

# Bay Florida's Forgotten Coast® BUSINESS REPORT

## Monthly Meetings

### Meeting Notices

December 3, 2009  
noon

Monthly Business Luncheon  
Café Momi  
Gibson Inn  
Apalachicola

January 6, 2010 noon

Monthly Business Luncheon  
TBA

Business After Hours

January 14, 2010  
5:30-7:00 pm  
TBA

### Visitor Statistics

October 2001	1,095
October 2002	1,008
October 2003	868
October 2004	748
October 2005	712
October 2006	1,746
October 2007	2,364
October 2008	1,956
October 2009	2,389

### Website Statistics

Visits 12,991  
Page Views 65,406  
Pages/Visits 5.03  
Time (min) 4:29 mins  
Bounce Rate 68.66%

## Chamber Board of Directors

### PRESIDENT

Mark Friedman  
653-1090

### VICE-PRESIDENT

## Big Bend Scenic Byway Achieves National Designation

The U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration announced that the Big Bend Scenic Byway has achieved National Scenic Byway status. The Big Bend Scenic Byway runs from Scipio Creek in Apalachicola through Wakulla County, to southern Leon County. The scenic route features 220 miles of forests, wildlife, historic forts, battlegrounds, museums, beaches, historic towns and rural communities. Dixie Partington, chair of the Franklin County segment of the Byway and vice chair for the Big Bend Scenic Byway Advisory Committee, attributes the achievement to over eight years of dedication on the part of many volunteers, and the support of the Franklin County Commission, City of Apalachicola, Apalachicola Bay and Carrabelle Chambers, and Franklin County TDC. "This is the result of long hours of hard work by many people. We believe the Big Bend Scenic Byway is the most beautiful drive in America, it is unique in so many ways including natural beauty and cultural heritage and we are glad to see this recognized and protected, said Dixie". Information including maps, driving directions, and recommended stops along the Big Bend Scenic Byway can be found at <http://www.floridabigbendscenicbyway.org>.

## 9th Annual Holiday Shoe Drive

Coastal Foot and Ankle Clinic is holding their 9th annual shoe drive. Dr. Tamara Marsh says that folks can drop off shoes that are in reasonable condition at their office 221 Avenue E. They have a bin in the lobby and outside if the office is closed. You can drop off anytime between Thanksgiving and Christmas. For more information, contact Coastal Foot and Ankle Clinic at (850) 653-3338.

## Sacred Heart Job Fair

Sacred Heart Health System will hold a Career and Volunteer Fair on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 10:00 am -2:00 pm at Gulf Coast Community College in Port St. Joe. Representatives from Sacred Heart will be in the conference room at Gulf Coast Community College

## Directors Column

The 5th annual Oyster Roast was a great success and the Chamber netted over \$6,400! The setting at The Garden Shop was enchanting. We would like to thank everyone who helped make it one of the best events yet: Amanda and Bill Kollar, Shirley Pace, Leo Bebeau, who worked tirelessly to put the event together and transformed their space into an incredible setting; Dackie Ward and Smokey Parrish of Buddy Ward & Son's Seafood for donating the delicious fresh local shrimp; Tommy and TJ Ward for donating the oysters; Leavins Seafood for donating shucked oysters for the soup, Danny at Tamara's for preparing the soup, Joe Hutchison and Marc Grove and Carol Harris for providing excellent music; Jerry Hall & Bev Hewitt of the Apalachicola Seafood Grill for helping us get the wine and set up for the event; Freddy Flowers for the wonderful cakes and desserts; George and Pam Mahr for letting us use their space; Apalachicola State Bank and Gulf State Community Bank for the use of their grills; Mike & Debbie Keller and the great staff of That Place in Apalach for preparing and serving the food, Cindy Clark with Bay Media for the posters and postcards; Caty Greene for helping us get an oyster boat; The Dixie Theatre for loaning us the chairs.

As always we would like to thank the many volunteers who made the

Michael Shuler  
653-9226

**TREASURER**

Jerry Hall 653-9510

**SECRETARY**

Kristin Anderson

653-2249

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Susan Bassett 323-0092

Andrea Duval 653-9522

Ginny Griner 653-8853

Bud Hayes 927-3305

Beverly Hewitt

653-9510

Richard Langford

899-0030

Paul Marxsen 697-2542

Ted Ruffner 670-8870

Diana Prickett 927-2322

Joe Taylor 653-1411

R. Wayne Thomas

670-4404

with information booths on each department in the new hospital. Participants will have the opportunity to view job descriptions, learn about department-specific activities and requirements, and ultimately see where their skill sets best match current positions. They are also looking for volunteers. If you are interested, special skills are not required. Just a willing heart and a warm smile. For more information about the career fair, contact the Human Resources Department at (850) 278-3062 or visit [www.sacredheartonthegulf.org](http://www.sacredheartonthegulf.org).

## New Members

### Green Point Construction

Jack and Gayle Dodd joined the Chamber with their business Green Point Construction, a land clearing, site prep and land development company. Green Point Construction also has fill dirt, shell and crushed shell, lime rock. They also do brush cutting, excavation, and the construction of driveways, seawalls and breakwaters. Gayle and Jack started the company in 1992. They moved here in 1989 from Hanover, New Hampshire. Jack started out in engineering at Yale and later switched to their prep med program. Jack became an OB/GYN physician, and during his career he delivered over 10,000 babies! Gayle was an RN focused on critical care and later went into hospital administration. Gayle has served on many citizen boards during her time here including the Franklin County P & Z for 20 years. She currently serves on the Weems hospital board. Green Point Construction is located in Eastpoint and the Dodds can be reached at (850) 670-8200 or (850) 519-6453 cell.

### 84 West Building Corporation

Welcome Mark Carrell with his construction business, 84 West Building Corporation. Mark specializes in custom residential construction, residential and commercial renovations and additions. He and his wife Kelley moved to St George Island in 2002. 84 West Building Corporation has worked many area projects including the Gulf State Community Banks in Eastpoint and on St. George Island. Mark's office is located in Eastpoint on Patton Drive. Mark can be reached at (850) 653-6727 or [84@fairpoint.net](mailto:84@fairpoint.net)

### Mediacom

Barbara Bonowicz with Mediacom joined the Chamber. Mediacom is our local cable TV company that offers high speed internet service, digital, HD, DVR and phone service. Mediacom Communications serves more than 1,500 communities throughout the US. They have invested millions of dollars to build a

event possible by setting up, cleaning up, cooking and serving the food: PJ Trowell, Susan Bassett, John Gore, Mark Friedman, Ed Springer, Ginny Cole, Dixie Partington, Kathy Jansen, Sandra Smith, Clint Taylor, Dayle Flint, Angel and Tony Feliciano, Paulette Moss, Laura Barney, Cheryl Hryciw, Faye Johnson, Sandra Smith, Helen Gore, Pamela Barnes, Marabeth and Forbes Farmer, Christina Collins, Adreenah Wynn, Kathy and Don Ford.

### Volunteers Needed

The Apalachicola Bay Chamber Visitor Center seeks volunteers to help at the visitors' center and with special projects. Duties include giving our visitor information, answering questions about places to stay, restaurants and things to do. If you would like to help, we'd love to have you. It can be a fun and rewarding. Contact us for details (850) 653-9419 or email us at [info@apalachicolabay.org](mailto:info@apalachicolabay.org).



nationwide fiber optic infrastructure that delivers a wide array of products and services including digital cable TV and 8Mbps high-speed internet and phone service. Mediacom also offers advanced services such as Video On Demand (VOD), High-Definition Television (HDTV), and Digital Video Recorders (DVR). Mediacom can be reached by calling (850) 934-2572 or visit their website at [www.mediacom.cc.com](http://www.mediacom.cc.com).

## Member News

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#### Forgotten Coast Cleaners

Forgotten Coast Cleaners now has a store front in Carrabelle. In addition to pickup and delivery, Forgotten Coast Cleaners now has a location at 306 West 8th Street in Carrabelle.

#### Photo Contest

City Square Community Garden is holding a Holidays in the Garden and Nature photography contest. Photos must use plant life to express a holiday sentiment, such as foliage, flowering plants, vegetables or fruits, or a general garden landscape. Photos may address any recognized holiday that falls between October 1 and January 20. Submission must be made between January 2 - 8, 2010, at the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce office, 122 Commerce Street in Apalachicola. Judging will take place on January 18, 2010. For details visit the City Square Community Garden Facebook page.

#### Holiday Fresh Market

Holiday Fresh Market will be held on Saturday, December 5th, from 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Forget traffic, the crowds, and the headaches of going to the mall. Buy local and chose from handmade, truly unique items for your holiday gifts. Handmade chutneys, preserves, candied pecans to live plants, wreaths, jewelry and quilted items.

#### Franklin County Toy Connection

Resort Vacation Properties is sponsoring a raffle drawing for 3 day, 2 night stay on St. George Island. Tickets will be sold at Resort Vacation Properties, check-in center and are 1 ticket for \$5 and 6 tickets for \$20. This is a fundraiser to raise money for Franklin County Toy Connection and will be used to purchase toys for our kid's right here in Franklin County. The distribution of the toys will take place on December 17 & 18, 2009, at the Eastpoint & Carrabelle firehouses and Benedict Hall at Trinity in



### Exposure

-Ilona Kauremszky, a Canadian freelance writer, was sent information on unique things to see and do in our area.

-Nate Long with Visit Florida was sent information on our area as an "off-the-beaten-path" destination in Florida.

-Jan Ekholm, Editor of Swedish travel magazine Nar & Fjarran, was sent photographs and information on the area.

-The Oktober, November, Dezember issue of the German travel magazine Florida Sun contains mention about St George Island. Editor Dirk Rheker was sent photos and information in July.

Apalachicola.

**Lighting of the Lights**

The annual lighting of the holiday lights on St. George Island will take place on December 4th. Santa will arrive on a fire engine for the kids'. The lighting will take place at dark. Lighthouse tours will be available. For more information call (850) 927-7744.

**The Christmas Gift**

The Apalachicola-St. George Island Cooperative parish presents "The Christmas Gift", a modern Christmas story. The production will be Friday, December 11 and Saturday, December 12th, at 7:00 pm in the Chapman Auditorium in Apalachicola. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets can be purchased by calling the church at (850) 653-9530 or (850) 927-2088 at the church offices or Cindy Collins 653-9419 at the Chamber office.