Kashi is an interfaith community and spiritual destination, nestled on 80 acres along the St. Sebastian River. Founded in 1976 by American born spiritual teacher Ma Jaya Sati Bhagavati (1940-2012), Kashi embraces all faiths and all people, promoting spiritual enrichment, service, and conscious awareness. Our service organization, The River Fund, supports and serves those in need. Sustainable Kashi practices the conscious use of the land and its resources, and is a leading Permaculture education center.

Everyone is invited to participate in the Kashi School of Yoga classes, as well as our Interfaith Saturday programs featuring ashram tours, yoga, vegetarian dinner, and evening meditation. Visit www.kashi.org.

Anjani Cirillo is Kashi’s Director of Community Relations and is our representative to the United Religions Initiative. She holds a degree in Secondary English Education, and she served with the Peace Corps in the Philippines. Anjani was the River School’s Principal for 24 years. In 2005 Anjani took the spiritual vows of sanyasin, promising to be of service to humanity. From 2003 - 2012, she served on the Economic Opportunities Council’s Board of Directors and as a member of the Sebastian Advisory Council of the Boys & Girls Club. She is the President of the Sebastian Clambake Foundation, and was elected Sebastian’s Woman of the Year in 2009. Anjani loves Sebastian and its people!
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(Barber St. & R/R - Behind Publix)
JANUARY CHAMBER EVENTS

Chamber Breakfast hosted at ABC Printing

Chamber Luncheon hosted at Capt. Hiram’s Tiffany Room

Lunch Sponsor: FPL
Amy Brunjes, External Affairs Manager

Lunch Speakers: Sebastian River Medical Center
Kelly Enriquez, COO & Anna Brooks, CNO

Pictures from our Grant Business & Pleasure will be shared via Facebook and the Weekly Chamber Intel
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February 2014
Chamber of Commerce
Calendar of Events

Feb. 7      Chamber Monthly Breakfast
8:00 a.m.   Paradise Florist

5:30 p.m.   Concerts in the Park, featuring Professor Pennygood’s Mighty Flea Circus, Rockabilly and Jumpy Blues, in Riverview Park
            Sponsored by: Bay Street Pharmacy, FPL, Sebastian River Medical Center, Oculina Bank, RE/Max Realty and Waste Management

Feb. 8      Chamber Board of Directors Retreat
8:00/11:30  at Sebastian Inlet Grill, Sebastian Inlet State Park

Feb. 11     Chamber Monthly Luncheon at Marsh Landing Restaurant
            Noon     Featuring guest speaker IRC Commission Chair Peter O’Bryan “Update on the Indian River Lagoon”
            Lunch Sponsor: Oculina Bank
            Reservations please, Lunch is $15, or $20 at the door
            Sponsored by:

Feb. 20     Chamber Business and Pleasure at Sebastian Inlet Marina
            5:30      at Sebastian Inlet Marina, Micco

Feb. 21     Concerts in the Park at Riverview Park
            5:30 p.m.  featuring the “Porchdogs”, Cajun, Southern Rock, Bluegrass

Feb. 25     Chamber Fundraising/Building Committee
            8:00 a.m.  Chamber  Main St. Office
Know someone who is pregnant?
Indian River County
Healthy Start Coalition
772-563-9118

We can help answer your questions! Insurance, pregnancy support, nutrition, infant safety, child development, mom groups, and breastfeeding counseling.

René G. VanDeVoorde
Attorney at Law
VanDeVoorde Hall Law, P.L.
1327 North Central Avenue
Sebastian, Florida 32958

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Info to Know—Britney Melchiori

Last month, I mentioned that my resolution for 2014 is to get all of our members listings up to date with your beautiful logos! This will be an ongoing project of mine, so if you haven’t sent me your logo yet, please do! Logos must be in jpg form and can be emailed directly to bmelchiori@sebastianchamber.com

I also mentioned last month that throughout the year I would be discussing other tips/tricks about our website and what it offers to you as a chamber member. This month, I’d like to go over the basic login process. As a member, you have the ability to login to your member profile on sebastianchamber.com. This login gives you access to your online profile as well as many other tools (we’ll talk more about in the coming months).

Mastering the basic login will give you the opportunity to start familiarizing yourself with the “admin” side of the site. Upon the launch of our revamped site last February, everyone received an email with a generated password to start the initial login process. The email would have gone to the address you’ve provided to us as your main email contact. The password is a string of letters and numbers that can be changed once you login. Now, we know that not everyone keeps emails from a year ago, so if you do not have the original email sent, let us know! We can retrieve it from our archives and resend it to you.

Alternatively, you can use the “forgot my password” option at the login screen. This will prompt you to enter the email address associated with your account as well as a “captcha” image (a safety feature) to retrieve your password. That password will go directly to the email you provided and allow you to continue with the login process.

So WHERE do you log in? From the SebastianChamber.com home page, take a look at the top right-hand corner of the home page. There you will find the option that says “Login.” Simply click that little guy and you’ll be directed to the login screen where you will enter your login info.

Once you’ve officially logged in, along the left hand side you’ll see a navigation bar which is where you’ll do most of your, well… um… navigating! First things first… let’s change that impossible-to-remember long string of numbers of letters you used to log in. Select the “Edit User Details” from the navigation on the left. This allows you to change that password to something much easier to remember.

While you’re logged in, feel free to poke around! You won’t break anything (we promise). You’ll find that most of the site functions the same as if you were not logged in. If you want to start to familiarize yourself with where you update your own profile (my topic next month), select the “Member Profile” option from the navigation on the left. This will bring you to your very own “Dashboard.” Your dashboard is your control panel of sorts for your member profile. Stay tuned for next month’s column when I’ll go over in detail how to work that bad boy!

Until then, feel free to contact us with any question or issues on logging in to the site. We’re always here to help!
SRA Snapshots Photo Contest

Contest ends Friday, February 7th, 2014.

The winner will be announced Friday, February 8th, 2013 on the official Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center Facebook page and at our Chamber Luncheon on Tuesday, February 12th! The winner will receive a Sebastian River Area “Colors of Sebastian” Snapshots Gift Basket valued at $120!

What to Enter

This year’s theme focuses on “The Colors of Sebastian.” We want striking digital images that capture the GOLDEN sunrises, the BLUE oceans and waterways, the GREEN foliage, and the ORANGE sunsets and citrus. Even WHITE egrets and ibis, GREY dolphins and manatees, PINK roseate spoonbills and BROWN pelicans. The possibilities are endless! Photos can be present day or historical! The Chamber will use submitted photos to continue promoting our beautiful area. Judging will be based on originality, color, and composition.

Submitting Your Entry

Post your photo on the wall of the official Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center Facebook page. To be considered in the judging, please also email original hi-res photos to bmelchior@SebastianChamber.com. Please be sure to include the caption “SRA Snapshot” in your message/post along with the location of the photo and your name.

Call (772) 589-5969 for more information

Eligibility

Fans of the Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center Facebook page who are 18 years of age or older at the time of entry. There is no entry fee. The contest is void where prohibited by law, or where the registration or filing requirements of any state or local jurisdiction have not been complied with. The contest is not open to employees of the Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce.

For more information and to view the terms and agreement—please visit us on our facebook. https://www.facebook.com/SebastianChamberVisitorsCenter
Come out and enjoy an evening on the Indian River Lagoon from 5:30-8:00 pm. There will be food and refreshments for sale from Lacarde Ice Cream, New York Nicks Hot Dogs, Blue Bird Concession, Walter’s Fun Foods, and the Lions Club of Sebastian will be selling popcorn.

January 10th—St. John’s Wood
(British Rock)

February 7th—Professor Pennygoode’s Mighty Flea Circus
(Swing, 50’s Rockabilly, Jumpy Blues)

February 21st—Porchdogs
(Louisiana Cajun, Zydeco, Southern Rock, Bluegrass, Classic Rock)

March 7th—SRHS Jazz Ensemble & Steel Drum Band
(Jazz)

March 28th—Bobby Owen Band
(Classic Rock)

April 11th—The Dukes of Doo Wop
(50’s Music)

May 16th—The Cheyenne Band
(Country)

June 13th—Mojo Sandwich
(Blues, Southern Rock, R&B, Country)

During intermission, the crowd will have a chance to win giveaways from the local business community. Bring your lawn chair and blanket, and enjoy the local talent and river breezes! For more information, please call 772-589-5969.

Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the City of Sebastian.
Sponsored by: FPL, Sebastian River Medical Center, Bay Street Pharmacy, Waste Management, Oculina Bank, and RE/MAX Crown Realty
I have been a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Paradise/Ed Schlitt Realtors in Sebastian for fourteen years, representing both buyers and sellers in residential and commercial real estate transactions. My financial background includes ten years of mortgage lending preceded by twenty years of banking, specializing in business loans, commercial loans and bank management.

My business related education includes graduation from the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. I routinely participate in continuing education classes to stay knowledgeable of the newest industry trends and best opportunities available for my clients. I am a current member of the Realtors’ Association of Indian River County and past member, director and president of the Exchange Club of Sebastian.

My family and I moved to Sebastian in 1990 and I have been actively involved in this pristine and beautiful community. We are here for the duration. We enjoy fishing, boating and golfing at a leisurely pace and at modest prices. It could be worse.

I am committed to providing the best real estate service available and would sincerely appreciate your real estate business.

Dan Duffell
Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce
Monthly Networking Opportunities

Just fax this back and we will take care of the rest!

Check the networking activity you will be attending
and tell us how many will be joining you!

Chamber Breakfast – Friday, February 7th at 8am
Hosted by: Paradise Florist & Gifts
1116 U.S. 1, Sebastian

Chamber Luncheon – Tuesday, February 11th at Noon
Hosted at: Marsh Landing Restaurant
44 North Broadway Street, Fellsmere
Sponsored by: Oculina Bank
Guest Speaker: Indian River County Commissioner Chair, Peter O’Bryan
"Update on the Indian River Lagoon"
Reservations Please! $15 with reservation; $20 at the door
Reservations must be made by Noon on Monday February 10th

Business & Pleasure – Thursday, February 20th at 5:30pm
Hosted by: Sebastian Inlet Marina
8685 U.S. 1, Micco

Business Name: ________________________________

Contact Person: ________________________________

Contact Number: ________________________________

Chamber Fax # (772) 589-5993

Twenty four hours in advance of all functions the Chamber must notify the host of the number of reservations, and must guarantee that number. We can accept calls or faxes for reservations up until twenty four hours prior to the event. If, for some reason, you are not able to attend a function for which you have made reservations, please call us at 589-5969. Your reservation for any functions or event is considered a commitment to pay.
O P T  O U T

Help us help you, help Mother Earth, help the Chamber save money!

Did you know that you can sign up for our newsletter to be delivered to you electronically?

If you would like to begin receiving your digital copy of the monthly Chamber Currents instead of a printed hard copy, simple fill out and fax this sheet back to us! It’s that easy!
Fax to: 772-589-5993

_____ Yes, I would like to OPT OUT of receiving the printed Newsletter and begin receiving my digital copy instead!

Business: ___________________________ Email: ________________________________
Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

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How do you stay informed?

Weekly Chamber Intel email sent every Friday
Email Blasts through Constant Contact
Chamber Website: www.SebastianChamber.com
**Member News**

**Regus Executive Suites** is once again hosting a Business to Business Showcase and you are invited to join us Friday, February 7th from 4-6pm. We have limited spaces available for this third go round so sign up early! For those new to our Showdown, we open up some of our available offices and allow local businesses to showcase their products/services. There is NO CHARGE for your business to use the space. All we ask is that your promote the event using a prepared flyer that we will supply. For further information or to sign up, please contact Jenny Seemayer at 772-453-2702 or jenny.seemayer@regus.com. Showdown address is 601 21st Street, Suite 300 (BOA Building).

**The Sebastian Are Historical Society, Inc** is proud to present “The Survival Journey of Jonathan Dickinson” on Wednesday, February 19th at 7:30pm. The tale will be presented by George Blythe as Jonathan Dickinson—Shipwreck Survivor at the North County Library—10001 Sebastian Blvd. Admission is free. Refreshments provided.

Don’t miss the 1st Saturday Flea Market—the biggest and the best in the area—Saturday, February 1st from 8am—1pm at the St. Sebastian Catholic Church. Flea market features Antiques, Collectibles, Crafts, Plants, Household Goods and Elegant “stuff”. Enjoy live music, delicious food, drinks and snacks! Vendors, sellers, buyers welcome! Contact Rosemary for further information or to rent a table! 772-581-8665. Future dates are March 1st, April 5th and May 3rd!

Check out the newest yoga studio in town—**Sebastian Yoga Studio**. Now Open! Sebastian Yoga offers a healing, fun environment for people of all ages and all levels to enjoy the many benefits of Yoga and Holistic Health Coaching. Now offering Ashtanga, Vinyasa Flow, Fundamentals for Beginners, Gentle, Restorative, and monthly workshops. Sebastian Yoga Studio is located at 1557 US Hwy 1, Sebastian. Call 772-913-0138 or email info@sebastianyoga.com

Enjoy Free Wildlife Tours every Wednesday through March with the folks at **Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge**. Tours are from 8am—10am. Space is limited so be sure to make your reservations early! Call 772-581-5557 Ext 2.

---

**Welcome New Members!**

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rellasbistro@yahoo.com
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Clifford Morris
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rebecca@flaquaculture.com
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Tourism Tidbits by Nicole Capp Holbrook

I wanted to give you some web, visitors, and advertising statistics from 2013. Here are the website analytics from January 1st - December 31st:

- 24,526 visits
- 19,125 unique visitors
- 84,705 pageviews
- 3.45 pages/visit
- 2:53 average visit duration
- 76.68% new visits

*Please note- Our new website went live in early February and there were a few glitches with the analytics so February & March were omitted from the report.

The USA, Canada, and UK were the top 3 countries visiting our site. The top 10 domestic locations: FL, NY, PA, GA, CA, MA, NJ, TX, MI, and WA.

We have a visitor log-in in our Chamber Visitor's Center. Not all of our visitors sign in but here are the top 11 locations where those that sign in are from:

- Florida - Pennsylvania
- Canada - Massachusetts
- New York - Georgia
- Michigan - Maine
- Connecticut - Maryland
- Virginia

In 2013, visitor inquiry calls increased by 359, up 17%, from 2012. Visitors into the Chamber increased by 158, up 3%, from 2012.

Last fall, we placed an ad in the AARP October/November issue in the Regional Travel Co-Op Page “Southeast Getaways” section using funds that we received from the City of Sebastian to help promote tourism. The campaign included 16 weeks of reader service leads that are generated from people expressing interest in learning more about our area. Over the last 13 weeks, we’ve received 4,287 leads along with 1,157 email addresses! In response to these leads, we are mailing out our Visitor’s Guides and the email addresses have been added to our monthly tourism e-blast database. The leads are from all over the country but the majority of them are coming from:

- California - Michigan
- Florida - North Carolina
- Georgia - New Jersey
- Illinois - New York
- Indiana - Ohio
- Kansas - Pennsylvania
- Massachusetts - Tennessee
- Maryland - Texas
- Minnesota

We are very pleased with the success of this campaign so far and look forward to receiving the remaining leads over the next few weeks!!

Tourism Spotlight

Capt Hiram’s Resort, located at 1606 Indian River Drive, Sebastian, FL is happy to announce the appointment of Will Collins to the position of President of Capt Hiram’s Resort.

Will Collins is a 2009 Graduate from University of Colorado with a degree in Architecture with a concentration in Environmental Design. Will has literally grown up with Capt Hiram’s, having been born the year the restaurant opened. He brings fresh new ideas and plans to get back to Capt Hiram's Sebastian roots.

Capt Hiram’s is also proud to have launched a Brand New Website in January so please stop by and see the new look at hirams.com. While you're there, get social on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Google+ ... There’s plans for photo contests and offers for those socialize with the Capt & Crew! Plus you can keep up with another great year in 2014, with fun repeat events like the St Baldrick’s Shave Event on March 1, 2014 and Treasure Coast Community Health’s Great Duck Derby on April 6, 2014, the 2nd Annual Capt Hiram’s River Challenge Triathlon, concerts, theme parties and so much more. Plus there's the 3rd Annual Pirate Fest this November so make your plans now.

Capt Hiram's is a fun, relaxed waterfront beach resort, with a riverfront restaurant, Bahamian-style SandBar, Boutique-style hotel, Boatique gift shop, and marina nestled on the Intracoastal Waterway and lots of fun. Capt Hiram’s Resort is a unique option for Florida corporate and group events as well as leisure travelers. It features a restaurant, hotel, live entertainment nightly, and more. There are a variety of packages to suit corporate and group events’ requirements.

The Inn offers rooms with a variety of amenities including balconies or patios, direct riverfront rooms, a heated pool with tropical foliage, a coin laundry, and vending machines.

There is also plenty to fill your time with River King Cruises, fishing, boat rentals and kayak rentals right on property. Capt Hiram's also features live entertainment seven nights a week, including the Capt Hiram's Concert Series where you can enjoy national recording acts in the intimate setting of the SandBar.

All this and so much more, in one location so please come visit us soon. For more information about the Sebastian Florida Beach resort, contact the Captain today or visit online at www.hirams.com!
**Membership Matters**
*By Debbie Lloyd-Lee*

As you know, I travel around town each day meeting with Members and talking to new businesses who may be interested in Membership with our Chamber. Lately, I’ve noticed some “Help Wanted” signs at some local businesses and I’ve mentioned to them about our Jobs Board on our Chamber Website. I’m surprised to find out that some businesses don’t know about or are not familiar with this service offered to our Members!

“It’s so hard to find good help these days!” We’ve all heard this one! Unfortunately, with all the people out of work, it’s amazing how hard it is to find the right person to represent your business!

In using our Website “Jobs Board” you will reach fellow Chamber Members, area Businesses and residents looking for employment in our area. We see an average of 2,043 visits per month to our website, with 76% of those being new visits!

If you have a job that you would like to post on the “Jobs Board”, simply contact Britney at the Chamber office, and she will not only post your job, but teach you how to put up future jobs by yourself! This is a valuable service for our Chamber Members, and we hope that you will utilize it! It’s part of your membership benefits! Please take advantage of it!

See you around town!

Debbie

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**Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, 2013-2014**

**Executive Team**
Theresa Tolle, Bay Street Pharmacy – Chair
Maggie Sammons—Vice Chair
Bob Daberkow, Southern Fulfillment Services – Treasurer

**Elected Directors**
Sandi Gehrke, TD Bank
Betty Lollio, Seacoast National Bank
Michelle Napier, Esq.
Maggie Sammons, Custom Air Systems
Kim Ellis, Kim Ellis Insurance Agency
Cynthia V. Hall, VanDeVoorde Hall Law, P.L.
Ali Qizalbash, Cemco Construction

**Appointed Directors**
Capt. Christy Lenz, “Casual Cruisin”
Chuck Mechling, Collier Club
Joel Stout—Sandpiper Pest Control
Amy Selby—Springhill Suites by Marriott
Steven Salyer—Sebastian River Medical Center
Margie Duffell, Wells Fargo, Past President
Debbi Vickers—Immediate Past Chair

**Ex Officio**
Wesley Davis, Indian River County Commissioner
Susan Adams, Mayor, City of Fellsmere
Andrea Coy, Council Woman, City of Sebastian
Jason Nunemaker, City Manager, City of Fellsmere

**Chamber Team**
Beth L. Mitchell, President/CEO
Nicole Capp Holbrook, Tourism Director
Britney Melchiori, Operations Director
Debbi Lloyd Lee, Membership Director
Kimberly Armstrong, Accounting
February 2014
Beth L. Mitchell, President & CEO

If our projections hold true then January is off to a good start with our visitors! Over the last three years we have seen over 500 visitors in the Chamber Visitor Center each month between January and April. Recently the polar vortex helped (sci-fi term) send folks down to us and tourism in our area has seen an eight percent increase over last year, breaking all established records. Our community traditions, festivals, concerts and special events help to define the Sebastian River Area as a friendly, warm and cozy place to visit and live. Its hard to believe that Concerts in the Park is in its 15th year, bringing residents and visitors to the park for warm balmy evenings of entertainment on the lagoon! Its hard to believe that Light Up Night just had its 25th anniversary as well. Our Chamber’s strengths come from all of the support from our businesses, not for profits and volunteers. And in partnership with the city, many good things happen. City leaders and especially city workers are very supportive and make things happen behind the scenes, making sure that the lights are on, the banners are posted, the stage is set, clean up is done, and everything runs smooth. As we head into the Festival madness and tourism season, we want to thank everybody who contributes to making this such a special place.

We are eagerly anticipating the delivery of our new Chamber Business Directory, should be hot off the presses by the end of the month. We have rewritten all of the content, and personalized all of the advertising, and tripled checked your information. We hope you will agree that our staff efforts have improved our signature handout to all of those visitors we mentioned earlier. Again, thanks for all of your support with this project!

Our line up in February includes two Concerts, Professor Pennygoode’s Mighty Flee Circus, followed by the Porchdogs. We really enjoyed the first band, the British Rock Invasion with St. John’s Wood, so next month should be quite entertaining. Again, we appreciate our sponsors, Bay Street Pharmacy, FPL, Oculina Bank, Sebastian River Medical Center, Waste Management and RE/MAX Crown Realty. The crowd always loves the free raffle, while we use stage time to promote our businesses with gift certificates and give-aways. Its not too late to provide us with those items. Just drop them off at the Chamber office.

Breakfast begins the month at Paradise Florist, located in Vic’s Plaza on US One. We have invited Indian River County Commissioner Peter O’Bryan to come and speak to us at Marsh Landing for lunch. Commissioner O’Bryan, current chair of the County Commission, is also the designated commissioner for the Indian River Lagoon Counties Collaborative, and he will be bringing us up to date on efforts underway to resolve issues with the lagoon. Our business and pleasure at the end of the month is at Sebastian Inlet Marina, in Micco. Its one of the newest marinas in our area, with a full service storage facility and many boating amenities, it should be a pleasant evening on the water.

Finally, if you have a “groovy kind of love”, this is the month to show you care. We have several very special gift shops in town, florists who can help, and there are many ways to keep it local an wish everybody a “Happy Valentine Day”.

Have a prosperous month!
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