

CHAMBER TO FOCUS ON LOCAL BUDGETS & TAX RATES – for the past few months, Chamber staff has attended budget workshops for local entities. Why? Because the Chamber will be urging cities, the county, school board and other entities to sharpen their pencils to adopt a lean budget and an affordable tax rate.

In the next several months, the Chamber will forward you its Local Budget & Tax Rate matrix which outlines tentative budgets, TRIM rates, background details leading up to the budget, and a link of contact commission/council members to relay your views on their FY 2011-12 budget. NOTE - July 1 - Property Appraiser Certifies the Tax Roll

Please note final budget hearings take place in September. YOUR CHAMBER will be there. We hope you are there too to back us up!

Some dates for upcoming budget workshops.....

- **Port Orange – June 21, 7 pm; June 28, 5:30 pm.**
- **Daytona Beach – July 20, 4 pm; August 3, 4 pm.**
- **Volusia County Council – July 7, 9:30 am.**
- **Volusia School Board - June 28, 4 pm - adoption of tentative budget and millage rates; July 26, 4 pm Public Hearing to adopt Tentative Budget & Millage Rates; Sept. 13, Final Public Hearing to Adopt Final Budget & Tax Rate**
- **DB Shores – July 22, 10 am**
- **Ormond Beach – July 18, 5:30 (to discuss Operating Budget); July 19, 7 pm – set Tentative Millage rate.**

Look for additional dates and info in our next E-News letter.

Click [2010 Tax Table](#) to see (and save) last year’s local budgets and tax rates. This table gives you a starting point to compare for FY 2011-12.

CONG SANDY ADAMS ADDRESSES CHAMBER MEMBERS AT EGGS & ISSUES BREAKFAST – Adams called President Obama’s economic stimulus recovery a "flop" and that the “federal government needs to limit future spending”.



Cong. Sandy Adams discusses issues with Chamber audience

Adams also mentioned of the House Judiciary Committee’s HJR 1, which proposes a balanced budget amendment (Adams is a co-sponsor). The national debt stands at over \$14 trillion, and deficits continue to increase this amendment would ensure the federal government cannot spend more than it takes in. HJR 1 requires a 3/5 House & Senate vote to increase the debt limit and a 2/3 vote to

pass a bill to increase revenue. It’s a strong check on the runaway spending.

Adams reiterated her support for Cong Paul Ryan's Medicare plan saying that changes will affect anyone 54 and under. "Medicare recipients put in approx \$109,000 and receive approx \$310,000 worth of services and more than 10,000 baby boomers are entering the system EACH DAY. The system has to be reformed to be saved".

Adams signed onto a letter asking NASA Administrator Charles Bolden to define NASA's future and the future of the Space Launch System (SLS). With the halt of NASA's human spaceflight program, numerous layoffs will take place, (and 3500 of those jobs were from Volusia County).

No Eggs & Issues Breakfast in July. Our next Eggs & Issues Breakfast will be in August with Volusia School officials.

CONG MICA ADDRESSES ISB COALITION - on June 6, Cong John Mica told the ISB Coalition that any chance of securing federal funds must show extensive community support.

The coalition is a group of business/community leaders seeking to promote economic opportunities along the 7-mile-long stretch from I- 95 to A1A.

It's a given that incentives for new business must be provided due to fierce competition.

Local matching funds are necessary because the federal government is cutting funds and earmarks have been eliminated.

Volusia is using part of a \$2.4 million federal stimulus grant to include the ISB corridor as one of seven active green sustainability centers.

YOUR CHAMBER is an active member of the ISB coalition.



Cong John Mica addresses Coalition members

A REAL ESTATE VALUES FORUM was hosted by VCARD, DB Area Association of REALTORS® and Daytona Regional Chamber on June 10, where keynote speaker Morgan Gilreath said existing home sales are mixed and lower prices are the norm and that ocean front hotel construction has decreased somewhat. Gilreath also said there have been spikes in residential building.

Gilreath said Volusia County is losing 8.5 percent from its taxable property base and cities vary with Deltona dropping 22.8 percent, DB Shores dropping -----, Edgewater dropping 16.7 percent compared to Port Orange dropping only -----, New Smyrna Beach dropping and Ormond Beach dropping -----.

Gilreath stated, "Prices have gotten back to the place where people can afford to buy," and the outlook looks better after foreclosures and other distressed properties are sold.

The program's other speaker Charles Lentz, an appraiser with Integra Realty Resources said "parts of Volusia are recovering with different types of real estate markets."

Click [Property Appraisal Forecast](#) for Gilreath's presentation.

COUNTY COUNCIL – SCHOOL BOARD RE-APPORTIONMENT - a meeting took place in Deland on June 6 to begin discussion on how to draw district maps that will determine district seats for the next 10 years.



YOUR CHAMBER was there and stated, keep both County Council and School Board districts in sync (it's a savings for the elections dept); keep cities intact and consider the interests of different constituencies, minority groups, economics and tax base. The Chamber also stressed that whoever occupies these seats (county council and school board) should keep one goal in mind....increasing the economic prosperity of Volusia.

Several different plans were discussed in an attempt to provide equitable representation throughout the county. For example, Plan 5 which included 5 east-west horizontal strips was offered but was not well received.

All parties agreed to host meetings to solicit input from the community.

NOTE - Southwest Volusia has grown significantly in the past 10 years compared to other areas (Deltona/DeBary now has 23,000 residents more than the Daytona Beach area).

Click [County Proposals](#) to see maps. The council and board agreed to meet again August 4 to hopefully reach consensus that must be formally adopted by both groups in September.



CONGRESSIONAL - LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING - Redistricting Meeting/Public Hearing on Tuesday, July 12, 6-9 pm, News Journal Center, 221 Beach St. to discuss a preview of how Volusia will be represented in Congress, Fla Senate and House.

[Sen Evelyn Lynn](#) and [Rep Dorothy Hukill](#) serve on the Redistricting Committee.

For more information regarding the redistricting process, click [Florida Redistricting](#)

To see Volusia's current Congressional districts, click [Volusia's Congressional Districts](#)

To see Volusia's current Fla Senate districts, click [Volusia's Senate Districts](#)

To see Volusia's current Fla House districts, click [Volusia's House Districts](#)

To draw your own state and congressional maps, click [Draw District Maps](#)

If you wish to speak at this meeting, click [RSVP Form](#) YOUR CHAMBER will be there and will provide input on redistricting for Volusia.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE – on June 15, the Local Government Committee met with City Manager Jim Chisholm to discuss the E-Zone. The intent of the E-Zone is to provide a walkable retail and entertainment district, active throughout the year. The E-Zone’s focal point is the area around the Main Street and A1A intersection.

The plan also maintains the city’s existing standing as an event city and seeks to help the Ocean Center compete to attract corporate events.

Chisholm said AECOM consultants have compiled a 400-page, \$320,000 report proposes new hotels, greenspace, artificial reef, an expanded pier, a Halifax River marina, restaurants and a motor sports museum, a new



that
new
new

Main Street bridge with a multi-use trail underpass, and fountains..... “It is a long range plan that could take 20 years to come to fruition”.

The plan would seek to build occupancy for hotel rooms in the vicinity, convert Main Street back into a varied mix of businesses opened year-round, increase beachside homeownership and create a year-round destination for locals and tourists.

AECOM’s report offers a full menu of financing options for various projects including grants, property and sales tax increases, meal taxes, development fees, public-private partnerships, tax-exempt bonds, the countywide room tax, a special assessment district in the retail and hotel corridor, a storm water user fee, tax increment financing, public space rentals and special event parking fees.

Parking should be distributed throughout the district and be convenient, bringing motorists close to their desired destination so they could park and walk among historic landmarks that would be protected.

In addition, Chisholm stated that negotiations are continuing with Joe’s Crab Shack for the Main St pier.

YOUR CHAMBER supports the City’s pursuit of the E-Zone (which includes the Ocean Center) and provides adequate parking and quality hotel rooms in the Main Street area.

HELP YOUR BUSINESS AS YOU HELP OUR SCHOOLS - Volusia County Schools has recently authorized website advertising on the school district websites to help offset their drastic budget cuts. It’s a terrific opportunity for your business to reach a target market of 60,000+ students & their parents, and 8,000+ employees.

For more information, contact Nancy Holman, 212-9998, or e-mail NancyHolman@SchoolPartnerships.com or click www.SchoolPartnerships.com

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)

o Legislative Committee Chairman – Vince Lopez (AT&T)

o Education Committee Chair – Amy Nowell

o Local Government Committee Co-Chairs –

o Chris Challis (CobbCole),

o Andrew Young (Consolidated-Tomoka Land Co.)

YOUR Chamber's Government Relations Dept prepares this newsletter because WE'RE INVOLVED with all levels of government 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)...and my guarantee stills stands!

Click here to [Unsubscribe](#)