

New Sheriff in Town



John Budensiek, a 27 year veteran of **Martin County Sheriff's Office**, was sworn in as the new Sheriff on Tuesday, January 7. He is a **LEADERship Alumni of class 30**. The ceremony was at the Martin County Sheriff's Aviation Hangar with deputy, county and district leaders, family and friends attending. As the new sheriff he vows safety and innovation plans to keep our community safe. Congratulations to Sheriff Budensiek as a graduate of the 2024 Florida Sheriff's Academy who is now well prepared to lead with excellence.

Class 30 Team Members



IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---|---|
| NEW SHERRIF <i>Budensiek</i> | 1 |
| YOUTH DAY <i>Class 26</i> | 2 |
| CAREER DAY <i>March 25</i> | 3 |
| RETIRING <i>Whittington</i> | 3 |
| COPEs DAY <i>Class 34</i> | 4 |
| FESTIVAL OF GIVING 5 <i>Children's Museum</i> | |
| CHAMBER EVENTS 5 <i>February</i> | |
| BULLETIN BOARD 6 <i>Announcements</i> | |
| ALUMNI BOARD 6 <i>2024 - 2025</i> | |
| WEB ADDRESS 6 <i>Information</i> | |
| ALUMNI ADDRESS 6 <i>Pay Dues</i> | |

SAVE THE DATE

- For an **EXCLUSIVE** LEADERship Alumni private tour of the new - Boys and Girls Club Workforce Development Labs!

Students Learn About Legal and Public Safety Careers

Martin Youth LEADERship Class on December 17 meet for Law and Public Safety Day.

Students met professionals from the **19th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida**, including State Attorney Tom Bakkedahl (Class 10), the Honorable Judge Jennifer Waters and Assistant Public Defender Robert Bruton (Class 26) at the Martin County Courthouse. The three presented an overview of the court system in Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties. Among the topics of discussion were the differences between circuit and county courts, the differences between prison and jail, the types of courts available in the 19th circuit and the process from arrest through incarceration. Students were given advice in making smart choices as students and preparing for the varied careers in the legal arena.

Students' traveled to **Martin County Fire and Rescue Station 23**. They toured the station and the vehicles, learning about life as a firefighter and EMT. They also walked in the cab of one of the trucks and learned about some of the equipment firefighters rely on to assist county residents. Many worked the hoses to experience the power and pressure needed when combatting a fire.

They visited **County Fire Rescue** headquarters, where Josh Jenkins spoke about fire safety and gave a demonstration on the correct way to administer CPR. **Sheriff's Office** deputies gave a K-9 presentation from "Nitro" and his handler while learning how German shepherds are trained to assist officers in tasks vital to law enforcement. Deputies spoke to the students as future leaders, educating them about careers in law enforcement and showing dash and helicopter cam videos from suspects fleeing and the many ways law enforcement personnel can track them down. Trisha Green (Class 27), Community Outreach Manager for the MCSO, also organized a tour of the **911 Call Center**. Finally, students went outside to meet with members of the **SWAT Team**. There, they toured a SWAT vehicle and handled some of the tools used by SWAT. Many thanks go to program chairs Robert Bruton and Trisha Green, who organized the day.



YOUTH CAREER DAY - WE NEED YOUR HELP

Are you an “expert” in LinkedIn and Social Media?

Do you own or work in a business or organization that can use student volunteers or unpaid interns?

If so, we have an OPPORTUNITY for you!

MARTIN YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAREER DAY

Indian River State College Chastain Campus on Salerno Road.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25th

FIRST OPPORTUNITY:

We need a Leadership Alumni member to teach/guide/direct a 45 minute class or discussion on professional usage of LinkedIn and Social Media in professional careers.

Please call or text Sue Whittington at 772-403-3013.

SECOND OPPORTUNITY:

We will hold a Career Fair in the Johnson Auditorium as part of Career Day. The Fair will be from 9:40 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. You may set up as early as 8 a.m. We invite you to circulate material about your organization, distribute promotional materials, etc. in exchange for the opportunity to recruit and/or educate dynamic high school students.

These students are looking for volunteers or unpaid internships.

Please call or text Jeanne Dunn at 772-486-4695 for Career Fair.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM THOSE OF YOU WHO CAN GIVE A LITTLE OF YOUR TIME AND SHARE YOUR EXPERTISE WITH THESE DYNAMIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. **We are waiting for your call!**

Sue Whittington Moving Forward.....

Sue Whittington, Class 14 and former LEADERship Alumni President, had a busy year in 2024. She raised almost \$100,000 and won the People’s Choice Award in Dancing with Martin Stars on September 21st.

She retired from Morgan Stanley on September 30th after an 18 year career as a Financial Advisor. Sue began a new part-time job as a Travel Advisor with CruiseOne – Jill Venturi & Associates in October.



Adult COPES Day



Congratulations to Class 34 as they shared a day of challenges and accomplishments, laughter and good memories during their **COPES Day** experience. **Thanks to Alumnus, Alec Connolly and his crew at Gulfstream Council, Boy Scouts of America** for their coordination and expertise of the program.



Thanks to the Alumni COPES Day Committee and to our facilitators: Alec Connolly (11) Cheree Ramirez (27) Sarah baker (29) Christina Hunter (32) Liz Southers (33) Lisa Conway (32) Lynda Murtagh (31) Cindy Groover (30) Pete Lashenka (20) and Tim Kinane (1). Not pictured: Jeanne Dunn (28) & Dana Kimberly (33).

Festival of Giving

Tammy Calabria, (Class 20) **Executive Director of Children's Museum of the Treasure Coast** hosted the *Festival of Giving* in November 2024. After 16 successful years with Tykes and Teens under the name Festival of Trees and Lights this new location embraces a refreshed mission and direction by the vision of Tammy. The festival invited local nonprofits with missions centered on children, families and education from the five counties the museum serves. Forty-three nonprofits, including the museum, participated in 2024.

Seventy-two trees were donated and decorated along with wreaths and centerpieces, many paired with additional gifts valued at hundreds or thousands of dollars. In its inaugural year at the museum they were very successful raising more than \$57,000, with more than \$22,000 distributed among 43 participating nonprofits.



UPCOMING Stuart/Martin Chamber Events

You must RSVP all Events at 772-287-1088, ext. 112

Feb. 4, Tues., 7:45am, **Business B4 Breakfast**, **LEADERShip Martin County**, Community Center, 724 SE 10th St., Stuart

Feb. 12, Tues., 11:45am, **Business At Lunch**, PSM, **A Hanwha Co.** Stuart Corinthian Yacht Club, 4725 SE Capstan Ave., Stuart

Feb. 19, Wed., 5:30-7:30pm, **Business After Hours**, **Owen Insurance Group**, 1611 NW Federal Hwy., Stuart

Feb. 25, Tues., 7:45am, **Business B4 Breakfast**, **Martin County Police Athletic League**, 1284 SW 34th Street, Palm City

SAVE THE DATE - Wednesday - MARCH 26th - **TRESURE COAST HOME & HURRICAN EXPO** Mid-Florida Event Center, Port St. Lucie - Contact - Debbie 287-1088, ext. 112



**LEADERship Alumni Board
2024-2025**

President

Chelsey Matheson
Florida Atlantic University

Vice-President

Kate Muscarella
EW Consultants, Inc.

Treasurer

David Sarno
Valley National Bank

Recording Secretary

Jon Milton
Milton Engineering Consultants

Corresponding Secretary

Jeremy Harris
Growth Squad

Directors

Sarah Baker
First Citizens Bank

George Dzama
Martin County Government

Frank Fender
TeamLogic IT

Elisabeth Glynn
Cleveland Clinic

Joanna Greene
Martin County Government

Christina Hunter
Martin County Clerk of Court

Charlene Lyons
YMCA of the Treasure Coast

Melissa Zolla
The Firefly Group

Ex-Officio

Past President
Cindy Groover
Community Ambassador

Class Representative
Blaine Isbell
Corporate TeamIP

Youth Planning Chair
Diana Bruton
Treasure Coast Realty

LEADERship Prog. Director
Cindy LaConte
Stuart/Martin County Chamber

LEADERlines Editor
Nancy Sailer

Bulletin Board

POST YOUR NOTES



Peggy Wood, Esq (Class 22) of McCarthy, Summers, Wood, Norman, Melby & Schultz, P.A. is newly board-certified as an Estate Planning Law Specialist by the Estate Law Specialist Board, Inc. Peggy has been an Accredited Estate Planner since 2019.



Martin Kofsky, Esq (Class 24) has joined Zweben Law Group. He will be handling Family Law matters. Kofsky brings decades of experience and marital law, divorce and appeals.



Chuck Geary (Class 4) attorney at law for Lesser, Lesser, Landy & Smith, PLLC. The law firm recently changed their name to Lesser, Landy, Smith & Siegel, PLLC. Geary is a Director on the Stuart/Martin Chamber of Commerce Board.

SAVE THE DATE - For an exclusive LEADERship Alumni private tour of the new - Boys and Girls Club Workforce Development Labs!

Thursday, February 13, at 5 pm,
Stuart Boys and Girls Club, 551 SE
Martin Luther King Blvd, Stuart
Florida.

Alumni Purpose

The purpose of LEADERship Martin County Alumni is to support the LEADERship Martin County Program; to provide education and networking opportunities for our members; and to enhance community awareness of our members by providing opportunities to evaluate and act on issues affecting the community.

Note: Our monthly newsletter can now be viewed on our website
www.LeadershipMCalumni.com

LEADERship Alumni
P.O. Box 794
Stuart, FL 34995-794