

# The Palm Beach Post

# BUSINESSDashboard

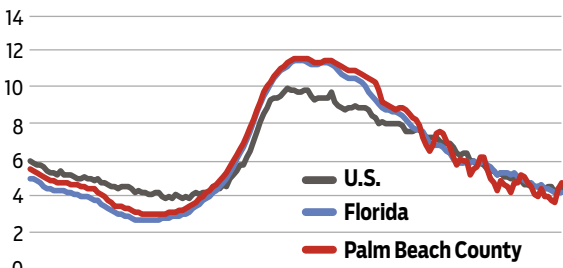
AN ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

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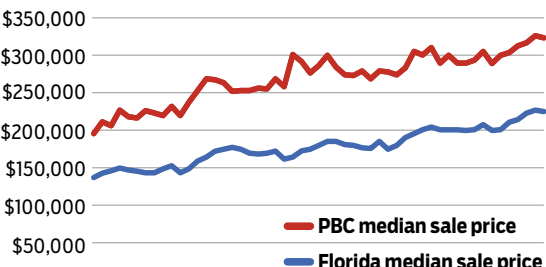
## Unemployment

Palm Beach County unemployment rose to 5.2% in July.



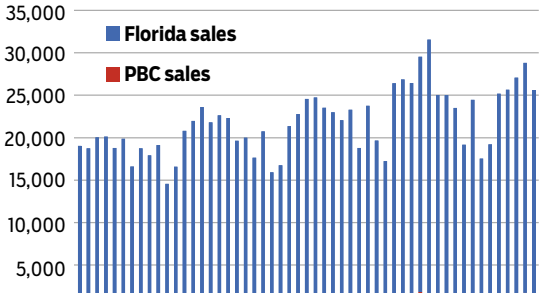
## Single-family home prices

Palm Beach County's median home price dipped in July to \$317,250, down from June's \$320,000.



## Single-family home sales

Palm Beach County and Florida home sales fell in July.



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## ADVERTISEMENT

### CPBC CHAMBER NEWSMAKERS

#### COLTON CREWS



Colton Crews is the Senior Business Consultant for IT Solutions of South Florida. They here to help by bringing you technology solutions that enable you to become more productive and efficient while spending less. They believe in taking a proactive approach: identifying and resolving small problems before they become big expensive ones. Your success is their success, and as you grow, they grow. *IT Solutions of South Florida is a Trustee member of the Central Palm Beach County Chamber represented by Colton Crews and holds a seat on the Chamber Board.*

#### AARON JONES



Aaron Jones recently joined BB&T as the Business Services Officer and Vice President in Palm Beach County. BB&T, a Fortune 500 company, is one of the largest financial services holding companies in the U.S. with \$221.9 billion in assets and market capitalization of \$29.0 billion. The company operates 2,249 financial centers in 15 states and offers a full range of consumer and commercial banking, securities brokerage, asset management, mortgage and insurance products and services. *BB&T is a new Trustee member of the Central Palm Beach County Chamber represented by Aaron Jones.*

#### CHERYL ANDERS



Cheryl Anders, R.N., is Partner & Chief Innovation Officer of Think Big Health Care Solutions (TBHCS). As a healthcare resource solutions company, they strive to provide metric-driven business enhancements utilizing best practices and benchmarks to enrich the patient experience and to maximize your organization's profitability. They believe that taking best practices across all business platforms provides a unique, progressive approach to your success. *Cheryl Anders is the Chair of the Chamber's YEA! Program. TBHCS is a Board member of the Central Palm Beach County Chamber represented by Cheryl Anders.*



## EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS PAY DIVIDENDS TOWARD A BRIGHT FUTURE

Across industries, American businesses share some basic needs. First, we require a workforce of people with the education and the skills to produce our products and serve our customers. Second, we prosper when consumers' purchasing power increases, rather than diminishes. Without an adequate supply of each, our long-term future becomes clouded.

Education makes a person employable and contributes to increased wages. If we aim to prepare children to compete in the world they'll inherit from us, we must provide them with a quality education. That investment must come earlier than most people think.

Without access to high-quality early childhood education programs, many children fall behind and many never catch up. Underserved 5-year-olds enter kindergarten with an 18-month disadvantage.

By the time they are in third and fourth grade, they can't do math or read at grade level. If they are to compete

in a global economy run by an increasingly knowledge-based workforce, we need for them to excel in science and technology as well.

STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) studies have become the table stakes of modern life and it's incumbent upon us to give children the foundation to learn these disciplines.

Investments in quality early childhood education pay outstanding dividends. Studies have estimated that for every dollar spent on high-quality early education for at-risk children, society stands to gain up to \$16 in long-term savings.

Recognizing the importance of early childhood education, in 2004 PNC launched Grow Up Great – a \$350 million multi-year, English/ Spanish program for children from birth to age 5. Locally, they have awarded nearly \$1 million in grants in support of many kindergarten readiness programs and initiatives Through Grow Up Great they seek to broaden the experiences of young children

in ways that will last their lifetime.

Most recently, PNC Bank partnered with the South Florida Science Center & Aquarium's Discovery Center in Palm Beach and the Museum of Discovery & Science in Ft. Lauderdale, among many other local organizations to present interactive exhibits that teach and engage children in math and science in a fun and educational way.

These STEM-focused playrooms inspire imagination, inquisitiveness and a sense of discovery. They help children develop cognitive skills and improve social skills which are crucial to long-term learning.

Palm Beach has embraced early childhood education. For its part, PNC has worked with non-profit partners to ensure that they make a positive and lasting contribution to the school readiness of children in this community. With the support of businesses across the state, we can do more to make a significant difference.

### CHAMBER EVENTS

#### STATE OF THE CITIES CHAMBER ECONOMIC LUNCHEON

**City Updates From:** Belle Glade, Greenacres, Lake Worth, Royal Palm Beach, Wellington, and West Palm Beach  
**Date:** October 13, 2016  
**Time:** 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Wellington Community Center; 12150 Forest Hill Blvd.; Wellington, FL 33414

#### FARM CITY 2016 CHAMBER ECONOMIC LUNCHEON

**Topic:** The Algae Bloom: The Truth, The Myths, & The Future  
**Date:** November 16, 2016  
**Time:** 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
**Location:** South Florida Fairgrounds - Expo Center; 9067 Southern Blvd.; West Palm Beach, FL 33411

#### — SAVE THE DATE — WELLINGTON HOLIDAY PARADE

**"HOLIDAY MOVIE MAGIC"**  
**Date:** Sunday, December 11, 2016  
**Time:** 1:30 p.m.

To register for any of our upcoming events, please visit the Chamber website at [www.cpbchamber.com](http://www.cpbchamber.com) and click on Events!

For more information or if you need assistance, please email [info@cpbchamber.com](mailto:info@cpbchamber.com) or call (561) 790-6200.

### CENTRAL PALM BEACH COUNTY LEADERSHIP 2017

At the Central Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce our goal is to continuously improve the business climate of Palm Beach County by working with our members. We accomplish this through programs focused on advocacy, economic development and direct services to our members. One such program, Leadership Central Palm Beach County, a staple of education, economic development and advocacy, will be resuming in 2017.

Leadership Central Palm Beach County 2017 is a six-month comprehensive educational program created by the Central Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce. This program brings together a group of individuals interested in becoming involved in community issues, meeting community leaders and impacting the direction of the community's future. We are sure that you will enjoy every minute of this program, which begins January 2017.

For more information about Leadership Central Palm Beach County 2017 or to apply, please contact the Central Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce at 561-790-6200, or visit our website at [www.cpbchamber.com](http://www.cpbchamber.com).

## BUSINESS LEADERS AND EDUCATORS REUNITE AT CENTRAL PALM BEACH CHAMBER'S ECONOMIC FORUM: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Last August, the Central Palm Beach County Chamber held an Economic Forum Luncheon to start the conversation about improving education and to kick off the Central Palm Beach County Community Foundation's Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!). The conversation continued this year when Dr. Robert Avossa, Superintendent of the School District of Palm Beach County, returned to address the sold out crowd at the Chamber's Luncheon, sponsored by PNC, on August 18th at the West Palm Beach Marriott. This time, Dr. Avossa addressed the importance of early childhood education.

Early education is the key to success. Dr. Avossa stated, "Early childhood education is really where the foundation of all literacy and numeracy occurs so kids need to know that they are going to be learning their whole life and



Photo Credit: Tracey Benson Photography

we need to start right away, while those brains are still developing."

Dr. Avossa was then joined by an expert panel consisting of David Lawrence, Jr. (Children's Movement of Florida), Warren Eldridge (Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County) and Dr. Lisa Williams-Taylor (Children's Services Council

of Palm Beach County) to share their wisdom regarding ways the business community can help ensure that all of our students are prepared to learn. They were moderated by Kimberly Reckley (PNC Financial Services Group).

Business leaders also heard from 15-year-olds, Ethan Shapiro and Ryan Shnider, co-presidents of Snap'd In,

who placed 2nd in the Young Entrepreneurs Academy national competition against over 90 other businesses. Ethan and Ryan credited their success to the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA), a cutting-edge afterschool program that takes students ages 11 to 18 through the process of starting and launching a real business or social movement. The Central Palm Beach County Community Foundation (the nonprofit arm of the Chamber) is currently accepting applications for the next YEA! class, which begins in October. Learn more about the YEA! or apply online today by visiting [www.CPBchamberYEA.org](http://www.CPBchamberYEA.org).

YEA! brings business and community leaders together to help students build their own American dream. Programs like YEA! and topics like the importance of early childhood education help prepare children to succeed in the future.