

**TALLAHASSEE NEWS** - Florida's new **Governor Rick Scott** has stated the business regulations and permitting are partially to blame for Florida's economic struggles and he plans to reform state government i.e. economic development, education, law and order, and health care..... "get rid of the regulations that are killing jobs."

He plans to cut more than \$2 billion in property taxes and corporate income taxes in his first year in office. He will outline the details of the tax and spending cuts with his first budget due February 4.

Florida currently has 12 percent unemployment (more than 1.1 million people out of work) and the state faces a \$2 - \$4 billion budget deficit.

Click [Tallahassee News](#) for more details.

**FLORIDA EAST COAST RAIL PROJECT** - Florida is hoping to restart Jacksonville to Miami passenger rail service.....90 mph 15-stop Amtrak passenger trains using the [Florida East Coast Railway](#) line to link to Tri-Rail (South Florida commuter) and connect to local rail and bus systems and add about \$2 billion in value to areas surrounding the stops by 2021.

Cong. John Mica, Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee supports the project.

The [Florida Department of Transportation](#) has since proposed to kick in \$118 million for the project if the federal government supplies the remaining \$150 million (funding through FY 2013-2014 budget would require state legislative approval).

The Chamber supports the FEC Rail/Amtrak project and will lobby for it in the upcoming legislative session.



Ken Fischer, Comm. Kelly White, Tim Stockman  
discuss trolley routes

**TROLLEYS TO SOON RUN ON BEACH ST** - VOTRAN trolleys which run along A1A will begin running over to Beach St. Service will begin February 7 and run through Labor Day with 2 trolleys running 12 noon to 12 midnight.

**VOTRAN Director Ken Fischer** said, "a one-way fare will be \$1.25 and a 1-day pass costing \$3. One trolley will run a north route along A1A up to Granada and one running a south route

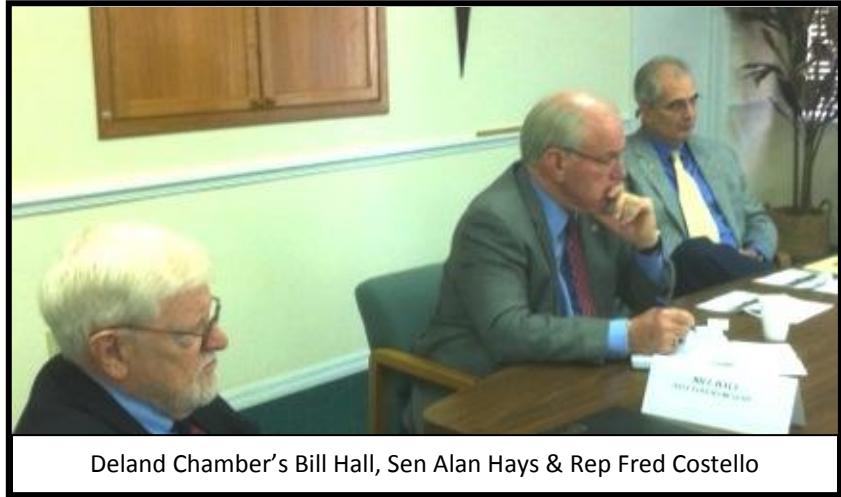
along A1A to Dunlawton. Currently, trolley passenger ratios show 70 percent locals and 30 percent tourists".

**Daytona Beach City Commissioner Kelly White** recently organized a group that will undertake a campaign to promote the new Downtown route. White is "excited about this opportunity to bring beachside passengers to Beach St. It opens more shopping, dining and entertainment possibilities to our locals and visitors alike." Daytona Beach Partnership Association's Naomi Weiss said their group welcomes the trolleys and will work to promote the new route.

To help cover the costs to keep trolleys operating, YOUR Chamber has agreed to help solicit ads on the trolleys. Interested in a trolley ad? Call Jim Cameron, 566-2140.

**SEN ALAN HAYS & REP FRED COSTELLO MEET WITH BUSINESS LEADERS** – on December 17, a meeting was held at the Deland Chamber with members of their governmental Affairs Committee and the Daytona Regional Chamber’s Legislative Action Committee.

Some of the main issues involved economic development and state budget/taxes. Another major concern of the day was the sharp increase in unemployment compensation tax (this



Deland Chamber’s Bill Hall, Sen Alan Hays & Rep Fred Costello

same issue came up last year and it was the first bill approved by the legislature of the 2010 session).

Meanwhile, the Chamber’s Legislation Action Committee (Vince Lopez – AT&T – Chairman) has added support for Fla East Rail/AmTrak project by supporting liability indemnification legislation; and property insurance legislation to allow companies to build adequate reserves to withstand a major hurricane.

Committee members are meeting with members of the Volusia delegation to discuss issues for the 2011 session including tourism, taxing internet sales transactions, and Medicaid.

The Chamber is seeking to arrange a new Tallahassee shuttle during the upcoming legislative session (or at least arrange carpools). Interested? Call Jim Cameron 566-2140.

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**Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010** – last month, Congress approved this legislation which contains –

- a new and extended tax breaks, including a two-year extension of the 2001 Bush-era tax cuts,
- a new 2% payroll tax reduction for 2011,
- a two-year patch of the alternative minimum tax (AMT),
- an extension of federal unemployment benefits for an additional 13 months.
- estate tax relief.

Click [Tax Relief](#) for more details.



## EGGS & ISSUES BREAKFAST – TOPIC – UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Several members of the Volusia Legislative delegation will discuss bills filed what's likely to take place.

**Friday, January 21, 7:45 am at Gene's Steakhouse on US 92**

**\$15.00 per person.** To RSVP, call the Chamber at 255-0981 ext 225 or email [lindsey@daytonachamber.com](mailto:lindsey@daytonachamber.com)

**UPDATE ON LOCAL POST OFFICE ISSUE – from Larry McDermott (Chairman, Save Our Post Office Committee)** No news is... well, no news. In October, the community both residents and business, both workers and government came to a meeting which was to spell the end of the US Postal Service mail processing facility on Bill France Blvd. *A total of up to 158 jobs were to be lost.* Over 450 people attended and over 50 spoke to the USPS officials. Nearly 9,000 letters of support for the facility were turned over to the USPS.

A key date, December 6 passed with no further comment from the USPS. Now we wait? No, in fact **Mayor Ritchey** and the committee consisting of **Hardy Smith, Larry McKinney, Carol Kilian, Kevin Bowler** met to continue with the effort. Engaging our congressman, John Mica, we now are working on an economic case that the Daytona Beach facility should stay open. We will keep you posted as to the continue efforts which continue.

### **DB POLICE CHIEF MIKE CHITWOOD MEETS with LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE - on December 15, DB Police Chief Mike Chitwood met with Local**



Chief Mike Chitwood discusses our local situation with LGC members

Government Committee (**Andrew Young - Consolidated Tomoka Land Co / Chris Challis - Cobb Cole**) to discuss local public safety issues in the Chamber's 2011 priority recommendations.

Chitwood recognized that budgets for local businesses are tight and the same is true

for the city's police department. He stated his staff is constantly seeking more cost effective ways to operate.

Events were discussed and Chitwood said the department works to maintain order to protect our residents yet maintain a hospitable environment for our visitors.

He mentioned legislation in the upcoming legislative session regarding scrap metal dealers and how it could help prevent certain thefts such as copper from construction sights."

Pain clinics have popped up all over the state, including in Volusia County. Within the past six months, four Volusia cities -- South Daytona, Port Orange, Ponce Inlet and Edgewater -- have either approved or introduced moratoriums on new pain clinics.

**CHAMBER MEMBER SURVEYS** - our Healthcare Insurance/Medicaid Survey was sent January 5 followed by our Survey asking if Congress should raise the National Debt Ceiling (sent January 12).

Look for our Who do you Know (Elected Officials)? Survey next week.

The results of these surveys (INCLUDING COMMENTS) are sent directly to our elected officials. All individual surveys are anonymous...*and we're not tattletales!*

The Chamber is a member-based organization and **WE WANT YOUR INPUT!**

**CHAMBER WORKS TO HELP CITY – COUNTY COOPERATION** – on December 17, the Chamber hosted a meeting with **County Chairman Frank Bruno** and **DB Mayor Glenn Ritchey** to discuss issue of common interest.

Some of the topics included the upcoming legislative session, road projects, tourism advertising, as well as others.

The E-zone was of major interest because the appearance of

the core tourist district is important to the future of the Ocean Center. Both agreed that there needs to be coordination of events at the Ocean Center and Peabody auditorium on a community calendar

City - County cooperation is already underway with VOTRAN trolley service being extended from A1A to downtown Beach St.

Cooperation is working well with the new Team Volusia Director Helen Cauthen beginning in January. With 13 percent unemployment, creating new jobs has to be top priority for the coming year.

Coordination of local fire departments and EVAC is critical because budget savings have to happen in the midst of limited tax revenue.

Your Chamber coordinates these meetings on a regular basis because cooperation between cities and the county IS VITAL!



DB Mayor Glenn Ritchey & County Chair Frank Bruno discuss City-County issues

**112th CONGRESS began January 3 with 13 new senators (12R, 1D) and 93 new representatives (84R, 9D).**

**New numbers –**

**\*Senate – 53 Democrats/47 Republicans**

**\*House – 241 Republicans/194 Democrats**

See Congressional delegation for members covering Volusia County.

**COULD YOU BE A SPONSOR FOR THIS NEWSLETTER NEXT YEAR?** We need 4 more sponsors for this newsletter in 2011. **Cost \$100.** This includes an ad from your company along with a link to company website. We can make changes each newsletter so it's a great way to advertise specials or sales. **20 issues going to some 1500 potential customers....interested?** Call Jim Cameron's cell (day or night) at 566-2140 or email [jim@daytonachamber.com](mailto:jim@daytonachamber.com)

**Attorney General Pam Bondi**, Florida's first woman to serve as chief legal officer, plans to push legislation to tighten regulation of pain clinics. BP oil spill claims, Medicaid fraud and gangs. Recently, she named former state (and friend to Volusia) **Sen. Dave Aronberg** to a new post focusing on prescription pill abuse.

Last month, the Volusia Council of Governments approved a resolution asking cities to adopt a moratorium on new pain clinics VCOG Director Mary Swiderski has asked Aronberg to meet with Volusia's committee.

YOUR CHAMBER was there in support. NOTE – *Pam Bondi will be a speaker at Volusia Day on March 23.*

**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](mailto:Lindsey@daytonachamber.com)**

**More details to come!**

**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 January 12, students heard presentations from **TeamVolusia's Sam Goodwin; DB Housing Director Avis Wilkinson; DB Planning Director Rich Walton; DB Redevelopment Director Reed Berger; Chamber President Larry McKinney; and concluded by DB City Commissioner Pam Woods.**

**VOLUSIA TEACHER OF THE YEAR Ceremony**

**Friday, February 4, 6 pm at the Daytona Beach Hilton**

**Co-sponsored by FUTURES and the Daytona Regional Chamber,**

**Volusia's Teacher of the Year will be nominated for the state Teacher of the Year program and will serve as our envoy of quality education for the 2011-2012 school year.**

**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.....**

- 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](#)

## **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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