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Joseph A. Catrambone
President/CEO

Upcoming Events:

Networking Breakfasts

Tuesday, June 16th
 7:45 AM
 Hosted & Sponsored by:
 Metro Fire Protection
 Stuart

Business After Hours

Wednesday, June 17th
 5:30 - 7:30 PM
 Hosted & Sponsored by:
 Pineapple Cove
 Jensen Beach

**Young Professionals
 of Martin County**

Thursday, June 25th
 6:00 - 8:00 PM
 Hosted & Sponsored by:
 Carsons Tavern
 Stuart



Wednesday, July 22, 2009

**Wolf Technology Center at Indian
 River State College**
 Salerno Road, Stuart

Public Welcome: 10 AM - 5 PM
Business After Hours: 5:30 - 7:30 PM

**Great Reasons to Exhibit
 at the Show...**

- * Community Wide Exposure
- * High Visibility and Low Cost
- * New Leads and Potential Customers
- * Business to Business Networking
- * Introduce the Latest Health and Wellness Products and Services

Call Today for Sponsorship & Exhibitor Info
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info@goodnature.org



May Business After Hours Sponsors Charles Urso, Barry Tarpley, Susan Henry, Nan Schmiedeberg, Tiffany Greer, and Delroy Brackett; Marble of the World, with Joe Catrambone, Chamber President/CEO and board member James Stedham, Costco Wholesale Corporation.



John Garcia and Jay Rinchack, The Palm Beach Post, Sponsors of May's New Member Reception with board member James Stedham, Costco Wholesale Corporation.

**Special Thanks To Gulfstream Aluminum
 For the Chamber Building Face Lift**



"There's nothing that we don't do," are words put into practice at Gulfstream Aluminum and Shutters. Original owners John and Barb O'Brien are operating a well-oiled machine with a variety of services that can be customized for any application.

Gulfstream takes pride in honest professional installation of their products, which are all made in America with everything done in our house at their Stuart location. They have over 20,000 square feet of production space for jobs big and small including: Accordions, Colonials,

Bahamas, Roll-ups and Storm Panel Shutter Systems. In addition, they offer an assortment of custom railings, gates, windows, doors, ultra lattice, shade structures, carports, and retractable awnings.

They are the largest hurricane shutter manufacturer on the east coast, and are celebrating their 30th anniversary in Martin County. Come by or call and they will be glad to help you. "Do it once do it right," the name Gulfstream means quality on the Treasure Coast.



Linda Reinstein, Big Apple Bagels, Sponsor of May's New Member Reception.



May Young Professionals of Martin County Sponsors Leanne and Mike Matakaetis, Hurricane Grill and Wings of Stuart.



May YPMC guest speakers Rob Shelt and Mary Sawyer, American Red Cross Martin County Chapter, with Reed Hartman, Elliot Paul & Company, YPMC committee member and American Red Cross Martin County Chapter board member.



President's Report

Joe Catrambone
 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

a float 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 por-

tion 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.

