West Palm Beach has ranked among the top 20 Places to Live in America for the second year in a row. Additionally, the city was named Forbes’ No 1 City in Florida for business and was listed as a “neighborhood to watch,” among other prestigious recognitions. These were just some of the observations made as West Palm Beach Mayor Keith A. James delivered the annual State of the City address during the Chamber’s January Breakfast at the Palm Beach County Convention Center.

Mayor James touted the City’s economic growth as a result of a strong and diverse economy, quality of life enhancements, and efforts to attract and retain business owners to fulfill their potential and realize their dreams. “Working to make West Palm Beach a community of courage,” Mayor James also added updates on priority public safety, infrastructure, neighborhood and equity initiatives, and responses to current challenges.

“West Palm Beach is experiencing transformation,” said Mayor James, “but the City has not seen since Henry Flagler first brought the railroad to West Palm in 1901.” Leadership must be collective in moments like this. Today, we must have the courage to create a better, stronger, and more resilient community.”

“Quality of life improvements in public safety, education, infrastructures, housing, the environment and to the City’s neighborhoods, coupled with a business-friendly environment, are making West Palm Beach even more vibrant, developing an economy that works for all, attracting new residents and new business.”

“The future is bright, and I am confident that if we continue to stand shoulder to shoulder together, we will continue to make West Palm Beach a community for opportunity for all,” said the mayor.

TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT

Sally Kimball

Sally Kimball of Ambassador Realty Group is a Business Visionary and a West Palm Beach resident for the past 10 years. Coming from a family of real estate professionals and being a businesswoman, she put her knowledge of the real estate market to work by launching both the commercial real estate and residential market. Kimball has worked with major developers and investors on hotel, condominium and shopping center projects, and continues to drive business and success to her own business.

Kimball also founded and operated K2, an energy and sustainability company in downtown West Palm Beach. The company in downtown West Palm Beach, Kimball has been on the executive board of the Community Foundation of Palm Beach County and is a member of the Wanta Group. The Wanta Group is a mentorship program for women in real estate.

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The 2023 Guide to the Palm Beaches is best off the press and ready for pickup in the Chamber lobby. This award-winning, fully color publication is used as a buying guide for products and services by Chamber members as well as residents, tourists and visitors to Palm Beach County. Each member of the Chamber receives two free listings — one for business, one for personal. The publication is also available in digital format at palmbeaches.org.
To schedule your ribbon cutting with the Chamber please visit PalmBeaches.org/ribbon-cuttings or contact Kirby Davis at kdavis@palmbeaches.org or 561-833-3894.

**RIBBON CUTTINGS**

- **Sappy Shark Car Wash**
  - Dec. 15
  - 2000 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL 33409

- **Culinary Creation LLC**
  - Jan. 6
  - Serving Palm Beach County

- **Acten Academy Palm Beach**
  - Jan. 20
  - 3932 RCA Blvd., Suite 3204
  - Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

- **Industrious**
  - Jan. 11
  - 222 Clemence Ave., Suite 820
  - West Palm Beach, FL 33401

- **Isla & Co.**
  - Jan. 12
  - 1407 Clemence Ave., Suite 700
  - West Palm Beach, FL 33401

- **Hearing Life**
  - Jan. 19
  - 3175 Burns Road, Suite 100
  - Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

- **Kenesha F Wood, PA Realtor**
  - Jan. 25
  - 2005 Vista Parkway, Suite 100
  - West Palm Beach, FL 33401

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Business Builder**
  - When: 9-11 a.m.
  - Where: Chamber Boardroom
  - Cost: Free to members

- **Power Networking @ Lunch**
  - When: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
  - Where: CB Creative, 6901 N. Course Drive, West Palm Beach, FL 33411
  - Discount Registration Deadline: Thursday, Feb. 9, Members: $45 before deadline, $45 after deadline; nonmembers: $50 before deadline, $55 after deadline

- **YPOP HOTSPOT: Isla & Co.**
  - When: 5:30-7:30 p.m.
  - Where: 1420 Clemence Ave., West Palm Beach, FL 33401
  - Cost: Discount Registration Deadline: Thursday, Feb. 9, Members: $25 before deadline, $25 after deadline, nonmembers: $30 before deadline, $35 after deadline

- **Business Development Board Breakfast**
  - When: 7:30-9:15 a.m.
  - Where: 650 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL 33401
  - Cost: Discount Registration Deadline: Thursday, Feb. 9, Members: $25 before deadline, $35 after deadline, nonmembers: $65 before deadline, $75 after deadline

- **Baseball Bash**
  - When: 4-7 p.m.
  - Where: Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410
  - Cost: Discount Registration Deadline: Thursday, Feb. 9, Members: $25 before deadline, $30 after deadline, nonmembers: $30 before deadline, $35 after deadline

- **Baseball Bash 2023**
  - When: 4-7 p.m.
  - Where: Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410
  - Cost: Discount Registration Deadline: Thursday, Feb. 9, Members: $65 before deadline, $75 after deadline, nonmembers: $70 before deadline, $80 after deadline

- **YPOP HOTSPOT: Hearing Life**
  - When: 5:30-7:30 p.m.
  - Where: 1420 Clemence Ave., West Palm Beach, FL 33401
  - Cost: Discount Registration Deadline: Thursday, Feb. 9, Members: $25 before deadline, nonmembers: $30 before deadline, $35 after deadline

**Business After Hours Zona Blu**

The Chamber of Commerce held a Business After Hours on Jan. 12 at Zona Blu in West Palm Beach. This was the first after hours event of the year where attendees got to network and sample some authentic Italian cuisine. Zona Blu was established in 2016 and has two locations in South Florida, one in Weston and the other recently opened in West Palm Beach. For more information on future events, contact Rachel Quismundo at rquismundo@palmbeaches.org or call 561-833-3711 ext. 225.

**YPOP HOTSPOT at the ballpark**

On Wednesday, Jan. 18, the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches hosted a YPOP Hotspot at the Ballpark of the Palm Beaches, spring training home of the 2022 world champion Houston Astros. The Ballpark provided two free drinks and snacks for the attendees. There was also a raffle for three prizes which were won by Emily Dale, Ted Leshinski and Brittany Davis. General manager, Mike McAdams, took the YPOP guests on the field for pictures. For more information about YPOP, please contact Rachel Quismundo at rquismundo@palmbeaches.org or call 561-833-3711 ext. 225.

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**Kelly Smallridge, Business Development Board President, to speak at February Breakfast**

Join us at the Palm Beach County Convention Center on Feb. 14 from 7:30 to 9 a.m. for another very informative update on economic development in Palm Beach County. BDB President, Kelly Smallridge will give an overview of companies that have relocated or expanded into the county over the last 12 months. Arrive early and network with elected officials and other community leaders. Individual tickets and tables of 10 are available on our website PalmBeaches.org. For more information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact Rachel Quismundo at rquismundo@palmbeaches.org

**Trustee Luncheon**

Florida Atlantic University’s Dr. Ken Johnson was the guest speaker at the January Trustee Luncheon. Dr. Johnson is the associate dean of graduate programs in the college of business at FAU and has garnered national attention for his online tools, resources and expertise related to rental housing, real estate markets and real estate economics. He used the occasion to share his analysis of current trends in local and national real estate markets.

The next Trustee Luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 23 and will feature former U.S. House Representative Bill Foster. For more information on the Trustee program, contact Kirby Davis at kadavis@palmbeaches.org.