



LEADERlines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF LEADERSHIP MARTIN COUNTY ALUMNI



BEHIND THE BALLOT: AN ALUMNI CIVIC TOUR

LEADERSHIP Alumni saw democracy in action thanks to a fascinating morning at the Martin County Supervisor of Elections.

Supervisor of Elections Vicki Davis (Class 4), Chief Deputy Kherri Anderson (Class 17) and their staff organized an incredible program that spanned everything from the history of the elections office in Martin County to voter statistics from the last general election to the in-depth details of the election process, including an enlightening behind-the-scenes tour.

We even participated in a mock election - which included some Thanksgiving trivia. (Fun Fact: The President who made Thanksgiving a national holiday was Abraham Lincoln!)

We can't thank the Supervisor's office enough for their wonderful hospitality. They welcome visitors, so anyone who missed our event can schedule a date to visit and tour.

MORE →



TOUR CONT'D

Elections are coming up in 2026, so plan ahead and check your voting status and information with the Supervisor's office. And make sure you do your civic responsibility and vote!



ATTENTION VOTERS!

You May Need to Update Your Voter Registration Record

Vicki Davis, Martin County Supervisor of Elections, urges all voters who have recently updated their Florida driver's license or Florida identification card to contact the Elections Office. This is important because new state ID requirements could affect your ability to request a vote-by-mail ballot or to verify your signature when signing an initiative petition.

On July 31, 2024, all Florida residents who renew their driver's license or ID will receive a card with randomly generated numbers. This change will affect how election offices verify requests for vote-by-mail ballots and signatures on initiative petitions.

When renewing your driver's license in person, you can choose to update your voter registration. By selecting this option, your new driver's license information will be sent directly from the tax collector's office to the elections office, ensuring your voter record is updated automatically. You will also receive a new voter information card.

To keep your voter record current and accurate, please take a moment to check your voter status. Being "Election Ready" helps you stay prepared for the upcoming 2026 election cycle. It's important to note that in-person voting remains unaffected by this change. If you vote in person, you will still need to show your photo ID and signature ID at check-in to receive your ballot.

If you have any questions about the new driver's license format and its impact on requesting a mail ballot or signing an initiative petition, feel free to contact the Supervisor of Elections at 772-288-5637 or visit us online at www.MartinVotes.gov.

Vicki Davis

Martin County Supervisor of Elections

CLASS 35 UPDATE

Education Day



Education Day on Nov. 6 was a resounding success!

LEADERShip Class 35 kicked off at Clark Advanced Learning Center, and made stops at Pinewood Elementary, Stuart Middle School and Martin County High School, connecting with students across the county.

The day was packed with live performances, engaging student panels, and an inspiring leadership session led by Tim Kinane. A special highlight was the incredible lunch, expertly prepared by the talented students of the Martin County High School Culinary Program.



Kudos go out to Dr. Tracy Miller (Class 27), Dr. Leslie Judd (Class 21), Jeanne Dunn (Class 28), Philip Ratchford (Class 33), Jennifer Russell (Class 33), and Christina Frates for executing a seamless and highly impressive day!

COMMUNITY CORNER

Experience MartinArts

by Nancy Turrell, Class 4



As we look ahead to 2026, MartinArts is turning up the volume on our programming—and we couldn't do it without our incredible partners and supporters helping us expand our reach. Here's a glimpse of what's ahead:

The Art of Food & Wine @ ArtsFest (February 7 & 8) We're raising a glass to the culinary arts! This year, our collaboration with The Treasure Coast Wine Fest takes ArtsFest to new heights, celebrating the artistry of food and wine. Even better, their share of event proceeds will support mental health programs for the hospitality industry—a beautiful connection, since we all know how profoundly the arts nourish our own mental well-being. ArtsFest has been a community celebration of the arts – culinary, visual and performing – since 1988! And with the support of so many alumni who volunteer during the weekend, serve on the planning committee and step up to sponsor this beloved event, it continues to be a major source of revenue every year for MartinArts.

A Collection of Art from Local Estates We are deeply grateful to Rex and Cheryl Allen for the generous gift of an extensive art collection from their family, along with contributions from other local collectors. This has inspired a new series of programs designed for art enthusiasts and collectors alike, including discussions on preserving and managing collections for future generations. The series will culminate in an art auction (March 20) and our beloved "Art Out of the Closet" event (March 21).

Court House Cultural Center New exhibits happen every other month at the Court House Cultural Center as we celebrate the visual arts, and host Sunset Concerts each month on the 2nd Tuesday at 5:30 pm (registration recommended).

Will It Go Round in Circles | Through December 20, 2025 A vibrant, thought-provoking exhibition featuring the work of three dynamic and widely recognized artists, Tom Prestopnik, Maria G. Miele and Linda Reymore, each on a journey that's come full circle.

35th Annual All Florida Juried Art Show | January 13 - February 28, 2026 This exhibition showcases recent works by Florida artists across a wide variety of media. The collection highlights the diverse creativity and talent flourishing throughout the state, from traditional to contemporary art. Join us for the Opening Night & Awards Reception on Friday, January 9, 5:30PM–7PM.

Sign up for our free email newsletter to stay in touch on the events that are happening in our arts community at www.martinarts.org and to support us as we strive to keep Martin County alive with the arts, considering joining as a member, starting at \$65/year.

There's so much to see, hear, and celebrate this season—art, music, theater, and more! Remember, the arts are not only good for the soul, but essential for the heart of our community.

MARTIN *Arts*

IN THE BIZ

The Importance of a Strong Business Banking Partnership

By Sarah Baker, Class 29, First Citizens Bank

With nearly 30 years in business banking, I've learned that financial strategy isn't just about accounts, lending, or treasury tools—it's about people, goals, and building something that lasts. Every business owner has a vision, and my role is to help make that vision sustainable, scalable, and financially strong.

As Vice President and Financial Sales Manager at First Citizens Bank, I lead a team dedicated to helping organizations across the Treasure Coast manage cash flow, secure the right funding, streamline treasury processes, and plan not just for what's next—but for what's possible. I enjoy working alongside business leaders, nonprofits, and entrepreneurs to make banking feel less transactional and more like a partnership.

What I love most is the problem-solving and collaboration—helping someone uncover a financial opportunity they didn't know existed, connecting leaders with resources, or celebrating milestones as businesses grow and evolve.

First Citizens Bank has been family-led for more than 120 years, and that shows up in how we serve. Our Forever First philosophy means we focus on relationships over transactions, long-term trust over short-term wins, and showing up for our communities—every step of the way. We believe strong businesses build strong communities, and we're proud to support economic growth and leadership development across our region.

As part of the LEADERShip Martin County Alumni network, I'm always open to a conversation—whether you're planning expansion, refining your financial strategy, or just want a sounding board. If we haven't connected yet, I'd love to meet you. Our community is full of incredible leaders, and being part of that shared impact is one of the best aspects of what I do.

Choosing a banking partner is more than a financial decision—it's a long-term strategy that deserves careful thought. Here are five elements to consider:

- Choose a bank that builds a real relationship with you—not just an account number.
- Ensure your banking partner helps you strengthen cash flow, not just process transactions.
- Work with a bank that supports you through change, growth, and uncertainty—not only when things are easy.
- Partner with a financial institution that invests in and understands your local business community.
- Select a banker who plans with your future in mind—not just today's needs.



Sarah Baker, right, with Martin County School Board Chair Jennifer Russell (Class 33). Sarah and Jen are board members of the YMCA of the Treasure Coast.



Upcoming Events



Invites you to Join us
for a Lunch and Learn

EVERYDAY LEADERSHIP

W/ TIM KINANE



DON'T JUST CHANGE THE WORLD.
CHANGE ONE PERSON'S WORLD.

**Join us as we explore a
powerful truth:**

Leadership isn't about massive, world-altering feats; it's about the "**candy cane moments**"—small, everyday acts of kindness and influence that fundamentally change someone else's life.

Discover how a simple gesture, a kind word, or an unexpected compliment can have a profound, lasting impact on another person, often without you even realizing it.

- Recognize the power you hold to uplift others in daily interactions.
- Embrace the "lowercase I" leadership that exists within us all, every single day.

December 18, 2025 | 12:00pm - 2:00 pm

Blake Library | 2351 SE Monterey Rd. Stuart

Register Today

\$35 active members / \$45 for inactive members



Bulletins



United Way of Martin County's annual **Toys for Tots Holiday Project** is underway! Sign up to volunteer at www.unitedwaymartin.org/HolidayVolunteer



Doug Mustapick (Class 31) has been appointed by Gov. Ron DeSantis to serve on the **Children's Services Council of Martin County**.



Laura Haase (Class 28) has been appointed Executive Director-Designate of the **Children's Services Council of Martin County**.



Stuart Christmas Parade is Friday, Dec. 5 beginning at 7 p.m. This year's theme is 100 Years of Martin County. Parade route is along E. Ocean Blvd. from Monterey Road to Georgia Ave.



Martin County Christmas Boat Parade is set for Saturday, Dec. 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. Parade route travels from Sandspruit Park past Sewall's Point, ending near the Roosevelt Bridge.

We want to share your news!
Contact us at
info@leadershipmcalumni.com.

LEADERship Martin County Alumni

Our Mission:

To inspire continuous professional and personal growth in the LEADERship Martin County community.

Our Vision:

A strong LEADERship Alumni network that nurtures meaningful connections, opportunities and ideas that strengthen the Martin County community and future generations of leaders.

Stuart/Martin Chamber of Commerce

DECEMBER EVENTS

Dec. 9 Business B4 Breakfast
Crafted The Store

Dec. 11 Business at Lunch
Marriott Hutchinson Island Beach Resort

Dec. 16 Business B4 Breakfast
The Grace Place

*Wishing our
LEADERship
Alumni Family a
Joyous Holiday
Season and a
Happy New Year!*