

Bay Florida's Forgotten Coast® BUSINESS REPORT

Volume 18, Number 8

July 2, 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

Visitor Statistics

May 2001	1,266
May 2002	918
May 2003	926
May 2004	1,234
May 2005	1,526
May 2006	1,535
May 2007	2,046
May 2008	2,437
May 2009	1,715

Chamber Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Mark Friedman
653-1090

VICE-PRESIDENT

Michael Shuler
653-9226

TREASURER

Jerry Hall 653-9510

SECRETARY

Kristin Anderson

New Members

Cates Electrical Services, Inc.

Welcome Mike Cates to the Chamber with his business, *Cates Electrical Services, Inc.* Mike is a licensed electrician and can do both residential and commercial jobs. He has been in the electric business for ten years. Many locals may remember Mike and his wife, Carla, from when they owned Harry A's on St. George Island. Mike and his family moved here over 25 years ago. Mike and Carla have two children, Jon Michael and Corie. They currently live in Apalachicola. Mike was active on the Chamber board several years back and in the St. George Island Business Association. Mike can be reached by calling (850) 528-0282 or by email at electric@fairpoint.net.

Mini Convenience Store, Inc.

JoAnn Shiver joined the Chamber with the *Mini Convenience Store* on St George Island. Better known locally as the *Blue Store*, it is located at the corner of Bayshore and Franklin Boulevard, the first business on your right as you enter the Island. The *Blue Store* carries all types of groceries, beach supplies, fishing tackle, beverages, ice cream, gas, beer and wine, t-shirts and souvenirs. It opened in 1976 and is open year round. The *Blue Store's* hours are Sunday-Thursday 6:30 am-10:00 pm and 6:30 am-11:00 pm on Friday and Saturday. It is located at 244 Franklin Boulevard right at the foot of the bridge and can be reached by calling (850) 927-2154.

Castaway Liquors

JoAnn Shiver also joined the Chamber with the *Castaway Liquors* on St George Island. *Castaway* was first opened in 1993. They are a full service package store and carry wine, beer, all types of alcohol, plus mixers, kegs, cigars and even blenders. *Castaway* is open Sunday-Thursday 9:00 am-10:00 pm and Friday-Saturday 9:00 am-11:00 pm. They are located at 139B West Gorrie Drive on St. George Island across from the Buccaneer Inn and can be reached by calling (850) 927-2335.

Madinger Jewelers, Inc

Welcome Eric Madinger and Eva McCauley with *Madinger Jewelers, Inc.* Eric and Eva opened their store on St. George Island in 1999. They started with a 400 square foot retail space on the second floor of the Pine Street Mini Mall. In 2004, they acquired their current 1,500 square foot location on the ground floor of the mall. Eric is a 4th generation jeweler. His family has been in the business since 1894. Originally from Ohio, Eric has been making and designing jewelry for 23 years. *Madinger Jewelers* is a full service jeweler specializing in custom designs. Eric designed the very popular SGI pendant and an Apalachicola Bay oyster boat. *Madinger Jewelers* also do repairs. Eva says Eric can pretty much fix anything- rings, chains, necklaces, even eyeglasses. *Madinger Jewelers* is located at 132 East Pine Avenue and can be reached by calling (850) 927-GOLD (4653) or by

Directors Column

Happy 4th of July! We started a new fiscal year July 1st. Half the membership renewed before the June 30th deadline this year. Make sure we get your dues this week so that you remain on the website and have your business listed in the new *Forgotten Coast Visitors' Guide*. For just \$175.00 per year you get the best exposure to visitors in the area, people planning a visit to the area, and people seeking to relocate. Its not too late.

Anita Grove, Executive Director



"By Owner"
Beach Real Estate Network
List Your Property for \$5.00/month
BeachRealty.net
Beach Rentals & Sales

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

email jewels4U4250@gtcom.net . They also have a website where you can see the SGI pendant www.madingerjewelers.com.

Helen Townsend Spohrer, Prudential Shimmering Sands Realty
Helen Townsend Spohrer joined the Chamber in June. She is a broker associate with *Prudential Shimmering Sands*. Helen is a CCIM (Certified Commercial Institute Member), and has worked in real estate on the Forgotten Coast since 1981. She was the number one sales agent for Dollar Volume Sold in Franklin County in 2008. Helen is currently serving as Chairperson of the Franklin County Tourist Development Council and as Treasurer for the Realtor Association of Franklin & Gulf Counties. Last year she sold Prudential Resort Realty to Prudential Shimmering Sands Realty and she is currently working as a broker agent for them. Helen specializes in foreclosed and bank owned properties. She also works with first time home buyers as well as investors. *Prudential Shimmering Sands Realty* is located at 140 West 1st Street on St. George Island. Visit their website at www.stgeorgeisland.com. Helen can be reached by calling 800-974-2666 x117, cell 850-899-1262 or email hspohrer@st.georgeisland.com.

Member News

St Vincent National Wildlife Refuge

St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge is preparing to write a fifteen year management plan known as a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP). We will start the process with two public scoping meetings, July 15th and 16th. This is your opportunity to provide the refuge with your concerns, thoughts and issues. If you are unable to attend one of these meetings and would like to share your thoughts, please send them to St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 447, Apalachicola, FL 32329 or email to .

Smoke Free Business

The Franklin County Health Department's Tobacco Prevention Program plans to highlight area businesses in the local media who have a written "Smoke Free Policy" in place. If you have a written "Smoke Free Policy" and would like your business to be highlighted, please contact David Walker at the Franklin County Health Department at (850) 653-2111 ext 123 or via email david_walker@doh.state.fl.us . To learn more visit the website at <http://www.tobaccofreeflorida.com/>

Exposure

- Hannah Calvert with VISIT FLORIDA's UK office was sent information on the Big Bend Scenic Byway and our area. She was working on a project that includes scenic drives in Florida.

-Nate Long with VISIT FLORIDA was sent information on John Gorrie for a writer for a large, Florida-based publication looking for information on places to cool down in the summer heat.

-Visit Florida was also sent information about our Fourth of July celebrations.

-Laura Riley's article appeared in the Sunday, June 21st issue of the *St Petersburg Times*. Laura has visited several times over the last few years and we recently sent her information for her May visit.



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.

-*National Geo Traveler* included Apalachicola in their July/August issue as one of the Great Long Weekends: 46 Best Places To Get Away From It All.

-Deborah Armstrong with the *Virginian-Pilot* in Norfolk was sent photos and information on the area. She plans to do a story on Apalachicola for their Sunday Travel issue.

-Zach Dunkin with the *Indianapolis Star* was sent photographs and information on St. George Island.

-Susan Tasakiq was sent photographs and information for *Bark* magazine for an article about the area.

-Andy Gardner was in town in mid June doing research for a travel article for the *The Sunday Mirror* in London.

-Karen Eakins was sent photographs and information for a *Home Away* article on Franklin County by writer, Lainey R. Seyler.

-Lucie Dorothe was sent information on the area. She is writing the Florida part of *Le Petit Fute*, a French travel guide.

-Christine Sexton, a writer with *Florida Trend*, contacted us for story ideas for their annual *Business Florida* edition.

-Etravelersanonymous was sent photographs for their new travel website.