

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Women for Women 5K Run – Saturday May 8 – WOMEN are SUPERHEROES in 2021!**

**When:** Saturday, May 8; 7-9 a.m.

**Where:** Okeehelie Park

**Cost:** Early registration before April 18; ages 18 and younger, \$25; ages 19 and older, \$35; Club Members, \$30  
**Sponsor:** Jupiter Medical Center

**Annual Golf Tournament at Breakers West Golf Club**

**When:** Friday, June 11; 7:55 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Breakers West Golf Club

**Cost:** Limited to 80 golfers; foursomes and individual golfer packages still available – first come, first serve. See event registration page for more details.

**Sponsorships:** Available – please contact msacher@palmbeaches.org to customize a sponsorship package.

**Women in Business Committee Presents “Building Your Brand” with Veronica Cooper**

**When:** Thursday, April 8; 9-10 a.m.

**Where:** Virtual meeting, live via Zoom

**Cost:** Free

**Sponsor:** Cooper Construction Management & Consulting

**Guest speaker:** Veronica Cooper, vice president

**Tourism Task Force (Invitation Only) presents; “Good News for HOSPITALITY Industry Leaders – Your customers are coming back – are you ready?”**

**When:** Wednesday, April 14; 10-11 a.m.

**Where:** Webinar, live via Zoom

**Cost:** Free. By invitation only  
**Contact:** Email Kirby Davis at kdavis@palmbeaches.org for more information

**Guest Speakers:**

■ Jodi Cross, Palm Beach regional director, Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association

■ Sergio Piedra, director of community engagement & advocacy, Discover The Palm Beaches

■ Michael Corbit, vice president of business development, CareerSource

■ Carrie Pasquale, strategic initiatives, community, and educational partnerships, CareerSource

■ Steven Kozak, business development manager, SouthTech Schools

■ Peter Ricci Ed.D., director of hospitality & tourism management, Florida Atlantic University

■ Barbara Cipriano, dean of workforce and corporate education, interim, Palm Beach State College

**April Virtual Speed Networking**

**When:** Thursday, April 15; noon-1 p.m.

**Where:** Live networking event via Zoom; camera required

**Cost:** Members, \$5; nonmembers, \$15

**Sponsor:** iTHINK Financial

**VIRTUAL Business Builder**

**When:** Thursday, April 22; 9-10 a.m.

**Where:** Virtual meeting

**Cost:** Free

**Sponsor:** Palm Beach Business Center

**April Corporate Breakfast Series with Q&A**

**2021 Annual Florida Legislative Update with Mark Wilson, CEO, Florida Chamber**

**When:** Thursday, April 29; 9-9:55 a.m.

**Where:** Virtual meeting, live via Zoom with Q&A from audience

**Cost:** Members, \$5; nonmembers, \$10

**Guest Speaker:** Mark Wilson, CEO, Florida Chamber

**Sponsor:** Baptist Health

## CORPORATE VIRTUAL BREAKFAST THURSDAY, APRIL 29 FROM 9-10 A.M.

### Annual Florida Legislative Update with Mark Wilson

Interested in hearing what happened at the Florida Legislative 2021 meetings that will impact our local business community? We invite you to join us to hear from Mark Wilson, president & CEO of Florida's largest and most influential business advocacy organization. The Florida Chamber of Commerce focuses on creating a business climate



that generates prosperity and high-paying jobs, and vibrant communities and global competitiveness in our state. Wilson will provide an update on the recently concluded



Mark Wilson

will include time to present questions to Wilson for an interactive Q&A session. Get

legislative session and discuss the impact on Florida businesses. This will be a live Zoom meeting that

information before the general public and take advantage of a unique opportunity to ask the Florida Chamber of Commerce president and CEO direct questions about local Palm Beach County business concerns and inquiries you have for our local leaders at the state level. Registration is limited, so please register early at palmbeaches.org.

## Gary S. Lesser Named President-Elect Designate of The Florida Bar

Gary Lesser, Managing Partner of Lesser, Lesser Landy & Smith PLLC, is now the



Gary S. Lesser

President-Elect Designate of the Florida Bar, and will be sworn in as President-Elect at the Annual Florida Bar Convention

on June 11. He will serve as President of the Florida Bar in 2022-2023. Lesser defeated fellow Board of Governors member and Miami business lawyer Steven W. Davis 63% to 37% among voting Florida Bar



LESSER LESSER  
LANDY & SMITH PLLC  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
-Personal Injury Law Since 1927-

members at recent elections for the position.

“I am grateful for all of the lawyers across Florida who voted for me and supported me,” said Lesser of his win. “My family supported me every step of the way. I look forward to working with the amazing lawyers of the Florida Bar so we can continue to serve our profession and the clients we

represent.”

Lesser has been actively involved with The Florida Bar for more than 22 years. He served on the Board of Governors for a decade and on its Executive Committee for four years. Additionally, he was the Chair of the Professional Ethics Committee, and served as Legislation Chair under three different presidents.

Lesser is currently a member of the Health Law Section, where he serves as board liaison. He is also a member of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law and Trial Lawyers section. He has been a member of the Palm Beach County Bar Association since 1992 and

chaired its Professionalism and Medical Legal committees.

Lesser, Lesser, Landy & Smith dedicates its practice to helping individuals and families who have experienced life-changing trauma due to the careless or negligent behavior of others. The Firm does not represent corporations or insurance companies, instead dedicating all of its time and resources to helping regular people who have sustained serious injuries.

Gary Lesser lives in Palm Beach Gardens, with his wife Jennifer and his daughters Lillian, Josie and Rebecca.

For more information about Lesser, Lesser Landy & Smith PLLC, visit lesserlawfirm.com.

## 5K road race celebrates Women of All Ages

### Presented by Jupiter Medical Center

The Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches will host the 10th Annual Women for Women 5K presented by Jupiter Medical Center on Saturday, May 8. More than 500 runners will line up to compete, celebrate and encourage each other in this unique sporting event. This year's theme is celebrating our True Heroes: Women of All Ages! Be sure to dress up as your favorite Super Hero.

Generations of women, ages 7-80-plus, will run and walk together to empower their competitive spirit at this special event, appropriately scheduled for Mother's Day weekend. Each runner will receive a custom finisher's medal and race tech shirt. Again this year are categories



Runners will receive a custom finisher's medal.

for the Fastest Mother & Grandmother. New this year will be a category for Great Grandmother! Be sure to select which category you fall under when registering to be entered into this competition.

There will also be a 100-

Yard Kid's Dash sponsored by FPL for children ages 3-6. All participants in the Kids Dash will also receive a medal.

Special photo opportunities will be available. For those in a family of three generations of women, don't miss your

chance to get a picture taken to remember this family fun event. Please note: Photographs taken at this event may be used for future publications and promotions.

A portion of the proceeds will go towards the Jupiter Medical Center Margaret W. Niedland Breast Center.

In person and virtual options available! Please register online at PalmBeaches.org

Interested in sponsoring or tabling at this event?

Contact Iva Grady at igrady@palmbeaches.org or by calling 561-312-2027. Sponsors have an opportunity to set up tables and tents in Okeehelie Park and promote their business by handing out samples and promotional items.

### SPONSORS

JUPITER MEDICAL CENTER

FIT2RUN  
THE RUNNER'S SUPERSTORE

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

NSU  
Florida

PBKC  
PBKENNELCLUB.COM

SOUTH FLORIDA SCIENCE CENTER AND AQUARIUM

VERDEX CONSTRUCTION

FPL

REIKENIS & ASSOCIATES, LLC

LARMOYEU & BONE  
TRIAL LAWYERS P.L.

ST. MARY'S MEDICAL CENTER  
PALM BEACH HEALTH NETWORK

PALM BEACH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  
PALM BEACH HEALTH NETWORK

Baptist Health

FLORIDA CANCER SPECIALISTS & Research Institute

south florida FAIR

## The Palm Beach International Boat Show made waves with a successful 35th annual event

Informa Markets and the Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County successfully collaborated to showcase over \$1.2 billion in maritime products while welcoming visitors to downtown West Palm Beach from March 25 to 28. The marquee event marked the third and most successful boat show hosted by Informa Markets in the last five months, anchored by industry leading health and safety standards.

“The success of the Palm Beach International Boat Show is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the entire Informa team, the collaboration and support of government officials from the City of West Palm Beach, and our partnership with the Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County,” said Andrew Doole, president of U.S. boat shows at Informa Markets.

Informa Markets worked closely with the City of West Palm Beach on safety measures ahead of the show,



which included updating the layout to be entirely open-air, increasing the number of entrances to ease the flow of pedestrian traffic and promote social distancing, and requiring all attendees to wear face coverings.

For exhibitors and vendors, the boat show served as a necessary economic lever that

affects the entire tri-county region and the state of Florida.

“We are thrilled by the unprecedented turnout at this year's show, and the tangible economic impact the event had for our marine industry here in Palm Beach County,” said Alyssa Freeman, executive director of the Marine Industries Association of Palm

Beach County. “As we continue to emerge triumphantly from the last year of uncertainty, I am incredibly hopeful about what lies ahead for the marine industry and future boat shows.”

The 36th annual Palm Beach International Boat Show is slated to return on March 24-March 27, 2022.

## March Breakfast shines light on lessons learned in 2020

Our March Corporate Virtual Breakfast was hosted by Rick Reikenis, Board Chair, who led a Hospital CEO Panel Discussion themed, "Leaders reflect on a year of COVID-19 challenges, lessons learned and what's next with vaccines and beyond."

Four Palm Beach County Hospital CEOs – Lincoln Mendez, Boca Raton Regional Hospital; Sheri Montgomery, Good Samaritan Medical Center; Amit Rastogi, MD, MHCM, Jupiter Medical Center; and Cynthia McCauley, St. Mary's Medical Center and The Palm Beach Children's Hospital – who also serve as Chamber Trustee/Board Members shared wisdom, insights and ideas for moving forward.

Chamber members, board members and Trustees joined the program to hear the latest updates on availability, distribution and choices for COVID-19 vaccines and what



**Lincoln Mendez**  
CEO Boca Raton  
Regional Hospital



**Sheri Montgomery**  
CEO Good  
Samaritan Medical  
Center



**Amit Rastogi**  
CEO Jupiter  
Medical Center



**Cynthia McCauley**  
CEO St. Mary's  
Medical Center  
and Palm Beach  
Children's Hospital



**Rick Reikenis**  
Board Chair

that means for the business community of Palm Beach County. Executive Leaders also shared reflections on 2020 and hopeful insights for 2021 and beyond around best practices and lessons learned leading medical service teams, working with boards, to pivot in a local and national crisis – applicable to leaders across industries.

All leaders agreed that technology that was "available before the pandemic," such as

Zoom webinars, was developed rapidly to be available to clinicians and patients both. Hospitals invested in iPads so that they could offer a tool to connect patients with their families, who are restricted from visiting hospitals, to keep everyone safe. Additionally, it forced "TELEDOC" visits to become the new normal out of necessity – which is now here to stay.

Leaders are confident that increased communication,

creating task forces, leadership pods and increasing technology were all key components of remaining responsive, proactive and able to manage teams and strategies in a difficult situation. The general consensus was that if they could each speak to President Biden in an elevator, their key advice would be to consider having PPE manufactured in additional countries, around the world, including the U.S., so we aren't

dependent on one country to obtain critical PPE supplies.

The program had a surprise ending for guests – and especially Dennis Grady. County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay proclaimed March 30, 2021 "Dennis Grady Day" in celebration and recognition of his official retirement, after judiciously and remarkably serving the Chamber as the CEO/president for 36 years. Dennis thanked Melissa and the entire business community, remarking enthusiastically, "I am privileged to have worked with leaders like all of you, and to have had the opportunity to have a career doing a job that I enjoyed and had a lot of fun, too." We invite you to watch the full video on the Chamber's YouTube Channel.



## Trustees are back

The Chamber's Trustees met in person, for the first time since the pandemic started, at the new offices of Past Chair and Board of Directors member Keith Spina, and his partner, Tammy O'Rourke. Spina O'Rourke + Partners hosted the lovely reception with appropriate COVID-19 precautions in their new location at 285 Banyan Blvd., West Palm Beach.

Guests toured the new offices, met the talented staff and heard about the

many exciting new plans and projects the firm is working on. They were thrilled to see each other, network and give updates on company, work and personal status.

The Trustees meet for monthly luncheons with high-powered speakers, periodic social receptions and VIP events and educational field trips to influential and innovative businesses. For more information on the Trustee Program, contact Kelly Fanelli at 561-257-0289 or kfanelli@palmbeaches.org.



From left: Dennis Grady, Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches; Keith Spina, CEO Spina O'Rourke + Partners; David Aiken, Commercial Development Director CEMEX; Scott Lewis, CEO Scott Lewis Gardening & Trimming.



Keith Spina and Tammy O'Rourke  
CEOs of Spina O'Rourke + Partners  
PHOTOS BY CAPEHART



## Donald Burgess to lead Chamber of Commerce

Donald Burgess has been appointed President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches, effective April 1. Donald is Jamaican born and migrated to the United States in 2007. He joined the team at the chamber as Operations Coordinator two years later.

Donald has a master of science in accounting and is a certified personal trainer (ISSA) and computer technician (CompTIA A+). When he is not working, he enjoys running, walking, tennis and

cycling. If he is not doing any of these, you are most likely to find him cooking up a storm in the kitchen. He also loves hiking and it is not unusual for him to fly off somewhere with his fiancée Mercedes as they seek out the next trail to conquer.

As a teenager, Donald discovered chess and read profusely about the game before ever facing an opponent. He recalls losing his very first game, but playing well enough to generate whispers in the chess community. Before long, he not only became captain of his high school chess team, but went on to win numerous competitions at the local and national level. Donald is a certified tournament director and tutors occasionally. He

gave up playing competitively to pursue studies and his love for long distance running. Acknowledging that he has never been good enough to win a road race, Donald competes for the pleasure he gets from being around like-minded souls and completing the course. This passion led to him coaching a school track team for a few years in the 1990s.

On the career side, Donald's first job was as an accounting clerk at Jamaica International Telecommunications Ltd., the local division of Britain's Cable & Wireless Ltd. He worked there for seven years and left to take up a more senior position in an entity involved in agricultural exports, and eventually landing the General Manager position at the Westmoreland Cooperative

Credit Union. A few years later, he was appointed Administrator at the Westmoreland Community College.

Before leaving Jamaica, he worked for seven years as the Assistant Manager at Gray's Pepper Products Ltd. (the largest sauce processing facility of its kind in the Caribbean).

Over the years, Donald has been a spelling bee coach, and has sat on the board of the JAMINTEL Cooperative Credit Union and Paradise Preparatory School.

Donald is excited to take on this new challenge and looks forward to ensuring that the chamber continues to partner with other entities to make the Palm Beaches a great place to live, work and play.

## University's new Watson family hall 'Not just a building'

Palm Beach Atlantic University celebrated the opening of Watson Family Hall with a dedication and ribbon-cutting on March 27.

The eight-story residence hall at the corner of South Dixie Highway and Pembroke Place opened to students in August. It contains 154 apartment-style units with full kitchens and collaborative study spaces on each floor. It was built by and in partnership with Hedrick Brothers Construction.

Watson Family Hall is named in honor of Karl Watson Sr., Karl Watson Jr. and their families, who gave a \$2.5 million gift to the university.

Dennis Grady, former CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches, said the county is fortunate to have PBA anchoring downtown West Palm Beach since 1968. He noted that PBAU is one of the strongest economic drivers in Palm Beach County, contributing an estimated \$430 million a year to the local economy.

"PBA is a source of the men and



women desperately needed to grow our economy," Grady said.

Dale Hedrick, CEO of Hedrick Brothers Construction, said many student residences at other universities don't have the same special touches that Watson has. Despite the pandemic, the construction team finished three

days early, Hedrick said. "This is going to allow students to develop relationships that last through eternity," he said, adding that those students will one day be leaders in business, government, media and medicine.

West Palm Beach Mayor Keith James thanked the Watsons for



Former Chamber  
CEO Dennis Grady



PBAU President  
Debra Schwinn

their generosity and civic service. Collectively, PBAU students are the city's largest group of volunteers, he said. From the residence, students can walk to jobs and internships in West Palm Beach's thriving downtown.

"Whatever your dream, you should be able to realize those dreams right here in West Palm Beach," James said.



Palm Beach Atlantic  
UNIVERSITY

### NEW MEMBERS

**American Management Services**  
Richard Dorr, Regional Director of Partner America  
3151 Clint Moore Road, #203  
Boca Raton, FL 33496  
amserv.com  
754-244-0022

**Best Western Palm Beach Lakes Inn**  
Rick Netzel, Director of Sales & Marketing  
1800 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
bestwesternpalmbeach.com  
561-683-8810  
HOTELS

**Corvee, LLC**  
Amanda Argue, Founder/Chief of Staff  
777 South Flagler Drive  
Suite 800W  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
corvee.com  
954-732-5918  
ACCOUNTANTS - CERTIFIED PUBLIC

**Etech Global Services**  
Matt Rocco, President & CEO  
155 E Blue Heron Blvd.

Suite 200  
Riviera Beach, FL 33404  
Etechgs.com  
936-371-1309  
TELEMARKETING SERVICES

**Jupiter's Residential Butler, LLC**  
Rafael Vasallo, Owner  
609 Willet Ave.  
Jupiter, FL 33458  
jupiterresidentialbutler.com  
561-714-6361  
KITCHEN CABINET

**Next Day Access**  
Geri Castaldo, President  
6601 Lyons Road, Suite C-10  
Coconut Creek, FL 33073  
nextdayaccess.com/boca-raton-fl  
561-546-3396  
HOME HEALTH CARE EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES

**Opportunity Early Childhood Center**  
Lisa Stella  
Development Director  
4171 Westgate Ave.  
West Palm Beach, FL 33409  
opportunityebcc.org

561-712-9221  
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

**RocknCrab**  
Christian Agustin  
General Manager  
871 Village Blvd., Suite 602B  
West Palm Beach, FL 33409  
rockncrab.com  
561-335-5149  
RESTAURANTS

**Serge W. D'Haiti CPA, PLLC**  
Serge D'Haiti, Owner  
4347 Willow Pond Road  
Suite C  
West Palm Beach, FL 33417  
561-271-0019  
ACCOUNTANTS - CERTIFIED PUBLIC

**Trinet USA, Inc.**  
Brian Thomason  
Sales Consultant  
1 Park Plaza, Suite 600  
Dublin, CA 94568  
trinet.com  
941-741-4470  
HUMAN RESOURCES CONSULTING

**USHEALTH Advisors**  
Ian Bethell, Licensed Agent  
3576 Wildwood Forest Court, Unit B  
West Palm Beach, FL 33403  
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561-307-2356  
INSURANCE - HEALTH

**Vacasa LLC**  
Claire Golden, Executive Representative  
500 S. Australian Ave.  
Suite 600  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
vacasa.com  
561-440-0812  
VACATION RENTAL PROPERTY  
MANAGEMENT & MARKETING

**Webauthor**  
Perry Borman  
Director Client Solutions  
2737 Misty Oaks Circle  
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411  
webauthor.com  
561-282-3300  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
SOLUTIONS / SERVICES

### MEMBER RENEWALS

All Ways Caring Home Care  
Best of Palm Beach County  
Calvin, Giordano & Associates, Inc.  
City Oyster & Sushi Bar  
Code Red Restoration, LLC  
Comprehensive Pain Care of South Florida  
DLG, LLC, Accounting & Advisory Services  
Dress for Success Palm Beaches  
Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County  
EGS Advanced Energy Solutions, Inc.  
ESPN West Palm / Good Karma Brands  
Families First of Palm Beach County  
FordHarrison LLP  
Gast Construction Group  
Greenacres Nissan  
HG Commercial Cleaning  
Hispanic Human Resources Council, Inc.  
Informa Exhibitions  
Intech

iPlan & Design  
John C. Cassidy Air Conditioning, Inc.  
Kitson & Partners  
Legal Shield / ID Shield  
The Mosaic Group  
NAZTEC International Group, LLC  
Palm Beach County Film & Television Commission  
Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center  
Port of Palm Beach District  
Reikenis & Associates, LLC  
Song + Associates, Inc.  
South University  
St. Mark's Episcopal School  
Staples - Lake Park  
Sympatico Real Estate Inc.  
The BrandX Company  
Trump Plaza of the Palm Beaches  
West Palm Beach Library Foundation  
West Palm Beach Police Department  
WGI, Inc.  
WPEC-TV CBS 12 News  
You Fit Health Club