



# COASTLINES

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GREATER FORT WALTON BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

NOVEMBER 2020



**Heather Ruiz**  
Destin Commons  
**2021**  
Chair of the Board



**Gus Gusoff**  
Emerald Coast Harley-Davidson

2022 Chair Elect



**Stephen Perkins**  
Warren Averett

Treasurer

## MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER BOARD



**Jessy Bautista**  
Lisa Jo Spencer, P.A.



**Shantelle Dedicke**  
Frances Roy Agency



**Dr. Devin Stephenson**  
Northwest Florida State College



**Teresa Halverson**  
The Manor at Bluewater Bay



**Jared Williams**  
Get The Coast



**Trisha Marks**  
SimpleHR



**Todd Jackson**  
Fort Walton Beach Medical Center

2021

# A Message From The Chair Of The Board

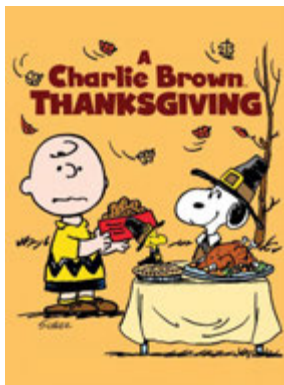
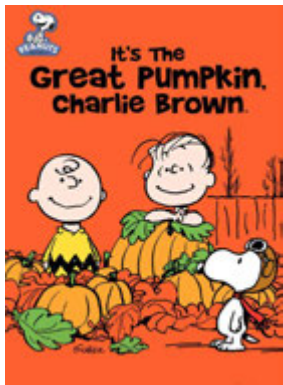


**Vince Mayfield**  
Chair of the Board  
CEO, Bit-Wizards

## Lessons from Charlie Brown

As a kid growing up, there are three shows that, as an adult, I look forward to every year. It starts with the Great Pumpkin, then on to Thanksgiving with Friends, and ends with Harking the Herald, the coming of Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the true meaning of Christmas. I can hear the melodic tunes of the Vince Guaraldi Trio, as the Peanuts Gang brings the year to a close while reminding us of the meaning of the holidays.

If you haven't guessed by now, I am talking about It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown, A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving, and A Charlie Brown Christmas.



This year has been challenging for many people. Negativity has seemed to rule the day with the election, a pandemic, and people disagreeing. As I write this article, it is Oct 12, and it is three weeks before the election. I pray that when you are reading this in November, we have been blessed with a favorable outcome for the School Cents Makes Sense Campaign.

Recently, your 2021 Chair, Heather Ruiz, and I were talking. We, along with other good people, have been at the forefront of the battle in the School Cents Makes Sense Campaign. Our only goal is to support our schools and our community. We want them adequately funded to ensure they are a secure, healthy, and safe learning environment for our community's children. I use the word battle because the negativity and vitriol we have experienced for what should be a unifying cause for our community were taking a toll on our psyche. Then Heather said:

**“Remember, that there is good out there, we just need to embrace those positive stories of people doing great things for others in our area.” She is right!**

There are plenty of positive things to be thankful for in November, and we should rejoice and revel in them! There have been and continue to be many people doing great things for others. There are great things happening all over our community. Leading the charge is our Chamber and our chamber membership, making a positive impact in our community.

Life is precious, and we have had some close calls this year with members of our community. But positive acts of good have made an impact on individual lives.

These examples come to the top of my mind:

Right before the beginning of 2020, Kim Denman, a member of our Chamber and board member, suffered an aneurysm. Our Chamber and people in the community rallied and helped with family meals, prayers, and donations for her recovery. - Good in Action

Many of you know Kathy Houchins, a member of our board needs a kidney. She had a donor, then lost that donor in a tragedy. But in a God Wink, his mercy and grace brought her another donor. Our community has rallied behind her by doing a telethon and securing donations to help cover the cost. - Good in Action

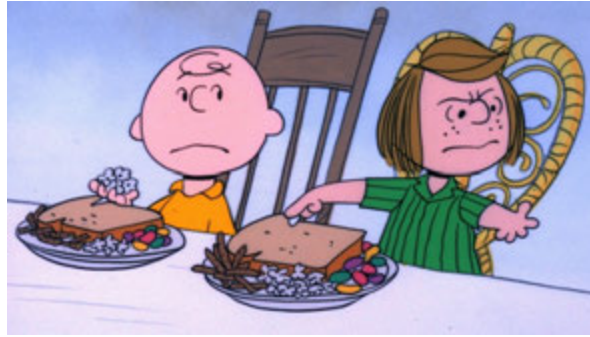
**I reviewed all the Coastlines over the past ten months, and I found a list of positive things making a difference in Okaloosa County. Here are a few:**

- One Hopeful Place Received a 500K Grant to Service The Homeless in Okaloosa County
- Cox Charities Awarded 20K to Gulf Coast Non-Profits
- Emerald Coast Harley Davidson was Recognized Nationally by Harley Davidson with a Silver Bar & Shield Circle of Recognition
- Fort Walton Beach Medical Center Received a Unit of Distinction Award and an Eisenberg Patient Safety & Quality Award
- Beach Community Bank Launched “Beach Cares” to Assist Businesses and Individuals Financially During COVID-19



- Boys & Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast Named Jacinda Rassa The 2020 Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year
- The United Way of the Emerald Coast provided 70K in Relief for 15 Local Non-Profits for COVID-19
- White Wilson Community Foundation Provided Emergency COVID-19 Grants to Non-Profits
- Big Brothers Big Sisters recognized Big Brother Marcus Dillard from Okaloosa County with the 2020 Michael Robidoux Hero Award
- MAG Aerospace Announced as Finalist for the 2020 Florida Sterling Manufacturing Business Excellence Awards
- The Okaloosa Economic Development Council Unveiled Startup Okaloosa Virtual Incubator to Assist Local Entrepreneurs
- The Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, Hughes Consulting, Warren Averett CPAs, and Okaloosa County to Provide Videos on PPP, SBA Loans, and Florida Disaster Relief Loans to Area Businesses
- The Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce Launched the Spend Lokaloosa Campaign
- The City of FWB provides Small Business Grants to Businesses effected by COVID-19

There were countless other examples of good news happening in our community. We have much to be thankful for in 2020. When you go to the Thanksgiving table this year, please don't be Peppermint Patty and let all the things wrong cloud your view.



Think positive, inventory the good, and be like Snoopy, Woodstock, Charlie Brown, and the whole Peanuts Gang.



It reminds me of a great quote:

**“Instead of worrying about what people say of you, why not spend time trying to accomplish something they will admire.” - Dale Carnegie**

We have accomplished so much this year and have done so much good for our community. Our Chamber and All of You have my admiration!

Let's Finish the Year out Strong, and look back and count our blessings and accomplishments this year together.

**Vince Mayfield**, Chair of the Board

## 2020 CHAMBER LEADERSHIP TEAM

### OFFICERS

Vince Mayfield | Bit-Wizards  
*Chair of the Board*

Heather Ruiz | Destin Commons  
*2021 Chair-Elect*

Matt Turpin | Bank of England Mortgage  
*Immediate Past Chair*

Stephen Perkins | Warren Averett  
*Treasurer*

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Barbara Britt  
Barbara J. Britt, LLC

Gus Gusoff  
Emerald Coast Harley-Davidson

Paul Stinebiser  
Edward Jones Investments

Donna Tashik  
Fresh Start For Children & Families

Bill Roberts  
Barnes Insurance & Financial Services

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Maureen Bierman  
Nic Dezinski  
Robin Donlon  
Lino Maldonado  
Brooke McLean  
Shervin Rassa

#### Term 2019-2021

Barbara Britt  
Lisa Curry  
Diane Fraser  
Gus Gusoff  
Gordon King  
David Presnell  
Paul Stinebiser

#### Term 2018-2020

Steve Baxter  
Kim Denman  
Mark Hamrick  
Vince Mayfield  
Heather Ruiz  
Vicki Tarro  
Donna Tashik

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C. LeDon Anchors  
Kathy Houchins  
Bruce Marshall  
Jeanne Rief  
Joyce Sanders  
Lisa Jo Spencer

# A Message From The FWBC President



**Ted Corcoran, IOM**  
President/CEO  
Greater Fort Walton  
Beach Chamber of  
Commerce

## STEM is The Future of Okaloosa County

Just 30 years ago, the Destin/Fort Walton Beach area was not a Top 50 vacation destination in the United States. Stores closed after Labor Day—not to re-open until spring. Now our community is one of the top 50 vacation destinations in the world.

We have flourished due to beautiful beaches and our love of the military. Tourism pioneers such as The Abbotts, Dale Peterson, Peter Bos, The Tolbert family and others have promoted this area as the perfect family vacation area. And it is.

**However for the last 20 years folks have talked about, “the other leg of the stool”. We have tourism, the military—what else can we do to advance our community?**

While the tourism industry was skyrocketing upwards in the 1990's and 2000's, and more and more people were

driving on Hwy 98 at 5PM to catch the happy hour specials at their favorite restaurant, another pioneer rode into town. Dr. Paul Hsu. He knew what that third leg of the stool should be for NW Florida—but unfortunately not everyone understood his vision. It can be really challenging for most of us hospitality folks to understand what STEM is.

For many of us—the reason we are in the hospitality industry is because we didn't do well in Science –much less Technology—Engineering ---MATH!!!!

**In 2020, All Okaloosa County/NW Florida businesses, should know that companies who work with our youth and sponsor STEM programs are the ones who are known to be progressive employers who invest in their community as well as the growth of their people.** Their corporate culture for supporting educational initiatives helps with talent retention.

Chamber members such as MAG Aerospace, The Hsu Foundation and Beast Code offer a new type of business leader in our community. They don't wear ties to work and may not find it interesting to attend networking events, but they all share a common interest in creating transformational inspiration among students in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

**Therefore, the mission of Our Chamber – and other business organizations in NW Florida-- will be to encourage local employers to foster internship opportunities, encourage employee volunteerism, help support STEM**

**training efforts, and embrace their role as part of the network they are building.**

I see this as no different as driving a car. Everyone reading knows how to drive a car—but doesn't mean we all know how the engine works. We have to give our support to local educational organizations such as **THE Innov8+\***-- who share the common goal of inspiring our future generations to aggressively pursue solutions to tomorrow's problems.

**Let's help them make our community engine run faster, farther, and better.**

For more info: [hsu-foundation.org](http://hsu-foundation.org)

\*Innov8+ 'An Educational adventure' benefiting the 8 coastal counties of NW Florida--fuses student learning and professional experience, creating a pathway between classroom and practical application.

**November 6, 2020  
at First Friday Coffee**

A NEW program for  
**Okaloosa County Businesses**  
will be announced.

An opportunity to have your  
business stand out and  
recognized as a certified safe  
environment.

**Mark your Calendar**

*November 6th!*





# November 2020 Calendar

11.06	7:00AM	First Friday Coffee Sponsored by <b>Air Force Enlisted Village</b>
11.12	11:30AM	Nothing But Networking hosted by <b>FUBAR Pizza Bar</b> on Okaloosa Island
11.10	8:00AM	Healthcare Committee
11.16	11:30PM	Military Affairs Committee
11.17	8:00AM	Business Success Group
11.18	7:45AM	Ambassadors Committee Meeting
11.19	5:30PM	Business After Hours sponsored by <b>Beach Community Bank</b>
11.20	11:30AM	FWB Young Professionals Committee



**FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE**  
GREATER FORT WALTON BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**November 6, 2020**

7:00AM Doors Open  
7:30AM Program Begins

**Registration Required**

Presented By



Location  
**Destin Fort Walton Beach Convention Center**  
1250 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach  
ZOOM Available



*Happy Thanksgiving!*

**November 26, 2020**



**One Hopeful Place**

1564 Percy L. Coleman Rd., Fort Walton Beach  
(850) 586-7879 [www.onehopefulplace.org](http://www.onehopefulplace.org)



**CRC Data Technologies**

4014 Commons Dr. W. Suite # 110, Destin  
(850) 654-7262 [www.crcdatatech.com](http://www.crcdatatech.com)



**MUV Dispensary**

1246 North Eglin Pkwy, Shalimar  
(833) 880-5420 [www.muvfl.com](http://www.muvfl.com)





Sponsored by:



**October's First Friday Coffee** can be described in 1 word: **Celebration!** We were indoors at the Destin Fort Walton Beach Convention Center – almost back to normal. We celebrated the successes of our innovative **Sponsor White-Wilson Medical Center** who also brought the fun factor with a t-shirt sling-shot! Maybe a First Friday Coffee First?

**Ambassador of the Quarter Jackie Kirley**, with Advanced Fire Protection Services, Inc. was celebrated for her dedication & efforts on behalf of the Chamber. **AND** Ambassador **Paul Singleton** hit a milestone with his attendance to **1500 FWB Chamber Ribbon Cuttings!** Congratulations Jackie & Paul!



White-Wilson Medical Center Team



Another big topic was the School Cents Makes Sense Campaign. We heard from a number of community leaders about the importance of **Voting YES on Nov. 3!**







## WELCOME New Members!!



(L-R) White-Wilson Medical Center Team: Hope Maddox, PA-C, Katelyn Dye APRN, Dr. Alison Colonna, & Dr. Julian Tokarev



(L-R) Carol Rogers - MidSouth Bank, Jenny Lou Lawless - American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), Tiffany Lynch - Coastal Neurosurgery & Spine, Bernita Everett - Eglin Federal Credit Union.

## DOOR PRIZES!!

### Prize Sponsors

Leslie Moland, White-Wilson Medical Center  
 Tucker McPherson, Thrive Wellness  
 Sherry Rushing, Tammy's Journey's  
 Coach Chris Torres, Future Stars Football Clinic  
 Jessy Bautista, Lisa Jo Spencer, P.A.  
 Leslie Moland, White-Wilson Medical Center  
 Charlotte Bergman, Cumulus Broadcasting  
 Trisha Marks, SimpleHR  
 Pam Sparks, Emerald Coast Public Relations Org.  
 Donna Tashik, Fresh Start & Repeat Street  
 RJ Murdoch, Emerald Coast TV

Angie Harder, Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Ctr.  
 Aline Ibanes, Destin Fort Walton Beach Convention Center  
 Hubert Coleman, Supreme Washaway Services, LLC  
 Cindy Berry, Okaloosa Gas

### Prize Descriptions

Gift Basket  
 \$50 Thrive Gift Certificate  
 Specialty Snacks & wine Basket  
 Sports Gift Basket with Football Tickets  
 Gift Basket  
 Gift Basket  
 Emerald Coast Poker Run Gift Cooler  
 Gift Basket  
 Gift Bag  
 \$50 Repeat Street Gift Certificate  
 Tickets to First Date  
 Tickets to From the New World  
 2 Tickets to EMCAC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
 Logo Tote Bag filled with baked goods  
 4 Car Detailing Service  
 Beach Bag Goodies

### Door Prize Winners

Ron Grissom  
 Bernita Everett, Eglin Federal Credit Union  
 Sarah Ambriz, CareerSource  
 Eppi Azzaretto  
 Chris Torres, Future Stars Football Clinic  
 David Triana, Conexion Media Group  
 Kim Margold  
 Sherry Richardson, Emerald Coast Hospice  
 Kathy McKenney, KEM Publications  
 RJ Murdoch, Emerald Coast TV  
 Melissa Forte-Litscher, NextHome Cornerstone Realty  
 Karen Butler, RE/Max Coastal Properties  
 Mike Van Dyke, Impact Training & Doolittle Institute  
 Joyce Hankins, Brookdale Bluewater Bay  
 Donna Tashik, Fresh Start & Repeat Street  
 Mercedes Feris, Happy Planet Cleaning



# STAND UP TO BREAST CANCER

## 2020-21 Stand Up to Breast Cancer Survivor Honorees



Jana Allen



Ivonne Caridi-Anderson



Rita Anderson



Anita Caban-Ruiz



Leslie Forstman



Michelle Hongyee



Christie Ilgenfritz



Bettie Lawrence



Jan Lipscomb



Cynthia Maney



Daphne Martin



Penny Maus



Lillian Perez



Lisa Smith

The annual Stand Up to Breast Cancer event was created to honor area breast cancer survivors and help raise awareness. In lieu of this year's event, we chose 14 breast cancer survivor honorees to celebrate during the month of October. These ladies will also be the honorees we celebrate in 2021 at our annual event.

Read about their courageous journeys at  
[StandUpToBreastCancer2020.com](http://StandUpToBreastCancer2020.com)



2021 Title Sponsorship

*Now Available!*



presented by

**YOUR COMPANY'S  
NAME & LOGO HERE!**

This is a fantastic opportunity to get YOUR COMPANY's name & logo in front of over 1500 snow birds as well as 80+ local vendors.

The **Title Sponsor** receives their company logo on **ALL** promotional materials, media releases, signage, ads, flyers, vendor applications and more!

For additional information and the ENTIRE list of benefits contact Rachelle Graves at the

**Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber:**

(850) 244-8191

[Rachelle@fwbchamber.org](mailto:Rachelle@fwbchamber.org)



Photo from Winter Guest Fest  
2019



# WELCOME SEPTEMBER NEW MEMBERS!

**Sarah Clark**  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Florida  
Panhandle Chapter  
Mary Esther, FL 32569  
(561) 392-7877  
[www.afsp.org/chapter/florida-panhandle](http://www.afsp.org/chapter/florida-panhandle)

**Rolando Alvarez**  
GenesisCare  
1026 Mar Walt Dr.  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547  
(850) 863-5294  
[www.21co.com](http://www.21co.com)

**Shari Morris**  
Gypsy's Celestial Garden  
Crestview, FL 32539  
(850) 603-9750  
[www.gypsyscelestialgarden.com](http://www.gypsyscelestialgarden.com)

**Colleen Smith**  
Holiday Inn Express & Suites Niceville - Eglin Area  
410 W. John Sims Pkwy  
Niceville, FL 32578  
(850)842-2500  
[www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress](http://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress)

**Courtney Parker**  
MÜV Dispensary  
1246 North Eglin Pkwy  
Shalimar, FL 32579  
(833)880-5420  
[www.muvfl.com](http://www.muvfl.com)

**Kevin Arnold**  
Nothing Bundt Cakes  
985 Highway 98 E, Ste D  
Destin, Florida 32541  
(850) 299-9472  
[www.nothingbundtcakes.com](http://www.nothingbundtcakes.com)

**Ryan Ford**  
Parlor Doughnuts Gulf Coast  
91 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548  
(850) 683-3355  
[www.parlordoughnuts.com](http://www.parlordoughnuts.com)

**Heather Seely-Perez**  
Residence Inn by Marriott - Fort Walton Beach  
(Opening Soon!)  
2 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548  
(850)301-1369  
[www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/vpsrw-residence-inn-fort-walton-beach/](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/vpsrw-residence-inn-fort-walton-beach/)



## SEPTEMBER RENEWING MEMBERS

*Welcome Back!*

**Acentria Insurance**  
**American Legion Post 235**  
**Barnes Insurance & Financial Services**  
**Mr. Robert Blair**  
**Boomer Aviation Inc.**  
**Brookdale Fort Walton Beach**  
**Mr. Nick Chubb**  
**Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate**  
**Creatief Marketing Group**  
**Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport**  
**Downtown FWB, Org. Inc.**  
**Edward Jones Investments -Mary Tinsley**  
**Elevate Next, LLC**  
**Elliott Point Elementary School**  
**Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University**

**Emerald Coast Collision Repair Inc**  
**Executive Air, LLC**  
**Four Points by Sheraton**  
**Fudpucker's Beachside Bar & Grill**  
**Gateway Payments Gulf Coast**  
**Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park**  
**Humana Military**  
**John A. Phillips, CPA**  
**Kacy Turpin Interiors**  
**Kiwanis Club of Fort Walton Beach**  
**Mary Esther United Methodist Church**  
**MidSouth Bank**  
**Panera Bread**  
**Pinkie Flamingo & Friends, LLC**  
**Renaissance Santa Rosa Apartments**

**Sacred Heart Hospital on the Emerald Coast**  
**Sacred-X-Pressions Tattoo Studio**  
**Sinfonia Gulf Coast**  
**Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q**  
**Sunset Resort Rentals**  
**The Gulf Okaloosa Island**  
**The Honey Do Service, Inc.**  
**Tijuana Flats**  
**Troy University - Fort Walton Beach**  
**United Way Emerald Coast**  
**Watree Homes**  
**Westminster Manor**  
**Workspace Suites**



**Applause** – We **Salute** the businesses and individuals making a difference in our community!

## Advanced Fire Protection Services expanding

Advanced Fire Protection Services, Inc. (AFPS), a leading provider in the life-safety systems industry, today announced plans to expand into the Tallahassee area.

A locally owned family business, AFPS was founded in 1989 by Mike and Linda Brown with the vision of becoming the most respected life-safety company in the Southeast. Now, more than 30 years later, their daughter, Dana Sudheimer, president, is continuing their legacy with this latest expansion.

“We are excited to be able to serve all of Northwest Florida with the addition of a third office in Tallahassee,” Sudheimer said. “This is an incredible achievement that very few companies ever reach, and we are proud of the outstanding company we have built with the help of our dedicated employees.”

AFPS is the trusted life-safety partner for some of the largest condos, apartment complexes, restaurants, retail establishments, industrial and healthcare facilities in Northwest Florida.

The company is actively involved in life-safety trade and industry organizations

and advocates for life-safety legislation at the local, state and national level. AFPS currently has two regional offices in Fort Walton Beach and Panama City Beach. With this latest expansion, AFPS will be merging with Regional Fire Protection Services, LLC (RFPS) and taking on their existing clients.



ADVANCED FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES, INC.  
[wesavelives.com](http://wesavelives.com)



## Magnolia Grill receives 2020 Traveler's Choice Award

The Magnolia Grill received the distinguished 2020 Traveler's Choice Award by Trip Advisor.

This award is given to the most exceptional, highest-rated properties around the world. These businesses are among the top 1% of all listings on Tripadvisor and are consistently earning great reviews. They are among the top 10% of all listings on Tripadvisor.



Reviews from  
millions of TripAdvisor  
travelers place this  
Restaurant in the top  
10% worldwide.

**TripAdvisor  
Travelers'  
Choice  
2020**

**Magnolia Grill  
Fort Walton  
Beach**





# Dog Daze

Fort Walton Beach

# 2020

# Thank You!



To our fabulous sponsors: **Friendship Veterinary Hospital**  
**Okaloosa Gas**   **AJ's on the Bayou**   **City of Fort Walton Beach**   **T-Mobile**  
**Daily News/Local-IQ**   **Destin-Fort Walton Beach Tourism**

And to our many vendors & *awesome* volunteers who helped make Dog Daze a great success and wonderful time for ALL!



Special Thank You to  
Daniel Simmons Photography



# Nothing But NETWORKING

October's **Nothing But Networking** was hosted by **The Shack** who's team did an amazing job welcoming us to their great venue. Food and service were excellent - **Big Thank You & round of applause to The Shack!**

*Be sure to register for the next Nothing But Networking scheduled for November 12<sup>th</sup> at FUBAR Pizza Bar.*







September's Business After Hours was hosted by CRC Data Solutions at their new location in Destin where they rolled out the red carpet with tours of the new facility that included plenty of space to hobnob with your fellow chamber members. **Thank You CRC Data Solutions!**





## Crowd Manager Certification Class

Crowd Manager Certification Class scheduled for November 2 at the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Convention Center. The training is complimentary for Destin-Fort Walton Beach partners and \$25 per for non-partners.

Interested in becoming a partner? Please email Stacey Young at [SLYoung@myokaloosa.com](mailto:SLYoung@myokaloosa.com).



### Event Overview

Join the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Convention Center for light breakfast and *complimentary* Crowd Management Certification by Event Managers (the course for this certification is usually located over an hour away and has a fifty dollar fee). The certification received will be valid for three years.

Safe social distance protocols will be followed, and face-masks are required. Please RSVP to [sales@myokaloosa.com](mailto:sales@myokaloosa.com) by October 26, 2020.

### Where

Destin-Fort Walton Beach Convention Center  
1250 Miracle Strip PKWY SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL  
(Please enter through main/east doors only)

### When

Monday, November 2, 2020  
8AM - 12PM

[destinfbconventioncenter.com](http://destinfbconventioncenter.com)



## Okaloosa County News

The National COVID 19 Pandemic significantly impacted many residents of Okaloosa County and our business community.

The Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners, in conjunction with all of the municipalities, was and is pleased to provide financial support, in the form of \$5.6 million in grant opportunities to eligible residents and small businesses.

Through CARES Act funding, grants are provided to residents for medical expenses as well as financial support to small businesses that have been forced to temporarily close, lost significant business revenue, and/or have COVID 19 related expenses. Application deadlines came and went quickly on several opportunities. During a condensed window of opportunity, support was given to applicants through multiple in-person locations across the county and virtual workshops.

Additionally, a hotline was set up to assist applicants while they work through the process. While the application window for several of the grants closed in October, here are a few opportunities available into *November and even December:*

1. **Small Business CARES Micro Grant**  
– Application Deadline **November 9**
2. **Individual Medical CARES Grant**  
– Application Deadline **November 30**
3. **Small Business PPE CARES Grant**  
– Application Deadline **November 9**
4. **Housing Assistance CRF Grant**  
– Application Deadline **December 31**

Continue to visit: [www.MyOkaloosa.com](http://www.MyOkaloosa.com) for future resources and programs.

### OKALOOSA COUNTY

#### SMALL BUSINESS PPE AND MICRO GRANT

APPLY BY NOVEMBER 9

### OKALOOSA COUNTY

#### INDIVIDUAL MEDICAL GRANT

APPLY BY NOVEMBER 30, 2020  
COVID-RELATED MEDICAL EXPENSES  
UP TO \$3,000

### OKALOOSA COUNTY

#### HOUSING ASSISTANCE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF

APPLY BY DECEMBER 31, 2020  
RENTAL, MORTGAGE, UTILITIES,  
HOUSING RE-ENTRY

#### Visit:

[www.myokaloosa.com/bcc/covid/grants-programs](http://www.myokaloosa.com/bcc/covid/grants-programs) to learn more or apply for the grants still available.





# Fort Walton Bulletin

## Fort Walton Beach Officials Appointed to Legislative Action Committees

The following Fort Walton Beach officials have been reappointed to the Florida League of Cities Legislative Policy Committees for 2020-2021:

**Mayor Dick Rynearson** (*Transportation & Intergovernmental Relations*), Council Members **Amy Jamieson** (*Utilities, Natural Resources & Public Works*), **Nathan Kelley** (*Finance, Taxation & Personnel*), **MG Moran** (*Land Use & Economic Development*), and **City Manager Michael Beedie** (*Municipal Administration*).



Dick Rynearson



Michael Beedie



Amy Jamieson



Nathan Kelley



MG Moran

Committee members are involved in developing the League's Legislative Action Agenda detailing priority issues that are most likely to affect daily municipal governance and local decision making during the upcoming legislative session in Tallahassee.

Committee members also help League staff understand the real-world implications of proposed legislation and are asked to serve as advocates throughout the legislative process.

## Vote YES on November 3<sup>rd</sup>

On August 11, 2020, the Fort Walton Beach City Council adopted a resolution of support for a half-cent sales tax for the Okaloosa County School District. The City recognizes the district's need for additional money to fund capital improvement projects that will improve the unacceptable conditions of our schools. Things like new roofs, new HVAC systems, additional classrooms (not portables), technology upgrades, safety and security enhancements, restroom and sewer line repairs, the list goes on. Learn more at:

[www.schoolcentismakesense.com](http://www.schoolcentismakesense.com).

**The City of Fort Walton Beach supports our children and teachers. Vote YES on the half-cent on November 3<sup>rd</sup>!**



## A Word from the Mayor

We have a lot to be thankful for. Have you counted your blessings lately? This Holiday Season is the perfect time to reflect on the many good things in our lives. Yes, there are so many good things despite what we see in the news.

Good things like economic growth for our city, schools reopening, community events, youth sports, being spared from hurricanes (it could always be worse), smiles, waves and fist bumps. I believe that everyone can come up with a long list of blessings they have had this year. My list includes watching my grandkids grow and spending quality time with family and friends.

Blessings come in many shapes and sizes. Regardless of their magnitude, we should embrace them all and focus on the positive things in our lives. Doing this will get us through tough times and help us become better people.

I wish blessings for each of you this Holiday Season.



Sincerely,

Dick Rynearson  
Mayor  
Fort Walton Beach

## Holiday Events

- Downtown Lights & The Landing Christmas Tree – Watch the lights come on Downtown at 5:30 p.m. on November 27.
- Fort Walton Beach Christmas Parade – December 7 at 6:30 p.m. along Eglin Parkway

## City facilities and offices will be closed for the following holidays:

- Veterans Day – Wednesday, Nov. 11
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, Nov. 26
- Day After Thanksgiving – Friday, Nov. 27

## Upcoming Meetings

Location: City Hall. Dates and times subject to change. See [www.fwb.org/agenda](http://www.fwb.org/agenda) for details

- November 17: City Council Meeting at 6 p.m.
- December 15: City Council Meeting at 6 p.m.

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