

# Bay Florida's Forgotten Coast® BUSINESS REPORT

Volume 18, Number 7

June 12, 2009

## Monthly Meetings

### Monthly Business Luncheon

July 8, 2009, 12:00  
AJ's Neighborhood Bar & Grill  
120 Martin Luther King Avenue  
Apalachicola

### Business After Hours

July 9, 2009  
Water Street Hotel  
329 Water Street  
Apalachicola  
5:30-7:00 pm

### Website Statistics

May  
Visits 18,023  
Page Views 109,468  
Pages/Visits 5.80  
Time on Site 4:57  
Bounce Rate 19.0%  
New Visits 70.10%

## Chamber Board of Directors

### PRESIDENT

Joe Taylor 653-1411

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Mark Friedman  
653-1090

### TREASURER

Jerry Hall 653-9510

### SECRETARY

Beth Moseley 653-2126

### BOARD MEMBERS

Kristin Anderson  
653-2249

Susan Bassett 323-0092

Andrea Duval 653-9522

Bud Hayes 927-3305

Kara Landiss 927-2666

## Dues Renewal

Membership dues are due by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Basic membership dues are \$175 per year, which is about \$14.59 per month. The Chamber is often the first point of contact for potential visitors and people seeking to relocate to the area. It is seen as a trusted source for information. For less than many other advertising sources your membership includes:

- A detailed listing on for your business on [www.apalachicolabay.org](http://www.apalachicolabay.org), the best website on the Forgotten Coast with a direct link to your website.

- Listing in the area's premier visitors guide and map, the **Florida Coast Visitors' Guide**. The Chamber receives an average of 1,200 inquiries per month from people seeking information about the area. Whether they seek information for a visit or to relocate for a lifetime, the Chamber mails or emails potential customers information on the area and member businesses. Tourist information packets and relocation information with member listings are sent out to people worldwide.

- A Visitor Center staffed Monday through Saturday, with knowledgeable staff to answer questions and help locate services and products. Each month the office fields hundreds of questions about businesses in Apalachicola, St George Island, Eastpoint and the surrounding areas, referring customers directly to Chamber members.

Renewal notices were sent out last week with a copy of the information we currently have for your business. Please review this information carefully, make any changes, and return the renewal worksheet with your dues so that we can update your information.

## New Members

### River To Gulf Adventures

Robert Segree joined the Chamber with his business, *River To Gulf Adventures, LLC*. Robert is a native of

## Directors Column

June 3<sup>rd</sup> the Chamber membership elected board members and officers for the 2009-2010 year. Mark Friedman was elected President, Michael Shuler was chosen as Vice President, Jerry Hall for Treasurer and Kristin Anderson for Secretary. Many of the existing board members have agreed to serve another term. Continuing on will be: Joe Taylor, Wayne Thomas, Ted Ruffner, Diana Prickett, Paul Marxsen, Bud Hayes, Andrea Duval, Susan Bassett and Richard Langford. Beth Moseley and Kara Landiss will retire from the board in July. We thank them for their service. Two new board members have been added. Beverly Hewitt, owner of the Apalachicola Seafood Grill and the Old Time Soda Fountain, and Ginny Griner, Human Resources Director at Weems Hospital will join the board in July.

*Anita Grove, Executive Director*



Richard Langford  
899-0030  
Paul Marxsen 697-2542  
Ted Ruffner 670-8870  
Diana Prickett 927-2322  
Michael Shuler  
653-9226  
R. Wayne Thomas  
670-4404

Franklin County and has fished these waters all of his life. He was in commercial fishing for many years and fished all over the state. Fully licensed and insured, he has two boats for fishing in the bay, offshore, up the river and sightseeing tours. *Miss Zoe* is a 23 foot Crusader with a 250 Yamaha motor, a cabin with two bunks, safety equipment (EPIRB) and private head (bathroom). He also has a 17 foot G3 boat with a 60 hp Yamaha for bay, flats and river trips. Robert is married to Dr. Zoe Segree, our local Chiropractor in Eastpoint. He can be reached by calling (850) 323-0222, via email at or visit his website at [www.fishrivertogulf.com](http://www.fishrivertogulf.com).

### **My Photo T**

Jonathan Ramsden joined the Chamber in May with his business, *My Photo T*, a mobile t-shirt printing business. Jonathan and his wife relocated to the area in December of 2008. He is a retired air traffic controller from Fayette County, Georgia. As a devoted softball dad, he started the custom t-shirt business when his daughter was playing softball. He produced custom, made to order t-shirts for the games and tournaments. Since moving to Apalachicola, Jonathan has branched out to include fishing tournaments, special events, and all types of sporting events. Jonathan takes a photograph and instantly places it on a t-shirt. He also takes photos for fishing charter captains, photographing clients with their catch. Check out his graphic design and shop online at his website [www.myphotot.com](http://www.myphotot.com). Jonathan can be reached by calling (678) 873-8052, by email at .

### **City Square Community Garden**

Welcome the *City Square Community Garden* group to the Chamber. Chair Karla Ambrose and Vice Chair Jenny Billings say the idea for a community garden “grew” from two particular needs that had been expressed by the Apalachicola community. First, the city’s Community Pride group was looking for a project that would bring together different facets of the community. Second, Franklin’s Promise, operators of the local Food Pantry, needs fresh produce. They have experienced an increase in demand for their services with the economic downturn. Plus, they rarely receive fresh vegetables in their shipments from the regional food bank distributor. The creation of *City Square Community Garden* achieved both goals. It created a space where citizens of all ages could come together, do something beneficial for the community and harvest the fruit of their labor, literally! Gardeners also provide a source of fresh vegetables for the Food Pantry. The group also saw an opportunity to educate young citizens about participating in their

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Community  
Bank



### **Do You Have News To Share?**

Members of the Apalachicola Bay Chamber can share news with other members. News should be newsworthy—new hires, expansions, relocations, certain events (not fundraisers), or information that could benefit other Chamber members. News items should be 75 words or less. Send your news items to [anita@apalachicolabay.org](mailto:anita@apalachicolabay.org).

community and instilling in them a sense of pride and accomplishment. A partnership between the Franklin County Health Department, the Apalachicola Bay Charter School, and the Garden form. The ABC School has a large plot where their students are raising vegetables and flowers. *City Square Community Garden* has over 50 people who have garden beds or participate in the project. The garden was funded by private donations and in-kind labor and services from the City of Apalachicola. Currently there are 29 raised beds, the Food Pantry plot and the ABC School plot. Folks interested in joining the group can call Karla at (850) 653-1975 or email them at . To see photos of the garden go to [www.flickr.com/photos/cscgarden](http://www.flickr.com/photos/cscgarden).

## **Member News**

### **13 Mile Seafood**

Tommy and TJ Ward opened 13 Mile Seafood Market the end of May on Water Street and Avenue E in Apalachicola. They sell fresh local shrimp, fresh in season fish, crabs- live, softshell and picked crab, and oysters. In the near future they will serve steamed seafood, seafood dips, gumbo and soup bases. The market is open from 11:00am-6:00 pm Monday-Thursday, 11:00am-7:00 pm Friday and Saturday, closed on Sundays. TJ can be reached by calling (850) 653-7105.

### **Kristy Branch Banks, P.A. & Friedman Financial Advisors Relocate**

Attorney Kristy Banks and Financial Planner Mark Friedman have relocated their offices to Eastpoint. Kristy and Mark had neighboring offices in the annex next to the Gibson Inn. They decided to co-locate their offices and moved to Eastpoint to the Sellers Tile Plaza. The office address is 171 US Highway 98 Suite A. Kristy's phone number has changed to (850) 670-1255. Mark's new number for Friedman Financial Advisors is (850) 670-1253. The offices of Roberson & Friedman, P.A., CPA are NOT moving from their current location.

### **Exposure**

-Nancy Dorman-Hickson's article on Kathy Jansen appeared in the June issue of *Southern Living*, the Florida edition. Nancy was here in March 2008. She two articles resulted from her trip. Nancy was a staff writer for Southern Living but now freelances.

-Associate Editor, Jami Mattox, was sent photographs of the area for an article they are writing for *Oklahoma Magazine*

-Laura Riley was sent information on the area for a

trip she was planning for May. Laura writes for the *St Petersburg Times*.--

-Mike Souter produced yet another article about Hidden Florida for the Saturday magazine of the *East Anglian Daily Times* (England). Mike was here in February.

-Apryl Chapman Thomas was sent photographs for a piece she is working on for Visit Florida.

-Audrey St. Clair was assisted with information and reservations for an article she was working on for Florida *Travel+Life* magazine.

-Tara Herrschaft with WCTV channel 6 was sent information on current happenings and possible story ideas.

-Suzanne Smith with WFSU for Diversions was sent information on area events.

-Linda Hallam was sent photographs to help her pitch a book proposal, *The Most Beautiful Small Towns in Florida*.

-Bel Kambach was sent information on eco lodges and green properties in our area.