



Manatee CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Current

The Official Publication of the Manatee Chamber of Commerce

SEPTEMBER 2018

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CONGRATULATIONS 2018 Small Business of the Year AWARD WINNERS



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Manatee
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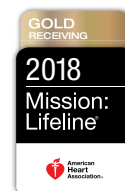


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Physicians are on the medical staff of Manatee Memorial Hospital, but, with limited exceptions, are independent practitioners who are not employees or agents of Manatee Memorial Hospital. The hospital shall not be liable for actions or treatments provided by physicians. For language assistance, disability accommodations and the non-discrimination notice, visit our website. 180035



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Extend Your Stay

Add four days and travel to the Moorish town of Barcarrota during their annual festival when the Hernando De Soto Historical Society will be visiting as well. Enjoy the UNESCO medieval town of Evora and Portugal's legendary port town of Lisbon.

Contact Carey Miller at 941-748-4842, ext. 113 or
CareyM@ManateeChamber.com for more information.

ManateeChamber.com/Spain

Departs: August 30, 2019 | 10 Days | Price starts at \$3,595 per person

Informational Meeting: October 16 @ 5:45 PM

Manatee Chamber's Lakewood Ranch Office, 4215 Concept Court, Lakewood Ranch 34211



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MISSION:

To build a positive business environment while enhancing the community's quality of life.

The Manatee Chamber of Commerce's **Current** magazine is published monthly and distributed to more than 3,000 business and community leaders. It is an advertising medium available only to Chamber members.

FOR ADVERTISING RATES CONTACT:

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Tuesdays, 9:00 - 10:00 - 11:00 AM, Lakewood Ranch Office at the McClure Center

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Stay up to date with the latest Chamber news and happenings

contents

FEATURES

- 6 Membership Matters
 - New Member Referral Program
- 7 Advocacy
 - Strengthening Our Community Through Connectedness
- 9 Think Local and Live Like a Tourist
- 10 Chamber Expo 2018 | Nov. 7
 - Early Birds Pick Their Booth Space
- 11 28th Annual Business & Education Partnership Awards Breakfast | Sept. 21

Big Bank Theory - Set for Oct. and Nov.
- 12 Public Policy Event
 - Headliners Lunch | Sept. 10
Dr. Susan MacManus, USF Professor Emeritus, Political Analyst, Author
- 12 Small Business Resources
 - New Federal Tax Law Seminar
 - Response to Active Shooter Training
- 16 Cover Story:
39th Annual Small Business of the Year Awards Highlights
- 20 Golden Member Celebrations:
50+ Years of Investing in the Manatee Chamber's Mission
 - Bob Boast Volkswagen
 - Tropicana Products
- 21 34th Annual Golf Tournament | Dec. 7
 - Secure Your Sponsorship for Maximum Business Exposure
- 26 56th Annual Dinner and
2nd Annual Robert P. Bartz Award
 - Save the Date | Jan. 31, 2019

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 8 Platinum Spotlight:
Manatee Memorial Hospital
- 13 Better Business Council (BBC)
- 14 Manatee Young Professionals (MYP)
- 22 Coffee Club Highlights
- 23 Business After Hours Highlights
- 24 Welcome New Members
- 26 Biscuits & Benefits Member Reception
- 27 Power Connection Events
- 28 Ribbon Cutting Celebrations
- 29 Member News
- 30 Calendar of Events & Meetings
- 31 Chairman's Circle
Chamber Friends

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

spotlight

Jacki Dezelski

Manatee Chamber of Commerce

President | CEO



Pencil, Pen, or Stylus? 0.5mm Mechanical Pencil
Early Bird or Night Owl? Early Bird (and a Night Owl sometimes)
Favorite App: iPhone News app
On Your Reading List: A revisit to *A Leader's Gift* by Barry Banther
Favorite Manatee County Spot: Wherever my kiddos are, but we particularly love the beaches on Anna Maria Island
Career in Your Next Life: Organic farmer and serious home chef
What Tugs at Your Heart: Children, education, poverty
Great Business Advice You've Received: People do business with people they know and like. Be a consistent resource to others while supporting your team in doing their best work.



Business After Hours

September 11 • 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Conley Buick GMC Subaru

MYP Networking Social

September 13 • 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Caddy's at the Pointe

Coffee Club & Ten-Minute Takeaway

September 27 • 7:45 - 9:00 AM
PACE Center for Girls

membership matters

Manatee Chamber Announces New Member Referral Program

The Manatee Chamber is offering some delicious incentives for members to help recruit new businesses to our Chamber. It's easy - and rewarding!

We've designated September as Refer-A-Member month. Refer a prospective member (think about your clients, business colleagues, friends, and neighbors) during the month of September. If your prospect joins the Manatee Chamber by the end of October, you will be entered to win a \$50 restaurant gift certificate. There is no limit on your number of referrals. The more member prospects who join, the more drawing entries you receive.



Here's How It Works:

1 Ask a prospect

(client, business colleague, friend or neighbor) if they would be **interested** in **learning** about **membership** with the Manatee Chamber of Commerce.

2

If the answer is **YES**, submit their contact information along with your **referral** detail at ManateeChamber.com/ReferAMember.

3

A Chamber representative will **follow up** with your prospect, learn more about their business, and **offer assistance** with joining the Chamber.

4

Once the referred **business joins** the Chamber, **you will be entered** to win! Many **winners** will be chosen!

It's Easy to Submit Your Referral

Visit ManateeChamber.com/ReferAMember and complete the referral form.



Refer A Member prize winners will be announced at the Manatee Chamber's Member Appreciation Cookout on November 30 at our Lakewood Ranch Office.

Restaurant Gift Certificates Sponsored By:

AMOB on the Pier
Anna Maria Oyster Bar
Beach Bistro
BeachHouse Waterfront Restaurant
California Pizza Kitchen
Capital Grille
Central Café
Cracker Barrel
Demetrios' Pizza House
Dickey's Barbecue Pit
The Doctor's Office
Eat Here
Ed's Tavern
Fratello's of Bradenton
Fresh Kitchen
The Granary
Joey D's Chicago Style Eatery & Pizzeria
Longhorn Steakhouse
Mattison's City Grille
Mission BBQ
O'Brick's Irish Pub & Martini Bar
Papa John's LWR
Riverhouse Reef & Grill
Seasons 52
Sixty East
...and others!



Strengthening Our Community through Connectedness - Palmetto Trails Network Project



Photo Courtesy of Manatee County Government

Imagine a re-activated historic Lincoln Memorial High School tunnel connects Lincoln Park with Lincoln Memorial Academy.

Successful and thriving communities don't just happen anywhere. They develop in places with engaged individuals, strong leaders, and top decision makers who are responsive to the area's needs. It takes intentional public policy to help design our community and enhance our quality of life. The Palmetto Trails Network Project (PTNP) exemplifies this idea. The proposed project responds to critical needs that will enhance our quality of life and strengthen our community.

The PTNP is a collaborative effort between Manatee County, the City of Palmetto, the Florida Department of Transportation, and the Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Organization to create a system of high quality, multi modal trails and facilities designed to reestablish connections previously lost in a time-worn and economically distressed community. With full support of our Board of Directors, the Manatee Chamber submitted a letter to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation urging the department to approve BUILD grant funding to complete this project.

During the 1950's, historic neighborhoods were divided while constructing US 41 in the City of Palmetto. This roadway construction split apart an established community, dividing neighborhoods from schools, economic centers from consumers and workers, and created unsafe pedestrian mobility. The historic tunnel that previously connected Lincoln Memorial High (Lincoln Memorial Academy) and Lincoln Park has long been closed off, thus requiring local residents and students to cross at an unsafe intersection.

The PTNP will provide improved access and mobility to three public schools, over a dozen neighborhoods, five parks, a public transit transfer station, conference centers, and employment centers located along the trail alignments. The project will include numerous pedestrian safety enhancements, including intersection improvements and lighting. The trail connections established by this project will integrate with the established regional SUN Trail alignment for continuous bicycle connections from outside Palmetto and across the Manatee River.

Our community will also benefit by project elements that create a healthier, cleaner natural environment, including:

- Improved storm water attenuation
- Reduced pollution, sediment, and other runoff reaching the mangroves and water systems
- Long-term brownfield redevelopment expected over the next 5-15 years
- Reduced heat-island impacts within the City of Palmetto through shade trees and landscaping along the project network

We want our region to continue to be viewed as a top destination for residents and visitors, and among the best nationwide in well-being. Projects like the PTNP will continue our effort to create strong, healthy communities with safe, multi modal options while strengthening our local economy and business environment.

For more information, including a detailed map, visit ManateeChamber.com/Trails.

Manatee Memorial Hospital Is Keeping Pace with Our Growing Community



Manatee Memorial Hospital is committed to providing the citizens of Manatee County with advanced healthcare services.

In keeping with this priority, construction of a new Emergency Care Center (ECC) on the hospital's main campus began last year. Project completion is expected in late 2018.

At 37,000 square feet, the new ECC will almost double the size of the existing Emergency Room. There will be a dedicated Emergency Medical Services (EMS) covered drive access with three staging and support areas for emergency vehicles. A canopy will cover the emergency public drop off/entry.

Other features of the new building will include 48 treatment spaces, organized in four clinical care areas, housing 24 universal exam rooms, 8 fast track rooms, and 16 super track rooms, which are functionally able to flex as needed based on demand.

The new ECC also features:

- Three behavioral health rooms
- Two resuscitation rooms
- One bariatric room with integral patient lift
- One gynecology room
- Two negative pressure/contact isolation rooms (one of which is designed to facilitate a high containment patient).

Our ECC personnel will have convenient access to:

- Imaging
- Surgery
- Cardiac catheterization labs
- Intensive Care Unit
- Medical/Surgical units

Last year, 82,000 patients visited Manatee Memorial's ECC and that number is projected to grow by 16 percent within the next five years. Manatee Memorial Hospital, a member of the Manatee Healthcare System and a proud Platinum Member of the Manatee Chamber of Commerce, has served the residents of Manatee County for 65 years.

For more information on the programs and services offered at Manatee Memorial Hospital, please visit our website: www.manateememorial.com. You can also keep up with what's happening at the hospital by liking us on Facebook, following us on Google+, Instagram, YouTube and Twitter @ManateeMemorial.



Rendering of the new Emergency Care Center



Ambulance Entrance Under Construction



Outside of Waiting Room Under Construction

Now More Than Ever It's Time to Live Like a Tourist

With the financial impact of the red tide bloom seriously affecting local businesses, particularly those on the islands and waterfront inland communities like Cortez, many Chamber members are asking how they can help their fellow business owners and their employees. One immediate answer is to "live like a tourist." Make a special effort to shop, dine, or visit a Chamber member company feeling the impacts of red tide. As important, use your sphere of influence to share the news that Manatee County businesses and beaches are open. For example, the Chamber's video "from the beach" had garnered a reach of 21,302 and 7,339 views on Facebook as of August 29.

"I encourage everyone to 'think local.' It has been a theme for me as Chairman of the Chamber," says Darcie Duncan, Duncan Real Estate. "Our community's businesses are facing significant challenges with decreased patronage during this red tide outbreak. Now is a great time for us all to live like tourists and let our wide circles of friends and families know that Anna Maria Island and all of Manatee County are open for business!"

Manatee Chamber Member Businesses on the Islands and in the Village of Cortez - Restaurants, Retail, Rentals, Amusements, and More:

A Paradise Realty | Rentals
Alecassandra Vacation Villas | Vacation Rentals
Allan Mestel Photography | Photography - Photographers
AMI Radio | Entertainment
AMOB on the Pier | Restaurants, Cafes and Taverns
Anna Maria Island Accommodations, Inc. | Vacation Rentals
Anna Maria Island Inn | Vacation Rentals
Anna Maria Island Resorts | Hotels and Resorts
Anna Maria Island Sun Newspaper | Newspapers
Annie's Bait & Tackle | Fishing and Kayaking Supplies, Tackle Repairs, Performance Clothing
Beach Bistro | Restaurants, Cafes and Taverns
Bradenton Beach Marina | Marinas and Boat Supplies, Sales and Service
Bridge Tender Inn, Inc. | Restaurants, Cafes and Taverns
Cannons Marina | Marinas and Boat Supplies, Sales and Service
Coconuts Beach Resort | Hotels and Resorts
Cortez Deep Sea Fishing | Activities and Amusements
Duffy's Tavern | Restaurants, Cafes and Taverns
Duncan Real Estate, Inc. | Real Estate - Residential
Eat Here | Restaurants, Cafes and Taverns
Eliza Ann's Coastal Kitchen | Restaurants, Cafes and Taverns
Euphemia Haye Restaurant, Inc. | Restaurants, Cafes and Taverns
Florida Maritime Museum & The Folk School at Florida Maritime Museum | Museums
Gagne Construction | Contractors, Builders and Developers
Galati Yacht Sales | Yacht Sales and Service



Gulf Drive Cafe & the Kokonut Hut | Restaurants, Cafes and Taverns
Harbor Lane Court Vacation Rentals | Vacation Rentals
Harry's Continental Kitchens | Restaurants, Cafes and Taverns
Irene's Resort Wear | Department and Retail Stores
Mar Vista Dockside Restaurant | Restaurants, Cafes and Taverns
Michael Saunders & Company - JoDene Moneuse | Real Estate - Residential
Pink & Navy | Department and Retail Stores
Publix #681 | Grocery Stores
Rod & Reel Pier, Inc. | Restaurants, Cafes and Taverns
Sato Real Estate | Real Estate - Residential
Sea Grape Inn | Vacation Rentals
Seafood Shack Marina, Bar & Grill | Restaurants, Cafes and Taverns
The Anna Maria Islander | Newspapers
The Beach House Restaurant | Restaurants, Cafes and Taverns
The Diplomat Beach Resort | Vacation Rentals
The Doctor's Office | Bars, Pubs and Taverns
The Resort at Longboat Key Club | Vacation Rentals
The Sandbar Restaurant | Restaurants, Cafes and Taverns
The Waterfront Restaurant | Restaurants, Cafes and Taverns
Wagner Realty - Mark Reemelin | Real Estate - Residential
Wagner Realty - Penny Bray | Real Estate - Residential
Waterline Marina Resort & Beach Club, Autograph Collection | Hotels and Resorts
Wicked Cantina | Restaurants, Cafes and Taverns
YOLO Adventures | Activities and Amusements
Zota Beach Resort | Hotels and Resorts

If your business has been impacted by red tide, please complete an online damage assessment survey:
**FloridaDisaster.biz/
BusinessDamage
Assessments**

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For more information:

Kim Dalglish

KimD@ManateeChamber.com

941-748-4842, ext. 121

REGISTER ONLINE
ManateeChamber.com/EXPO

EARLY BIRDS PICK THEIR BOOTH SPACE!

Early Birds get to pick their booth space!

Submit your paid registration by September 28 for this Expo perk.

Registration is now open for the largest business showcase event of the year. Promote your business to hundreds of business owners and decision makers from Manatee and Sarasota counties at this combined Expo and Business After Hours.

10' X 10' BOOTH* \$350

10' X 10' CORNER BOOTH* \$425

Booth includes skirted table, two chairs, curtained backdrop/sides, sign and four admission tickets. Cancellations after October 24 will be invoiced.

LOOKING TO STAND OUT?

Sponsorships available giving you significant exposure with Manatee and Sarasota Chamber members. And every sponsorship comes with premium booth placement!

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Grand Prize Sponsor – Only 1 Available

Goodie Bag Sponsor – Only 1 Available

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Bar Sponsor – Only 2 Spots Remain

Join Us for the 28th Annual Business & Education Partnership Awards Breakfast



You are invited! Join us on Friday, September 21, from 7:30-9:00 AM at Manatee Technical College, as we honor businesses, government, and community organizations for their dedication and commitment to the students of Manatee County. We received 108 nominations honoring more than 45 local businesses who partnered with our schools this past year.

Business and education partnerships are critical to the success of our students, our teachers and to the overall strength of our school district. These partnerships meet many needs, expand programming, and enhance education in Manatee County public schools. The accomplishments that come out of these partnerships will amaze you and the stories will move you to tears.

Is your business a Business and Education Partner? To learn more about the Business and Education Partnership Program, or for questions regarding the Awards Breakfast, please contact Terri Behling.

Friday, September 21

Manatee Technical College
6305 State Road 70, Bradenton, FL 34203

RSVP: Terri Behling – 941-748-4842, ext. 172

TerriB@ManateeChamber.com
ManateeChamber.com/BizEd

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Big Bank Theory Set for October and November

The Manatee Chamber is moving Big Bank Theory back to the fall. The popular financial literacy program designed for high school seniors will be presented to during the months of October and November at all six public high schools.

The Big Bank Theory teaches teens the importance of budgeting, saving money, and prioritizing spending decisions. During the program, students are engaged in a hands-on, real-life financial simulation that introduces them to the realities of being financially sensible. They gain valuable experience paying bills and making daily decisions that are essential to being a responsible adult.



WE NEED YOU! More than 200 business volunteers are needed to reach all six Manatee County high schools. Volunteering is easy and multiple dates and times are available. New volunteers will be given all program materials and training at orientation sessions on:

- September 24 from 3:30 – 5:00 PM at the Manatee Chamber's Lakewood Ranch Office, 4215 Concept Court, Lakewood Ranch
- September 26 from 8:00 – 9:00 AM at the Manatee Community Foundation, 2820 Manatee Ave. West, Bradenton

Visit ManateeChamber.com/BigBank to register as a volunteer. Simply select your school and click "register now." Have questions or interested in a sponsorship? Please contact Terri Behling at 941-748-4842, ext. 172 for more information.

The Big Bank Theory will be held on the following days:

- **Manatee High School: October 11 & 12**
- **Braden River High School: October 16 & 17**
- **Lakewood Ranch High School: October 23 & 24**
- **Bayshore High School: October 25 & 26**
- **Southeast High School: October 31 & November 1**
- **Palmetto High School: November 15 & 16**

PRINTING SPONSOR:



SAVE THE DATE!

Member Appreciation Cook-out

Friday, November 30 • 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Manatee Chamber Lakewood Ranch Office at the McClure Center



Thanks for voting us Number One for 19 years!
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Key Insights on the Upcoming 2018 General Election

Dr. Susan MacManus

USF Professor Emeritus, Political Analyst, Author

Now that the Primary Election has passed, voters should prepare to cast their choices in the November 6 General Election. To help share insights on what to expect, the Manatee Chamber will host Dr. Susan MacManus, distinguished USF Professor and Florida's most quoted political scientist.

Dr. MacManus has a knack for seeing political issues from both sides of the debate. She has no party affiliation and has a reputation of being fair, which has landed her countless hours of news worthy political analysis. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about the upcoming General Election from the leading expert on politics in Florida.



Monday, October 8

11:30 AM to 1:15 PM

IMG Academy Golf Club

4350 El Conquistador Pkwy.
Bradenton 34210

\$30 Manatee Chamber & MYP Members

\$45 Potential Members

RSVP: ManateeChamber.com/Headliners

Erica Massey, 941-748-4842, ext. 123

EricaM@ManateeChamber.com

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:



SEMINARS

New Federal Tax Law

Ashley Wilson

Vice President

Legislative Tax Strategies,
Congressional and Public Affairs
U.S. Chamber of Commerce



Is your team prepared for the new tax law? Get up to date on major benefits to business in the new tax law and what one should expect going forward on U.S. Treasury guidance and regulation.

Our speaker will be joined by local accounting experts Christy Cardillo of Carr, Riggs & Ingram and Brian Carter of Mauldin & Jenkins to assist with any questions you may have.

Response to Active Shooter Training: Be Prepared for Everything – Even the Worst

Join us for a free event as the Manatee County Sheriff's Office will be leading a Response to Active Shooter training. This class will address the following:

- *What is an active shooter situation?*
- *The mentality of an active shooter*
- *How to respond in an active shooter situation*

Reservations required. To reserve your spot, contact Erica Massey at 941-748-4842, ext. 123 or EricaM@ManateeChamber.com.

Tuesday, September 25

2:00 to 4:00 PM

**Manatee Chamber
Lakewood Ranch Office
at the McClure Center**

4215 Concept Court
Lakewood Ranch 34211

COST: Free

Wednesday, September 12

2:00 to 4:00 PM

**Manatee Chamber
Lakewood Ranch Office
at the McClure Center**

4215 Concept Court
Lakewood Ranch 34211

\$30 Manatee Chamber & MYP Members

\$27 Non-Profit Chamber Members

\$45 Potential Members

SAVE THE DATE - REGISTRATION OPENING SOON!

Labor & Employment Law:

*Labor and Employment Law: A Deep Dive Into Overtime
Regulations, EEOC Trends, and Responding to Legal Demands*

Attorneys David Shankman and Michael Willats of Shankman Leone, P.A.

Thursday, October 25 | 3:00 – 5:00 PM

O'Bricks Irish Pub & Martini Bar

427 12th Street West, Bradenton 34205

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:



RSVP: Erica Massey, 941-748-4842, ext. 123

EricaM@ManateeChamber.com | ManateeChamber.com/Events

SEMINAR | LUNCHEON

Building a Superior Customer Service Culture

Take your customer service to a new level, manage your online reputation, and know your legal options with customer disputes.

Gain valuable tips from our panelists:

- **CUSTOMER SERVICE:** Going above and beyond.
Presented by Gus Sokos, Owner of Demetrios' Pizza House
- **ONLINE REPUTATION:** Responding to online customer comments is key.
Presented by Nick Choate, Owner of Sport Clips Haircuts of Bradenton
- **MEDIATION:** When a little help is needed to mediate disputes.
Presented by Heather Blanton with the 12th Judicial Circuit Court Citizen Dispute Settlement Program
- **SMALL CLAIMS COURT:** When disputes need settling in small claims court or civil law is required. *Presented by Janelle Esposito, Esq. with Esposito Law Group, P.A.*

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, October 30 | 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

For more information contact BBC Manager
Dawn Plavak at 941-748-1325 or BBC@ManateeChamber.com.

Congratulations Small Business of the Year Award Winners

The Better Business Council congratulates BBC members Gilbert Design Build and Richards Plumbing Repair, Inc. on their recent Small Business of the Year awards. We are proud to have you as members of the Better Business Council and we wish you much continued success.



Richard Krause



Ernest and Jessica Gilbert



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BETTER BUSINESS COUNCIL

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ManateeChamber.com/BBC

Top BBC Referral Categories in July

Home Repair/
Remodeling

Construction
(Home Builders)

Welcome New BBC Member

Cornwall Analytics





A Program of the Manatee Chamber of Commerce

Thursday, September 13 • 5:00 – 7 PM

MYP Networking Social

Caddy's at the Pointe

801 Riverside Drive, Bradenton 34208

Manatee Young Professionals (MYP) members and guests are invited for casual business networking at Caddy's at the Pointe on Thursday, September 13 from 5:00 - 7:00 PM. There is no cost to attend for paid MYP members, or for those who join on the spot. Cost is \$5 for all others. Complimentary appetizers and a cash bar are included. No RSVP necessary.

Next Month's Social:

October 11 • Darwin Brewing Company

Thursday, September 20 • 11:45 AM – 1:30 PM

MYP Professional & Personal Development Series (MYP³D)

Local Government – How It Affects Your Daily Life

Lakewood Ranch Golf & Country Club

7650 Legacy Boulevard, Lakewood Ranch 34202

The MYP³D series gives MYP members the chance to connect over topics that will help young professionals grow personally and professionally. This panel will feature elected officials who will discuss how local government decisions are made and how they affect our daily life. The cost is \$25 for MYP members, \$30 for all others and includes lunch.

Wednesday, September 26 • 11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

MYPower Networking Lunch

Fratello's of Bradenton

7110 Cortez Road, Bradenton 34210

MYPower Luncheons give young professionals the opportunity to promote your business products and services. Come willing to share a fun fact about yourself, pick up tips on professional and or personal development, enjoy a great lunch and one-on-one networking. Cost: \$15 for paid MYP members, \$20 for all others.

This Month's Speaker: Stacy Morgan, Conley Buick GMC Subaru

"Tips & Tricks to Change Your Car Buying Experience"

Tuesday, October 2 • 5:00 – 7 PM

MYP Community Service Project

The Food Bank of Manatee County

3231 59th Drive East, Bradenton 34203

Manatee Young Professionals (MYP) will help sort food at the Food Bank of Manatee County from 5:00 – 7:00 PM on Tuesday, October 2nd. Six to eight volunteers are needed and RSVP is necessary.

**For more information or to RSVP to any of these events,
call Kimberly at 941-748-4842, ext. 139 or email
KimberlyH@ManateeChamber.com**

MYP Beach Bash BeachHouse Restaurant



connect



mix



help



grow



Be On the Lookout for More
Networking Opportunities
MYPonline.com

MYP Social

O'Bricks Irish Pub & Martini Bar



Check out photos and upcoming events at MYPonline.com

THANK YOU MYP WORKFORCE PARTNERS:

THANK YOU FRIENDS OF MYP SPONSORS:



Congratulations 2018 Small Business

The 39th Annual Small Business of the Year Awards Breakfast was held on Friday, August 17 at the Manatee Performing Arts Center in Bradenton. This community-wide celebration recognized successful small businesses and non-profit organizations for the crucial role they play in creating a quality, dynamic environment for visitors and residents to live, work, play, and do business.

"I cannot overstate the fact that small business is big business in Manatee County. Small businesses are the foundation of this community and the Chamber. With most of the Chamber's over 2,000 members defined as "small business," they ARE the Manatee Chamber," stated Darcie Duncan, Duncan Real Estate and Chairman of the Board of the Manatee Chamber. "The long-standing partnership between the Chamber and small business is so impactful, when one small business finalist was asked what they would do differently if they could do it all over again, their answer was to get more involved in the Manatee Chamber sooner."

Help us in congratulating the 2018 Manatee Small Business of the Year award winners:

Clean as a Whistle of Manatee

Deborah Cassidy

CATEGORY 1 –

SMALL BUSINESS UNDER \$250,000

Clean as a Whistle is one of our smallest corporate finalists, and though they may be small in size, they are huge with their clients. Words that describe this business are "dependable, honest, and flexible." And many compliment their "attention to detail" and their ability to "work miracles in a short time."

With descriptors such as this from their clients, it's no wonder they guarantee customer satisfaction and promise to "make it right." From their green product policies, bonus incentive program, and other key elements to create employee satisfaction, this business knows how to treat both clients and staff. They ARE doing it right.

This is a small business with a big heart. Partnering with the nonprofit Cleaning For A Reason, they offer professional cleaning services free of charge to help ease the burdens of women undergoing treatment for cancer. They were the first cleaning company in Manatee/Sarasota to take part in this great cause to help women battling cancer.



Sport Clips Haircuts of Bradenton

Nick Choat

CATEGORY 2 –

SMALL BUSINESS \$250,000 TO \$1 MILLION

Sport Clips believes they have a moral obligation to help our community become a better place to live; successfully balancing economic return with employee satisfaction along with giving back to the community.

Their tremendous economic growth since opening their doors in 2015 is certainly tied to their focus on employee and customer satisfaction in addition to leveraging innovation as a competitive advantage. This company is dedicated to treating employees the way they themselves would want to be treated, and supporting them through above-market wages, ongoing training, advancement opportunities, an employee "relief fund," and the list goes on. They are pioneers of Google Posts for client acquisition and search engine optimization, welcoming public feedback for the world to see.

This company also supports our local schools and universities, the American Cancer Society, and Safe Children's Coalition. Their signature community service, however, is supporting our local veterans by providing free services for veterans seeking employment. As one veteran put it, "You gave us our swagger back."



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of the Year Award Winners

Richards Plumbing Repair, Inc.

Richard Krause

CATEGORY 3 – SMALL BUSINESS \$1 MILLION TO \$2.5 MILLION

Richard's Plumbing Repair has been a staple of our community for nearly 40 years. This tried-and-true family operation continues to treat all their employees like family by offering employees perks, "bells and whistles," and incentives, in addition to creating a family atmosphere through staff gatherings in and out of the office.

This company has a history of commitment to our community, demonstrated through their free services and monetary contributions to needy families and a host of organizations including Habitat for Humanity, Easter Seals, and Dream Oaks Camp to name a few.

They believe in under-promising and over-delivering, with a simple plan to treat clients with respect and continually improve the company and service. This is what launched their growth and success after reinvesting and "restarting" during our country's devastating 2007 recession. It was loyal customers from the community who made the difference, and now this business is the recipient of a number of Reader's Choice Awards.

With success comes growth, and this company is currently undergoing significant expansion of services – all coming from an owner that to this day says he's "not a business man."



Humane Society of Manatee County

Rick Yocum

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION



The Humane Society of Manatee County has been an integral part of our community for nearly 50 years – and has touched the lives of many in our community.

A strong, healthy organization takes care of its own, and this organization is no exception. Employees within this organization receive a robust benefits package and numerous staff perks, in addition to regular continuing education and support through an employee hotline. They also encourage all employees to submit ideas and suggestions to move the organization forward.

This organization also prioritizes taking good care of customers by providing bilingual services, a dedicated call center, and intensive customer service training for staff, while welcoming customer feedback through regular surveys. In order to enhance customer and community service even further, this organization has expanded its services and increased the number of professional staff.

For two straight years, the Humane Society of Manatee County has received a coveted 4-star rating by Charity Navigator, a nationwide charity evaluator. This demonstrates the strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency to the community and donor base.

The community need this organization serves is immense. Through community collaboration with the business community, law enforcement, and other non-profits – they create healthier lives for our residents and our furry loved ones.

Gilbert Design Build

Ernest and Jessica Gilbert

CATEGORY 4 –

SMALL BUSINESS \$2.5 MILLION AND ABOVE

Gilbert Design Build's priority is customer service. They treat their internal customers (a.k.a. their employees) and their clients with the utmost respect and care, valuing them so much as to create a "Code of Values" centered around service and integrity that the entire team lives by. With wonderful company benefits, green business practices for a healthy work environment, and a senior leadership that celebrates their employees' milestones and anniversaries, it's no wonder they've created a close-knit family atmosphere. Their customers feel it too, as this business strives to provide outstanding communication and customer support.

Community contributions come in many forms from this company. They regularly host free educational seminars to the public and lend support materially and monetarily to worthwhile causes such as Habitat for Humanity and Making Strides for Breast Cancer, among others.

This business has received numerous accolades over the years, and most recently was identified nationally as a top company in their industry. This year's winner is a family-run company that goes above and beyond – as they would say, "You can get good construction anywhere, it's all about the experience."



"The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand."

–Vince Lombardi, Executive, Head Coach, and NFL player

2018 Small Business

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2018 SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD FINALISTS

Advanced Technology Services and Support, Jerry Solomon
Armstrong Bros Plumbing, Bill Edwards
ArtCenter Manatee, Carla Nierman
BiteMeCookies by Cindy, Cindy Unzicker
Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County, Dawn Stanhope
Clam House Seafood & Sushi Restaurant, Kyle & Deanna Brinkley
Culver's of Bradenton FL, Ranch Lake Blvd., Steve & Dori Sherman
Discount Med Direct, Judy Vobroucek
Esposito Law Group, P.A., Janelle Esposito
Fun Girl Art, Jean G. Farmer
Halfacre Construction Company, Jack Cox, Reed Giasson & Tom Rees
HOPE Family Services, Laurel Lynch
Hungers End, Inc., Carl & Vicki Snyder
InFocus Family Eyecare, Brad & Ashley Masuga
Kallins Little Delgado, Scott Kallins, Melton Little & Jimmy Delgado
Kool Stuff II, Tom Scholz
Manatee Apparel Graphics, Dennis & Linda Frey
Manatee County Habitat for Humanity, Diana Shoemaker
Minuteman Press of Bradenton, Justin & Christy Phillips
Motorworks Brewing, Denise & Frank Tschida
Pier 22 Catering, Hugh Miller & Greg Campbell
The Ranch ALF, Inc., Melissa Bongart
Seafood Shack Marina, Bar & Grill, Liza Kubik & Chef Gerard Jesse
Selah Freedom, Elizabeth Fisher
Shoreline Financial Partners, Daniel Wood & Gardner Sherrill
Spa NorthWest, Kathleen Gallen & Paul Ramshaw
Turning Points, Adell Erozer
Women's Resource Center, Ashley Brown

BREAKFAST AND NETWORKING



of the Year Awards



THANK YOU TO OUR JUDGES



L to R: Tracy Vanderneck, Phil-Com, LLC; Derek Williams, Williams Wealth Management Group (2017 Winner); Stefanie Overturf, Overturf's Floor and Fabric Care (2015 Winner); Ray Reher, Innovative CFO Solutions



A very special thank you to Lily Sisay and LeMoyne Johnson of Johnson Photolmaging for photographing our cover this month.



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Golden Member Celebrations

We recently honored two Chamber member businesses that have invested in the Manatee Chamber's mission for more than 50 years. Tropicana Products and Bob Boast Volkswagen continue to support our community's businesses and quality of life with their membership investment.




Thank you, Bob Boast Volkswagen, for 51 years of investment in the Manatee Chamber of Commerce.



Thank you, Tropicana Products, for 54 years of investment in the Manatee Chamber of Commerce.

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Friday, December 7

Bradenton Country Club

10:00 AM - 11:15 PM | Registration & Lunch

11:30 PM | Shotgun Start

Awards Banquet Following Play

RAIN DATE: December 10

Be among the first to play Bradenton Country Club's newly-redesigned course!



Sponsorships Available for Significant Exposure

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ENTRY FEE: \$795 Foursome • \$195 Individual

REGISTRATION INCLUDES:

Lunch • Signature Golf Shirt • Goodie Bag • Range Balls • Green Fees • Contests & Prizes • Golf Cart Door Prizes • Beer and Soft Drinks on the Course • Awards Banquet with Cash Bar Following Play

Four Person Scramble ~ Amateur Players Only

At least one player per team must be a Manatee Chamber member

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INFO & REGISTRATION: Cara Misiewicz | CaraM@ManateeChamber.com | 941-748-4842, ext. 122

Register Online at ManateeChamber.com/Golf

The Manatee Chamber of Commerce is a 501(c)6 not for profit corporation. Contributions or gifts are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Contributions or gifts may be tax deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses. Please consult your tax advisor.

coffee club



MANATEE YMCA

Thanks to everyone who joined us at the Lakewood Ranch YMCA for the Chamber Coffee Club on July 26! Summer camp was in full swing, and it was great to show the Y is attempting to help close the summer learning gap through their camp programs. The Y offers health and wellness programs to all in Manatee County, regardless of inability to pay, and is a great support for families and children in our community. We hope that everyone enjoyed the coffee, bagels, pastries and fruits from Earth Fare. To find out more about the Manatee YMCA and the good we do in Manatee County, visit manateeymca.org or don't hesitate to call!



**Manatee County YMCA –
Lakewood Ranch Branch**
5100 Lakewood Ranch Blvd.
Bradenton, FL 34211
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ManateeYMCA.org

business after hours



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Firkins Automotive Group has been making a difference in Manatee and Sarasota counties for over 65 years because we care. The owners and employees have a common desire to help our community where ever we can with donations to local groups, schools, and organizations. To see some of these groups and organizations, visit us at www.firkinscares.com. We are proud of the reputation of Firkins and want our customers to feel welcome, respected, knowledgeable and confident while making their purchase and service selections. We bring the family touch to the overwhelming world of automotive choices. We are committed to being caring, trustworthy and ethical.



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aerodivsales.com
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Individual Members

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1447 Tallevast Rd.
Sarasota, FL 34243
applespice.com
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babybirddesign.com
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(941) 254-4252
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Sarasota, FL 34240
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(941) 371-3862
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10405 Technology Terrace
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34211
delta-engineers.com
(941) 727-2600
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7350 55th Ave. E.
Bradenton, FL 34203
elanmanatee.com
(941) 213-5555
Assisted Living Care

Emerald Green of Bradenton

emeraldgreenofbradenton.com
(941) 756-6296
Lawn and Landscape Contractors and Maintenance

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2709 Lorraine Rd.
Bradenton, FL 34211
(941) 251-6604
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(941) 920-1881
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fundraising-auctions.com
(941) 920-6341
Auctions

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7014 Cortez Rd. W.
Bradenton, FL 34210
lanasbarbelles.com
(941) 251-9986
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Main Street Children's Dentistry & Orthodontics

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mainstreetsmiles.com
(941) 209-1213
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ramoscenter.com
(941) 708-9555
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Save the Date!

56TH ANNUAL DINNER

JANUARY 31, 2019

Join us as we honor Outgoing Chairman Darcie Duncan, Owner of Duncan Real Estate, and welcome Incoming Chairman Bill Poulton, Tropicana Products. We are excited to celebrate the many outstanding achievements of the past year and honor the hundreds of members who contribute to the growth and prosperity of our community.

We are also honored to be presenting the
2nd Annual Robert P. Bartz Award for Outstanding Leadership.
For details on this award, visit ManateeChamber.com/BartzAward.

Take advantage of sponsorship opportunities and maximize your visibility with business leaders. Contact Kim Dalglish at KimD@ManateeChamber.com or 941-748-3411, ext. 121.

SECURE YOUR SPONSORSHIP TODAY!

Register Online at ManateeChamber.com/AnnualDinner



Manatee Chamber
56th Annual Dinner
and
2nd Annual
Robert P. Bartz
Outstanding
Leadership Award

**Thursday,
January 31, 2019
5:00 PM**

Bradenton Area
Convention Center



Biscuits & benefits



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Member Reception

**Need to brush up on your
Chamber member benefits?**

This reception is a great opportunity to learn more about the Manatee Chamber, meet the staff, and hear about the many member benefits available to you. Let us help you take full advantage of your membership. All members are welcome! Your RSVP is appreciated.

Thursday, September 20 | 7:45 - 9:30 AM

Thursday, October 18 | 7:45 - 9:30 AM

Manatee Chamber Lakewood Ranch Office
at the McClure Center
4215 Concept Court, Lakewood Ranch 34211

LITE BITES PROVIDED BY CRACKER BARREL

Register online at ManateeChamber.com/Events

For more information or to RSVP, contact Kimberly at KimberlyH@ManateeChamber.com or 941-748-4842, ext. 139.



Make Powerful Connections

Power Connection events are great opportunities to network and connect in a setting that allows for one-on-one, B2B interaction. Attendees are invited to give a brief commercial on their business, products, and services.

LUNCH

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Wednesday, September 19

11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

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Bradenton 34208

Wednesday, October 3

11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

The Sandbar Restaurant
100 Spring Ave.
Anna Maria 34216



BREAKFAST

Thursday, September 13

7:30 to 9:00 AM

AMOB on the Pier
200 Bridge Street
Bradenton Beach 34217



Chamber Member Cost to Attend: \$15

Register online at ManateeChamber.com/Events.

Questions? Call Cara Misiewicz at 941-748-4842, ext 122
or email CaraM@ManateeChamber.com

Power Connection Breakfast and Power Connection Lunch are members-only networking events.

Facebook.com/ManateeChamber



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941-896-9422
CremeshRestaurant.com



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Bradenton, FL 34203
941-357-7950
Dedicated.Care



Discount Med Direct – Ellenton
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Ellenton, FL 34222
941-803-7487
DiscountMedDirect.com



Fade Away 64 Barber Shop
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Bradenton, FL 34211
941-251-6604



Lana's BarBelles
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7014 Cortez Rd. W.
Bradenton, FL 34210
941-251-9986
LanasBarBelles.com



Monkey Wrench Mobil Auto Repair
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member news

ArtisTree Landscape Maintenance & Design announces the promotion of Bill Walters to vice president of operations over its Maintenance Division.

Overturf's Floor & Fabric Care is pleased to announce Mathew Hansen, Lead Technician, recently received the prestigious IICRC Carpet Cleaning Technician Certification.

Sarasota Military Academy proudly announces Mary Tucker and Kinga Aletto, cadets from the graduating class of 2018, have recently earned recognition for their talents in national shooting competitions, including the 2018 ELEY high school All-American team and the 2018 American Legion National Championships competition.

Vitale Law is proud to announce attorney J. Ben Vitale has been recognized by the Florida Bar as a Board-Certified Specialist in Construction Law. This distinction places Mr. Vitale among an elite group of attorneys in the state of Florida. Board certified lawyers are evaluated for professionalism and tested for expertise.

Blalock Walters, P.A. is pleased to announce that six attorneys have been selected by their peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America© 2019. Clifford L. Walters, III and William C. Robinson, Jr. have been selected by their peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America in the field of Real Estate Law; Charles F. Johnson was selected in the practice area of Litigation – Real Estate; Mark P. Barnebey was selected for Land Use & Zoning Law; Matthew J. Lapointe was selected for Corporate Law; Jonathan D. Fleece was selected for Health Care Law and Robert G. Blalock was selected for Trusts and Estates.

Fawley Bryant Architecture (FBA) announces the addition of four new staff members: Tom Glaysheer, Senior Project Manager; Buffy Stachorowski, Project Manager; Marc Durkee, Interior Design Project Manager and Courtney Turco, Marketing and Administrative Coordinator.

Air & Energy announces the hiring of four new team members: Amber Albritton, Accounting Administrator; Jenny Diaz, Customer Care Administrator, Chad Colbert,

Warehouse Manager and Cassie Rankin, Advertising and Marketing Manager.

Carter Psychology Center is pleased to welcome Pediatric Neuropsychologist, Dr. Veronica Medina.

Humane Society of Manatee County is pleased to announce the appointment of Valerie Bliss to NANOE's prestigious Board of Governors.

A Affordable Attorney, Gerling Law Group congratulates Rodney D. Gerling, Esq. on being listed as a 2018 Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers Magazine.

Ramos Center for Interventional & Functional Pain Medicine (locations in Bradenton, Sarasota & Venice Coming Soon) is proud to announce the addition of Dr. Patrick D. Grace, MD to their team!

New College of Florida recently hired Luis Suarez as its first director of emergency management.

Duncan Real Estate recently received the 2018 Anna Maria Island Sun Reader's Choice Award for the best real estate company.

Blue Door Spa & Salon Team welcomes Maria Pineda, licensed Esthetician/ Massage Therapist to its team.



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GRAND OPENING/RIBBON CUTTING

Friday, September 28 • 4:00 - 7:00 PM


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Association**

**Leadership
Lunch and Learn**

*Save
the
Date*

10.24.18














More details to come in the
October issue of *Current* and at
LeadershipManateeAA.org

calendar

Please carefully
note meeting
locations

 **Network & Connect**
 **Learn Something New**

SEPTEMBER

| | | | |
|--------|----|---|--------------------|
| Mon. | 3 | Labor Day - Chamber Offices Closed | |
| Tues. | 4 | BBC Advisory Committee Meeting | 4:00 - 5:00 PM |
| Wed. | 5 | Leadership Manatee: Communications & Culture Day | |
| | |  Power Connection Lunch | 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM |
| | | Healthcare Committee Meeting | 4:00 - 5:00 PM |
| Thurs. | 6 | Education and Workforce Partnership Committee Mtg. | 12:00 - 1:00 PM |
| Fri. | 7 | Small Business Council Meeting | 8:00 - 9:00 AM |
| Mon. | 10 |  Headliners: Kyle Taylor, The Penny Hoarder Story | 11:30 AM - 1:15 PM |
| | | Legislative Committee Meeting | 3:30 - 5:00 PM |
| Tues. | 11 |  Business After Hours | 5:00 - 7:00 PM |
| Wed. | 12 |  Tax Seminar with Ashley Wilson, U.S. Chamber | 2:00 - 4:00 PM |
| Thurs. | 13 |  Power Connection Breakfast | 7:30 - 9:00 AM |
| | | Technology Committee Meeting | 3:30 - 4:30 PM |
| | |  MYP Social | 5:00 - 7:00 PM |
| Fri. | 14 | Transportation Committee Meeting | 8:00 - 9:00 AM |
| Mon. | 17 | Attainable Housing Task Force Meeting | 8:00 - 9:00 AM |
| | | Legislative Committee Meeting | 3:30 - 5:00 PM |
| Tues. | 18 | Public Safety Department Leadership Team | 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM |
| | | MYP Community Service Committee Meeting | 12:00 - 1:00 PM |
| Wed. | 19 | Leadership Manatee: Health Care Day | |
| | | Chamber Executive Committee Meeting | 7:45 - 9:00 AM |
| | |  Power Connection Lunch | 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM |
| | | Member Engagement Council Meeting | 3:30 - 4:30 PM |
| Thurs. | 20 |  Biscuits & Benefits Member Reception | 7:45 - 9:30 AM |
| | |  MYP3D Educational Series | 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM |
| Fri. | 21 |  28 th Annual Business & Education Awards Breakfast | 7:30 - 9:00 AM |
| | | Chamber Friends Committee Meeting | 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM |
| Mon. | 24 | Big Bank Theory Orientation | 3:30 - 5:00 PM |
| | | Legislative Committee Meeting | 3:30 - 5:00 PM |
| Tues. | 25 |  Response to Active Shooter Training | 2:00 - 4:00 PM |
| Wed. | 26 | Big Bank Theory Orientation | 8:00 - 9:30 AM |
| | |  MYPower Networking Lunch & Ten-Minute Tip | 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM |
| | | Chamber Board of Directors Meeting | 4:00 - 5:00 PM |
| Thurs. | 27 |  Coffee Club & Ten Minute Takeaway | 7:45 - 9:00 AM |
| Fri. | 28 | Downtown Redevelopment Committee Meeting | 8:00 - 9:00 AM |

Chamber Office at Bank OZK

3 Keys Brewing
Lakewood Ranch Board Room
School District Office
Manatee County Central Library
Lakewood Ranch Board Room
Lakewood Ranch Board Room
Conley Buick GMC Subaru
Lakewood Ranch Board Room
AMOB on the Pier
Chamber Office at Bank OZK
Caddy's at the Pointe
Lakewood Ranch Board Room
Chamber Office at Bank OZK
Chamber Office at Bank OZK
Lakewood Ranch Board Room
Chamber Office at Bank OZK

Chamber Office at Bank OZK
Joey D's Chicago Style Eatery & Pizzeria
AMOB Landside
Lakewood Ranch Board Room
Lakewood Ranch Golf & Country Club
Manatee Technical College
Chamber Office at Bank OZK
Lakewood Ranch Board Room
Lakewood Ranch Board Room
Lakewood Ranch Board Room
Manatee Community Foundation
Fratello's of Bradenton
Lakewood Ranch Board Room
PACE Center for Girls
Connect Bradenton

SEP 11
5:00-7:00 PM

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SEP 13
5:00-7:00 PM

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young professionals
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For Young Professionals
Appetizers • Cash Bar • Live Music

Caddy's at the Pointe
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Bradenton, FL 34208

SEP 27
7:45-9:00 AM

coffee club
and Ten-Minute Takeaway

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PACE Center for Girls
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Bradenton, FL 34205

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MANATEE CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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Tom Scholz
Kool Stuff
Chamber Friend

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