



LEADERlines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF LEADERSHIP MARTIN COUNTY ALUMNI



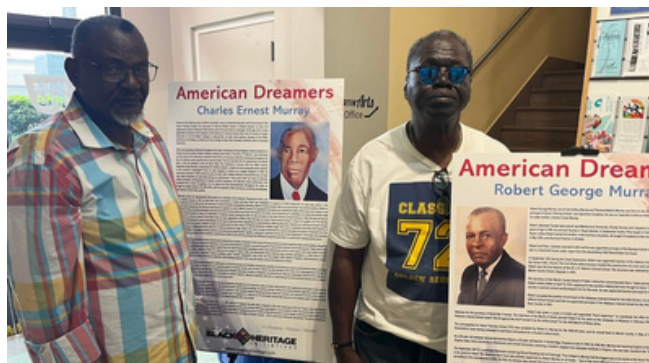
CLASS 35 UPDATE - HISTORY, ARTS AND CULTURE DAY

By Amber Ducote, LEADERSHIP Program Director

Class 35 had an INCREDIBLE History, Arts, and Culture Day on Oct. 2! The day was organized by the ever-exceptional Nancy Turrell (Class 4) and navigated perfectly by Eric Kiehn (29). It was supported by the likes of Grace Phillips (33), Francine Beckstead (9), Dana Kimberly (33), Daniela Quinn (33), Philip Ratchford (33), Jennifer Carter (34), and other amazing volunteers!

Class 35 embraced creative, educational experiences at some beloved historical venues about town to include the Courthouse Cultural Center, the Lyric Theater, Children's Museum of the Treasure Coast, the Elliott Museum, and the Barn Theater!

The day was enriched by historical vignettes, museum explorations, Giving Exercises, a Vision for the Future of the Arts and most importantly... Tie-dye!



Meet the Treasurer!



DAVID SARNO, CLASS 21

Valley National Bank Commercial Lender, VP/Portfolio Manager VP
Valley National Bank

Hometown: Fort Lauderdale

Current City: Palm City

How long have you lived in the area? What made you stay? **My family moved here in 1980. I went away to college in 1997 and returned in 2003. I grew up in Martin County and loved it. I knew it was a great place to have a family and raise my kids.**

Tell us about your current organization and your position. **Valley National Bank is a regional commercial bank headquartered in Morristown, New Jersey. The bank operates a network of over 200 branches and commercial banking offices across multiple states. Although the bank is based in New Jersey, much of the decision-making is done locally, giving it the feel of a community bank and allows me to provide a high standard of customer service. I have been in commercial banking since 2003 and I've been at Valley Bank since 2011. I have extensive experience in all aspects of commercial lending, including underwriting, loan origination, and special assets management. I currently manage an \$800 million commercial real estate portfolio that has over 200 loans.**

What is your favorite part about doing LEADERship Martin County? **I really enjoyed the leadership program because it gave me the opportunity to build meaningful connections and get to know my community better, even though I lived here almost my entire life!**

What advice would you give the incoming LEADERship Class? **The leadership program will be rewarding because if you immerse yourself, you learn so much about the community and its leaders.**

Fun Facts

Favorite Local Restaurant:

The Gafford and District Table

Favorite Place in Martin County:

Anywhere outside! Camp Murphy in JD, Halpatiokee, the beach and Downtown Stuart

Favorite Shows: **Walking Dead and The Office**

Favorite Band: **Linkin Park**

Favorite Sport: **NFL and World Cup Soccer**

College Alma Mater(s): **University of Central Florida & Nova Southeastern University**

2025-2026

LEADERSHIP ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Kate Muscarella

Vice President: Christina Hunter

Treasurer: David Sarno

Recording Secretary: Jon Milton

Corresponding Secretary: Charlene Lyons

Directors

Lisa Conway, Joanna Greene,
Patrick Nolan, Christen Spake, Sally Waite

Ex Officio

Chelsey Matheson,
Immediate Past President
Amber Ducote,
LEADERship Program Director
Chris Vaccaro,
Class 34 Representative

WHAT'S GOING DOWN IN INDIANTOWN?

Community Update Breakfast with the Village of Indiantown



Great things are happening in Indiantown, and LEADERShip Alumni was lucky enough to get the inside scoop from one of our own. Huge thanks to fellow LEADERShip Martin County alumna, Taryn Kryzda (Class 13) for sharing her insights and updates with us during our October Community Update Breakfast.

Taryn's passion for community progress and her deep knowledge of local developments left us inspired and energized. It's moments like these that remind us why we gather—to learn, connect, and celebrate the leaders shaping Martin County's future.

Is there a topic we should feature as a Community Update Breakfast? Pitch us your idea at info@leadershipmcalumni.com.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT ...
***October Happy Hour at
The Catch!***



Join the November pub crawl!
Check out p. 7 for details.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Hope Center for Autism: Opening Doors to Limitless Futures in Martin County

Located in the heart of Martin County, the Hope Center for Autism serves as a vital resource for children and young adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Under the dedicated leadership of Executive Director Joanne Sweazey (Class 34), the Center is proud to be the county's only public charter school tailored specifically for students with autism. Catering to children from Pre-K through 8th grade, the Center also offers its innovative "Next Step" program, focusing on social development, communication, and vocational readiness, helping every student grow with purpose and confidence.

Founded in 2002, the Hope Center for Autism provides evidence-based instruction that aligns with Florida's educational standards, prioritizing independence and behavioral growth. With intentionally small class sizes, typically one staff member for every three students, the Center ensures individualized attention that fosters success both in and outside the classroom. The "Next Step" program further equips teens and young adults with essential skills through social skills groups, life coaching, and real-world job training, bridging the gap between school and adulthood.

The need for specialized education like this is pressing. Nationally, 1 in 31 children is diagnosed with ASD, and in Martin County's growing population of over 158,000 residents, many families are seeking this transformative support. Additionally, 85% of adults with autism remain unemployed, highlighting the critical importance of early and ongoing intervention.

The Hope Center is embarking on its most ambitious initiative yet: acquiring or constructing a state-of-the-art facility in Martin County. This expansion will enable the Center to support more children and families while addressing its waiting list of 385 students, positively impacting countless lives. The recent hiring of Chris Vaccaro (Class 34) as Director of Business Development will help strengthen community partnerships, increase awareness, and secure resources necessary to realize this vision in Martin County.

The Hope Center for Autism is more than just a school; it is a lifeline. It is a place where potential meets opportunity, challenges become triumphs, and hope firmly takes root in our community.



*Chris Vaccaro (Class 34) is Director of
Business Development at the Hope Center
for Autism and the Class 34
Representative to the LEADERShip
Alumni Board of Directors.*



Do you have an update to share about a community initiative? Are you a current Alumni member? We want to hear from you! Contact us at info@leadershipmcalumni.com for more information.

IN THE BIZ

The Who, What and Whys of Homecare

By Lisa Teetor, Class 7, Nightingale Private Care/Activa



If a loved one is:

Having difficulty accomplishing household tasks, struggling with daily personal care, needing help with medicine management, loneliness, falling frequently or experiencing frequent hospital visits ...

it could be time to learn more about Home Care.

Seniors who raised families, had successful careers, and maintained their everyday life independently may now struggle and need assistance and confidence at home. Home care can benefit not just the physical needs of a senior but their emotional needs as well. Being home provides a sense of comfort and lessens anxiety. Caregivers can also provide companionship and socialization, preventing feelings of loneliness.

Family caregivers need respite and peace of mind as they take loving care of their parents and navigate their own families and careers. While you provide home care for your loved one, you are helping them, yourself and adding quality time to both your lives.

Home care provides a range of support tailored to your loved one's needs at home. It could mean skilled nursing services, therapies, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Dementia Care, mobility safety, monitoring chronic conditions, companionship, homemaker services, personal care, transportation and more.

Home care helps preserve a sense of freedom, control, and dignity by enabling our loved ones to live in their own home for as long as possible.

As we all grow older, we are all writing similar chapters in our book: Watching over our Moms and Dads and other loved ones with dignity and understanding, and providing all the love, special care, and safety they gave us.

Nightingale Private Care: Empowering Individuals to Thrive at Home with Compassionate Care.

www.nightingaleprivatecare.com
772-245-8390

*In the Biz is an opportunity for LEADERShip Alumni to share your expertise, special updates about how your business and ways you can be an asset to your fellow members. Contact info@leadershipmcalumni.com for more information. *Must be a current member to participate.**

Upcoming Events

Martin County Supervisor of Elections

Behind the Ballot:
An Alumni Civic Tour



LEADERSHIP

MARTIN COUNTY ALUMNI FOUNDATION FOR YOUTH, INC.

November 19th
8:30am–10:00am



LEADERSHIP ALUMNI – YOUR VOTE STARTS HERE!

- Receive an overview of the office and meet your Martin County Supervisor of Elections
- Get your election questions answered by trusted sources
- Take a guided tour and gain valuable knowledge and insights to better help you understand the safety and security measures in place to ensure every vote counts!

REGISTER TODAY

FREE FOR ACTIVE ALUMNI, \$10 FOR INACTIVE ALUMNI / GUESTS

www.leadershipmcalumni.com



NOVEMBER 2025

Upcoming Events

LEADERSHIP MARTIN COUNTY ALUMNI

HAPPY HOUR

JUST BECAUSE WE THOUGHT
IT WOULD BE FUN..

PUB CRAWL WITH A
MOVEMBER TWIST

JOIN US FOR WEEKLY HAPPY HOURS
THROUGHOUT NOVEMBER AS WE
CELEBRATE COMMUNITY, CONNECTIONS,
AND A LITTLE MUSTACHIEOD MISCHIEF
5:00 - 7:00

NOVEMBER 5 - SOUND BREWING CO.

NOVEMBER 12 - OCEAN REPUBLIC BREWING

NOVEMBER 19 - FRAZIER CREEK BREWING & DISTILLING CO.

NOVEMBER 26 - THE HOUSE OF BREWS

NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY

WWW.LEADERSHIPMCAUMNI.COM

Bulletins



Capstone IT (Michael Borlaug, CEO, Class 29) made *Inc. Magazine's* list of the **5000 Fastest Growing Companies in the U.S.**



Ryan Strom (Class 19) of **Team Parks** was honored with the **Charlene Hoag Leadership Award** at the **2025 Martin County Business Awards**.



Class 34 reunited to clean up the LEADERShip Martin County Adopt-A-Road section of Indian Street - and helped Keep Martin Beautiful!



Congratulations to Skylar Gorman (Class 31) and James Haney who got married in October in Key West.



Daniela Quinn (Class 34) joined **Carr, Riggs & Ingram** as a **Business Development Executive**.

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

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Nov. 12 Business at Lunch
Marriott Hutchinson Island Resort

Nov. 13 Engagement Workshop
Stuart/Martin Chamber

Nov. 14 Ribbon Cutting
Two Georges Dockside Grill

Nov. 17 Council of Chambers
Children's Museum of TC

Nov. 18 Holiday Market & Show
St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Nov. 25 Operation Thank You
Stuart/Martin Chamber

