COMMUNITY LEADERS RECOGNIZED

The Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches held its Annual Business Awards Breakfast with 400 community and business leaders at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. Three Beach County companies that lead with confidence, demonstrating a solid commitment to their business goals, their employees and their local community. The 2017 Award Recipients are: Non-Profit of the Year: Palm Beach Zoo & Conservation Society; Diversity Organization of the Year: Chamber Children’s Services Council; Business of the Year: Brightline, Palm Beach Zoo & Conservation Society.

The Chamber thanks Governor Rick Scott for declaring a public emergency on May 3, 2017. The Chamber thanks Governor Rick Scott for declaring a public emergency to fight the opioid epidemic. This action will result in additional funds becoming available to fight this crisis.

The Chamber also debuts its new video at the breakfast. Produced by Lemonlight Media, the video features several Chamber members and highlights their success in the Chamber. To view the video, visit the Chamber website at www.palmbeaches.org or follow the Chamber on social media.

Palm Beach County District 6 Commissioner Melissa McKinlay addressed the Board of Directors regarding the opioid epidemic impacting the State of Florida. She addressed the Board that nearly 600 people died in Palm Beach County in 2016 from opioid-related overdoses. The Commissioner and Chief Judge Cohen at the 15th Judicial Circuit have both declared a public emergency in their counties calling on the Governor to declare a public emergency. After discussions with Commissioner McKinlay, the Board voted to join the Commissioner and Chief Judge Cohen in their request to the Governor. The Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches will request that Governor Scott declare a statewide public health emergency to fight the opioid epidemic. This action will result in additional funds becoming available to fight this crisis.

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From left: Matthew Hoffman, Suger Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida; Daniel J. Comerford, III, Ph.D., Palm Beach Zoo & Conservation Society; Kathryn Vecellio and Leo Vecellio; Dave Howard, Brightline; Carey O'Donnell, O'Donnell Agency; Dr. Lisa Williams-Taylor, Children’s Services Council; Patrick Franklin, UrbanLeague of Palm Beach County. PHOTO BY CARMEN PHILIPPI

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BrightGreen, BrightOrange coming soon

Join us on Monday, May 23 at 7:45 a.m. at the Palm Beach Grove Convention Center, 400 Clematis St., Suite 200, West Palm Beach, for our warm up run. Mark Wilson will be addressing the impact of the recently concluded 2027 legislative session on Florida business.

Mark Wilson serves as President and CEO of Florida’s largest and most influential business advocacy organization. The Florida Chamber focuses on creating a business climate that generates prosperity and high-paying jobs, vibrant communities and global competitiveness in our state. For more information or to register, visit www.palmbeaches.org. The breakfast is sponsored by TriRail and South Florida Regional Transportation Authority.

TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT

Bill Newgent

Bill Newgent is the host and producer of City Voice podcast. A longtime resident of West Palm Beach, Newgent has been a local voice for quality of life issues, smart development, equity, and social justice. He is a Washington D.C. city council member, a local radio producer throughout the 1990s, focusing on local, national and international political news and analysis. In 1999, he formed a real estate investment and development company that focused on blighted, historic West Palm Beach neighborhoods. Newgent serves as Vice President and Board Member At Large for the Grandview Heights Neighborhood Association.

The Young Professionals of the Palm Beaches experienced the prime time classic rock flash back at the South Florida Sci-ence Center & Aquarium. The evening started with a round of golf in the brand new mini golf course. Guests were allowed to tour the entire museum including the aquarium and the exhibit Our Body: The Universe Within. Our next YPOP event is the Palm Beaches enthusiastically endorses YMCA expansion at Brown Branch

The Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches enthusiastically provided conceptual endorsement of the YMCA of the Palm Beaches’ proposed expansion project. The project would take place at the NMI’s Brown Branch at 299 South Congress Avenue in Palm Springs.

The YMCA Board is proposing a partnership with the Chamber that would create a state-of-the-art recreation and wellness center in the heart of Palm Beach County’s population center.

Chamber members who wish to explore this unique and exciting project, please contact the Chamber.

New Business Publication Now Available

Schmidt Nichols opens new office on North Flagler Drive

Schmidt Nichols is an award-winning landscape architecture and urban planning firm providing a full-service approach to the development of public and private spaces for communities, businesses and individuals. Founder and Principal, Mark G. Schmidt & Associates, the firm was established in 2000 by Jon Schmidt, who recently expanded the company with Josh Nichols to offer a wide array of design and planning solutions. Schmidt Nichols now at 1707 South Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach, FL 33401. Call 561-684-6141 or go to www.snilandplan.com.

The Chamber has launched its newest publication, the Small Business Guide to the Palm Beaches. It offers the concrete and valuable information for the new business owner to help guide them on their start up journey. It also serves as a local resource that helps you navigate the waters of business loans, grants, labor laws, taxes and continuing education. Important numbers to know and information on emerging area business sectors, such as the Flagler Financial District, are included.

The Guide will highlight Chamber Members, and highlight the leadership of the Chamber. These business men and women are the best and brightest of the Chamber and represent a variety of business categories and industries.

For a copy of the publication, visit the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches at 400 S. Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach, FL 33401 or online at palmbeaches.org.

Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches

Sooner, we will welcome two new train stations in Florida: BrightGreen and BrightOrange. They will soon depart California en route to WorkShop B in West Palm Beach, marking the first time two trains will be delivered at once. Chamber CEO, Bill Newgent recently posted 200 jobs on LinkedIn related to Brightline.