



**Indian River County Chamber of Commerce
2018 Industry Appreciation Awards
Nomination Packet**




CONGRATULATIONS!

You and your business have been nominated for an Indian River County 2018 Industry Appreciation Award! With this distinction, you have the opportunity to showcase your company to the rest of the county, and achieve the honor and distinction as an award recipient. And, as this is the 30th Anniversary of our Awards Program, it makes it even more special!

I encourage you to review the enclosed information which outlines the history and importance of this annual awards event. A member of the Chamber's Industry Appreciation Awards Committee will assist you in completing your nomination form, and follow up with you to ensure that the form is submitted before the July 31 deadline. You can also call the Chamber's Economic Development office at 567-3491 for assistance.

The committee members and I look forward to reviewing your completed nomination. Shortly after the nomination deadline, committee members vote electronically to select the award recipients - one in each category. Our 2018 Award recipients are notified prior to the Awards luncheon so as to make arrangements to attend. I hope to see you there!

Best Regards,



Helene Caseltine, CEcD
Economic Development Director
Indian River County Chamber of Commerce

Table of Contents

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| The Who | 3 |
| The What | 4 |
| The When | 5 |
| The Where | 6 |
| The Why | 7 |

6 | Wednesday, October 4, 2017 | Your Newsweekly | Indian River County | Treasure Coast Newspapers

Events

Indian River Chamber recognizes businesses

FOR YOUR NEWSWEEKLY

The Indian River County Chamber of Commerce recently honored local companies at its annual Industry Appreciation Awards luncheon at Indian River State College's Richardson Center in Vero Beach.

Bill Penney, president and CEO of Marine Bank & Trust and chairman of the Chamber's Economic Leadership Alliance, served as master of ceremonies, and Florida Power & Light sponsored the event.

Helene Caseltine, the Chamber's economic development director, said the event is an important component of the Chamber's overall business retention program and its goal of job creation.

"We show our appreciation to local businesses that have made a positive impact in our community during the past year, either through architectural achievements or by way of community involvement and economic impact," she said.

Companies of the Year

The Chamber's Company of the Year award recognizes local businesses that stimulate the Indian River County economy, make contributions back to the community, provide quality year-round employment and have an overall positive impact on our county.

Oak Harbor Club was named Large Company of the Year for a business with more than 75 employees. Established in 1997, Oak Harbor Club provides a range of business and lifestyle services to its residents. The company generates more than \$285,000 in annual payroll and property taxes, and revenue and market share have increased nearly 11 percent over the past year.

Oak Harbor and its 87 employees have donated more than \$30,000 to local nonprofits, including Keep Indian River Beautiful and the "We Care Foundation."

Dale Sorensen Real Estate was recognized as Medium-Sized Business of the Year.

Dale Sorensen Sr. and his wife, Matilde, founded Dale Sorensen Real Estate in 1978. The company's 200 sales agents reported sales of more than \$648 million in 2016. The firm and its employees clock hundreds of volunteer hours annually and donate thousands of dollars on behalf of a multitude of nonprofit and charitable organizations in the community and around the world.

Since 2013, Dale Sorensen Real Estate has donated more than \$250,000 per year in advertising space in the Press Journal for local charities to promote their events.

Caliber Home Loans was named Small Company of the Year.

The firm opened its Vero Beach office in 2015 and has 12 employees who earn well above the county's average annual wage of \$39,400. The firm has experienced a 50 percent increase in sales and in market share over the past 12 months, while promoting a customer-centric culture.

The company and its employees are active in several local programs and trade organizations, donating an estimated \$5,000 in cash or in-kind goods and services annually.

Minority Business of the Year

Minority Business of the Year was awarded to Marsh Landing Restaurant, owned and operated by Fran Adams and her daughter, County Commissioner Susan Adams.

The restaurant, opened in 2001, is located in the restored sales office of the Fellsmere Estates Building in Fellsmere. Marsh Landing Restaurant donates \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year to local nonprofit organizations, including the annual Frog Leg Festival.

Entrepreneur of the Year

The Entrepreneur of the Year Award recognizes firms that have been in business for less than five years and show increased growth and true entrepreneurial spirit, while overcoming challenges and becoming a good corporate citizen.

Alan Dittenbas and Mike Malone, owners of Walking Tree Brewery, were named 2017 Entrepreneurs of the Year.

Opened in 2015, Walking Tree Brewery, with a capital investment of \$1.3 million, produces beer for distribution and sampling at its on-site tasting room. Production capacity already has expanded, and the company expects to be canning beer for retail outlets in early 2018.

The owners designed and built the brewery with the idea of it being a hub for community interaction, and strive to be as involved in the community as possible.

Manufacturer of the Year

The Manufacturer of the Year award considers growth of the company, quality of the jobs, its economic impact and sales that are primarily outside the region or state, making the business a contributory company.

Perfect Stix, which produces wooden products for a variety of uses including ice cream and popsicle sticks, tongue depressors, coffee stirrers and paint paddles as well as a variety of straws, was named Manufacturer of the Year. Twenty percent of the materials are sourced locally. The company has seen a 10 percent increase in sales over the past year, with 50 percent of its products shipped outside of Florida.

Architectural Recognition Awards

Architectural Recognition Award criteria includes: impact on immediate area; building's unique features; and the building or project being "user friendly."

Architectural Recognition Award winners were recognized for their contributions to the community and the local economy.

Ay Jalisco, small renovation of the year: Pedro Nevaras, Gloria Huitron. ANNA VALENCIA TELLEY

Indian River Transit Hub: Jason Fykers, Brian Freeman, Joe Schuik, Karen Diegl, Joe Flescher, Ken Lebron, Phil Matson and Jason Brown. ANNA VALENCIA TELLEY

Marsh Landing, minority business: Susan and Fran Adams. ANNA VALENCIA TELLEY

ABC Liquors, new construction Midsize: Nicholas Sieffert, Cindy Michaels, Neil College, Kelly Brinker, Andrew Shulga and Nick Adair. ANNA VALENCIA TELLEY

GHO Summer Lakes, Residential Community of the Year: Julio Redo, Sheryl Thomson, Renee MacLees, Nancy Villafane and Danny Knowles (kneeling). ANNA VALENCIA TELLEY

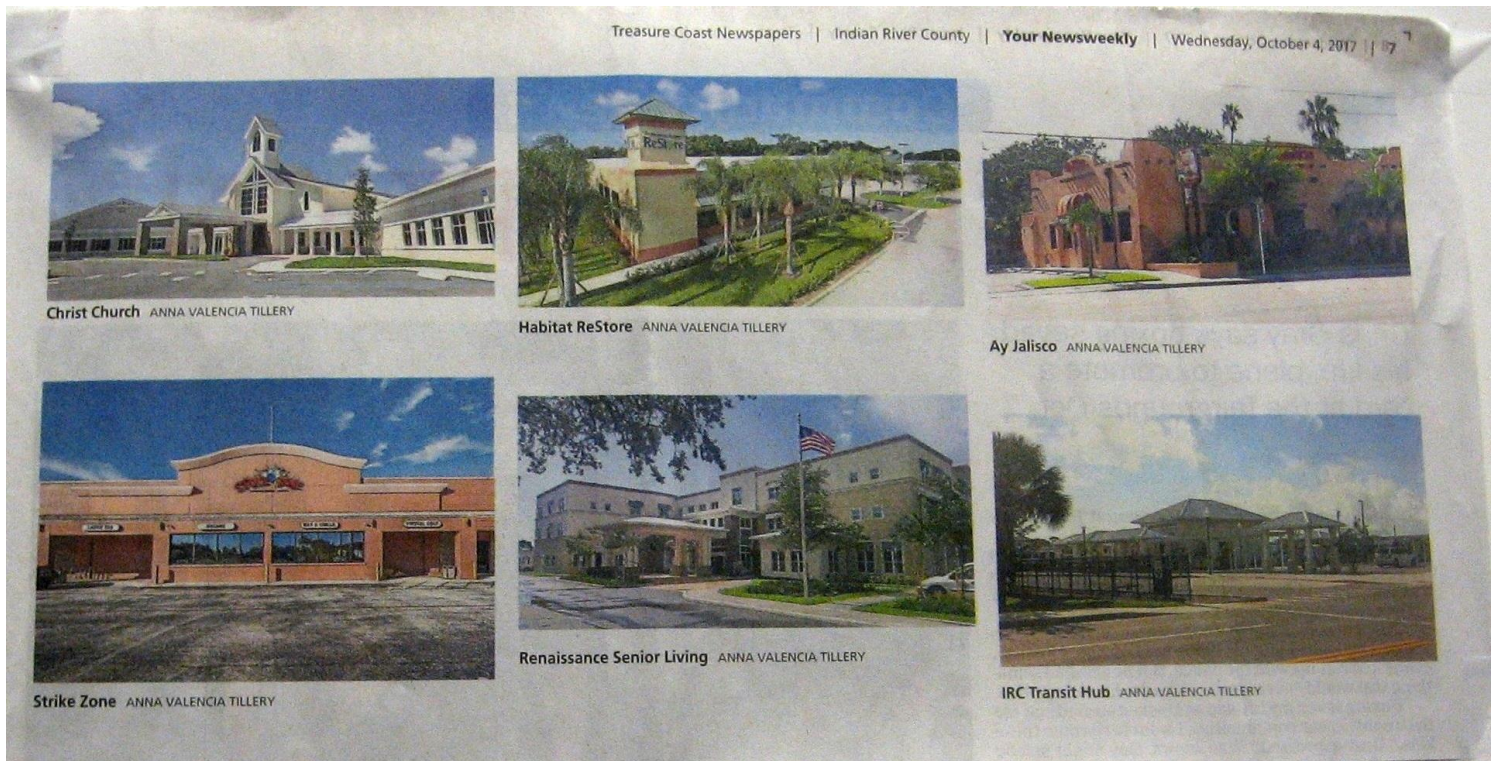
Walking Tree's: Jeff Jorein, Wendy Labadie, Alyssa Dittenbas, Alan Dittenbas, Mike Malone, Brooke Malone and Daniel Rey. ANNA VALENCIA TELLEY

The Who

All businesses located within Indian River County are eligible for nomination. However, we ask that previous award recipients allow for **5 years to pass** before submitting nominations for that same category. Award recipients are invited to the Awards luncheon, where they are presented with their Industry Appreciation Award Plaque. We also do a group photo, to share with your Team and to publicize your achievements. All the award recipients are announced in the Chamber's official media release and recognized in the Chamber's e-newsletter. Plus, *Vero NewsWeekly* has offered to do a "personal" write-up on each of the award recipients for even greater exposure!

The What

The Industry Appreciation Awards has 5 distinct categories, some of which have sub-categories. The committee has outlined specific criteria for each of the categories and utilizes this information during the award selection process.



Feature in *Your News Weekly*, 10/4/2017

AWARD CATEGORIES ARE:

Architectural Recognition*

New Commercial Building/New Commercial Project
New Residential Development - Single Family and Multi-Family
Redevelopment/Remodeling
Restoration/Renovation/Historic Preservation

* *Certificate of Occupancy or Certificate of Completion must be issued between 8/1/2017 and 7/31/2018. Nominations are considered primarily on exterior work completed.*



*Renaissance Senior Living
Large Commercial Property Redevelopment*

Manufacturer of the Year

Small and Large, based on number of employees



Perfect Stix – Manufacturer of the Year

Entrepreneur of the Year

In business 5 years or less



*Walking Tree Brewery
Entrepreneurs of the Year*

Minority Business of the Year

51% minority owned, as defined by *FL Statute*: members of an insular group that are of a particular racial, ethnic, or gender makeup or national origin



*Marsh Landing Restaurant
Minority Business of the Year*

Company of the Year - Small, Medium, Large



Oak Harbor – Large Company of the Year

The When

Nominations to be considered for the 2018 Industry Appreciation Awards **must be received by 5:00pm on Friday, July 31, 2018.** Late nominations cannot be accepted.

Nominations can be submitted by e-mail (preferred), fax or hand-delivered to the Chamber of Commerce office, located at 1216 21st Street in downtown Vero Beach.

Award winners are invited to the Awards Luncheon, which is scheduled for Thursday, September 20, 2018 at 12:00pm at the Indian River State College Richardson Center. Each award recipient will be recognized for contributions made to the community and/or economic impact to the county.



We are delighted to recognize FL Power & Light as the Sponsor for this year's event!



*Dale Sorensen Real Estate
Mid-size Company of the Year*



Caliber Home Loans – Small Company of the Year

The Where

The Industry Appreciation Awards Luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, September 20, 2018 at the Richardson Center, located at the Mueller Campus of Indian River State College – 6155 College Lane in Vero Beach.

The event is usually a sold-out crowd. And, with this being the program's 30th Anniversary, it is sure to be a very special event! We hope you can join us.



The Why

The Industry Appreciation Awards program presents an opportunity for the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce to recognize our local businesses and the positive impact they have on our community. The program is a component of the Chamber's Economic Development Business Retention and Expansion efforts.

Note From the Committee Chair

Congratulations on your well-deserved nomination!

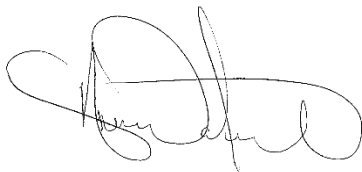
You have the exciting opportunity to join a very distinguished group of companies who have greatly contributed to the success and enhancement of Indian River County. Though not all can win, it is an honor to be nominated and your contributions to our community are appreciated.

The awards presented by the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce Industry Appreciation program are highly coveted, and the Awards luncheon held in September is very well attended.

The Committee members and I look forward to receiving your nomination package and gaining further insight into your company.

Together, the Chamber and our businesses can create a better community in which to live, work, and play . . . for today, tomorrow and the next 20+ years.

Best wishes,



Anna Valencia-Tillery
Committee Chair

2018 Committee Members

Alfonse Alexander, Alexander Insurance
Lynn Fiske, EGP Document Solutions
Tori Hume, Marine Bank & Trust
Melody Ipilito, Kmetz, Nuttall, Elwell,
Graham, CPAs
Donna Kingsley, Vero Chemical
Lisa Moberly, Arkitektura Inc.
Cinda Norris, Cindastudios

Rodney Phelps, Sandpiper Pest Control
Terry Schlitt, T.E. Schlitt Engineering
Mark Seeberg, Norris & Co. Real Estate,
Division of Berkshire Hathaway
**Anna Valencia-Tillery, White Glove
Moving & Storage/PakMail Beachside**
George Watson, Seacoast Bank