation of pipelines should begin in late fall. The 3,000 acres will house equipment needed to release the City's retreated water into that area making Panama City Beach the first city in Bay County to end dumping retreated water into the Bay. Additionally the wet weather area will house an outdoor educational classroom, picnic pavilion, restrooms and unpaved nature trails.

Frank Brown Park is a beehive of activity. The annual fishing tournament, bike and trail month events, nature photography classes, pet events, special events and swim meets along with the various sports venues are bringing hundreds to the Park each day. "Circus by the Sea" opened its first summer season in the Park on June 12th with a special FSU event and is a welcomed family oriented attraction. Visit [www.CircusByTheSea.com](http://www.CircusByTheSea.com) to purchase your tickets.

## Underwater Crime Scene Investigation (UCSI) at FSU-Panama City

Dr. George DePuy, FSU-PC Dean



Perhaps the most unusual program offered at FSU Panama City is the certificate program in Underwater Crime Scene Investigation (UCSI). There are very few, if any, programs like this one offered at other

universities. However, FSU Panama City's location on the water makes it a logical fit for our campus.

The UCSI certificate may be earned independently or as part of a bachelor's or master's degree program. It is not necessary to have diving experience to enter the program. Diving training and certification is included in the program.

The UCSI certificate program consists of a sequence of five courses in forensic science and underwater investigation. It combines the knowledge, skills, and decision-making processes of the investigator and the scientist to investigate scenes of crimes and accidents in underwater environments.

Some students have been able to obtain internships at prestigious locations such as the



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# around Town

Updates on Community, Education, Workforce & Government

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Dive Center in Seattle, Washington and the NOAA Aquarius Undersea Laboratory in Key Largo, Florida.

It is not unusual for members of the UCSI faculty and staff team to be called out on active criminal investigations. The most famous of these cases was the Natalie Holloway case in Aruba. The UCSI team also conducts training programs for law enforcement units from across the State of Florida.



UCSI Program at FSU-Panama City

More information on the UCSI program can be obtained from the program director, Dr. Tom Kelley at (850) 770-2202.

## GCCC Welcomes Dr. George Bishop

Dr. Jim Kerley, GCCC President



I am proud to announce the appointment of Dr. George Bishop as Gulf Coast Community College's new Vice President of Academic Affairs & Learning Support. Dr. Bishop succeeds

Dr. Linda Adair who is retiring after 33 years at GCCC and leaves a tremendous legacy of student support.

Dr. Bishop hails from Niagara County, NY, where he is the current Executive Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs at Niagara County Community College. He chose GCCC because he felt the college was a good match with his experience in assessment and accreditation, curriculum development, and commitment to excellence in teaching.

We began the national search in the late fall determined to find the best candidates in an

open and inclusive process. The search committee received sixty-seven applications and after careful review, four finalists were selected for interviews. One of the qualities

that placed Dr. Bishop at the top of the list was his enthusiasm for teaching. Most of his career has been spent teaching at the college-level and abroad as a Fulbright Professor of

American Literature in Czech Republic. During his five years as an administrator at Niagara, he has overseen the development of eight new distance learning programs as well as twelve new degree and certificate programs.

With his strong academic background and

team spirit, he is an excellent addition to our team of talented administrators, faculty and staff, and will continue our tradition of putting students first.



Dr. George Bishop, new Vice President of Academic Affairs & Learning Support at GCCC

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# around Town

Updates on Community, Education, Workforce & Government

## Pier Park Express

At a time of unprecedented gas prices and staggering unemployment, the Pier Park Express has arrived, launching its service on Friday, June 20th.

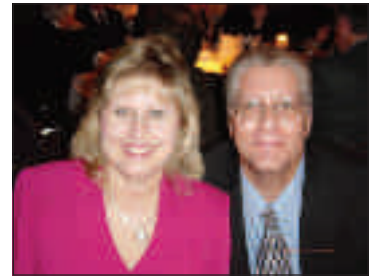
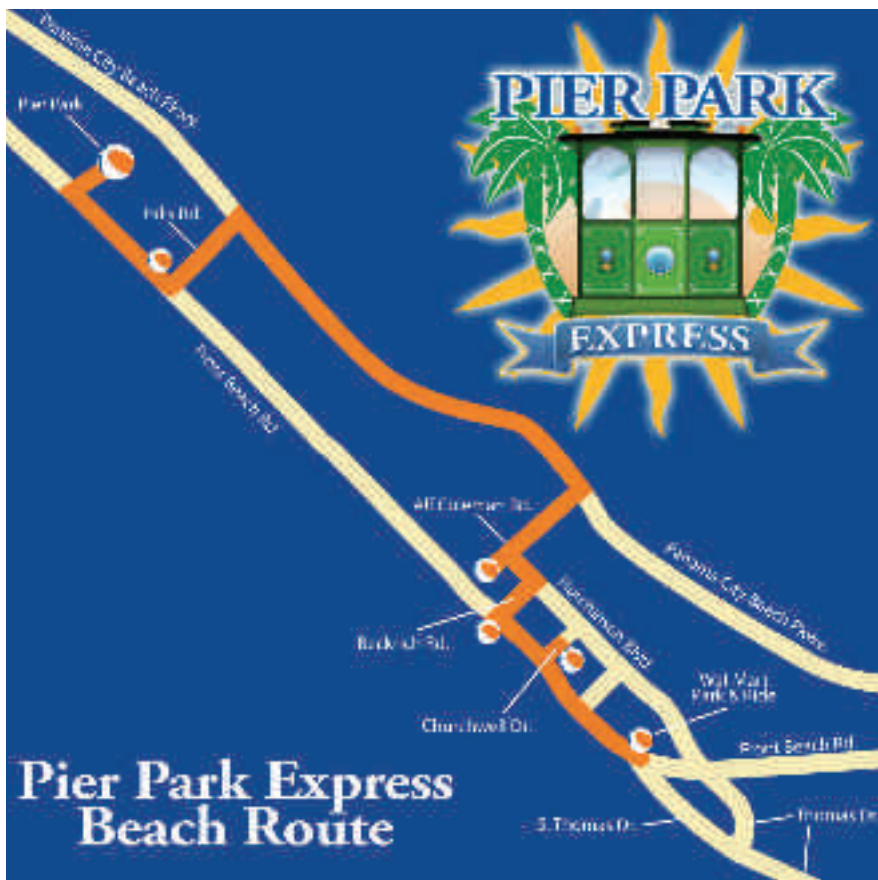
Pier Park Express will provide more than just a fun, efficient and cost-effective way to travel. This recent expansion to Bay Town Trolley increases service hours as well as the ability to operate on weekends and holidays. The introduction of this service on Panama City Beach also means in-

creased local employment to an additional seven new hires outfitted in colorful bright uniforms (100% silk Hawaiian shirts, with tropical pith hats and the PPE logo).



Pier Park Express operates Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 am to 12:00 am (Midnight), thru September 28th. Regular fare is .50 cents. Senior Citizens (with Medicare card) and Persons with Disabilities ride for .25 cents. Children 5 years old and younger ride free.

Pier Park Express Trolleys will travel simultaneously along the new EXPRESS trolley routes from the Super Wal-Mart on Front Beach Road to Pier Park. Each trolley is scheduled to provide service to stops approximately every 30 minutes. The Pier Park Express will utilize the trolley transfer station next to The Grand Theatres at Pier Park. For more information visit [www.PierParkExpress.com](http://www.PierParkExpress.com).



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## Gulf Coast Workforce Board Provides Training Programs

Kimberly Bodine, Executive Director  
Gulf Coast Workforce Board



For the third year in a row, the Gulf Coast Workforce Board has provided skills upgrade training for employed workers. Through funding from Workforce Florida's Business Employment Solutions &

Training grant and the Workplace Investment Now grant, the Board was able to fund forums to identify local training needs. From there the Board was able to deliver the training in a number of ways to fit the length, time and content needed by employers using local providers and beyond to fill those needs.

This year more than 50 different classes were offered, spanning several industries and involving employed workers at all levels; from entry to management level and technology to soft skills. Examples of some of the training provided include Spanish for Healthcare Workers, Project Management, Share Point, Customer Service, OSHA 10, Trauma Nursing, SQL Server 05, Asphalt Repair and Maintenance and much more.

Altogether, the Board was able to train approximately 600 workers from 66 local employers during the 2007-2008 year. As a result, workers were able to obtain training to help them become more productive and advance in their careers and businesses to become more competitive, efficient, and profitable.

The Gulf Coast Workforce Board hopes to offer more employed worker training in the next program year. If you would like more information about employed worker training, please contact Joe Chavarria at (850) 873-3574. Employed Worker Training is just another way that we build stronger communities every day.

## Local Government Summary

### Bay Solutions

#### Bay County

- The Bay County Commission recently authorized a one-year extension to the interim operation and management for the Waste-to-Energy Facility with EnGen, LLC.
- The Commission approved an agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for the cost sharing of County Road 388 Rehabilitation Project.
- The boat ramp renovations at Lake Powell are complete and the Park has reopened.

#### City of Panama City Beach

- The Council unanimously passed an ordinance requiring inactive construction sites to install chain link fencing and landscaping along scenic corridors.

## Grand Lagoon National America's Saltwater Fishing Tournament

The Grand Lagoon National, America's Saltwater Fishing Tournament, will be held August 20th - 24th. The Grand Lagoon National consists of eight competitive divisions including Big Game, Offshore, Inshore, Flats, Party Boat, Charter Boat, Kayak and Dive. This is an open-door tournament that will allow both experienced professionals and family enthusiasts to compete to win over \$1 million in cash prizes.

The tournament appeals to all types of saltwater anglers. The Big Game division is sure to attract million dollar yachts and seasoned professional competitors hunting for the elusive giant Blue Marlin, Swordfish and Tuna. On the other end of the fishing spectrum, hundreds of kayak fishermen will paddle their way to glory. Marinas on the Grand Lagoon hold several fishing records, one being the State of Florida record for the largest Blue Marlin in 2001 that weighed in at 1,046 pounds.

The four day event includes plenty of activities onshore, including food and beverage booths, parades, firework displays and national recording artists Daryle Singletary and Billy Currington. For more information visit [www.grandlagoonnational.com](http://www.grandlagoonnational.com).

## Florida Welcome Centers

Every year thousands of Florida visitors and vacationers pass through the state's Welcome Centers. The operators meet and greet visitors tirelessly from morning until evening. In mid-May, Skip Alford delivered gift baskets to these operators on behalf of the Beaches Chamber, and personally thanked them for all the work they do in helping promote Panama City Beach.



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**August 8, 2008**

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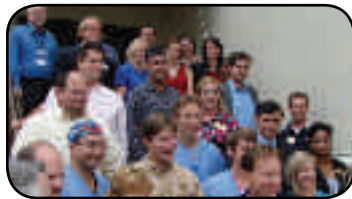
Raymond James, 5/20



Guglielmo's, 5/21



Premier Storage, 5/22



Gulf Coast Medical, 5/22



Country Inn & Suites, 5/28



PCB Academy, 5/29



Beach Kitchen, 6/10



Thomas Lee Photography

LaQuinta Inn, 6/18



Maurice's, 6/24



Reggae J's, 6/24



Solace Day Spa, 5/13



Accessories, 5/15

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Hooter's  
Tootsie's Orchid Lounge  
Carlyle & Company  
Jubilee Foods, Inc.  
Moon Beach Marketing  
NewPoint Schools  
Rowe Realty Group

## Renewals - 1 Year

Brite Beginnings  
Colonial Press International  
Emerald Coast Glass Protection  
Faith Christian Family Church  
Indulgence Salon Spa & Boutique  
Inner Vision Communications  
La Quinta Inn & Suites  
Seclusion Bay  
Store-It Mini Warehouse & Storage  
Walgreens

## Renewals - 2 Years

Barks & Bubbles  
Colonial Bank  
Gift Basket Designs  
Guadalajara Mexican Grill  
Gulf Coast Dermatology  
Heyman, Charles  
Keller Williams Success Realty  
Nichols Physical Therapy Specialists  
Phelps, Jimmy  
Sunglass World of NW Florida, Inc.  
Wilson Stephen

## Renewals - 3 Years

The Associates Architects  
Ed's Beach Service  
ID's & More Promos  
West Florida Regional Planning  
Council

## Renewals - 4 Years

Area Glass, Inc.  
Betsy Ann Riverboat Tours  
Carlton S. Schwartz, DDS, PA  
CK's Secrets, Inc.  
DP Enterprises

Emerald Waste Services  
Investors Advantage Real Estate  
McDonald's/David Costa Enterprises  
Miss Charlotte's  
Oce' Imagistics, Inc.  
Southern Star Properties

## Renewals - 5 Years

Ace Air & Heat, Inc.  
Al.com  
Carr, Riggs & Ingram  
Fernando C. Malamud, MD  
Kilgore's Brick Pavers, Inc.  
Labor Ready Worldwide  
Legacy By The Sea Resorts  
McConnaughay, Duffy, Coonrod,  
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## Renewals - 6 Years

A-1 Charter Fishing Fleet  
ADT Security Services  
Brown Fire Protection  
Carpet One of the Gulf Coast  
Edward Jones Investments  
Luxury Vacation Rentals  
Merrimac Resort Condo  
Mortensen, Keith  
The Optimist Club of the Beaches  
Royal Flush Plumbing Services of  
N.W. Florida  
Stroud, Thomas  
Vance, Harris (Zeke)  
WilsonMiller, Inc.

## Renewals - 7 Years

Bay County Awards & Engraving  
Coastal Parasail, Inc.  
Edgewater Beach Golf Villa  
Fontainebleau  
Harbour Green Apartments  
Junior Museum of Bay County  
Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q  
Venture Out of Panama City Beach

## Renewals - 8 Years

BB&T  
Capt. Jack's Family Buffet  
Coral Reef Condominium  
Emerald Coast Bingo, Inc.  
Frale, Barbara  
Home Instead Senior Care  
ShoreHouse Furniture  
Sprint Ahead

## Renewals - 9 Years

Better Business Bureau of NW  
Florida  
Segers, Sowell, Stewart, Johnson  
& Brill

## Renewals - 10 Years

Beachcomber By The Sea  
Century 21 Smith & Associates

## Renewals - 11 Years

Burke, Blue, Hutchison, Walters &  
Smith  
Emerald Coast RV Beach Resort  
Girl Scout Council of the  
Apalachee Bend  
Moonspinner Condominiums  
Plumb Better, Inc.  
Print Services, Inc.  
The Original J. Michael's Restaurant  
TRIPLE "J" Steakhouse/Vittles Inc.

## Renewals - 12 Years

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Clear Channel Radio  
Ms. Newby's Liquors  
Prism Ticket Advertising, Inc.  
Smurfit-Stone Container Corp.  
Summerhouse Condominiums

## Renewals - 13 Years

Days Inn Beach  
Brian D. Hess  
Mariner West Owner's Association  
Paradise Palms  
WTVY-TV Channel 4

## Renewals - 14 Years

Early Education and Care, Inc.  
Leitz Office Products

## Renewals - 15 Years

Burger King  
Coldwell Banker-Carroll Realty, Inc.  
Cox Pools  
Glidden Paint & Decorating  
Gulf Coast Medical Center  
Gulf World Marine Park  
Half Hitch Tackle Co.  
Harrison, Sale, McCloy, Duncan &  
Jackson  
Holiday Golf & Racquet Club  
KLW Enterprises, Inc.  
Landmark General Contractors  
Seltzer Management Group  
The Treasure Ship, Inc.  
Tipton, Marler, Garner & Chastain

## Renewals - 16 Years

Basic Management, Inc.  
Bay County Sheriff's Office  
Billy's Oyster Bar, Inc.  
Cook - Whitehead Ford  
Goldring Gulf Distributing  
Gulf Glo Banners & Signs  
Sea Dragon Pirate Cruise  
Tommy Thomas Chevrolet

## Renewals - 17 Years

Ace Home Helpers  
Club La Vela  
Hooter's/Gulf Coast Wings, Inc.  
Kilgore's Carpet & Ceramic Tile, Inc.  
Personnel Resources Of Bay Co.  
Treasure Island Marina, Inc.

## Renewals - 18 Years

Alltel Communications  
Animal Hospital of Panama City  
Beach  
Beach Mosquito Control District  
Capt. Anderson's Marina  
Commodore Condominiums  
Edgewater Beach & Golf Resort  
Goodwill Industries  
Gulf Power Company  
Jubilee & Treasure Island Deep  
Sea Fishing  
Montego Bay Seafood/ CET  
Management,  
Stephen Myers, D.M.D., PA  
Osprey Motel  
Pirate's Island Adventure Golf  
United Way of Northwest Florida

## Renewals - 19 Years

Fisher-Brown, Inc.  
Gulf Highlands Beach Resort HOA  
Shipwreck LTD & Shipwreck Shirts  
Wendy's

## Renewals - 20 Years

Boyd Brothers, Inc.  
Coconut Creek Mini Golf  
Shipwreck Island Waterpark  
Walmart Super Center

## Renewals - 21 Years

Aquatic Realty, Inc.  
Bay Bank And Trust  
Bikini Beach Motel  
Chateau Motel  
Continental Condominiums  
Dana's Lock Service  
J & J Enterprises  
Lamar Advertising  
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# High Voltage Membership

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Greetings from your Membership Services team! With summer now upon us, it is exciting time for the members of our Chamber of Commerce. Not only are we welcoming a new and interestingly diverse group of new businesses to our wonderful city, we now have another new member of our staff, ready and willing to help us take this Chamber membership to new heights.

Cyndi Ainsworth joins our membership team with great expectation and anticipation of what will be a most awesome future for Panama City Beach. Speaking of diverse membership, with the addition of new local businesses such as Tootsies Orchid Lounge, Carlyle & Co., Maurices, and the Hangar, local residents and

visitors have the absolute finest in cuisine, clothing and accessories for any and all occasions.

As usual, this dynamic growth is an essential ingredient in high-voltage membership: *Growth that needs and requires your participation and involvement as ambassadors of your own businesses and professions.* If your not connected, you need to be! The steady stream of networking is readily available to all members right now.

To “get yourself connected,” call me at (850) 814-4292 or Cyndi Ainsworth at (850) 691-6259. As our business community grows, please don’t miss out, *Get Involved!*



Skip Alford  
850.814.4292  
Skip@PCBeach.org



Cyndi Ainsworth  
850.691-6259  
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## ambassador Update

& Happenings Around Town

The summer is heating up with many opportunities for our Ambassador team to support the mission of The Greater Panama City Beaches Chamber of Commerce. Even though many businesses are experiencing uncertain economic times, there is still a sense of optimism and expectancy that things will turn around and more prosperous days are ahead. The Ambassadors are still hard at work, conducting Grand Openings and Ground Breakings, and calling on our members to bring words of encouragement.



Pastor Ramon Duvall  
850.960-6026  
Ramon@beachsidefellowship.com

With gas prices on the rise, all of us are working to find ways to use fuel more efficiently. Sometimes we must choose to attend fewer events to manage our resources effectively. The Ambassador activity schedule is filled with many opportunities to network and let others know about the services we provide. Attending as many events as possible assures that the Chamber works for us as we work for the Chamber. If you cutting back on attending events, consider carpooling with another Ambassador, and arranging your business calls in the same area as the events of that day. Your attendance is always appreciated!

Our Ambassador Team is a great asset to The Greater Panama City Beaches Chamber of Commerce and to our community. If you are looking for a way to promote your business, make new contacts, and have a wonderful time with some of the best people you will ever meet, join the Ambassador Team. For more info call the Chamber office at (850) 235-1159.

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