

THE SANTA ROSAN May 2025-Spring Edition



Publication of the Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce www.srcchamber.com (850) 623-2339 4315 Avalon Blvd., Milton, Florida *Leading ~ Connecting ~ Supporting Our Community*

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A message from your CEO, Jim Ponek:

As we venture into the spring/summer season, I am both proud and humble by the strides and accomplishments of YOUR Chamber! Looking ahead, we are excited about the prospects and opportunities that lie before us. We are committed to growth, not only in our financial objectives, but growth in our community and our members.

In May, we have our Military Appreciation Picnic that honors the families at NAS Whiting Field in Milton. This is a great event that our members have helped make such a big success in the community! We also have our 4th of July Car & Bike Show coming up, sponsored by Adams' Sanitation and Casino Night (August 9th), sponsored by Waste Pro. Thank you to our wonderful sponsors for making these events possible.

Let's keep growing YOUR Chamber!

Jim Ponek, CEO/President



2025 Board Members

Executive Committee

<u>Chairman</u>-Mike Johnson, Individual Member <u>Vice Chair-Elect</u>-Erin Vaughn, Sunbelt Title <u>Ambassador Chair</u>- Lee Irving, Landrum Workforce Solutions <u>Treasurer</u>- Jennifer Micklos, The First <u>Secretary</u>- Lechia Froman, United Bank

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Ed Spears, City of Milton Captain Ted Elkins, NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer Bridgette Price, SRC Economic Development Office Jennifer Hines, SRC School District

Be an Ambassador!

Consider joining an elite group of Chamber members that volunteer and support the functions of our Chamber. The Ambassadors represent the Chamber at events, ribbon cuttings and help when needed. They are the first impressions to new members, and they love to mentor new members and show them the ropes. If you are interested in becoming a Chamber Ambassador, contact us at (850)623-2339.



Business of the Month

February



United Bank-Milton



Ferris Hill Baptist Church



American Legion, Post #78

"What has the Chamber done for me?"

"As a small business owner, it's vitally important that I make the best business decisions possible for my brand. I started chasing my dream in 2015 and took the step of making CWF Entertainment an LLC in 2020. As monumental of a step that was, the best decision I've made thus far is partnering with the Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce. The staff has always been eager to support my business, advocate for its success, and provide any assistance I've needed along the way. Most recently, we partnered up for multiple community events including a Jeep show, military appreciation day, and Business After Hours event. I can't say enough about how appreciative I am for Jim and Jaime...they've welcomed me into their family and made me feel at home. For that...I'm forever grateful!" Ben Rowe- Owner/CEO, CWF Entertainment, LLC



Let's welcome our newest members!

Welcome to YOUR Chamber!

AIR DESIGN SYSTEMS, INC Alzheimer's Association Central & North Florida Chapter Andy D's Roadhouse Cordova Mall **Ferris Hill Baptist Church FoodRaising Friends Gulf Coast Outlet Holiday Isle Insurance Group Inspired closets Marie Ernst** Miss Luci's Tea Room **Perdido Heating and Air** Santa Rosa County Emergency Management **Sunshine Promo USA Inc** Walmart Neighborhood Market **Wheeler Chiropractic Clinics LLC**

Members of the Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce

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RNI TriCities **Bob Asmus Bob Johnson Bobcat of Pensacola** Boogie, Inc. Boomerang Pizza Kitchen & General Store Boy Scouts of America, Gulf Coast Council Buffalo Rock Co. **Buice Accounting LLC Business Essentials, LLC Butler's Auto Recucling** Butterflies in Motion, Inc. C.H. Trees LLC Camp Fire Gulf Wind, Inc.Can Do Home Inspections **CareerSource Escarosa** Cat Country 98.7/News Radio 1620/92.3 FM CbreezeR's **Cela Fitness Society** Chavers Construction, Inc. Chelsea Boatwright CHM, Inc. dba Freedom Homes Citizens Moving Forward, Inc. City of Gulf Breeze **City of Milton** CKD Remodeling, Inc. **Claiming America LLC** Clark Gas Company Clark's Lock & Safe **Clinic Infinity LLC** Clyde's Well Service **Coast To Country Realty Coastal Pix Photo Booth Coastal Wildlife Removal Coldwell Banker** Coldwell Banker - Felicia Fortune Northcutt Coldwell Banker - Kimberly McConkey **Community Health Northwest Florida Complete Technology Solutions Group, LLC Comprehensive Dental Center** Conexon **Constant Contact** Cordova Mall CorpCare Associates, Inc. Cotton Real Estate, Inc. **Covington Mercantile + Coffee Company, LLC Cox Business CPC Office Technologies Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce** Crosspoint Church, Inc. Culpepper Printing Co. Inc. **Cumulus Media CWF Entertainment. LLC D.R. Horton** Damn Fine Jobs LLC **Dan Stewart PA Dave Murzin Davis Roofing & Sheetmetal, LLC Defenders of Freedom-FL Inc.** Dermatology Specialists of Florida **DG Math Tutoring Services**

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New Year, New Resolutions! Start 2025 Pest FREE

Tips to Get the Most Value From Your Pest Treatments

Prepare Your Home in Advance

PATRIOT EST MANAGEMENT

 Clean areas where pests are commonly found, such as kitchens, bathrooms, and storage spaces.

Communicate with Your Patriot Pest Control Technician & Office Staff

Provide detailed information about the pests you've observed, including their type, location, and behaviors.



Maintain a Clean Environment

 Keep outdoor trash bins sealed and away from your home.

Follow Post-Treatment Instructions

Refrain from cleaning treated areas for the time advised by the technician.

Contact our Pest Professionals to schedule your FREE Inspection: **850-994-3990** or scan here:





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THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

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Commander Sponsorships

City of Milton Howard Young Flooring Inspired Closets-Pensacola Jim 'N Nick's Community Bar-B-Q

Leadership Santa Rosa Class 38



Milton, FL-Leadership Santa Rosa's Class 38 has officially launched its year-long leadership development program, starting with an immersive team-building experience at Adventures Unlimited, just outside of Milton, Florida. Ropes Day, a cornerstone of the annual program, challenge participants to strengthen their teamwork, problem solving, and leadership skills in an interactive and dynamic setting. The day began with a DiSC personality evaluation, helping participants gain insight into their workplace behaviors and leadership styles. DiSC measures how people tend to respond to challenges, interact with others, and approach tasks, DiSC measures Dominance (D), Influence (I), Steadiness (S), and Conscientiousness (C). Equipped with this self-awareness, Class 38 members then tackled the Low Ropes Course, which is specifically designed to foster communication, trust, and collaboration. The course featured a series of obstacles, including balance activities, rope mazes, and group challenges that required creative problem-solving and teamwork to overcome. A highlight of the day was a powerful presentation from Theresa Cserep, Associate Director at the Aylstock, Witkin, Kreis, & Overholtz Center for Leadership at the University of West Florida. The event culminated with participants conquering "The Wall," a physically and mentally demanding obstacle that required full team cooperation to complete. "This experience is about more than just physical challenges," said Megen Norwood Weeden, Lead Facilitator and Leadership Santa Rosa Class 33 graduate. "It's about building the foundation for strong leadership by fostering trust, collaboration, and strategic thinking. Class 38 demonstrated incredible determination and camaraderie, setting the stage for an impactful year ahead. "The goals of the day included strengthening teamwork, building trust, and enhancing leadership effectiveness. By the end of the experience, Class 38 participants left with a renewed sense of unity, confidence, and enthusiasm for the year ahead. Leadership Santa Rosa extends its gratitude to Adventures Unlimited for providing an engaging and impactful team-building experience. Special thanks also go to Team Bruce Baker, MBA RE/MAX Infinity for sponsoring breakfast and Sport & Wheat CPA for providing lunch. The success of Ropes Day would not have been possible without the dedication of facilitators. Leadership Santa Rosa recognizes Megen Norwood Weeden as the Lead Facilitator and extends appreciation to Co-Facilitators Karen Cody, Jennifer Hines, and Bridget House, all from Class 37, for their leadership and support. Leadership Santa Rosa, a program of the Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce, is dedicated to developing leaders who are committed to making a positive impact in the region. Throughout the year, Class 38 will participate in various sessions focused on key industries, community challenges, and opportunities shaping Santa Rosa County.

Leadership Santa Rosa's Government Day was an outstanding success! The class had the unique opportunity to explore the inner workings of the BEST County in Florida, Santa Rosa. The day began with an insightful meeting with elected officials and Constitutional Officers, followed by a fascinating tour of our new Courthouse, where Judge Duncan shared valuable perspectives on the court system.

But the excitement didn't stop there; after leaving the courthouse, the real fun began! The group enjoyed an amazing lunch with Sheriff Johnson, who took the time to engage with the class in a thoughtful Q&A session. Next, they experienced a behind-the-scenes tour of the jail, gaining firsthand insight into inmate life. The action kicked into high gear when the SWAT Commander gave an unforgettable demonstration, culminating in a dramatic flash/bang!

The day wrapped up with a visit to the K-9 unit, where the class was blown away by the incredible skills of the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office dogs, including a crowd favorite—an adorable new Bloodhound puppy. It was an unforgettable day, full of learning, excitement, and awe-inspiring moments!

TALLAHASSEE, FL – Leadership Santa Rosa Class 38 recently traveled to Florida's capital for an immersive two-day experience, gaining firsthand insight into the state's legislative process while fostering valuable regional connections with Leadership Okaloosa and Leadership Walton. During the visit, participants toured key government institutions, including the Florida Capitol, Florida Supreme Court, Historic Capitol Museum, and State Library. The group engaged in discussions with speakers from various state agencies and legislative organizations, enhancing their understanding of policy development and governance. A highlight of the trip was a meeting with the Florida Chamber, where members explored economic and business development topics relevant to Santa Rosa County. The experience was further enriched by a networking dinner at the Capitol City Country Club, providing an opportunity to connect with leadership peers from neighboring counties and strengthen regional collaboration. "This trip offers an invaluable opportunity for emerging leaders to engage with the legislative process and understand how decisions made at the state level impact our communities," said Melissa Stoker, Business Development Manager for Space Florida and Curriculum Chair for the Leadership Executive Committee. "By connecting with leaders across the region, participants gain insights and relationships that will serve them well as they work to support and grow Santa Rosa County. "Leadership Santa Rosa's visit to Tallahassee reinforced the importance of civic engagement and regional partnerships, leaving participants with a deeper appreciation for the role of government and a strengthened network of peers committed to leadership and community development.

Leadership Santa Rosa Class 38 toured Naval Air Station Whiting Field (NASWF) during their class military day April 17, 2025. Starting the day, attendees learned about the base's namesake, Kenneth Whiting, and watched as the flag was raised while the National Anthem played. They were then provided a base orientation by NASWF Commanding Officer CAPT Ted Elkins, also a member of Class 38. Throughout the day, attendees gained hands-on experience with T-6 and T-73 aircraft simulators, as well as toured aviation hangars and the air traffic control tower. Rounding out the day, the group toured the Fixed Wing Operations Center and watched aircrafts takeoff on an active flight line. The tour was a great opportunity for local leadership to explore NASWF up close and learn about the largest training air wing in the Navy from military and civilian subject-matter experts.



"When you learn, teach. When you get, give." Maya Angelou

Networking Events-Thank you to our Sponsors!























Freedom Car Show & Bike Show 2025 Sponsored by Adams Sanitation Friday, July 4th Starts at 9 a.m. For more information on vendor booths, please call Jaime at (850) 623-2339.





Red Chip Sponsorship-\$2500 Black Chip Sponsorship-\$1000 Poker Table Sponsorship-\$600 Game Table Sponsorship-\$450 \$80 per ticket/\$150 couple

MAY Chamber Calendar

- May 2.....Jay Chamber Meeting, 11:30 a.m. Jay Community Center, 5259 Booker St., Jay
- May 2Membership Drive/Ambassador Meeting-Lunch Served 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. SRC Chamber of Commerce, 4315 Avalon Blvd., Milton
- May 6......Business After Hours, Sponsored by Coastal Wildlife Removal,5:30 p.m. Blackwater Bistro, 5147 Elmira Street, Milton Click <u>HERE</u> to register!
- May 7......New Member Orientation, 2:30 p.m. SRC Chamber of Commerce, 4315 Avalon Blvd., Milton Click <u>HERE</u> to register!
- May 8SRYP Lunch, 11:30 a.m. Pedro's, 4514 Highway 90, Pace
- May 12.....LSR Class 38 Executive Committee Meeting, 3:00 p.m. Contact Kristin Rhodes more info and virtual link.
- May 12.....LSR Alumni Meeting, 4:00 p.m. Contact Mirella Savage for more info and virtual link.
- May 13......Ribbon Cutting for Mia's Permanent Make Up, 3:00 p.m. 6408 Highway 90 Suite 5 Milton
- May 14......Non-Profit Resource & Development Roundtable, 3:00 p.m. SRC Chamber of Commerce, 4315 Avalon Blvd., Milton Click <u>HERE</u> to register!
- May 15.....LSR Class 38-History Day, 7:30 a.m.
- May 15.....LSR Alumni Social, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Prost Office Brewery, 6821 Caroline St, Milton
- May 16......Military Appreciation Picnic-3:00-7:00 p.m. NAS-Whiting Field
- May 21......E.D.G.E. Meeting, 8:30 a.m. SRC Chamber of Commerce, 4315 Avalon Blvd., Milton Click <u>HERE</u> to register!
- May 22......Home Instead 25th Anniversary Ribbon Cutting,3:45 p.m. 817 N. Palafox St, Pensacola
- May 23......Chamber Lunch, Sponsored by Santa Rosa Band of the Lower Muscogee, Inc.-NOON Santa Rosa Band of the Lower Muscogee, Inc., 4750 Willard Norris Road Milton Click <u>HERE</u> to register!
- May 26.....CHAMBER CLOSED-Memorial Day
- May 27......Ribbon Cutting for 7 Brew Coffee, 10:00 a.m. 6554 Caroline St, Milton
- May 30...... A.M. Network Breakfast, Sponsored by Team Bruce Baker, RE/MAX Infinity ,7:30 a.m. Andy D's, 5887 Highway 90 Milton Click <u>HERE</u> to register!
- May 30......Ribbon Cutting for ProHealth, 11:00 a.m. 4655 Woodbine Rd., Pace

May Community Calendar

- May 1...Empowering Women in Business Networking Lunch, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Registration is REQUIRED! SRC Chamber of Commerce, 4315 Avalon Blvd., Milton
- May 2....Animal Hospital of Pea Ridge 3 Year Anniversary-NOON-2:00 p.m. 4585 Struth Lane, Pace
- May 3....Glitz & Gallop Gala-4:00-7:00 p.m. Culinary Productions Event Venue and Catering 201 East Wright Street
- May 3....USS Harry Mudd Star Trek & SF Club Meeting, 4:00 p.m. SRC Chamber of Commerce, 4315 Avalon Blvd., Milton
- May 13....Milton Garden Club Meeting, 9:00 a.m. Magnolia Hall, 5256 Alabama St., Milton
- May 13...Networking 101, 11:30 a.m. SRC Chamber of Commerce, 4315 Avalon Blvd., Milton
- May 13....Navy League Santa Rosa Council Meeting, 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Milton PD, 5451 Alabama St., Milton
- May 13...Milton Dementia Support Group, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Clyde L. Gracey Community Center, 5629 Byrom St, Room 113, Milton
- May 13....City of Milton Council Meeting, 5:45 p.m. City Hall, 6738 Dixon St., Milton
- May 20....Milton Amateur Radio Club, 5:00 p.m. SRC Chamber of Commerce, 4315 Avalon Blvd., Milton
- May 21...S.N.A.P., 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Rosie O'Grady's, Seville Quarter, Pensacola

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Advertising Opportunities

Internet Exposure

The Chamber provides a user-friendly, informative Website that includes community calendars, maps, and area information. Members are listed by category, including e-mail and Web address. Members may list their events in the online calendar.

Quarterly Chamber Newsletter "The Santa Rosan"

The Santa Rosan is distributed digitally to all Chamber members as well as the public via the Chamber Website and Facebook page. New business members are briefly profiled with a photo and write-up in addition to one free ½ page promotional article. All members can submit stories and updates or purchase very affordable advertising.

Grand Openings/Ribbon Cuttings

These ceremonies, which increase the visibility of new or expanding businesses, are available to Chamber members. Pre-and post-event publicity is provided in the letter as well as through local media and the Chamber Website and Facebook page.

Member Sponsorships

High visibility and advertising value is offered to members who sponsor a Chamber event, such as Business After Hours, Chamber Networking Lunch, The A.M. Network, Annual Community Awards & Installation Lunch, Annual Chamber Golf Tournament, Casino Night, Jeep Show, Car/Motorcycle Show, and others.

When you sponsor an event, your company name is prominently displayed and promoted. Pre-event publicity and mailing offer broad ad vertising exposure at no additional cost above the sponsorship fee.

E-mail Notices & Weekly Calendar

The Chamber keeps members up to date on important issues, events, meetings, promotions, grand openings, ribbon cuttings, and much, much more via e-mail.

Only members may contribute to this "Your Weekly Chamber Calendar", which is sent out every Monday morning.

SRC Chamber & Tourist Information

Center Marquee

The Chamber of Commerce has a full-color electronic marquee located in front of the building facing Avalon Boulevard available for announcements to Chamber members only. Approximately 30,000 vehicles pass this board each day!

Networking Opportunities

Business After Hours

Held the first or second Tuesday of each month from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at different locations, these informal get-togethers provide a forum for lively networking.

The A.M. Network

Join this early morning group, which meets the last Friday of each month at 7:30 a.m.

Participants benefit from a variety of speakers on topics of vital concern to the business community. In addition, each quarter the Navy League recognizes the Sailor-of-the-Quarter program for NAS Whiting Field.

All members are encouraged to attend to make announcements for their business.

New members and guests are welcomed and encouraged to introduce themselves and their product or business.

Networking Lunch

Every third Friday of each month, members enjoy a leisurely lunch, featuring a guest speaker, community announcements, and Chamber

updates.

Great networking opportunity!

Chamber Committees

We invite our members to participate in any of our active, dynamic committees, covering a wide range of interests: EDGE (Economic/Development/Growth/Education) MAC (Military Affairs Committee) Non-Profit Resource & Development Roundtable Santa Rosa Young Professionals Legislative Coalition Committee Ambassadors Committee

Business Opportunities

Mailing Labels

Only members may obtain a complete set of labels for direct-mailing information to the 550+ members of the Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce. This allows you to develop a database of business prospects.

Business Referral Service

Each year, referrals of Chamber business members are given to potential customers in response to inquiries from tourists, the business community, and the general population. In addition, only Chamber member information is included in relocation and visitor information packets available on our website.

Promotional Display

Only members may display their business cards or promotional materials in the Chamber office, providing exposure to hundreds of potential customers annually.

Tax Deductibility Membership in the Chamber is 100% tax deductible as a business expense.

Additional Benefits

Meeting Room Use

The Chamber's Meeting Rooms are provided to members free of charge up to 10 hrs per month on a first come-first serve basis. Call to confirm availability.

Bulk Mail Permit Use

Members may use the Chamber bulk mail stamp, thus saving the \$350 annual fee and allowing average savings of \$50+ per mailout.

Special Programs and Events

Leadership Santa Rosa

A ten-month training program in which participants receive leadership skills training and direct contact with the organizations, institutions, and people in decision and policy making positions central to the process of change and growth in Santa Rosa County.

Annual Community Awards &

Officers Installation Lunch

Held each January to install new Chamber officers and give recognition to outstanding community leaders and volunteers.

Chamber Committees at Work in Our Community

Determine which of these active committees can benefit you or your business – and feel invited to attend our monthly meetings!

·Annual Chamber Installation Lunch ·Annual Chamber Golf Tournament ·Business After Hours ·Chamber Ambassadors ·Chamber Networking Lunch ·The A.M. Network Breakfast ·E.D.G.E. (Economic Development Growth & Education) Meeting ·Leadership Santa Rosa ·Military Affairs Committee ·Military Appreciation Picnic Fourth of July events

> Office Hours Monday through Friday, 9 am-4 pm

Closed for all federal holidays.

Thanks to Kelley Handyman Service, for sponsoring the May Santa Rosan!

Kelley Handyman Services: A Journey of Craftsmanship From Bricklaying to Comprehensive Home Repair

John got his start laying bricks, which may have been in the form of a home, mailbox, or other brick-related project. His curiosity and desire to expand his skills led him to explore more. Following this initial phase, John quickly moved into building mobile homes, conducting repairs, and undertaking remodels. His love for painting, encompassing both interior and exterior structures, soon grew. Today, John possesses the expertise to build and repair just about anything, from installing cabinets to remodeling bathrooms, fixing window trim to drywall repair and replacement, adding new window trim, and more.

Currently, Kelley Handyman Services is proud to service Milton, Pensacola, Navarre, and surrounding areas. They love being able to give back to their community in many ways, from donating time with local charities to hosting events with the Chamber of Commerce. John prioritizes customer needs while focusing on delivering high-quality work on time. Kelley Handyman Services is insured and maintains an active business license in Santa Rosa County, Florida.

Summer is the ideal time to begin those home projects you have been postponing. John operates a Limited Liability Company (LLC), holds a business license, and is fully insured. John offers free estimates with no obligation required.

The following are a few Google reviews recently received:

MELANIE

John the handyman is GREAT! We are happy with all of the work projects John did. He is now our go-to guy for handyman projects. Thank you, John!

DENISE

John fixed my bathroom. Floor, subfloor, tub, replaced the vanity, painted. Great job. Will definitely use again and highly recommend.

SANDY

Great job. He did exactly what he said and for the price he quoted. I will use again. Call Kelley Handyman to schedule your free bid: 850-378-6262 or email <u>kelleyhandyman@gmail.com</u>

