

# Bay Florida's Forgotten Coast® BUSINESS REPORT

## Monthly Meetings

### Monthly Business Luncheon

October 7, 2009, 12:00  
Blue Parrot Cafe  
68 West Gorrie  
St George Island

### Business After Hours

November 4th, 2009  
5:30-7:00 pm  
TBA

### Monthly Business Luncheon

November 12th, 2009,  
12:00  
Location TBA

### Visitor Statistics

August 2001	829
August 2002	791
August 2003	969
August 2004	930
August 2005	1,210
August 2006	1,740
August 2007	1,798
August 2008	1,696
August 2009	1,978

### Website Stats

August 2009  
Visits 13,392  
Page Views 72,575  
Pages/Visits 5.42  
Bounce Rate 21.67%  
Time on Site 4:58 mins  
New Visits 68.21%

## Chamber Board of Directors

### Marketing Opportunity For Members

The Chamber receives hundreds of emails and phone calls each month from people seeking information about the area. Whether they plan to visit, get married or relocate to the area we send them a packet of information that includes the visitors guide and the map. We offer a unique opportunity for member businesses to include their brochures in these packets. For only .25 cents per packet, you to get your information directly into the hands of visitors at a significantly lower cost than if you were to mail it yourself. Our packets are customized for each inquiry so we do not waste your money or your brochures. If you are a real estate agent, caterer, restaurant, tour provider, or bait and tackle shop, this is a great opportunity for you. Contact the Chamber today at (850) 653-9419 so we can add you to the list.

### 6th Annual Chamber Golf Tournament

The Apalachicola Bay Chamber Golf Tournament will be on October 14th at 1:00 pm. The tournament will be a Florida scramble, low score wins with prizes for the top three teams. Scores will be totaled and prizes awarded at a reception following the tournament. Cost per team is \$400, \$100 per player. Fees include range balls and golf carts equipped with the latest color GPS system. Tournament proceeds will go toward the Chamber's building fund. For more information contact the Apalachicola Bay Chamber at (850) 653-9419 or email [info@apalachicolabay.org](mailto:info@apalachicolabay.org).

### Oyster Roast

Oyster Roast tickets are selling fast. Tickets are \$45.00 each or \$80.00 for a pair. Call or stop by to purchase yours today at the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce, 122 Commerce Street in Apalachicola (850) 653-9419 or [info@apalachicolabay.org](mailto:info@apalachicolabay.org). This year we will be at the Garden Shop in Apalachicola. A Special treat!

## New Members

### Rivercrest Lodge

The Rivercrest Homeowners Association joined the Chamber last month with the *Rivercrest Lodge*, a lovely facility available for special gatherings, parties, and weddings. The *Rivercrest Lodge* is located off Bay City Road, just a few minutes north of Apalachicola. It has 1,000 square feet of furnished interior space and 2,300 square feet of porches that overlook Scipio Creek. The lodge was built by Gary Ulrich in 2005. It has high ceilings, broad porches,

## Directors Column



Great press this month! *National Geographic Adventure* magazine in their *Where To Live & Play Now!* issue ranked Apalachicola as one of the best places to live. Under the category of "Best Places Drain Your 401(k) and..... They featured three places- Haleiwa, Hawaii, Austin, Texas and Apalachicola, as places for active non-traditional retirees. *National Geographic Adventure* is a magazine for active, imaginative people who like to try new outdoor pursuits and want to travel to wild corners of the planet. A big Thank You to Wayne Thomas with RW Thomas Construction for hanging the new visitors center sign

Anita Grove, Executive Director



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Paul Marxsen 697-2542

Ted Ruffner 670-8870

Diana Prickett 927-2322

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R. Wayne Thomas

670-4404

and rustic but sophisticated feel. There is also prep kitchen and an outdoor fireplace on the porch. Contact Gill Autrey at (850) 370-0075 for rental availability.

**Forgotten Coast Dry Cleaners**

Welcome James Marsh with his business *Forgotten Coast Enterprises*, a dry cleaning and laundry service. James offers pick up and drop off services for Carrabelle, Eastpoint, St George Island, Apalachicola and Port St Joe. Currently his route is Carrabelle, St George and Apalachicola on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. Port St Joe on Tuesdays and Thursdays. *Forgotten Coast Drycleaners* uses environmentally friendly detergents and softeners. He also offers wash, dry and fold services. James has been in the business for over eight years with Stewardship Dry Cleaners in Wakulla. James can be reached by calling (850) 567-2941. His email is [swampfoxxhollow@dishmail.net](mailto:swampfoxxhollow@dishmail.net).

**Carol and Mark Goodwin**

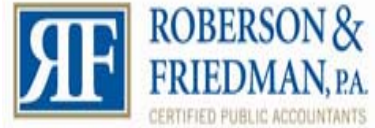
Carol and Mark Goodwin joined the Chamber last month as Associate members. The Goodwins purchased a house a historic home in Apalachicola two years ago and recently moved down full time. Carol is a retired real estate attorney and Mark spent 30 years as a veterinarian pathologist. Now Carol is an industrious knitter. She makes beautiful shawls and scarves and sells them at the Green Door in Apalachicola. Mark is a metal smith. He makes handmade artistic belt buckles for kilts ([www.tygerforge.com](http://www.tygerforge.com)) and knives. He also carves fish for wall hangings. They can be reached at (850) 653-4744.

**Rancho Inn**

Mary Lynn Rogers joined the Chamber with the *Rancho Inn*, a 32 room motel located on US 98 in Apalachicola. The *Rancho* has a pool, free internet access, in room coffee and a refrigerator and microwave in each room. They also have two suites, a Jacuzzi room, and they are pet friendly. The *Rancho* was built in 1942, out of wood from part of the old Fuller Hotel on 4th Street and Avenue D. The *Rancho* can be reached by calling (850) 653-9435.

**Cypress Diner**

Welcome Frank Venable with his new eatery the *Cypress Diner*, located at the intersection of S. Bayshore and U S Highway 98 in Eastpoint, next to the fruit stand. The *Cypress Diner* opened in late June. It is a drive-through that offers smoked chicken, ribs, homemade corned beef, great salads, Brunswick stew, homemade cornbread and cracklin'



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**Exposure**

-*National Geographic Adventure* magazine names Apalachicola one of the "Best Places to Cash Out and Retire to". Haleiwa, Hawaii is the other place mentioned.

-Zach Cohen was sent information on our local seafood. Zach writes a blog called FarmtoTable.

-Crystal Hamon was sent information on several area events for *Vie People+Places*.

-Don Vigo was sent information on the area. He writes for the *Amerika Woche/Washington Journal*.

-Austin Holt with Ballinger Publishing was sent information on the area.

-Adele Woodyard was sent information on Apalachicola. She is a travel writer who was here doing research for a Florida guide

bread. He serves restaurant quality food at diner prices. Everything is under \$10.00. Frank moved to Eastpoint fifteen years ago from Columbus, Georgia. He helped start and has been an active volunteer for the Apalachicola Riverkeepers. The *Cypress Diner* is open 11:00-2:00 every day, but will accommodate customers any time he is there. Frank can be reached by calling (850) 670-3300.

## Member News

### Member News

#### **Congratulations!**

The Coombs House Inn was chosen as the "Best Bed & Breakfast Inn" in the state of Florida by Florida Monthly magazine in their Best of Florida awards. The Cape St. George Light was selected as "Best Looking Lighthouse" and the "Best Historical Landmark" in Florida. The Blue Parrot was chosen as St. George Island's Best Outdoor Café, and Apalachicola was chosen the "Friendliest Small Town".

#### **Weems Breaks Ground**

A groundbreaking ceremony will be held at the future site of Weems Medical Center East Urgent Care Clinic Tuesday, October 13th at 5:00pm. Rain cancelled plans for a gathering on August 26. The clinic will replace the temporary Weems clinic now open three and a half days a week in Carrabelle's Municipal Complex. Construction is expected to be completed sometime in 2010. The new single-story building will be just under 5,000 square feet with a section for primary/urgent care on one side and spaces for sub-specialty physicians rotating to Franklin County from Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare on the other side. Refreshments will follow the ceremony at the Franklin County Health Department Annex on NE 5th Street in Carrabelle.

#### **Events**

#### **Bay Day October 3, 2009**

St. Joseph Bay Preserve Center This event will feature fresh food, live music, and local photography exhibits, as well as guided trips.

**Book Signing** October 3, 2009 Michael Lister's new literary thriller, "Double Exposure" October 3rd, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Michael will be signing "Double Exposure" in Apalachicola at the Riverkeeper office located at 232 Water Street. Downtown Books will be there with books to sell. Lister is donating all the profits from his new novel to environmental protection, conservation, and education right here in Gulf and Franklin Counties.

#### **Oyster Spat Festival** October 9, 2009 to October 10, 2009

St. George Island Treasure hunt, onshore fishing tournament with cash prizes, 5K race, kayak race, food court, parade and great live entertainment. Go to <http://www.oysterspat.com> for more details. Blast on the Bay Songwriter Festival October 16,

book and blog.

-Lainey Seyler's article *Down by the Bay* appears in the September/October issue of *Home & Away* the AAA travel magazine. Editor Karen Eakins had contacted us for information in June.

2009 to October 18, 2009

Port St. Joe In the first installment of what is destined to become an annual event, the coastal town of Port St. Joe, Florida will play host to musicians and songwriters direct from the streets of Nashville.

**Blues Fest** October 17, 2009 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Courtyard next to Sponge Exchange on Avenue E in Apalachicola Come out for a great time and great Blues bands from around the country. Call (850) 653-3550 for more information.

**Grant Peeples and the New 76ers** October 30, 2009 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

The Dixie Theatre Enjoy the clean, but brooding American sound from a finger-in-your-eye songwriter. A biting, edgy, irreverent southern leftneck, articulate twang, thinking-man's songs - sung with Peeples' commanding, seasoned voice. Grant brings with him the folk-rock group The New 76ers. Bathed in southern musical heritage, their music will move you physically and spiritually.

**Boo's, Jazz & Blues** October 30 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

The Franklin County Food Pantry will hold a fundraiser on October 20th at the National Guard Armory in Apalachicola. Boo's, Jazz & Blues featuring Candi and the Hammerheads from 7-8pm, Big Daddy & Red Hot Java from 8-10pm and Hi-Fi Entertainment DJ, Van Johnson, from 10-11pm. Tickets are \$20.00 per person or two for \$35.00 and include entertainment and hors d'ouvres. There will be a donation bar. Costumes are also encouraged. For more information call 850-653-3930 or stop by the Apalachicola Bay Chamber, 122 Commerce Street to purchase your tickets.

**Lantern Fest at Crooked River Lighthouse Park** October 31

Glowing lanterns will fill the park for the 114th birthday of the Lighthouse and annual night time climb of the tower. Festivities include an authentic 1767 shipwreck tale by the Panhandle Players, historic re-enactors, museum exhibits, children's lantern making, jack o' lanterns, maritime music, refreshments and a unique gift shop (850) 697-2585.