Mayor Bernard delivers State of the County address at November Chamber Breakfast

Palm Beach County Mayor Mack Bernard delivered the State of the County address to business and community leaders at the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches’ monthly breakfast.

Mayor Bernard highlighted several key initiatives of the county, including economic development, tourism, addressing homelessness, public health, infrastructure, public transportation, workforce housing, the economy and parks and recreation. The resounding conclusion from the Mayor “the state of our county is good.”

Unemployment is 2.2%, lower than the state and national average. There have been more than 30,000 job openings in the county last year. The “Second Tourism Initiative” has helped attract more than 34 companies, creating 2,725 jobs. Meanwhile, tourism continues to be a driving force, projecting to hit a record 8.1 million visitors in 2019, which translates to $7.2 billion in economic activity.

Mayor Bernard’s call to action for those in attendance was focused on continuing to partner with the county on ways to improve local communities and focus on the issues that impact residents, businesses and neighborhoods. “The opportunities are limitless when we work together as partners towards our shared goal of making Palm Beach County the premier county to live, work and play,” said Bernard.

New Chamber Board Members

The Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches welcomes the following seven members to its board of Directors:

- Brian Chequita, Plan & Design
- Veronika Cooper, Cooper Construction Management & Development
- Ronna Greeley, Alpha Pacific Energy Services
- Michelle McGovern, Baptist Health South Florida
- Ava Parker, Palm Beach State College
- Brian Pouliot, Brightline
- Maritza Rojas, Chiquita

WHO WILL TAME THE BEARTRAP?

FEB 24 – MAR 1
TheHondaClassic.com

The 115th Honda Classic will feature the top 250 players on the PGA Tour, March 4-10, at PGA National Resort, Palm Beach Gardens. Tickets are still available and can be purchased online or at the Tournament ticket office at the turnstiles at PGA National. For more information, visit TheHondaClassic.com.

FITTEAM Palm Beaches Marathon is this weekend

FITTEAM Palm Beaches Marathon weekend will return Dec. 6-8 with a course spotlighting picturesque Flagler Drive and a revised half-marathon. Marathon, half-marathon and relay will be held Sunday, Dec. 8 at 6:30 a.m. The Friday events begin Dec. 5-6. Pre-registration is $118 for individuals and $340 for a family of four. Visit FitteamPalmbeachesMarathon.com for all registration and event information.

New Uniforms

See the most recent photos of the new uniforms here.

Tony Robbins’ top strategist speaks at YPOP 411 event

Tony Robbins’ top strategist, Karina Kouchi, the only woman – and at 24 the youngest person – on Robbins’ strategy team, spoke to YPOP members on Nov. 5 at the Chamber. Kouchi led activities that gave each person a voice and encouraged them to make an authentic commitment to take serious actions to make immediate and lasting shifts in their personal and professional lives.

Kouchi, along with the other YPOP members on Nov. 5 and 24 the youngest person – and at 24 the only woman – encouraged them to make an authentic commitment to take serious actions to make immediate and lasting shifts in their personal and professional lives.

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The official 2020 Board Chair installation took place on Friday, Nov. 8 in the Korman Room at the Norton Museum of Art and showcased the personal art collection of Rick Reikenis from his travels around the world. This “Unexpected Artists” themed Chairmen’s Circle Reception allowed us to thank 2019 Chair Evelyn Hopkins of Florida Crystals Corporation for starting the first Executive Mentorship Program that will continue in 2020. We also welcomed Rick Reikenis of Reikenis & Associates as our 2020 Chair, who was sworn in by Mayor Keith James. For more than 35 years Rick Reikenis has been passionate about leading and serving in West Palm Beach and wants to see the city continue to grow and expand its cultural offerings, across theater, art and music. He is a former Mayor of the City of West Palm Beach and a founder of SunFest. Reikenis is responsible for business development and real-estate project management at both of Florida and project development in Central and South America, the Near East, Central America, the Caribbean and Africa. His team is focused on providing the best combination of technically superior and financially responsible solutions to meet client needs. Reikenis has a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Science (Environmental Engineering) from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Thank you all of our sponsors and silent auction donors.

Kathleen Breland
Kathleen Breland joined the Palm Beach Zoo in 2009 as the chief financial officer following a 20-year career with national homebuilder/developer Centex Homes where she held positions as controller, vice president of finance, division president and vice president of operations. During her time at the zoo, Breland took on the additional role of COO for several years and served as the zoo’s interim CEO. She is a Professional Fellow with the Association of Zos and Aquariums, a registered licensed CPA in the state of Illinois and holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from the University of Houston.

David Shelpman, Jr.
David Shelpman, Jr. is the president of the West Palm Beach Campus of HCI College. He has 25 years of experience in higher education, Shelpman has worked in private nonprofit and public for-profit colleges and universities over the years. He has worked with accreditations ranging from national to regional, programmatic and career programs. Shelpman has an associate degree in Business Administration from Daytona College, a bachelor’s degree in Management from DeVry University and a Master of Human Resources Management from Keller Graduate School of Management.

PRE-PAY AND SAVE ON OUR 2020 CHAMBER BREAKFAST SERIES

Chamber members can now pre-pay for the 2020 themed breakfast series. The Corporate Breakfast Series features various speakers, including our largest event, the State of the City on Jan. 21. The price also includes prime seating, table signage and recognition in each event’s PowerPoint. Chamber members, Ambassadors and their guests enjoyed the opportunity to meet for a fun evening in a relaxed and casual atmosphere. Guests commented on how nice it was to have Palm Beach’s smaller expanded and construction completed, to enjoy being both inside and outside the Sports Grill.

Duffy’s Sports Grill in West Palm Beach hosts Business After Hours

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