

RESTAURANT COUNCIL WORKS TO BENEFIT MEMBERS - the Chamber's



Bo Brewer (The People Business) addresses Council

Restaurant Council was formed to focus on the specific needs of restaurants. We address topics and issues that impact Restaurateurs. Ongoing agenda items include:

- Updates and explanations about bills before the Florida Legislature (i.e. Minimum wage, healthcare, taxation)

- Local government ordinances (i.e. Daytona Beach entertainment ordinance and the Ponce Inlet noise ordinance)

We have also included information sessions on/by:

- Social Media
- Record keeping (employee files, accounting, etc.)
- Creating and maintain a positive work environment and high employee morale
- Florida's Department of Health
- Department of Business & Professional Regulation

Recently the Council surveyed members regarding participation in festivals where most expressed a willingness to participate in festivals as long as there is ample traffic and visibility with potential customers.

The Council meets the second Thursday, 10 am at the Chamber. Our Chair is **Deana Gammero (Bubba Gumps Shrimp Co)**.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETS WITH [REP. JASON BRODEUR](#) – on January 19, several Legislative Committee members teamed up with the West Volusia Regional Chamber's



Rep Jason Brodeur (right) discusses session with Chamber group

Legislative Committee to discuss issues for the upcoming legislative session with Rep Jason Brodeur.

Brodeur pointed out that overcoming with budget shortfall will be a major concern for the legislature. Medicaid spending is currently \$20 million and it's growing 10 percent and controlling it will be another

hurdle.

It's his first year in the legislature and he has been assigned to the House Finance & Tax, [Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee](#), [PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee](#) as well as other committees.

For over 20 years, our Chamber has built a strong reputation of working with our legislators and we're going to maintain that tradition in the upcoming session.

CHAMBER HOSTS JOHN NEWSTREET - Assistant to SEN MARCO RUBIO – for



John Newstreet talks economic development with Team Volusia's Helen Cauthen

a visit. This was probably his 4th or 5th trip to Volusia (he previously worked for **Sens. Martinez & LeMieux**). On January 31, the day began with a briefing to the **West Volusia Regional Chamber's Government Affairs Committee** then on to the **Daytona International Speedway** and to the **Volusia State of the County luncheon**. He also met with **Helen Cauthen** of the new **Team Volusia**.

Don Pardue – District Director for Cong Sandy Adams has toured the area with us to get from business & community leaders. Pardue met with officials from **Masco Bldg Products, International Speed- way Corp, DME Inc and Raydon Corp**. He has also appeared before DB City and S. Daytona City Commissions and Volusia County Council.



Don Pardue (Dist Director for Cong Sandy Adams) addresses S Daytona City Council

The Chamber is also arranging visits with **Don Pardue (Cong Sandy Adams) Dick Harkey/John Booker (Cong John Mica)**

Barbara Arthur (Sen Bill Nelson) and Russ Abrams (Gov Rick Scott).

Interested in a visit to your business? It's a great way to relay your views on those particular issues. Call Jim Cameron - 566-2140.

If anyone is planning a 1-day trip to Tallahassee, let us know. We'd like to help coordinate carpools from Volusia. The Chamber will also be arranging 1-day trips.

If you can take a passenger or would like to share a ride, please email jim@daytonachamber.com

With the cost of gas going up, we all have find ways to cut costs.



EGGS & ISSUES BREAKFAST – TOPIC – STATUS REPORT FROM TEAM VOLUSIA

Speaker - Helen Cauthen, Executive Director for Team Volusia.

Friday, March 18, 7:45 am, Capt's Tavern (next to Main St Bridge)

\$15.00 per person. To RSVP, call the Chamber at 255-0981 ext 225 or email lindsey@daytonachamber.com

CHAMBER HOSTS CITY COUNTY DIALOGUE MEETINGS – it's often these days



that the Volusia County Council & DB City Commission must work together on a joint basis on numerous projects such as E-Zone, beach, CRA's as well as other projects. Both entities are also dealing with dispatch as well as fire & rescue services.

As a means to encourage collaboration

between the City and County, the Chamber sets up meetings between representatives of each group. We plan to arrange additional meetings to build teamwork at the local level.

VCARD HOSTS MEETING with REP DOROTHY HUKILL – on February 2, Rep Hukill

gave VCARD members a preview of the upcoming legislative session.

She said the legislature will try to come up with a good growth management policy along with passing an affordable housing bill.

There will also be a bill that mandates that security cameras be put in parking lot.

Another issue..... sinkholes are costing insurance companies major payouts throughout the state...it comes down to the definition of sinkhole.



Hukill said she recently met with Dept of [Community Affairs Secretary Billy Buzzett](#) and discussed the idea of bringing more land use decisions back to the local level.

She said last year, Florida's unemployment compensation fund had to borrow \$1.8 billion and now has to repay the Federal government nearly \$300 million per month. She realizes that the significant increase in unemployment compensation rates are a hardship on

employers but legislation to address this is being heard in the Economic Affairs Committee (which she chairs).

CHAMBER REPS at FLORIDA CHAMBER LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING – on January 26, Chamber reps heard the Florida Chamber’s David Hart provide a preview of the upcoming legislative session.

With the Legislative session a few weeks away, Hart reminded the audience that Florida has 12 % unemployment (1.1 m people out of work). A usual session has 2500 bills filed but only 400 pass. Threats to Florida include a \$3.8 b budget shortfall in addition to a \$400 million tax increase on unemployment compensation (Fla owes \$2 billion to Feds).



Fla Chamber’s David Hart discusses upcoming session

Small businesses have no access to business capital which is essential to business growth. Citizens Insurance is still the State’s largest insurance carrier but it’s underfunded and if a major hurricane hits, the State will payout extraordinary settlements.

STATE of the COUNTY LUNCHEON – this January 31 presentation, County Chairman Frank Bruno pointed out that He pointed out that the council and staff decreased the General Fund from \$155 to \$132 million and decrease the tax rates.... He also stated that the County is operating with 467 employees less than 2 years ago (via attrition).

Bruno said the County was glad to see the creation of Team Volusia and establishing a business incubator at the Airport and managed by Unv of Central Florida.

Other economic development actions include assisting the relocation of Raydon Corp in Port Orange and Frontier Communications in Deland.



County Chair Frank Bruno presents State of the County

The County app- roved plans and provided \$4 million to assist the opening of Ormond Crossings.

The County’s Ocean Center is Florida’s 5th largest convention facility. The development of a marketing plan will be addressed at Thursday’s Council meeting.

The County coordinated the latest census count which came in at 73 % response (6 % increase over 2000).

The County worked to improve beach safety and added off-beach parking in addition to renovating bathrooms and beach ramps.

Click [State of the County](#) for more details.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETS WITH SEN. JOHN TRASHER -

Thrasher said the Governor was to release his proposed budget the following week. With an estimated \$3.5 billion shortfall, the Governor wants to reduce school property tax funding by \$1.4 billion. The Legislature will work with the Governor on producing an “agreed upon” state budget without raising taxes. Click [Sen Thrasher meeting](#) for more details.



Sen Thrasher discusses upcoming session with Chamber's LAC members

GOVERNOR SCOTT PRESENTS PROPOSED BUDGET – he calls it accountability budgeting — going through each agency budget line-by-line, with an eye toward eliminating, merging or streamlining functions. He wants to achieve savings by eliminating some programs while consolidating functions. SO, releasing his budget recommendations, Scott wants to cut next year's budget \$5 billion (current budget is \$70.4 billion). This includes.....
\$1 billion in savings from reorganization and consolidation of state agencies.
\$2.8 billion savings over 2 years requiring public workers pay 5% of salaries to pensions
\$810 million cut from corporate income tax (5.5 % to 3 %).
\$1 billion cut in property taxes.

[House Speaker Dean Cannon](#) and [Senate President Mike Haridopolos](#) have called tax cut plans a heavy lift. Most spending cuts will come from a third of the budget — \$24 billion — that comes from sales tax dollars. About 80 % of those dollars now go to education and social services i.e. public schools and universities; health care for the poor and disabled; nursing-homes, prisons, courts and other government services. House Speaker Cannon says it'll be a win just to pass a balanced budget that doesn't raise taxes.

CONSOLIDATED COUNTYWIDE FIRE SERVICE DISCUSSED - at their February 3 and 17 meetings, the County Council agreed to invite cities to discuss creating a joint city-county fire department.

The night before, *the Daytona Beach City Commission stated their intention to sever their contract for services with the Sheriff's Office dispatch center*; they are considering joining a Regional Communications Center in SE Volusia to dispatch firefighters/police officers.

The Civic League study identified up to \$5.7 million in savings via attrition by consolidating the county's 13 fire departments. Part of the plan would shift city workers into the Florida retirement system. The council also agreed to consider merging EVAC into the county system.

Last year, Halifax Civic League Fire/Rescue study recommended a consolidated countywide fire department as a means to cut costs and better coordinate service.

Click [Consolidated Fire Service](#) for more details.

YOUR CHAMBER CO-HOSTS VOLUSIA TEACHER of the YEAR....on February 4, Christy Disinger a civics and American history teacher at DeLand Middle School was selected

as Volusia new Teacher of the Year. There were 70 teachers nominated from their schools attending the event.

Approximately 900 people attended the event at the Daytona Beach Hilton.

The Chamber would like to thank **BrightHouse, Halifax Halifax Health, Univ of Central Florida and Daytona Beach Partnership**



Chamber Chair Tom Leek thanks sponsors at Teacher of the Year event

Assn for their support of this event.

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Business – Resident reps discuss issues before the City

BUSINESS – RESIDENTS GROUP CONTINUE

DIALOGUE - this group began several years ago to discuss local issues of interest to the future of Daytona Beach. The group met February 4 to look at the 2011 recommendations from the Chamber and Save our Neighborhoods for the City. Both lists had several recommendations in common. Major topics include.....Code

enforcement.....

DAYTONA BEACH SCHOOL of GOVERNMENT - the City of Daytona Beach, the Chamber and Volusia School District hosted the second session of the Daytona Beach School of Government.....an all-inclusive training program for high school students interested in government.

On February 9, students heard presentations from **Volusia School Supt Dr Margaret Smith, School Board member Al Williams** and **DB City Commissioner Rob Gilliland**.

Volusia Day - March 23! Theme – JOBS FOR VOLUSIA!
Buses depart from Speedway at 6 am / return by 8 pm.
\$25 per person (includes transport, breakfast, lunch & dinner). The Governor, state Cabinet officials & Legislative leaders *have been invited to speak*. Tours/ meetings in the Capitol too! **WE STILL NEED SPONSORS!!!**
Interested in attending? Email Lindsey@daytonachamber.com
More details to come!

HERE IS A LIST OF OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR YOU TO CONTACT.....IF WE’RE TO BE AN EFFECTIVE “VOICE FOR BUSINESS”, WE NEED YOU TO CONTACT THESE OFFICIALS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES....EVEN MORE, GET TO KNOW THEM YOURSELF.....

- Click here for [Congressional Delegation](#)
- Click here for [Legislative Delegation](#)
- Click here for [Volusia County Council](#)
- Click here for [School Board of Volusia](#)
- Click here for [Daytona Beach City Commission](#)
- Click here for [Port Orange City Council](#)
- Click here for [South Daytona City Council](#)
- Click here for [Ormond Beach City Commission](#)
- Click here for [Holly Hill City Commission](#)
- Click here for [Daytona Beach Shores City Commission](#)
- Click her for **Ponce Inlet Town Council**

Click here for [Deland City Commission](#)

Click here for [Deltona City Commission](#)

Click here for [DeBary City Council](#)

Click here for [New Smyrna Beach City Commission](#)

Click here for [Orange City Council](#)

VOLUSIA COUNTY CALENDARS (Commission/Council meetings)

[Daytona Beach](#) - Click [DB City Calendar](#) for dates.

[Ormond Beach](#) – Click [Ormond City calendar](#) for dates.

[Port Orange](#) – Click [Port Orange City calendar](#) for dates.

[Holly Hill](#) – Click [Holly Hill City calendar](#) for dates.

[South Daytona](#) – Click [S. Daytona City calendar](#) for dates.

[Daytona Beach Shores](#) – Click [DB Shores calendar](#) for dates.

[Deland](#) – [Deland calendar](#) for dates.

[Orange City](#) – Click [Orange City calendar](#) for dates.

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[DeBary](#) – Click [DeBary calendar](#) for dates.

[New Smyrna Beach](#) – Click [New Smyrna Beach calendar](#) for dates.

[Volusia County Council](#) – Click [Volusia County calendar](#) for dates.

[Volusia School Board](#) – Click [Volusia County School Board](#) for dates.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

Government Relations Department Vice Chairs –

- Chris Bowler (Daytona Beverages) ; Brad Giles (Giles Electric)
- Legislative Committee Chairman – Vince Lopez (AT&T)
- Education Committee Chair – Amy Nowell
- Local Government Committee Co-Chairs –
- Chris Challis (CobbCole), Andrew Young (Consolidated-Tomoka Land Co.)

The Chamber's Government Relations Dept prepares this newsletter because WE'RE INVOLVED in these because of their impact on your business. We thank our sponsor

[Atlantic Center for Comprehensive Dentistry](#) . For more information, contact Jim Cameron at 566-2140 (day-night or weekends).

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