March 2017

The Communicator

Ruth A. Buchanan, MBA, CeCd
Economic Development Program Manager
City of North Port

North Port Economic Development Summit

What will the City of North Port look like in 7 – 10 years? That was the question put to public and community leaders that attended the Economic Summit as they reviewed and critiqued the initial efforts to craft the Economic Development Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

“Too long.” “Partner with regional organizations.” “Attract higher paying jobs.” “Focus on quality of life.”

These were just a few of the comments made to help the staff and city commission create programs as the City continues to create a vision of what it wants to be.

One thing that came from the Summit was that North Port businesses and residents are excited about the future of the City. Whether it will become a tourist destination with the attraction of the Braves and the redevelopment of Warm Mineral Springs, it was clear from the response of the group that North Port will continue to grow and change.

The excitement of the City’s first Economic Summit is an encouragement for its leadership to continue to strive to meet the needs of the residents through the guidelines being established in the Economic Development Element.

March 2017

1st 7:30am  Breakfast Club Networking  (Subway inside WalMart, 17000 Tamiami Trail)
3rd 9:00am  Marketing & Communication Committee  (Key Agency, 14942 Tamiami Trail).
4th 9:00am  Business & Community Expo  (George Mullen Activity Center, 1602 Kramer Way)
7th 3:30pm  Professional Development & Education Committee  (Panera, 17899 Tamiami Trail)
8th 8:00am  Capacity Building Committee  (Key Agency, 14942 Tamiami Trail)
10th 8:00am  Leadership North Port  (Warm Mineral Springs, 1220 San Servando).
12th 12:00pm  Annual Spring Mixer  (Charlotte County Sports Complex, 2300 El Jobean Rd., Pt. Char.)
14th 8:30am  Membership Development Committee  (Panera Bread, 17899 Tamiami Trail).
14th 5:30pm  Business After Hours  (Rhonda Gustitus Team, 1032 Tamiami Trail Unit 7, Pt. Char.)
15th 8:30am  Member Retention Committee Meeting  (Key Agency, 14942 Tamiami Trail).
15th 11:30pm  A Night at The Races Kickoff Luncheon  (Beef O’Brady’s, 1037 Sumter Blvd.
16th 11:30pm  Network at Noon  (Beef O’Brady’s, 1037 Sumter Blvd.
16th 5:30pm  NPYP Mixers  (Buffalo Wings & Rings, 1081 W. Price Blvd.)
17th 12:00pm  Multi Chamber Appreciation Baseball Game  (Charlotte County Sports Complex, 2300 El Jobean Rd., Pt. Char.)
21st 12:00pm  NPYP - Exe Board/public welcome  (Buffalo Wings & Rings, 1081 W. Price Blvd.)
28th 8:30am  Business & Economic Development Committee  (SMH ER 2345 Bobcat Village Center Rd., 2nd Floor)
29th 8:00am  Chamber Orientation  (SMH ER 2345 Bobcat Village Center Rd., 2nd floor)
30th 8:30am  Government Relations Committee  (SMH ER 2345 Bobcat Village Center Rd., 2nd floor)
The North Port Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting the Annual Business & Community Expo this Saturday, March 4, 2017 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at the George Mullen Activity Center, located at 4956 City Center Boulevard in North Port. The Annual Business & Community Expo is a FREE event to the public and is designed to introduce local businesses to the community and allow them to showcase their products and services. The public will receive complimentary "goodie bags" filled with promotional items provided by Chamber businesses and a chance to win raffle prizes being offered by each Vendor Booth at the Expo. Two tickets to a Tampa Bay Rays Spring Training Baseball Game will be given away every hour of the Expo. A Grand Prize Raffle for 2 tickets on the Key West Express will be offered.

The North Port Area Chamber of Commerce will be conducting a "Do The Hustle" Membership Drive from March 4 - 10, 2017. The Chamber has established four friendly competitive teams that will be competing to solicit and secure the most new businesses to join the Membership Drive. Current Chamber members have the opportunity to participate in the Membership Drive either on a team or individually and have the opportunity to win fabulous incentives and prizes in the following categories: individual ($90.00 in incentives), team ($235.00 in incentives) and overall winner ($1,215.00 in incentives). Every new business that joins the Chamber during the Membership Drive will receive over $800.00 in incentives that have been donated by current Chamber members. The Membership Drive will kick-off at the Business & Community Expo on Saturday, March 4, 2017 at the George Mullen Activity Center. This is a great opportunity for new business to join the Chamber and experience the power of Chamber networking and take advantage of all of the benefits that the Chamber has to offer to help their business grow and succeed.

The North Port Area Chamber of Commerce will be holding its' Annual Spring Mixer at the Tampa Bay Rays -vs- Toronto Blue Spring Training Baseball Game on Sunday, March 12, 2017 at the Charlotte Sports Complex. This event is open to all Chamber Members and Chamber Member Guests and will be held on the outfield Party Deck. The cost is $40.00 per person and includes: a ticket to the game, food buffet & drinks (includes: dogs, BBQ pulled pork, baked beans, pasta salad, chips, cookies, soda, water and BEER). The game begins at 1:05 pm and the gates open at 12:00 noon. The deadline to purchase tickets is Wednesday, March 8, 2017.

Sincerely,

William J. Gunnin
William J. Gunnin
Executive Director
North Port Area Chamber of Commerce

Visit us at www.northportareachamber.com

Inserts: Golf Tournament Sponsor Luncheon, Annual Meeting & State of the City Address Luncheon, Ball Law Center, City of North Port, Scramblin on the Green Golf Tournament Sponsorship, Scramblin on the Green Golf Tournament Registration, Business After Hours, Chamber Orientation, North Port Map Advertising, Marketing Plus Program, Advertise in The Communicator, Shop North Port.
Membership Drive
March 4–10, 2017

Over $800 in Incentives to New Members!

Membership Application Fee is Waived!

Membership Drive Begins at the Business & Community Expo! Saturday, March 4th
George Mullen Activity Center
Quality Health Care Center presents
North Port Area Chamber of Commerce
31st Annual Business & Community Expo
Saturday, March 4th
9AM - 3PM
@ George Mullen Activity Center in North Port

Vendor sponsor

Thank you to our Event SPONSORS

- Accurate Gas & Plumbing, LLC
- Acuity Group Management, Inc.
- All Inclusive Destinations
- Allstate Insurance - Steve Matthews
- Always Air Heating & Cooling, LLC
- Certain Water Services
- Courtney Insurance Agency
- Do-Well Painting, LLC
- Florida Physical Therapy Specialists
- Fur to Feathers Pet Sitting Services
- Heartland
- J & J Processors
- Murdock Stones, Etc.
- Paw Pals Pet Sitting & Transportation
- Rhonda Gustitus Team
- Sarasota Memorial Health Care
- Superior Pools of SWFL

For more information please contact the North Port Area Chamber of Commerce 941-564-3040
The North Port Area Chamber of Commerce is happy to announce the following as partners in our mission. We suggest you support local business. Always buy Chamber!!

**Welcome Newest Members!**

**North Star Bookkeeping, LLC**
*Jean Clappe-Mixell*

**Red Wing Shoes**
*Amanda Simon*

**Coldwell Banker Sunstar Realty, Commercial**
*Stephen Lewis*
The North Port Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to have these partners renew their annual investment in the community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business</th>
<th>Partner Since</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presto Air</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slack Orthodontics</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred Tower III</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Busey Bank</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Port Sun</td>
<td>1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleep Inn &amp; Suites Port Charlotte</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mellor &amp; Grissinger</td>
<td>1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Kaufman Roofing</td>
<td>1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Port Square</td>
<td>2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Namack Portfolio Investment Professionals</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyle Kurtis Salon &amp; Spa</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrity Employee Leasing, Inc.</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamsher Homes</td>
<td>1992</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Salvation Army</td>
<td>2005</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Chamber Networking Breakfast

Location: Subway

Address: (Inside Wal-mart)
17000 Tamiami Trail
North Port

Day/Date/Time:
Wednesday
March 1, 2017
7:30am

**There is no cost to attend unless you wish to order breakfast off their delicious breakfast menu**
Save The Date!
The Child Protection Center North Port Office Ribbon Cutting and Open House!

Meet The Staff!

Tours!

Light Bites!

Learn how you can help!

Date:
March 2, 2016

Time:
4PM-6PM

Address:
2530 Bobcat Village Center Road
North Port, FL 34287

RSVP by 2/23/17: myaw@cpcsarasota.org or 941-365-1277 Ext. 120

NORTH PORT Area Chamber of Commerce
## 2017 North Port Small Business Lunch & Learn

The 2017 North Port Small Business Lunch and Learn program is a series of monthly workshops to assist business owners with improving their business and staying competitive. All workshops are held at the Community Room at Sarasota Memorial Healthcare, 2345 Bobcat Village Center Road in North Port. The lunches and workshops are offered at no cost thanks to the generosity of our workshop sponsors. Workshops begin at 11:30 AM and conclude by 1:00 PM. Please register at www.northportareachamber.com.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Workshop Sponsor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>Clubs, Organizations and Programs to Help Your Business Grow</td>
<td>Christian Brothers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>Time Management</td>
<td>Presto Taxi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>Effective Networking Using Your Elevator Speech</td>
<td>NorthPort Florida Achieve Anything</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 8</td>
<td>Using Technology Tools in Your Business</td>
<td>Mike Lowe CPA, LLC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 13</td>
<td>Creating and Using Business Plans, Mission and Vision Statements</td>
<td>SCORE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 10</td>
<td>Using Social Media (Facebook) to Benefit Your Business</td>
<td>Len Landa Tree Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 14</td>
<td>Managing Your Online Reputation</td>
<td>Ball Law Firm ball.lawcenter.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 12</td>
<td>How to Develop Business Alliances and Referral Marketing</td>
<td>Flagler Pediatric &amp; Family Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 9</td>
<td>Creative Ways to Promote your Business on a Shoestring Budget</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
North Port Area Chamber of Commerce

Annual Spring Mixer

Sunday, March 12, 2017

Game Time: 1:05 pm · Gates Open at 12:00 noon

Toronto Blue Jays
- vs -
Tampa Bay Rays

Spring Training Baseball Game

Charlotte County Sports Complex, 2300 El JoBean Road, Port Charlotte

Tickets: $40.00 per person

Includes:
Admission to Game

Food & Drink Buffet
(includes: hot dogs, BBQ pulled pork, baked beans, potato salad, chips, cookies, beverages including BEER)

The Chamber Member Mixer will be held on the Outfield Party Deck
Deadline to Purchase Tickets is Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Yes! Please reserve ______ ticket(s) for the Annual Spring Mixer Amount: $___________

Name(s):
________________________________________

Business:
________________________________________

Address:
________________________________________

Telephone:
________________________ Email:
________________________________________

Method of Payment: VISA MasterCard Credit card #:
Exp Date: _______ CVV (3 #’s on Back of Card): _______ Zip Code: _____________

Check enclosed: Check #__________ Cash: __________ Invoice (members only): ____________

North Port Area Chamber of Commerce • 15141 Tamiami Trail, North Port, Florida 34287
Phone: (941) 564-3040 • Fax: (941) 423-5042 • Website: www.northportareachamber.com
NORTH PORT Area Chamber of Commerce

Business After Hours

Tuesday March 14, 2017

Sponsored & Hosted by:

RGT
RHONDA GUSTITUS TEAM

1032 Tamiami Trail, Unit 7 - Port Charlotte

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
A Night At The Races

Kick off luncheon

NORTH PORT
Area Chamber of Commerce

Join us to learn about Ticket Prices, Event & Race Horse Sponsorship Opportunities and Event Details!

Wednesday, March 15, 2017
at Beef O’Brady’s | 1037 Sumter Blvd.
11:30 am - 1:00pm
Food Buffet-$12 per person
(Buffalo Sliders, Hot Dogs, French Fries & Cole Slaw / Vegetarian option of Vegetarian Rice Bowl)

Cost: Individual—$12.00 per person

___ Yes, I’d love to attend the Kick-off Luncheon for the 2017 A Night at the Races

Name:

Company

Please reserve ________ ticket(s) at $______ The following people will be attending:

1. ____________________________ 4. ____________________________
2. ____________________________ 5. ____________________________
3. ____________________________ 6. ____________________________

___ check enclosed ___ invoice me ___ below is my credit card information

Card type: Visa/MasterCard/Discover Number:

Expiration Date: _________ CVV: _________ Zip Code: _________

Signature: ____________________________
Luncheon at BEEF ‘O’ BRADY’S

Thursday, March 16, 2017
1037 Sumter Blvd.
11:30 am—1:00 pm

Chamber Members: $15.00 each / Non Chamber Members $20.00 each

Yes! Reserve ______ seat(s) for the Network @ Noon Luncheon for a total payment of $__________
Name(s):___________________________________________________________
Business:__________________________________________________________________________________________
Telephone/Email:_____________________________________________________________________________________
Chamber of Commerce Affiliation:________________________________________________________________________

Payment Method: Credit Card _______ Check _______ Cash _______

Credit Card Number: ________________________________________________
Exp. Date: _______ Security Code: _____ Zip Code: ____________

North Port Area Chamber of Commerce • 15141 Tamiami Trail • North Port • Florida • 34287
Phone: (941) 564-3040 • Fax: (941) 423-5042

*** Registration Deadline: Tuesday March 14, 2017 ***
CHAMBER APPRECIATION GAME

PRESENTED BY: RAYS STONE CRABS

FRIDAY, MARCH 17 vs. TWINS
CHARLOTTE SPORTS PARK AT 1:05
ENJOY A BOARDWALK TICKET TO THE GAME $17
FREE DRAFT BEER THROUGH 3RD INNING
ORDER BY MARCH 1ST

ENJOY YOUR OWN PRIVATE AREA AT THE GAME WHILE PROMOTING THE EVENTS IN YOUR AREA!

To Order Mail To:
Charlotte Stone Crabs Baseball Team, Attn: Sales Dept. 2300 El Jobean Rd. Port Charlotte, FL 33948 Or Fax: (941) 206-3599 or Call (941) 206-3515

Payment & Account Information
Name: ____________________________ Picnic Ticket: ______ x $17 = ________
Home Address: ________________________________ TOTAL: __________________
______________________________ __________________________
City: _____________ ST: ______ Zip: ______
Phone: ________________________________ Card #: ________
Email Address: ________________________________ Exp. Date: ______ CVV# ________

941.206.HITS STONECRABSBASEBALL.com
The North Port Area Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Chamber Orientation for new or current Chamber members that wish to learn more about the Chamber of Commerce and how to make use of what the Chamber has to offer to help make their business be successful.

The Orientation will take place at the Sarasota Memorial Hospital ER - Community Room, located at 2345 Bobcat Village Center Rd., 2nd Floor, North Port, on Wednesday, March 29, 2017 from 8:30 am—9:30 am.

There is no cost to attend the Orientation and donuts, coffee & water will be provided.

To reserve a spot for the Orientation, please call the Chamber office at (941) 564-3040 or e-mail kclark@northportareachamber.com
S.C.O.R.E. Mentoring Program

Beginning June 10, 2016 & on the 2nd Friday of each Month, Port Charlotte S.C.O.R.E. (Service Corps of Retired Executives), in partnership with the North Port Area Chamber of Commerce, will offer Mentoring Sessions at the Common Grounds Meeting Hall, located at 12737 Tamiami Trail South in North Port.

One hour appointments at no cost or fee are available from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm for interested individuals and companies who want to start or expand a business.

Reserve your appointment time by contacting the North Port Area Chamber of Commerce Office at (941) 564-3040. kclark@northportareachamber.com

Mentoring sessions are reserved on a first-come/first-served basis. If further help is needed or indicated after the initial hour session, a future Client Mentoring Plan will be organized.
Advertise in our monthly **Electronic Newsletter**, 

**The Communicator**!
(replacing the mail out version)

Advertising is the best way to communicate the existence of a product in the market to its prospective customers. A good advertisement generates demand and it will in turn increase the sale of the product. Does your customer know you’re there? If not, they may turn to your competitor. Don’t let that happen!

**Advertising in The Communicator** is an affordable and proven way to generate business!

*The Communicator* reaches over 1200 recipients.

Your next customer could be one of them!

---

**Monthly Cost (1 sided) in The Communicator is NOW ONLY $50**

Complete the form below and fax to (941) 423-5042 to get on the schedule! Reserve Your Spot Now! Limited space available each month! **First Come, First Served!**

Call today or fax this flyer back to us with your reservation! Please supply us with a JPEG or Word document of the flyer you wish to have inserted.

☑️ Yes! Sign me up for the month(s) of: __________________________________________

Business Name & Contact Name __________________________________________

Email & Phone: __________________________________________

North Port Area Chamber of Commerce
15141 Tamiami Trail, North Port, FL 34287
Phone: (941) 564-3040 · Fax: (941) 423-5042
info@northportareachamber.com · www.northportareachamber.com
Marketing Plus Promotion Package

1) Banner Ad in Category Page - $599.00 per year:
   - Limited rotating 468px x 60px Banner Ad

2) Enhance Listing - $249.00 per year:
   - Priority placement over basic members on category page.
   - Logo, web link and 200 character description.
   - Expanded Listing which includes:
     - Additional web-links
     - Up to 8 photos/images
     - 20 Key words
     - 1600 Character description
     - 5 Bullet points

3) Priority Listing - $99.00 per year:
   - Priority placement on category page

Name: ________________________________________________
Business: ____________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
Telephone/Email ________________________________________
Package Selection: 1 ( ) 2 ( ) 3 ( )
Method of Payment:
Credit card (Visa/MasterCard)#: ____________________________
Exp Date: _______ CVV (3 #'s on Back of Card): ____________
Check enclosed: Check #_________________________ Cash: ___________ Invoice: ___________

Online payments accepted.
North Port Area Chamber of Commerce, 15141 Tamiami Trail, North Port 34287
www.NorthPortAreaChamber.com • Fax: 941.423.5042 • Phone: 941.564.3040
Escape Rooms Unlocked Ribbon Cutting | February 3, 2017
Business After Hours | Olde World Restaurant | Wed, Feb. 15th
Executive Committee:
President: Mike Williams (ClickWiz)
Immediate Past President: Lance Broat (Venice Print Center)
Incoming President: Linda Zick (Mary Kay Cosmetics)
Treasurer: Ray Witkowski (Key Agency, Inc.)
Secretary: Gale West (Your Health Consultant)

Directors:
Matt Dill (Stellar Web Productions)
Lori King (Quality Health Care Center)
Kelly Louke (Charlotte State Bank & Trust)
Jamie Lovern (Lolablue, LLC)
Steve Matthews (Allstate Insurance Agency)
Kim Quigley (BB&T Bank)
Amy Schuldt (Kyle Kurtis Salon & Spa)
Debbie Snowden (Coldwell Banker Sunstar Realty)
Bill Werdell (Achieva Credit Union)

Staff:
William Gunnin, Executive Director
Kim Clark, Office Coordinator
Karol Bent, Administrative Assistant

Your Chamber Working For You

The mission of the North Port Area Chamber of Commerce is to promote and encourage business prosperity through advocacy, engagement and cooperation.