

**SEN MARCO RUBIO PROVIDES WASHINGTON UPDATE** - on April 27, **Sen Marco Rubio** stated his views of critical issues to approximately 230 attendees at the News Journal Center.

He stated that while the US economy is the largest in the world (3 times the size of the China), it is not growing, it is still economy but our debt load is reaching dangerous levels. In fact, our debt is growing faster than economy and if we continue our current path (spending \$1 trillion a year more than we take in) debt will reach \$22-\$24 trillion. Just as critical is that Medicare will go bankrupt in 9 years.



Sen Rubio addresses audience at NJ Center

He said barriers to our economy include burdensome regulations in addition to a complex tax code. He wants to pass regulatory reform that helps people start businesses, because this is where jobs begin.

As for Fair Tax, Rubio stated that while supports the fair tax and tried to tailor legislation similar to it in Tallahassee. However, he said it currently not enough votes exist to pass it...and there is a long way to go...

As for gas prices, he stated that that short term measures i.e. cutting the Federal Gas tax will not solve the problem because companies will increase the price. On the other hand, he wants the US more oil at home and use our resource more efficiently. "We need to use all resources available in our energy portfolio and those energy options need to be both cost effective...but also safe. Oil Production/efficiency is essential. Raising taxes on those who earn \$250k: Wealthy people have the best accountants and will figure out how to get around paying increased taxes...We can't tax increase our way out of this situation.

Rubio comments on debt ceiling: What are we going to do to reduce the size of the Federal Gov't? We can afford to have a safety net...but we can't afford what we have right now. We need to deal with the deficit now. We should use this as an opportunity to pass a balanced budget. We are running out of time to deal with this now. If there is a debt problem in the U.S....it will make the housing market meltdown look like child's play...

Rubio on 2012 Election: 2012 Election is a Referendum

This event would not have been possible without the assistance of Daytona State College and its staff, as well as the DB Police Dept.

## CHAMBER WORKING WITH COMMERCIAL FISHING GROUPS REGARDING RED SNAPPER BAN – last year, the Federal Government closed red



Sid Preskitt meets with Stephen Heiman & William DeGreef

snapper fishing in the Atlantic. This move has caused a severe economic hardship for commercial fishing business including restaurants as well as tourism. Recently, the group's spokesman **Sid Preskitt** and Chamber representatives went to Tallahassee to. In the Governor's office, they met with **Stephen Heiman** and **William DeGreef** to ask for the State's help in getting this rule

changed to allow snapper fishing in these waters.

Preskitt has forwarded a report from the University of Florida marine scientist, William Kenney regarding SEDAR 15.....the 2008 fish stock assessment that the red snapper ban is based on (the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council voted 7-6 to close Atlantic waters to snapper). It has been said that the National Marine Fisheries Service has no plans to revisit this issue until 2014.

Commercial fishing interest believe that re-opening these waters to red snapper should be followed with a 3-4 year period of data collection, at that time an INDEPENDENT scientific review of the fish stock should be conducted by the National Academy of Sciences.



Chris Challis & Weegie Kuendig review local issue

**DB BUSINESS – RESIDENTS GROUP STILL AT WORK** – as a means to bridge the business AND resident interests in future city projects, this groups continues meeting as a means to work for the common good of the city. The group, though small in size, has taken on some big issues. Currently, they are concentrating on Tenant – Landlord issues.....something that HAS to be addressed by the city.

## CHAMBER HOSTS LOCAL STAFF FOR WASHINGTON OFFICIALS -

**Barbara Arthur (Regional Director for Sen Bill Nelson)** was in town on May 9 to



Barbara Arthur, Tim Kerr, Bob Hands at VA Clinic

meet with business & community leaders. She began her visit by meeting with Attorney **Pete Heebner**. She also met with **Patty Rippey** from the **City of South Daytona** to discuss current programs. Afterwards, she toured the **VA Health Clinic** in DB where she was shown the different facets of services available to ----- veterans.

**Don Pardue (District Director for Cong Sandy Adams)**

was in town to meet with business and community leaders. During this visit, Pardue met

with **Brad Giles (Giles Electric)** to discuss trends in electrical contracting. Afterwards, he met with **School Board Chair & CPA Stan Schmidt** to discuss the concept behind the Volusia Tech Summit (Pardue also attended this Summit at the Daytona International Speedway). He also met with **School Supt Margaret Smith** to discuss Volusia's test scores, career academies and other programs. He then met with **DB City Manager Jim Chisholm** to discuss the City's budget and various local programs.



Brad Giles discusses matter with Don Pardue

The Chamber is also arranging visits with **Dick Harkey/John Booker (Cong John Mica)**, **Susan Fernandez (Sen Marco Rubio)** and **Russ Abrams (Gov Rick Scott)**. **It gives you a direct pipeline to Washington and Tallahassee** and is a great way to relay your views on those particular issues. a great way to relay your views on those particular issues..

Interested in a visit to your business? It's Call Jim Cameron - 566-2140.



## EGGS & ISSUES BREAKFAST – TOPIC – STATUS REPORT from WASHINGTON

**Speaker – Cong Sandy Adams, District 24**

**Friday, June 17, 7:45 am, Daytona State College (Café 101)**

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

**CHAMBER'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE meets with COUNTY CHAIRMAN** - On May 23, the Chamber's Local Government Committee (**Andrew Young - Consolidated Tomoka Land Co / Chris Challis - Cobb Cole - CoChairs**) met with County Chairman Frank Bruno to discuss current issues before the Council.

Bruno said he is pleased that cities come together to establish Team Volusia. Executive Director Helen Cauthen has brought on board Diane Larsen and Kerry Symolon. He was glad to hear of the success of the recent Volusia Tech-Summit. He also said the Volusia County Council put the county's estimated

\$4 million in pension savings (made possible from the recent legislative session) toward the cost of running the new consolidated, countywide emergency dispatch service set to begin October 1. NOTE – this has been a *Chamber Priority Issue!*

Bruno, an active Board member with Central Florida Partnership, said that SunRail has yet to be decided by the Governor. He has until July 1 to make a final decision or the money goes back to the Federal government.

Bruno said the County will soon re-visit impact fees and he is proposing a 1 to 2 year moratorium on impact fees as a means to encourage new construction....”we've seen situations where property values have dropped below the price of impact fees and the county needs to respond by reviewing current policy towards the fees and encourage new economic growth in Volusia”.

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Bruno discusses county matters with LGC members



Judge Belle Schumann explains her proposal to LGC members  
Rose Ann Tornatore & Greg Blose

Click [LGC-Bruno](#) for more details.

On April 28 County Judge Belle Schumann to discuss proposals from her office regarding notice to appear **County Judge Belle Schumann** to discuss proposals from her office regarding notice to appear.

Homeless individuals, with no address, are being cited for loitering and other offenses. She is proposing a new SAVE docket whereby these individuals can do community service in lieu of court costs. Click [SAVE docket](#) for more details.

**RECAP of LEGISLATIVE SESSION** – the House and Senate differed on several issues during the recent session. An Arizona-style immigration proposal failed to make it through both legislative chambers. Governor Scott wanted \$1.7 billion in tax cuts, but the Legislature agreed to only \$308 million (including a \$30 million Corporate Income Tax reduction. The Governor also wanted 5 percent contributions from public employees for their retirement but the legislature agreed to a 3 percent contribution. The business

community (including the Daytona Regional Chamber) urged to change the state's "defined benefit" plan to a "defined contribution or 401-K style plan" but to no avail. The Governor was provided \$344 million for job creation.

Please note that the **DAYTONA REGIONAL CHAMBER IS PLEASED WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE SESSION.** Having to makeup a \$3.8 billion budget shortfall with no tax increases during a weak economy was no easy feat!

**LOCAL BUDGETS BEING CONSIDERED.....AND YOUR CHAMBER ATTENDS THESE MEETINGS.....DAYTONA BEACH REPORT** on May 18, **DB Finance Director Laurie Matta** presented details of the City's financial picture to Commission members. Like elsewhere, property values will play a major role in determining the tax rate. Click [DB Budget Workshop – May 18](#) for more information. Their next budget workshop will be July 20, 4 pm.

**ORMOND BEACH REPORT** - on May 25, Ormond City Staff hosted a town hall meeting to get input on the upcoming budget. **YOUR CHAMBER** was there! Earlier, the Ormond City Commission stated they wanted **NO** increased taxes and to focus on economic development. They also supported pension reform. Several new ideas for the coming fiscal year were mentioned.



City Mgr Shanahan, Finance Director Kelly McGuire & Commissioner Troy Kent at budget workshop

At a recent meeting, City Manager Joyce Shanahan and Finance Director Kelly McGuire

stated that Ormond Beach's reserve fund was about 26% of the operating budget (Fla League of Cities recommends 30%).

Currently, OB has one of the lowest millage rates in Volusia but indicators may signal a tax increase this coming year.....we'll keep you informed.

Key dates to remember.....

- July 18, 5:30 pm           OB City Hall           Budget Workshop
- July 19, 7:00 pm           OB City Hall           Tentative Millage Rate set
- Formal budget hearings take place September 6 and 20, 7 pm   OB City Hall

**YOUR CHAMBER** has been attending the Ormond Beach Budget Council meetings and will **CONTINUE** to follow the process and make recommendations.

**"Florida Real Estate Values..from booming & busting to adjusting,"**  
**10 am, June 3 at Halifax Plantation, Ormond Beach.**

Hosts - VCARD, Daytona Regional Chamber & DB Association of Realtors  
Panelists include Morgan Gilreath, Volusia property appraiser, Charles Lentz of Integra Realty Resources, a national valuation/consulting firm. These experts will discuss local trends and offer their forecasts.

\$30 per person. RSVP to 255-0981 or [lauren@daytonachamber.com](mailto:lauren@daytonachamber.com)

**COUNTY COUNCIL REAPPORTIONMENT** - Six seats county council seats are up for election next year (5 districts and 1 Chair). Same for School Board's 5 districts.

Before then, council districts will be re-drawn to coincide with the 2010 Census Count. **On June 6, 9 am (Old Courthouse in Deland), County Council and School Board members will begin work on boundaries.**

There are currently 3 districts in **East Volusia** and 2 in **West Volusia**.

- **District 1 (DeLand, Lake Helen, Orange City and Northwest Volusia) — 102,936. [Andy Kelly](#)**
- **District 2 (South Daytona, Daytona Beach Shores, parts of Daytona Beach and Port Orange) — 86,632. [Josh Wagner](#)**
- **District 3 (Southeast Volusia, including New Smyrna Beach, Edgewater and Port Orange) — 99,395. [Joie Alexander](#).**
- **District 4 (west and north of Daytona Beach, including Ormond Beach) — 95,663. [Carl Persis](#)**
- **District 5 (Southwest Volusia, including Deltona) —109,967. [County Council Vice Chair Pat Northey](#)**

**[At Large Councilmember](#) is in mid-term.**

**[County Chair Frank Bruno](#) has announced to run for Senate District 7,**

Volusia's population is 494,593 which must be carved into 5 districts of 99,000 each. Next year, County Council Districts 1, 3 and 5 will be on the ballot for two-year terms; Districts 2 and 4 will be up for four-year terms.

Click each of the maps being considered for more details. [Current districts.](#)  
[Plan 1.](#) [Plan 1a.](#) [Plan 2.](#) [Plan 2a.](#) [Plan 2b.](#) [Plan 2c.](#) [Plan 3.](#)

More plans likely to come forth. The County Council has the final say for districts and NOW is a good time to contact YOUR Council member on this.



**Rep Fred Costello** will host a town hall meeting Tuesday, June 7 at 7 pm at Ormond Beach City Commission Chambers to discuss the 2011 legislative session and receive input. Topics will include:

- FY 2011-2012 Budget
- Student Success Act
- Growth Management Reform

- State Economic Development Initiatives
- “Pill Mill” Reform
- Public Pension Reform
- Proposed Constitutional Amendments

On June 8, he will speak at the W Volusia Regional Chamber’s Legislative Luncheon at the Deltona Best Western at 12:00 noon. RSVP to 386-490-4606. He will speak June 14, 7 pm at the DeLand Area Chamber’s Legislative Update at Stetson’s Rinker Auditorium. RSVP to 386-734-4331.

**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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