

LOCAL BUSINESS

**Q&A WITH JOHN CARR,
CHAIRMAN, PALM BEACH NORTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**



Recruiting businesses and adding affordable housing are among the goals set by Palm Beach North Chamber of Commerce Chairman John Carr, managing director of Venture Construction Group of Florida. [ALLEN EYESTONE/PALMBEACHPOST.COM]

North county chamber's chairman a savvy leader

By **Alexandra Clough**
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Smart growth is the challenge for northern Palm Beach County. So says John Carr, new chairman of the Palm Beach North Chamber of Commerce.

Residents want to live in north county to enjoy the beauty and natural amenities, and businesses want to set up shop there, too.

Balancing sometimes competing interests isn't always easy, and Carr has seen cities struggle with growth. His goal is to further efforts to create workforce housing for residents such as nurses and school teachers priced out of the region's increasingly expensive homes. At the same time, he'd like to encourage the growth of industries in the area, including the aerospace industry.

"Having an essential workforce means more businesses can come here," he said. "But you can't come here if you can't afford to live here."

In addition to these longtime concerns, there's a new, more urgent challenge now: How to accommodate growth and still be prepared to serve residents and businesses who could be hit by a major hurricane.

Fresh on Carr's mind is Hurricane Dorian, which slammed into the Bahamas as a Category 5 storm in September and devastated parts of the islands.

Carr knows about storm damage. His job as managing director of Venture Construction puts him at the scene of communities and businesses trying to rebuild from catastrophe. Venture Construction handles restoration, renovations, roofing and storm damage repairs for commercial properties.

Carr has done a lot of work in Florida's Panhandle since Hurricane Irma hit the area in 2017, and he knows the heavy lift that will be needed to restore the Bahamas.

"It's definitely a wake-up call to us," Carr said of the storm. "It was right off our coast. Eighty miles away and it could have hit us at that magnitude."

Carr said people still will want to continue to live along Florida's coast, and he knows that northern Palm Beach County will become more heavily populated with residents and companies.

But he hopes the area's disaster preparedness can be fine-tuned in the event the entire system gets knocked out by a massive storm.

As chairman of the chamber, Carr said he'll be meeting with municipalities in north county to talk about their disaster plans, including logistics and communications following a storm.

What banks and drugstores will be open? Which hospitals will be used to help the injured? "We need to be ready for that," Carr said.

Name: John Carr
Job Title: Chairman of Palm Beach North Chamber of Commerce; managing director of Venture Construction Group of Florida

Age: 50
Hometown: I was born in Warwick, N.Y., but my home has been Palm Beach County for over 40 years. I've lived in Jupiter since 2006.

Education: Lake Worth High School

Family: Married to Michelle Martin-Carr. We have one daughter and I'm a proud grandfather.

About your company: Founded in 1998, Venture Construction Group of Florida (VCGFL) is a leader in commercial construction, restoration, renovations, roofing, storm damage repairs, and 24/7 emergency

See **CARR, D2**

Who inspires business owners? It's not always the big successes

By **Joyce M. Rosenberg**
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The risks Richard Branson has taken as he's gone from founding the Virgin record label to planning space flights have been an inspiration for Elizabeth Babinski in her wedding business.

When she recently redid her website, which appeals to LGBTQ as well as heterosexual couples, Babinski knew it was "drastically different" but thought, "how would Richard Branson approach this?"

"It pushed me to think to just do it and not compare it to what everyone else is doing," says Babinski, a wedding officiant and owner of Minneapolis-based Liz Rae Weddings.

The people who inspire small business owners can range from famous billionaires to former bosses to parents who dealt with failures as well as successes. Here is a look at the people who inspired and mentored some small business owners:

Watching Dad succeed and fail

As Kent Mages grew up in Chicago in the 1980s and '90s,



Entrepreneur Richard Branson, shown here speaking at the Virgin Miami Central train station in April, inspired wedding planner Elizabeth Babinski when she revamped the website of her Minneapolis-based Liz Rae Weddings. [LANNIS WATERS/PALMBEACHPOST.COM]

his father had a successful printing business. But as the growth of personal computers decimated the printing industry, the company failed. In the ensuing years, Mages, who's had his own failures before launching his current business, learned about perseverance from his father.

"My dad never lost his desire to build something of his own, to take risks," says Mages, owner

of Custom Color 3D Printing. "Sometimes they panned out, sometimes they didn't. But he never gave up."

Lessons from a crisis

When seven people died in 1982 after taking Tylenol capsules tainted with cyanide,

See **SUCCESS, D2**

ADVERTISEMENT

NEWSMAKERS & SHAKERS

NOEMI COLTEA

Noemi Coltea is the recipient of the 2019 Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches' ATHENA Young Professional Leadership Award. Noemi is the Chief Operating and Strategy Officer for MDS on Demand, a West Palm Beach based consulting firm. She has 15 years of experience in public, private and non-profit sectors, and combines her strong analytic background in organizational theory, organizational behavior, public administration and economics to inspire results-driven solutions for the organization's clients and the communities we all serve. Her collaborative perspective and energy was developed while managing multiple multinational luxury brands. She has contributed as a volunteer to many community organizations.



LOCAL NEWSMAKERS

Sophia Eccleston of Palm Beach has been appointed to the Florida Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission by Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Eccleston is the external affairs manager at Florida Power & Light. She is an army veteran and has worked for Halliburton and KBR Inc. in the Middle East and Africa.

Eccleston is currently the president on the board of the Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County. She is also a commissioner on the Florida Commission on the Status of Women.

Eccleston obtained her bachelor's degree in criminal justice and an MBA with a concentration in organizational psychology and development.

The Mandel JCC of the Palm Beaches has chosen **Jesse Rosen** as president and chief executive officer.

JCC brings vital experience, including a vision for creating dynamic experiences that connect people to Jewish life, with a track record for putting into place, effective membership growth strategies.

Mandel JCC of the Palm Beaches has over 350 staff among its campuses in Boynton Beach and Palm Beach Gardens.

In 2017, Rosen was selected as a fellow in the Mandel Foundation Executive Leadership Program, a competitive program that prepares senior Jewish community professionals. Rosen has served for three years as the director of the Milwaukee JCC Maccabi Games, a summer sports festival similar that features more than 1,000 athletes from around the world.

Rosen is also an FAA licensed private pilot with over 600 hours of flying time.



Eccleston



Rosen

FOR MORE LOCAL NEWSMAKERS, SEE D2

Trade fight with Europe may raise price of dinner

By **Ana Swanson**
The New York Times

American shoppers may not have paid close attention to a 15-year controversy involving generous subsidies that the European Union provided Airbus, its largest aircraft manufacturer.

But that long-running dispute between Europe and the United States is about to turn up at the supermarket. The Trump administration said Wednesday that, starting Oct. 18, it will begin imposing a 25% tariff on a wide range of popular European food, drinks and other products.

Here's what you need to know about the trade fight, and how it will affect your grocery list.

What is the fight about?

The United States and Europe have been arguing for more than a decade about the subsidies and other kinds of special financing that the European Union has given Airbus.

The United States argues that these subsidies allow Airbus to sell its products at unfairly low prices around the world, hurting America's largest plane maker, Boeing. So the Americans brought a case against the Europeans at the World Trade Organization, the global body that handles trade disputes.

On Wednesday, the WTO handed down the final decision in that case, giving the Trump administration the green light to impose tariffs on up to \$7.5 billion of European

See **TRADE, D2**