

**Board of Directors:**

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*Just Gold Jewelers, Inc.*

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*The MilCor Group, Inc.*

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*Proctor, Crook & Crowder, P.A.*

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*Elliot Paul & Company*

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*& Shutter Corp.*

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*Costco Wholesale Corporation*

**Brian Torello**

*Carrabba's Italian Grill*

**Thomas Vokoun**

*Boyle Engineering Corporation*

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**Ex-Officio Directors:**

**Dan Hudson**

*Stuart City Manager*

**Doug Smith**

*Martin County*

*Board of County Commission*

**Lorie Shekailo**

*Martin County School Board*

**Jose Farinos**

*Indian River State College*

**Joseph A. Catrabbone**

*President/CEO*

**Upcoming Events:**

**Networking Breakfasts**

Tuesday, April 7th

7:45 AM

Sponsored by:

Halsey & Griffith, Inc.

at the Chamber Office

Tuesday, April 14th

7:45 AM

Sponsored by:

Martin County Special

Needs Training, Inc.

at the Chamber Office

Tuesday, April 21st

7:45 AM

Sponsored & Hosted by:

Tropical Smoothie Cafe/

South Stuart

**Chamber Luncheon**

Wednesday, April 8th

11:45AM

Sponsored by:

TLC Cleaning/Restoration/

Remodel

at Bonefish Grill

*Reservations are required*

**No Business After Hours  
 in April**



Chair Elect Jody Bond, Just Gold Jewelers, Inc. presents Ambassador of the Month award to Linda Moreman, Coldwell Banker Real Estate at the March Luncheon.




Chamber board member James Stedham, Costco Wholesale Corporation; Chair Elect Jody Bond; March Luncheon sponsors Laura Patterson and Dan Hulén, Fifth Third Processing Solutions at Sandhill Cove.



Young Professionals of Martin County raised more than \$3000 for the Relay for Life overnight event held at Martin County High School March 27-28. YPMC's "Fiesta" themed tents sold nachos, maracas, Mexican tea cookies and more!



March Networking Breakfast sponsors Susan Niemi, Patti Davis Thogersen and Helen Posey, Forest Hills Funeral Home - Young & Prill Chapel.



## Save The Date...July 22, 2009

# Health & Wellness Show

### Wolf Technology Center at Indian River State College, Stuart

**Open to the Public 10 AM - 5 PM - Business After Hours 5:30 - 7:30 PM**

*For Sponsorship and Vendor Information, Contact Jayme at the Chamber 287-1088, Ext. 111*



Cruising down the St. Lucie River was a great way to end the day for LEADERShip Class 19 and fellow alumni. Many thanks to the alumni who coordinated and sponsored the Economic Day; Shaun Plymale, Peter Kemp, Sheila Krutz, Tammy Simoneau and Gulfstream Business Bank.

LEADERShip Applications are available at the Chamber office or contact Nancy Sailer, Program Director at 287-6692.



**President's  
 Report**

**Joe Catrabbone**  
*President/CEO*

Businesses of all sizes have been devastated by the recession, but small businesses have been especially hard hit. They've been hit with a huge reduction in revenue and severely restricted access to credit due to the banking crisis.

Affordable and readily available credit is essential for all businesses, but credit is especially important to small businesses that have fewer financing options than larger companies. In an effort to assist, the U.S. Chamber has made helping small businesses obtain credit and stay afloat during these difficult times a top priority.

Last week the White House announced plans to reduce the Small Business Administration's (SBA's) 7(a) and 504 lender and user fees, which will encourage banks to lend and make funds more affordable for small businesses to borrow. The administration also called for an increase in the government-guaranteed percentage of the SBA 7(a) loans and changes that would allow banks to more easily sell the guaranteed portion of the SBA 7(a) and 504 loans on the secondary markets.

Banks will be required to meet new reporting requirements to help monitor lending to small businesses.

Along with a provision in the stimulus bill that will allow small businesses to carry back their losses over the last five tax years (a tax refund), this proposal amounts to a mini-stimulus package for small business owners.

While the chamber believes this action is a

way to get credit back in the hands of small businesses, it's also important that it not implement policies that will hurt them. Raising taxes would be a huge mistake. The proposed increase of marginal tax rates for those earning more than \$250,000 a year would adversely impact many small firms, as \$2 out of every \$3 dollars in small business profits is taxed at the individual household level.

Saddling small businesses with an expensive health care mandate and more burdensome workplace regulations will only delay economic recovery and undermine our nation's long-term growth.

Small businesses need credit to meet payroll, purchase supplies, hire workers, and to simply keep the lights on. Small businesses employ approximately half of all private sector workers and generate 60% to 80% of net new job growth. Investing in these companies is a down payment toward economic recovery.