February 2016

Florida's Oldest Chamber of Commerce (circa 1836)

Meetings

**Monthly Business Luncheon**

Wednesday February 3rd
Papa Joe's Oyster Bar
45 Ave D
Apalachicola
Noon

**Business After Hours**

Thursday February 11th
Fisher & Friedman P.A.
171 US Hwy 98
Eastpoint
5:30-7:00

20th Annual
Forgotten Coast Chef Sampler

Sponsors

- C.W. Roberts Contracting, Inc.
- Mediacom
- Cook Insurance
- Roberson Associate

March Monthly Business Luncheon

Wednesday March 2nd
ANERR
108 Island Drive
Eastpoint
Noon

Visitor Statistics

December 2001 523
December 2002 432
December 2003 858
December 2004 946
December 2005 1,288
December 2006 1,189
December 2007 1,660
December 2008 1,135
December 2009 1,258
December 2010 1,310
December 2011 1,209
December 2012 1,071
December 2013 963
December 2014 1,020
December 2015 1,005

Website Stats
December 2015

Sponsors this year

Gold Sponsors
Roberson & Assoc.
Grady Market

Silver Sponsors
The Butler Agency
Franklin School District: Nina Marks
Riverwood Suites
CW Roberts Contracting
Century 21 Collins Realty
Apalachicola Bay Animal Clinic

Sponsor
Up The Stairs

Don't miss out on the culinary event of the year tickets are going fast get yours today.

We would like to thank our table sponsors this year.

Events

Awakened Life School of Yoga with Liz Carey
Jan. 21st to March 3rd
6:30 PM Awakened Life School of Yoga with Liz Carey
The Apalachicola School of Yoga hosting and partnering with Fr Promise and Liz Carey to announce the Awakened Life School of Yoga to introduce "Restorative Yoga" 6-week series in early 2016, of yoga for those who are new to yoga. "Restorative Yoga" is a style of yoga practiced by those who are sitting up or reclining on a mat that is on the floor. The intention of this style of yoga is to relax and quiet the mind, body, and spirit.

"The Way We Worked" 1
January 28th - March 12th
"The Way We Worked", a traveling exhibit, and collaboratively sponsored by the historic Apalachicola Museum of Fine Arts, explores how work became a central element in American culture by tracing the many changes of the conditions of work and the role of work in shaping American life.


E. Duke Energy

Homesteal
Screen Printing
Embroidery
Promotional Products
T-Shirts - Caps - Jackets - Sports Bags

Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce February Newsletter
% New Sessions
75.91%

Board of Directors

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VICE-PRESIDENT
Bud Hayes 927-3305
TREASURER
Jerry Hall 653-9510
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Karen Rudder 927-2312
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Jean Ulrich 653-2900
Sara Ward 653-1399
Debbie Flowers 670-4000

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
John C. Solomon
execdirector@apalachicolabay.org
850-370-6602

Got Ideas? Suggestions?
How can the Apalachicola Bay Chamber better serve you?
Is there something that we can do better to help your business?
Is there something you would like to see us add or change on the website, at the visitor’s center or in the visitors’ guide?
If you would like to be a volunteer with the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce.
Ideas are always welcome. Feel free to call or email us with your ideas at info@apalachicolabay.org.

Business Luncheons and Business After Hours
If you or your business is interested in hosting a Business Luncheon or a Business After Hours in 2015, please feel free to call the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce at 850-653-9419 or email John C. Solomon at execdirector@apalachicolabay.org

New Members

Harry A's

We're committed to providing top-notch entertainment, dining and adult beverages. Our kitchen is staffed with culinary masters and our talented and friendly bar staff can whip up

6th Annual Oyster Cook-off

Photo by David Alderstein: 1st Place John Solomon from Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce and his mom Margie and 2nd place Jeff Ildardi and his wife Caroline

The 6th Annual Oyster cook-off an event put on by community volunteers to support the Apalachicola Volunteer Fire Department was a huge success. Over 100 volunteers showed up to help this growing event. The crowds showed up early and stayed all day. The Oyster cooking competition consisted of 8 competing teams, teams which were made up of some of the best home and professional cooks in the area. When the results were tallied the winner was the John Solomon of the Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce team who prepared "jalapeno, spinach, bacon wrapped oysters with a spicy aioli sauce". Jeff Ildardi came in a close second, Jeff who is a former winner and multi time second place finisher in the event prepared his "Apalachicola Sunrise Oysters". Coming in third was the team of Allen and Sam Mathis who cooked "Southwest oysters". The Oyster Cook-off only in its 6th year has drawn wonderful attention and attendance that can only be attributed to the hard working volunteers and organizers of the event.

affected the workforce and the environment over the past 150 January 28, 2016 (opening rec 6-8 pm) to March 12 Wed. - Sat and Thurs eve 6-8 for discussion.

Sea Oats Gallery Work JUDY SOPRANO
Drawing Journal-Shapes in Life & Landscapes
February 1, 2016 to March 3, 2016 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)
Sea Oats Gallery 128 E. Pine St. George Island

Apalachicola Center for History, Culture and Art presents FOLK FANTA
THE COLLECTION OF LEE AND RAR SEWELL FEATURING CHARLIE "THE MAN" LUCAS. EXHIBITED FEBUARY 4 - APRIL 2, 2016. MEET AND GREET WITH LEE AND RAR SEWELL AND CHARLIE LUCAS AT THE CENTER ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2016 FROM 6-8 PM.

IN CONCERT: BOYCE GRIFF
SEXTET
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2016 102 1 AVENUE CARRABELLE
THE ILSE NEWELL FUND FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS BOYCE GRIFFITH Sextet
WWW.INCONCERTAPALACHICOLA.ORG

13TH ANNUAL MARDI GRAS DINNER & BALL
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2016 AT 5 PM
anything from an Alabama Slammer to a Zombie Punch. We offer a wide variety of entertainment from karaoke and DJs to live local and national performers. When it rains, we pour! If it's raining in the courtyard at 4pm, our happy hour extends until closing. Harry A's is located at 28 West Bayshore Drive on St. George Island.

Bob McKeithen & Sons Roofing

Located at 412 Crossway Road in Tallahassee. Bob McKeithen and Sons, Roofing is locally owned and operated and serving the Tallahassee area for over 38 years. We service the needs of contractors and homeowners in all of the Big Bend area. We do residential roofing and siding, commercial roofing and siding, and repairs. We understand that in today's market, quality workmanship and customer service is the key to continuing business.

Bay Community School

Bay Community School is located at 269 Fred Myers Street in Apalachicola. The philosophy here at Bay Community School is based on our belief that all children share certain needs and have a drive to be self-confident, self-motivated individuals, seeking out an understanding of the world around them. It is our goal to provide a learning environment which will empower children and enhance self-esteem by creating an atmosphere where social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development can take place. This goal is met by providing a variety of activities and experiences which allow the child to be creative, to discover and to solve problems.

For more information or to reserve a seat or table call (850) 653-31...
L & B Burgers

Locally owned and operated by mother daughter team of Linnie Lolley & Brandy Raffield, L & B Burgers is located at 312 Hwy 98 in Eastpoint. They serve many variations of burgers and have daily lunch specials. they are open 7 days a week.

Paddy's Raw Bar

Paddy's Raw Bar is located at 240 East 3rd Street on St. George Island and is owned by Patrick and Jessica Sparks. What goes better with cold beer than fresh, local Apalachicola oysters? If oysters aren't your thing try our Panhandle Peel & Eat Shrimp or our famous crab dip! More of a land lover? You will love our hot juicy burgers and Hawaiian chicken sandwich. We have a full menu to satisfy the hungriest of beer lovers.

Island Dog Beach & Surf Shop

Island Dog Beach & Surf Shop is St. George Island's newest business. Located where the Island Emporium used to be at 160 East Pine Ave. They have Local art display and art for purchase. Original paintings, watercolors and prints, Featuring a wide variety of beautiful photographs from around the island. Take home an incredible sunset. Exclusive Island Dog T-Shirts, Sea Dog, and many other designs only available at our shop. UV Shirts for men, women, and children. Unique rentals and sales for all the little and grown up kids to enjoy. Our outdoor sports center will provide all you need for land and water activities for the entire family.

He lives in New Orleans, but I haven't visited the city yet. In fact, way back in 1975, Spencer spent a couple years in Apalachicola playing nightclubs. Remember how the Dixie Theatre will draw crowds of people to see the local talent inspire you with their music. I might even offer a glimpse into how Apalachicola was in days gone by.

Trinity Episcopal Church Pancake Supper
February 9th at Benedict Hall

Snowbird Appreciation 2016
will be held on Tuesday, Feb 9th. The event is sponsored by George Island Business Assoc who invites all winter visitors to enjoy an evening out on George Island. If you consider yourself a visitor to the area, you are welcome to participate! This year's Snowbird Day consists of happy hour dinner and live music. The event is being held from 4:00pm-6:00pm at Harry A's Restaurant at 28 West Bayshore Drive. Price is $12 per person and sale tickets are available at Son it's Hotter. Tickets will also be available at the door. Happy hour (cash bar) starts at 4:00pm and there will be live music. LowCountry Shrimp dinner will be served at 5:00pm.

St. George Island Snowbird Appreciation 2016

If you have any questions, please contact the Snowbird Appreciation Committee at 850-927.

Sea Oats Gallery Work by Natalia Andreeva

Associate Members

Pinki Jackel

Mrs. Jackel is the Franklin County Supervisor of Elections. She is a resident of St. George Island. She is formerly District 1 County Commissioner.

Heather Riley

Mrs. Riley works at Eastpoint Medical Center and is a resident of Carrabelle.

Chamber News

Gorrie Statue Under Fire

Article by Lois Swoboda from the Apalachicola Times

If a South Florida Republican gets his way, the statue of John Gorrie on display at the Capitol building in Washington DC may be replaced by a sculpture of another prominent Floridian. Each state is entitled to two statues representing prominent residents. Among those now on display are Dwight Eisenhower, Brigham Young, Rosa Parks, Gerald Ford, Helen Keller and William Jennings Bryan. Florida's current representatives are John Gorrie, whose statue was installed in 1914, and Confederate Gen. Kirby Smith, whose statue was placed on display in the Capitol in 1922. Gorrie's statue was created by artist Adrien Pillar, from the single, anonymous portrait in oils depicting Gorrie. Gorrie, as all of Franklin County knows, was the inventor of an early refrigeration system which produced ice used to cool the rooms of yellow fever sufferers. In 1850, he gave the first public demonstration of mechanical refrigeration at a gala party held in Apalachicola on Bastille Day where guests were served champagne chilled in blocks of
ice. Although he was born on the island of Nevis in the West Indies, he spent most of his adult life in Apalachicola and contributed to the community here in many ways. Gorrie was inducted into the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame in 2015.

Smith, on the other hand, was born in Florida but left at the age of 12 never to return. His claim to fame was that he was the highest-ranking Florida-born officer in the Confederate army and the last Confederate general to surrender. He never fought on Florida soil and spent most of his life in Tennessee. Numerous editorials have been published around the state asking for the Smith statue's removal.

Although statues have not been removed from Statuary Hall in the past, several states are considering replacing statues of Confederate leaders on display. Two bills are making the rounds in Tallahassee concerning Florida's representatives in Statuary Hall.

The original bill, introduced to the Florida Senate by John Legg, a Republican from Pasco County, calls for the removal of the statue of Kirby. The statue would be taken to another place of honor for future display. That bill came before the Senate rules committee Wednesday, and could come before the Senate for a vote as early as next week.

A second bill, HB 141, passed 18-1 in the Florida House Appropriations Committee Jan. 21. Introduced by Jose Felix Diaz, a Republican from Miami, that bill originally asked only for removal of the statue of Smith, but was amended last week to remove the statue of Gorrie as well.

Marcia Mathis, from Sen. Bill Montford's office, said if the House bill passes first, it will come before the Senate for approval. Likewise, the Senate bill would come before the house. Gov. Rick Scott could veto either bill.

A number of names have been suggested to replace Smith and Gorrie. They include authors Carl Hiassen, Marjory Stoneman Douglas and Zora Neale Hurston; developer Addison Mizner; Chief Osceola; Dr. Robert Cade, inventor of Gatorade; and pinup model and photographer Bunny Yeager.
Studio 16 is coming to the REALTORS Association of Franklin & Gulf County to provide "magazine ready" images for all your marketing needs and to help us raise money for our 2016 Laundry Projects in Franklin & Gulf Counties. The company has 19 years national experience, and will take the time to capture that perfect image.

Pictures will be only be taken on Monday, February 1st and Tuesday, February 2nd

**Franklin County Republican Party Will host a luncheon**
- dutch treat -
Thursday, February 11, 2016 - Noon
Crooked River Grill, St James Bay, Lanark Village
Guest Speaker - Mary Thomas
Candidate U S House of Representatives - district 2

**St. George Island Tour of Homes**
Seven distinctive and beautiful homes will be featured during the fifth annual St. George Island Tour of Homes from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday, February 13, 2016, benefiting the St. George Lighthouse Association (SGLA). Also included on the tour are the Cape St. George Lighthouse and Keeper's House, and the St. George Plantation Clubhouse. Tickets are $20.00 in advance and $25.00 on the day of the Tour.

Tour weekend will begin with a kick-off event on Friday, February 12, featuring a special presentation, refreshments, cash bar, and door prizes. Josh Hodson, manager of the St. George Island State Park, will talk about the scenic and award-winning park's wildlife and other amenities. This event, which is free for Tour of Homes ticket holders and $5.00 for others, will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the
Jay Abbott Firehouse, 324 East Pine Avenue, St. George Island.

Tour tickets are available at the Lighthouse Gift Shop on St. George Island. To order tickets, call the gift shop at (850) 927-7745. Tickets will be available on Tour day at Lighthouse Park and at the St. George Plantation Clubhouse.

SGLA is a non-profit Florida corporation organized to preserve, maintain and promote the Cape St. George Lighthouse. The Lighthouse was reconstructed in 2008 after collapsing in 2005. SGLA also built a replica of the Lighthouse Keeper's House which includes a museum and gift shop. Funds raised by SGLA are used for the on-going maintenance of the Lighthouse, the Keeper's House and Lighthouse Park, and this year will help fund a new exhibit featuring a replica of the Cape St. George Light's third order Fresnel lens.

For more information, please visit our website at www.sgitourofhomes.com.

H'COLA's Annual African-American History Festival

Saturday, February 20, 2016 through Sunday, February 21, 2016
Come experience the excitement of Spectacular Live Entertainment, Vendor Exhibits. Decadent Food. Inspirational

Sea Oats Gallery Work
KELLY RYSAY
Abstract Expressionism in A
February 24, 2016 to February 2016 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM (ET)
Sea Oats Gallery 128 E. Pine S
George Island FL

IN Concert: Brandon Robertson
Friday, February 26, 2016
102 St James Avenue Carrabel
The Ilse Newell Fund for the Performing Arts presents Brandon Robertson. Robertson exemplifies passion and musical aspiration in his field of entertainment. At the age of 10, he became very fascinated with upright bass while taking music lessons from a former teacher, who also happened to be the instructor that taught him to play the instrument. His passion hasn't let go since.

IN Concert: Alessandra Fuentes
Sunday, February 28, 2016
79 6th St, Apalachicola
The Ilse Newell Fund for the Performing Arts presents Alessandra Fuentes. Following undergraduate studies in piano at the Universidade do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazilian pianist Alessandra Fuentes was awarded a fellowship from the Kassel Institute. She concluded studies at the Hochschule für Musik Franz Liszt in Weimar, Germany, where she concluded Künstlerisches Fortbildung-Aufbaustudium in Performance and Künstlerisches Diplom in Piano, Chamber Music, and Accompanying, under the orientation of Thomas Steinbock and Lazar Berman.
Speakers, Handmade Arts and Crafts, Awesome Music, Sensational Dance and much, much more!

Headline entertainment includes The P&W Trio, The Dream Reality Revue, The Sharper Boys, and many more local and regional artists!

H'COLA's Annual African-American History Festival celebrates and showcases the African-American aspect of Apalachicola and Franklin County's unique history while celebrating the national recognition of African-American History Month.

The festival opens Friday at 4pm. This year's kick-off event is a Mardi Gras Masquerade Party. Grab your favorite costume and mask and join H'COLA for an evening of great fun leading into the main attractions on Saturday beginning with the festival parade at 10am, and festivities all day until 8pm. The festival concludes Sunday with outdoor interdenominational worship at noon.

Vendor space and sponsorship's still available! For more information, call 850.323.0544 or 850.653.7515. Visit our website, hcola.org and like our Facebook page for a full list of events. The 13th Annual African-American History Festival is brought to you in part by the Franklin County TDC.

**Dixie Theatre Presents: Oystertown a Musical Comedy**

February 20th 3pm & 8pm, February 24th 3pm, February 27th 3pm & 8pm

OYSTERTOWN ~ a musical adventure

Come celebrate the rich history of Apalachicola and The Forgotten Coast in an original evening developed especially for The Dixie Theatre. Oystertown combines storytelling, music and historic archival footage to celebrate and examine the history of this hidden hamlet on the Forgotten Coast of Florida. Apalachicola is a small town that still possesses a charm and history filled with traditions.
rich history steeped in Southern tradition and American history. Join Dixie Theatre veterans Cleo Holladay, David Hensley Caldwell, and many others as they weave tales of how Apalachicola began and where it is going. In the tradition of Dixie Theatre favorites, Leaving Iowa, Smoke on the Mountain and Almost Maine, Oystertown explores what makes us all the same and what makes this forgotten gem on the Gulf Coast so unique. "Oystertown is a postcard to small town Americana"

**Gulf Specimen Marine Lab Time of the Turtle**

Gulf Specimen Marine Lab & Aquarium's continuing mission: In 2015 we had a 600% increase in injured turtles needing our help due to our Responsible Pier Initiative. Our goal is to reach $30,000 to enlarge our current rehabilitation facilities to meet this need. "The Time of the Turtle" is NOW and with your help is will be for many years to come. Help us continue our mission of saving turtles and returning them back to the wild. We would like you to consider making a donation and also please share this information through social media. Every donation helps.

http://www.tilt.com/tlts/time-of-the-turtle
Or send a payment to: Gulf Specimen Marine Lab PO Box 237 Panacea, FL 32346

Apalachicola Bay Chamber | execdirector@apalachicolabay.org | http://www.apalachicolabay.org
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Apalachicola, FL 32320

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