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MERRY CHRISTMAS 2017 Brought to You by Orange Park Medical Center and HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018 to All!

The Clay Chamber Country
Christmas Luncheon, presented by
Orange Park Medical Center, was
amazing this year thanks to the event
committee—Lori Widell, Elaine
Umbaugh, Brenda Blitchington,
Latasha Small, Joy Moritz and Kellie
Collins, and The Hilltop Restaurant
and sponsors—Florida Blue,
Advanced Disposal Services, Baptist
Clay Medical Campus, JP Morgan
Chase Bank, First Command Financial
Services, Haven Hospice, Miller
Creative, St. Vincent's HealthCare,

Stay Suites of America, VyStar Credit Union, Canterfield of Clay County, and Allyn C. Tidball P.E.

Special thanks to the members who brought gift to donate to the J.P. Hall Children's Charities. We also appreciate the members who brought some lovely door prizes that Santa and Mrs. Claus gave away.

Clay Chamber Open in Fleming Island Office

Happy New Year and we are all in our new offices in Fleming Island!

January is a very busy month with organizing our new space and so many events! Be sure to register for Clay Day (Jan 11), Taste of Clay Chamber After Hours (Jan 18), and State of the County Luncheon (Jan 24). You are welcome to drop in and we are planning an Open House for February. Also in February will be the Quality of Life Breakfast. Please watch for details on that event!



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2017-2018 CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Chairman: Bob Olson, Thrasher-Horne Center

Chair-Elect: Amy Pope-Wells, LINK Staffing Services

Interim President: Tresa Calfee

COMMITTEES

Annual Spectacular Committee : Chair: Amy Pope-Wells, LINK Staffing Services Vice Chair: David Goldberg, DM Image Design LLC

Council Advocacy & Advisory Committee: Chair: Howard Wanamaker, Hanania Automotive Group Vice-Chair: Patrick Hayle, Mercy Support Services Inc.

Finance Committee:

Chair: Susan Carter, CPA - Susan Carter CPA, P.A.

Vice-Chair: James Machado, St. Vincent's Medical Center Clay

Major Donor Action Committee:

- Rosiland Bridges
- Mark Szaks
- Tresa Calfee (Interim President)

Membership Engagement Committee: Chair: Lori Widell, Florida Blue Vice-Chair: Elaine Umbaugh, FirstAtlantic

Public Policy Committee:

Chair: Roy Buncome, Buncome Technologies Inc.

Vice-Chair: Darin Roark, Baptist Clay Medical Center

Search Committee:

Co-Chair: Wendy Glass, Orange Park Medical Center

Co-Chair: Kim Deppe, Deppe Communications

General Council

Ryan Maloney, Partner - Foley & Lardner LLP

Clay Business Connection is published monthly by the Clay County Chamber of Commerce 1734 Kingsley Ave., Orange Park, FL 32073. (904) 264-2651 ext. 209.: Marketing@claychamber.com



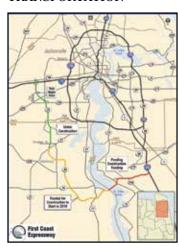
FROM THE INTERIM PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! Clay Chamber is kicking off the new year with Clay Day, our annual trip to Tallahassee to showcase Clay County and advocate on behalf of members on key issues!

The Board of Directors have rallied behind two:

- Transportation-Specifically the First Coast Expressway
- · Workers' Comp

TRANSPORTATION



The map at the left shows the three phases of the project. The first leg, shown in green, is nearing completion and scheduled to open early in 2018. The second leg, shown in orange, is funded and slated for construction to begin in 2019. The third leg, shown in red, includes replacing the Shands bridge to connect to I-95. This phase of the project is not funded.

Clay Chamber will advocate our legislative representatives to fully fund

the remaining leg and schedule construction.

WORKER'S COMP

Florida's business community has faced a \$1.5 billion impact from workers' compensation rates that remain 14.5 percent higher than they should be. Florida's bottom five legal environment is an open invitation for "gotcha" lawsuits that cost Florida families an average of \$3,400 each year in lawsuit abuse costs. And discouraging and discriminatory tax policies, like the Florida-only business rent tax, are uncompetitive.

Clay Chamber believes that by reducing the cost of living and cost of doing business, redoubling efforts on workforce and investing in infrastructure, our economy will continue to strengthen jobs, wages, and opportunities for residents.

We believe that with legislative support for these two issues during this session, Clay County businesses will get the boost they need to grow their businesses.

Clay Chamber welcomes comments from its members and businesses in the county about the issues that are key to your operations. I encourage you to attend, call or email your concerns for our Public Policy Committee to evaluate and incorporate into the Clay Chamber advocacy activities.

Happy New Year! Tresa Calfee, Interim President



FROM MAJOR DONOR ACTION COMMITTEE

THANK YOU for your investment in the Clay County Chamber of Commerce. Working hand in hand, we believe that shopping locally and supporting our neighbor's businesses makes us a stronger community. Our relationships allow businesses and consumers to save time, gas and money while investing back into our schools and roads with retail tax dollars "right here in Clay County."

Whether your business is large or small, the Chamber can connect you with other business leaders, government, and consumers through networking, promotion, or relationship development. The Chamber is committed to providing opportunities to connect with these groups as well as with their members, through improved communication, events, and activities. Every business matters—from the small home-based business to those in large office buildings. Every business—from the Heritage, Legacy, Leadership, or Presidential level—working together make us all stronger.

Our Chamber was founded in 1962 and 56 years later we are a thriving community with excellent schools, housing, recreational activities and a vibrant, growing workforce. We have grown to more than 900 members and we are proud of our new office location in the Fleming Island which allows us to be more central to our entire membership.

The partnerships, friendships and business referrals cannot be matched with any other professional association in this community. Time spent with key leaders, business owners and board members is invaluable. Other benefits enjoyed by Clay Chamber members include ribbon cutting ceremonies, a free listing in the Annual Business Directory and on the website's Member Directory.

Members also have opportunities to publicize their businesses and access discounted advertising opportunities in the Chamber's monthly print newsletter, the Clay Business Connection and the digital weekly, Happening This Week. The newsletter is distributed monthly inside the local newspaper, the Clay Today, to more than 13,000 weekly readers and another 60,000 online readers. The Clay Chamber also works with local, regional, statewide and national media to ensure effective placement of advertisements and editorial content.

As a current board member and member serving on the 2017/2018 Major Donor Action Committee, please feel free to reach out to the Chamber office at (904) 264-2651 to ask questions or to find out how you can become more involved.

Jon Cantrell, Publisher Clay Today





Where you take your child for emergency care matters.

When it comes to caring for newborns to teens, not all ERs are alike.



Experience matters. Unlike other ERs, at Wolfson Children's ER at Baptist Clay, your child will always be seen by a board-certified physician experienced in pediatric care.



A pediatric team matters. Your child's ER doctor works with a team of pediatric experts who recognize subtle differences in children, which can be vital in an emergency.



Speed to care matters. Our pediatric-trained triage nurses are skilled in quickly assessing your child to move them directly to the level of care needed.



Kid-sized technology matters. Wolfson Children's offers child-specific trauma equipment and imaging, reviewed by pediatric radiologists.

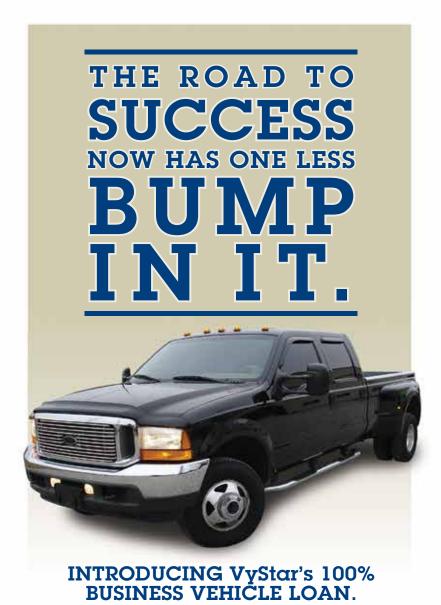
Why take chances? When your child has a medical emergency, you never really know how serious it might be, so we hope you'll choose Wolfson Children's. We're right here in Clay County 24/7 with fast, expert care you can rely on.

wolfsonchildrens.org/ER

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Selection Committee Update

As mentioned in August when we announced our Interim President, the Chamber has formed a Selection Committee to conduct a formal search process for the role of a permanent Chamber President.

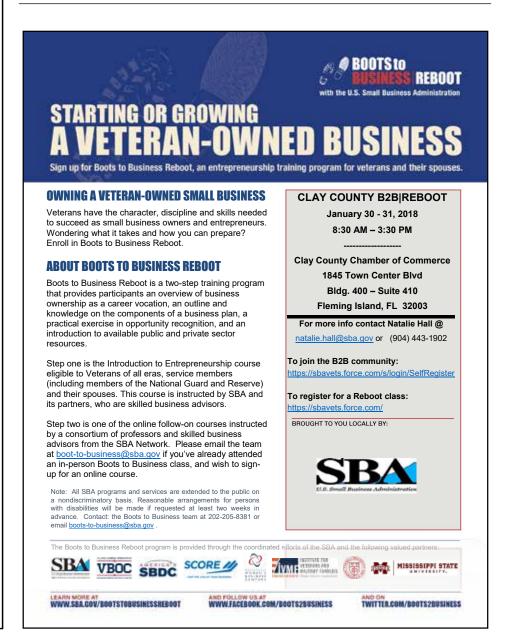
We are anticipating the Clay Chamber President position posting to occur in the mid-January timeframe, which will officially open the application process.

Applications will not be accepted

until the official posting of the job position has been announced.

The Selection Committee recognizes the collective interest in the Chamber leadership and direction so it is our intentions to keep the membership updated as this process progresses.

For any questions or additional information, please contact the Selection Committee Co-Chairs, Wendy Glass, Orange Park Medical Center or Kim Deppe, Deppe Communications.



Chamber Members Enriching Lives

JACKSONVILLE CHILDREN'S CHORUS TOURING CHOIR SINGS AT PAPAL MASS

Jacksonville Children's Chorus Touring Choir visited Rome To Sing at the Papal Mass celebrating the Holy Day, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on January 1, 2018 in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.



Under the direction of President and Artistic Director Darren Dailey, the Touring Choir took part in the 3rd Annual Youth and Young Adult Choir Festival in Rome and the Vatican. Mr. Dailey notes that the "cultural significance of this tour for Northeast Florida is quite high. "The JCC has been invited to participate, which is an incredible honor. As we prepare to export our artistic excellence in music to one of the world's most important choral hubs, we are grateful to our local community-without your help, none of this would be possible. Thank you so very much for providing the support that allows Northeast Florida's young musicians to soar."

HAGAN ACE CELEBRATED 55 YEARS OF BUSINESS IN 2017

Hagan Ace celebrated 55 years of business in 2017! Congratulations

to one of the pillars of Orange Park and the surrounding communities!



FOOD BELONGS IN BELLIES—NOT LANDFILLS

Waste Not Want Not, prevents the discarding of items that can be used to fight hunger and poverty in our community. Our volunteers rescue food daily from stores, restaurants, vendors, farmers' fields and neighbors' gardens. We distribute this perishable food promptly to people fighting hunger

in Clay and surrounding counties. These men, women, and children, our neighbors, enjoyed two million pounds of wholesome food this year - food that, but for our volunteers' efforts would have gone to waste.

table every day.

What happens to the heart-shaped cakes on February 15, the unbroken eggs in a carton with two that are cracked, the unsold food at your favorite restaurant at closing time, or the unpicked oranges on neighbor's trees? All these are wasted; thrown away. In a country where one resident in six is food-insecure, one-quarter of all food produced is discarded before it reaches a consumer. But not here in North Florida where Waste Not intercepts food that may be unmarketable or "imperfect" but is perfectly wholesome and safe to consume. Not here in North Florida where Waste Not fights hunger by distributing that rescued food to 2,000 people struggling to put food on the

Waste Not Want Not rescues food, helps people, and increases financial donors' impact. Every dollar donated to Waste Not, magnified by the efforts of our volunteers, provides 14 pounds of food to people in 10 counties struggling to put food on the table. Receiving food from Waste Not for free allows our recipient groups to do more; to feed more people or to spend more of their limited funds on non-food services. Every financial gift to Waste Not results

in benefits to our community that are much greater in value than the value of the donation.

No one should go hungry while good food goes to waste: Learn more at https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=lUMgyebt3H4

Rescuing Food

Every
Wednesday,
Tom gets up
early and heads
to the back of
Publix. There,
4 baskets full of
cakes, cookies,
bread, buns,
and bagels
await. Though

tags on each of the 300+ items indicate it can be sold thru the day, the food has

been pulled to make room for fresher product. Tom counts and bags each item, and transports the food to Waste Not adding it to food brought in from 27 other locations.

in landfills.

Our drivers rescue an average of 7,000 pounds every Wednesday. Our volunteers rescue food seven days a week making over 140 scheduled stops weekly. They use their own vehicles to rescue from stores, cafes, and restaurants, and our truck to rescue from warehouses. Donations range from a few muffins to 4,500 baked items to 10,000 pounds of drinks. Waste Not puts all this food, 38,500 pounds a week, where it belongs - on plates, not

Helping People

Fighting hunger by rescuing food creates unique challenges and opportunities. Our challenge is responding to an unpredictable supply of semi-perishable food: we never know exactly what we will receive, and unlike shelf-stable food at food pantries, rescued food is perishable and must be distributed promptly. Because rescues vary from baked goods, produce, dairy, to prepared foods, drinks, and meat, we have a unique opportunity to help all kinds by sorting the food based on their needs. Children taking weekend backpacks home find them filled with small, easy-to-prepare items; struggling families receive groceries; students at afterschool programs receive pizza and drinks; diners in soup kitchens, group homes, or churches with full kitchens enjoy prepared foods such as soup, vegetables, lasagna, and chicken; and

homeless served in the woods find individually packaged sandwiches, drinks, desserts, and fruit in their bags. By matching food to our recipients' needs, Waste Not volunteers ensure that whatever we rescue is put to good use. In 2017,

14,000 people ate food distributed by Waste Not every week.





Clay Business Connection • 5



Missed the deadline to buy health care insurance?

Don't sweat it, you may be in luck.

When your life changes, you have 60 days to enroll* in a new health plan or make changes to the plan you already have.

Getting married, moving, changing jobs, having your plan close or other qualifying life events mean you can get the health insurance you need.

Find out if your luck has changed! Call today to find a plan before time runs out.

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Register In Person: Clay County Chamber 1734 Kingsley Avenue Orange Park, FL 32073





Tracking the Progress of Member Businesses January 2018

Orange Park Mall Retailer Makes it Big

At the JAXUSA
Partnership luncheon,
Fanatics executive Jack
Boyle told the story of
how the Jacksonvillebased online sports
merchandising giant
started with a single retail
store in the Orange Park
Mall.

The family-run business, founded by brothers Alan and Mitchell Trager, opened the store called Football Fanatics in



1995 as the Jacksonville Jaguars began their first season. "The business was strong right out of the box," said Boyle, who joined Fanatics in 2012 and is co-president of its direct-to-consumer/omni-channel business. Because of the early success and popularity of the Jaguarsa, the store sold a lot of Jaguars merchandise and opened a second store in The Avenues mall in 1997. Then, someone in the family had the bright idea to take advantage of the new "World Wide Web" and see if the company could sell merchandise over the internet.

It bought a large shipment of Ohio State University clothing and when Ohio State won a big game in 1997, the company posted pictures of the merchandise and put it up for sale online. "In a matter of minutes — not hours or days — the product sold out," Boyle said.

Fanatics has grown a lot since it operated its online business out of the two mall stores. It employs 1,000 people year-round at four Jacksonville facilities and up to 2,500 people during the peak holiday season, Boyle said. Revenue for the company exceeds \$2 billion a year and it has relationships with every major professional sports league in the U.S. and a number of college sports and international teams.

The Tragers sold the company in 2011 to Pennsylvania-based GSI Commerce Inc.

Boyle said Fanatics is now a "V-commerce" business, meaning it's "vertical," not only selling merchandise, but designing and manufacturing it so it can respond quickly to consumer demand.

Get To Know A Chamber Member

Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers

Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers was founded in 2002 by Bill and Randy Simon, and their friend and business partner, Scott Redler. The restaurant is named for the brothers' father, Freddy Simon, who is a 92-year-old World War II veteran. Freddy's family values and tradition of service to his country are the foundation of the restaurant concept. Freddy's is a long-time supporter of Honor Flights and our Veterans Donation Box program has given more than \$100,000 to organizations that provide relief to veterans and military families in local markets across the country. Freddy's also helps raise money for schools, churches, and other nonprofit organizations by hosting give-back nights or Freddy's Fundraisers.

Our newest and highest sales volume location opened in November 2016 at 386 Blanding Blvd. in Orange Park. This location had the second strongest opening to date for all our 280 Freddy's. It is situated in front of an Old Time Pottery on Blanding Blvd.

Brian Jardin is the Director of Operations for Orange Park and nine locations across the country. He is a hands-on operator with 20 years' experience. He is involved in the community, supporting local charities and fundraiser efforts, and raising awareness for local veterans and their families. During Hurricane Irma, Brian invited all first responders in for a meal on him. Within 72 hours they served over 600 free meals to the hard-working men and women keeping both Duval and Clay County safe during and after the storm.

Freddy's menu includes cooked-to-order steakburgers, Vienna Beef hot dogs and crispy shoestring fries, and other savory items along with its signature desserts prepared with premium frozen custard churned fresh throughout the day. All-American menu options, genuine hospitality and a family-friendly



atmosphere combine to create a dining experience that is sure to satisfy guests of all ages. Today, 280 Freddy's restaurants serve a total of 31 states across the nation from California to Pennsylvania, Virginia and down the east coast states to Florida.

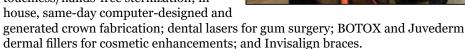
Small Business of the Month

Congratulations to Dick's Wings & Grill Fleming Island **December Small Business of the Month**

By: Michael D Vanover, DDS Owner: Vanover Dentistry of Orange

Established in 1985 as Family Dental Practice, in 2005 I purchased it from Dr. Linder, taking over its operation, rebranding, and expanding its scope to include implant, family, and cosmetic dental services.

Today, it is one of the most modern practices in the area featuring: new dental equipment including digital/lowradiation X-rays; high-definition, 3D cone beam CT scanning; conventional and computer-guided implant surgery; touchless/hands-free sterilization; in-



We offer many tooth replacement options like dental implants, hybrid implant dentures, and snap-in implant dentures. Even with these advances, we continue to provide routine family dental services like preventative cleanings and exams for both kids and adults, tooth colored fillings, and crowns.

While treatment advances, modernization, and improvements in our stateof-the-art equipment and facilities are all very exciting, we are most proud of our 5-Star rated service and awards our patients and community have bestowed upon us including: Jacksonville's Magazine's Best Dentists 2010-2017, 5-Star Google Customer Rating, 2016 America's Best Dentists List, 2015 Angie's List Super Service Award, 2015 Patients' Choice Award, and the 2014 Best of Orange Park Award.

We are grateful for our growth and success and understand that with it also comes the responsibility to help our community. We are also proud of our ability to give back to many local nonprofits including: YMCA Youth Development, The Salvation Army, Clay County Food Pantry, and Catholic Charities Outreach Ministry that serves the needy in Clay County, St Johns Country Day School, Ridgeview High School, Clay County Dental Care, Concert on the Green, Orange Park and Middleburg Athletic Associations, Florida Sheriff's Association, Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts, and Clay Chamber Charities.

Member News

NOTABLE

Ruby Satpathy, Interventional Cardiologist, Eric Sauvageau and Ricardo Hanel, Neurosurgyer, Baptist Health, are among the Healthcare Heroes recognized by Jacksonville Business Journal.

Michelle Lynn, Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, Dr. Huson Gilberstadt, Chief Clinical Officer, St. Vincent's **HealthCare**, are among the Healthcare Heroes recognized by Jacksonville Business Journal.

The Jacksonville Jaguars presented the Community Champion Award to Tyler Morris for his dedication and service to people with disabilities. Morris is executive director of the

CAREER MOVES

Girl Scouts of Gateway Council promoted TriciaRae Stancato to chief development officer.

Stellar named Clint Pyle as its new Senior Vice President/Chief Financial Officer.

VISIT FLORIDA made three promotions in the marketing department. Nelson Mongiovi will be the Chief Marketing Officer, Staci Mellman will be the Vice President of Brand, and Meagan Chiamardas will be the Director of Brand.

TPO Elects 2018 Officers—Committee Chairs Also Elected

The North Florida TPO Board has elected its executive team through December 2018 who will assume their duties at the February meeting. Clay County Commissioner Diane Hutchings, who had been vice chairman, will replace Jacksonville City Council Member Doyle Carter as chairman; Nassau County Commissioner Danny Leeper is vice chairman replacing Commissioner Hutchings; and St. Johns County Commissioner James K. Johns was elected treasurer replacing Commissioner Leeper.

In addition, two TPO committees have elected their leadership for 2018. The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) elected Ed Lehman, Clay County Planning Dept., chairman succeeding Phong Nguyen, St. Johns Planning Dept. Lehman had been vice chair. Bill Killingsworth, Jacksonville Planning Dept., was elected vice chairman. The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) re-elected Jim Hill, representing the Duval Southeast CPAC, as chairman and Richard Darby, long time CAC member, former CAC chairman and Clay County citizen, as vice chairman.

The TCC is comprised primarily of planners and engineers representing various local governments within the TPO boundary who evaluate the technical sufficiency, accuracy and viability of proposed plans. The CAC is a volunteer body of residents and business people who review transportation plans from a community perspective.

THIS IS A BASE STRIP AD 10" WIDE x 1" HIGH. \$100 with a 6- or 12-month contract. Contact Sandra Brooks (904) 264-2651 ext. 209 or email at sbrooks@claychamber.com

Presidential







Leadership













Member News

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

International Business Person of the Year

Congratulations to Darnell Smith, North Florida market president for **Florida Blue**, who was named international business person of the year by JAXUSA Partnership.

Nick Nagle, owner of **MobileCharge Kiosk**, is also an Auxiliary Officer for the Florida Highway Patrol. He was named Officer of the Year for 2017.

Congratulations to the following Banks for making the Jacksonville Business Journal List: **BBVA Compass Bank** #3, **Regions Bank** #5, **Ameris Bank** #6, **JPMorgan Chase Bank** #8, **Atlantic Coast Bank** # 11, **Fidelity Bank** #12, and **Capital City Bank** #25.

Congratulations to the following SBA Lenders for making the Jacksonville Business Journal List: **Ameris Bank** #6, **Regions Bank** #9, **Fidelity Bank** #20 and **121 Financial Credit Union** #21.

Congratulations to **Wanda McReynolds**, **EXIT Real Estate Gallery**, who was named a Champion by the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors.

New Members

Entrepreneur

Benefit Advisors

Professional

Florida Career College Hair by Lee & Friends USHealth Advisors

Non-Profit

Catholic Charities Jacksonville Clay County Clerk of the Circuit Court Florida Clay County Tax Collector Women's Empowerment Services of NE Florida Inc

Plus One

Women's Empowerment Services of NE Florida Inc

Ambassador of the Month

January's Ambassador is Sharon Lynn Unger from Florida Fallen Heroes and Wicked Branding & Graphix.

Happy New Year, I am so excited to start 2018 as a member of the Clay Chamber. Last year was a great year for networking and building a business and relationships. This year I look forward to meeting new people at all the fun events the Chamber puts on, from the Taste of Clay on the 18th of this month, to all the Council meetings, Finally

Fridays and so many more ways to network. I really have loved meeting all the great people who are members of the chamber. I have found that I get out of the chamber what I put in.... I hope in the New Year to get to know more members and grow my network. I look forward to seeing you at some of upcoming events!!







WE CAN PUT YOUR LOGO ON OVER 1 MILLION ITEMS

Renewing Members

Heritage Level

Waste Management

Business Level

Canon Solutions of America

Professional Level

All Animal Clinic
Ameris Bank Fleming Island
Ameris Bank Orange Park
Curtis M. Standish DMD
Kimley-Horn & Associates Inc
Marketmasters of the Southeast, Inc.
New Way Hearing Aid, Inc.
Tree Tech Tree Service, Inc.
Workout Anytime Oakleaf

Entrepreneur Level

Clary & Associates, Inc. Connell CPR Training Culture Index RLP Plumbing, LLC SNC Square LLC State Farm Insurance Sylviavision.com

Non-Profit Level

Clay Behavioral Health Center Inc Clay County Gator Club Clay County Republican Party Clay County Utility Authority Hunger Fight Moosehaven The Broach School of Jacksonville, Inc. Town of Orange Park Middleburg Historical Museum North Florida Transportation Planning Organization

Additional Location

Signature HealthCare of Middleburg Rehabilitation Workout Anytime Green Cove

Plus One & Individual

First Assembly of God/ Discovery Childcare Northeast Florida Scottish Games & Festival Woodmen Life-Jack Hendrix





















Clay Chamber Calendar of Events

For more information and to register for events, visit our website at www.ClayChamber.com/Chamber-Events or call Kellie Collins at (904) 264-2651 ext. 214. Chamber Signature Events sell out quickly so register early. You do not need to register for Clay Technology Council or Finally Friday Networking. For Oakleaf Business Council, Clay Women's Empowerment Council, and Bridge to Bridge Council you must RSVP for meetings so we have an accurate count for food.

January

- Jan 1 Chamber Closed
- Jan 2 Oakleaf Business Council SEE US AT OUR NEW DATE, 4th TUESDAY, Jan 23
- Jan 3 Ambassador Committee 8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. CC Board Room
- Jan 4 Clay Women's Empowerment Council 11: 30 a.m. 1 p.m. The Club Continental
- Jan 9 Chamber 1-on-1 10 a.m. 11 a.m. CC Board Room
- Jan 10 Bridge to Bridge Council 11:30 a.m. 1 p.m. Talon's at Eagle Harbor Golf Club
- Jan 11 Clay Day in Tallahassee/Public Policy Committee
- Jan 16 Clay Technology Council 7:45 a.m. 9 a.m. Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
- Jan 18 Third Annual "Taste of Clay" After Hours 5 p.m. 7 p.m. Clay Chamber
- Jan 23 Oakleaf Business Council 11:30 a.m. 1 p.m. Plantation Oaks Amenities Center
- Jan 24 State of the County 11:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m. Thrasher-Horne Center Finally Friday 8:30 a.m. 10 a.m. Haven Hospice January 5, 12,19, 26

February

- TBD Quality of Life Breakfast 8 a.m. 9:30 a.m. Thrasher-Horne Center
- Feb 1 Clay Women's Empowerment Council 11: 30 a.m. 1 p.m. The Club Continental
- Feb 7 Ambassador Committee 8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. CC Board Room
- Feb 8 Oakleaf Business Council Community Expo 6 p.m. 8:30 p.m. Plantation Oaks Amenities Center
- Feb 13 Clay Chamber Marketing & Networking Advantage 10 a.m. 11 a.m. CC Board Room
- Feb 14 Bridge to Bridge Council 11:30 a.m. 1 p.m. Talon's at Eagle Harbor Golf Club
- Feb 15 Member Appreciation Cookout 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. Chamber
- Feb 20 Clay Technology Council 7:45 a.m. 9 a.m. Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
- Feb 27 Oakleaf Business Council 11:30 a.m. 1 p.m. Plantation Oaks Amenities Center Finally Friday 8:30 a.m. 10 a.m. Haven Hospice February 2, 9, 16, 23

March

- Mar 1 Clay Women's Empowerment Council 11: 30 a.m. 1 p.m. The Club Continental
- Mar 7 Ambassador Committee 8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. CC Board Room
- Mar 8 New Member Roundtable 8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. Orange Park Medical Center Classroom 7
- Mar 8 After Hours 5 p.m. 7 p.m. Whitey's Fish Camp
- Mar 14 Bridge to Bridge Council 11:30 a.m. 1 p.m. Talon's at Eagle Harbor Golf Club
- Mar 20 Clay Technology Council 7:45 a.m. 9 a.m. Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
- Mar 27 Oakleaf Business Council 11:30 a.m. 1 p.m. Plantation Oaks Amenities Center Finally Friday 8:30 a.m. 10 a.m. Haven Hospice March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

April

- Apr 4 Ambassador Committee 8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. CC Board Room
- Apr 5 Clay Women's Empowerment Council 11: 30 a.m. 1 p.m. The Club Continental
- Apr 10 Chamber 1-on-1 10 a.m. 11 a.m. CC Board Room
- Apr 11 Bridge to Bridge Council 11:30 a.m. 1 p.m. Talon's at Eagle Harbor Golf Club
- Apr 17 Clay Technology Council 7:45 a.m. 9 a.m. Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
- Apr 24 Oakleaf Business Council 11:30 a.m. 1 p.m. Plantation Oaks Amenities Center Finally Friday 8:30 a.m. 10 a.m. Haven Hospice March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Oakleaf Business Council

Fourth Tuesday 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Plantation Oaks Amenities Center 845 Oakleaf Plantation Parkway Orange Park, FL 32065 \$15.00 Members Advance Registration \$25.00 Non-Members and at the Door Register by 11:30 a.m. Monday prior to meeting.

Clay Women's Empowerment Council

First Thursday 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The Club Continental 2143 Astor Street
Orange Park, FL 32073
\$15.00 Members Advance Registration
\$25.00 Non-Members and at the Door Register by 11:30 a.m. Tuesday prior to meeting.

Bridge to Bridge Council

Second Wednesday 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Talon's at Eagle Harbor 2217 Eagle Harbor Pkwy. Fleming Island, FL 32003 \$15.00 Members Advance Registration \$25.00 Non-Members and at the Door Register by 11:30 a.m. Tuesday prior to meeting.

Clay Technology Council

Third Tuesday 7:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites 620 Wells Road Orange Park, FL 32073 \$5.00 Members at the Door \$10.00 Non-Members at the Door

Finally Friday Networking

Every Friday 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Haven Hospice 745 Blanding Blvd. Orange Park, FL 32065 \$5.00 Members at the door \$10.00 Non-Members at the door

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Quality of Life

North Florida Land Trust Receives Donation of Land Along Black Creek and Doctors Lake

North Florida Land Trust has received a donation of 388 acres of land in Clay County along Black Creek and Doctors Lake. South Doctors Lake, Ltd. gave the property, which has high conservation value, to the land conservation organization. The property

is in Fleming Island and Middleburg and is adjacent to the nonprofit's Black Creek Preservation Priority Area.

"We are grateful to the realtor for reaching out to us to offer the donation of this land, which is a floodplain forest that contributes to water quality preservation and stands as a buffer against increased flooding," said Jim

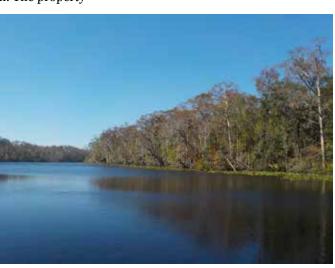
McCarthy, president of NFLT. "The preservation of this parcel of land is vital to the health of Black Creek."

Black Creek is an important tributary to the St. Johns River and is remarkable both for its wide and healthy swamps, as well as the steep bluffs and ravines towering above its banks. It is also home to the Black Creek crayfish, a State-designated threatened species endemic to the area.



Location of 388 Donated Acres Photo Courtesy of North Florida Land Trust

During their assessment of the land, the NFLT team found an abundance of trash and debris from recent storms and recreational boaters. NFLT hopes to hold a trash cleanup in the future to help maintain the health of the creek.



South Doctors Lake Photo Courtesy of North Florida Land Trust

McCarthy said preserving this land is not only good for Black Creek and Doctors Lake, but it will also have economic benefits by acting as a natural buffer against flooding. NFLT's Preservation Portfolio identified the most valuable 112,346 acres of land in Northeast Florida which provide significant ecosystem services, which

are defined as services provided by the natural environment that would otherwise cost money. The Black Creek Preservation Priority Area consists of 5,000 acres in critical need of preservation.

Chamber Programs

CLAY CHAMBER PARTNERS WITH VISIT FLORIDA

Your Clay County Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce that we have partnered with VISIT FLORIDA on behalf of our members which provide goods and services that are of interest to tourists visiting Clay County.

We view ourselves as another point of contact to help you and your business be more visible to tourists. The Clay County Chamber of Commerce, Clay County Tourism, and VISIT FLORIDA are all working together for the benefit of Clay County!

Clay Chamber's new location in Fleming Island has applied to become a Certified Visitor Information Center (CVIC)! This means tourists and visitors to our area can pick up information on attractions, hotels, restaurants and other touristy things right at the Chamber office.

Clay County is among the counties most severely affected by Hurricane Irma. VISIT FLORIDA wants to make sure your tourism business receives additional support in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.

Some of the things being offered by VISIT FLORIDA include a special FREE Partnership through March 2018, cexposure on VISIT FLORIDA's media site, omplimentary brochure distribution at all five (5) Official Florida Welcome Centers (located on I-10, US-231, the Capitol Building in Tallahassee, I-75 and I-95), and more.

To take advantage of this opportunity, simply go to VISITFLORIDA.org/recovery and click on the applicable program links.

The following Clay Chamber member categories are generally associated with tourism and are encouraged to participate in the VISIT FLORIDA partnership:

- Antiques
- Art Galleries
- · Charter Bus Service
- · Entertainment
- · Fairs & Festivals
- Golf
- Hotels
- Malls
- Night Clubs
- Performing ArtsPrivate Aviation
- Restaurants
- Retail
- Shopping
- Tennis

If you are not familiar with VISIT FLORIDA, go to https://www.visitflorida.org/about-us/what-we-do/



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Mortgage Loan Officer
NMLS# 665295

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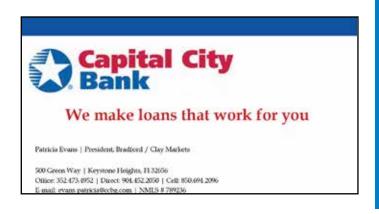


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President & CEO







Clay Business Connection is published monthly by the Clay County Chamber of Commerce 1734 Kingsley Ave., Orange Park, FL 32073 (904) 264-2651 Marketing@claychamber.com

OUR MOVE IS PLANNED FOR DECEMBER 15, 2017

OUR NEW ADDRESS IS 1845 TOWN CENTER BLVD BUILDING 400, SUITE 410 FLEMING ISLAND, FL 32003 (NEXT TO THE LIBRARY)

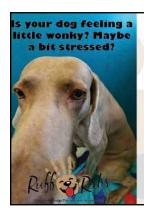
OUR TELEPHONE NUMBER WILL REMAIN THE SAME (904) 264-2651

VISION:

Serve our members with loyalty and excellence; Build relationships that are credible and influential; Promote and preserve an environment that enhances vitality in the business community.

MISSION:

Lead, advocate and promote opportunity, economic growth, networking and best practices that will serve the membership in the best way possible.



Betty J. Bennett

Ph.D., CCMT (Certified Ca ine Massage Therapist) betty@ruffrubs.com www.ruffrubs.com (904) 903-1234

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Boot Barn 248 Blanding Blvd, Orange Park, FL 32073



The Loop Pizza Grill 1960 East West Pkwy #110, Fleming Island, FL 32003



Rachel Ann Bridal LLC 4465 US Hwy 17 Ste 2, Fleming Island, FL 32003



The Pawlour 4479 US Hwy 17 Ste 1, Fleming Island, FL 32003



Florida Retina Institute 4607 Hwy 17, Fleming Island, FL 32003



Achieve Fitness 2349 Village Square Pkwy Ste 115, Fleming Island, FL



Commercial Loan Administrative Solutions Inc (CLASI) 3168 Hwy 17 Ste 7, Fleming Island, FL 32003



Clay County Transmission Blanding Blvd 2456 Blanding Blvd, Middleburg, FL 32068



BBVA Compass Middleburg 2380 Blanding Blvd, Middleburg, FL 32068

Clay Chamber Move Complete

A very special thank you to Chamber Member Ocean Movers Inc, Amber Sahbudak, president, and the wonderful team who moved the Clay Chamber office on Christmas Eve Eve. At one point we had two crews, Amber's husband, and her children helping to get the job done. They really went above and beyond. We could not have accomplished this feat without you! We are so excited to show our new office! Still awaying the delivery of key items. Then it will be fabulous!





MORE Clay Chamber Networking Opportunities in January!

