

First Coast Tiger Bay Tracks



March 2021 The First Coast Tiger Bay Club, Inc. P.O. Box 2608, Jacksonville, FL 32203

Tiger Bay is Back!

Mary Kelli Palka/Nate Monroe Return for Our Re-opening

March 19, 2021

First Coast Tiger Bay is back at the River Club with new social distancing guidelines and two programs this month. Last March we suspended in-person programs for a year and will resume them **March 19th**. Our inaugural presentation after the Covid hiatus features **Mary Kelli Palka** and **Nate Monroe**, part of the Florida *Times-Union* staff who uncovered what will likely be the biggest scandal in Jacksonville's history: the proposed sale of the Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA). Since then the Jaguar/Lot J controversies, as well as the city's aborted hosting of a major party presidential nominating convention in the height of hurricane season during the worst pandemic in a century, have dominated local news.



These fiascos illustrate why we need a robust system of checks and balances a local newspaper can provide. Only a conscientious and diligent news organization can help the public hold decision makers accountable for their shenanigans behind closed doors. Come back to Tiger Bay on **March 19th** to learn first-hand the behind the scenes details of these scandals

The River Club has instituted new social distancing public health procedures. You will be required to wear a mask upon entering the Wells Fargo Building and the number of passengers in any single elevator is restricted. Masks are required in the River Club anytime you are not seated at a table. Tables will now have seating limited to six people to allow for social distancing. Instead of a buffet, a plated meal will be served consisting of a main course, salad and dessert. The price will remain \$28. It is important that you **make reservations for yourself and any guests by March 12th** as the River Club needs an accurate number for planning in this new environment.

We hope you can re-join us on March 19th for our

first in-person meeting since the lockdown. Democracy requires active participation by an informed citizenry—we welcome you to hear what those who follow local politics most closely have to say. No question is off limits for our guest presenters.

Our second program this month is a virtual one presented in conjunction with other Tiger Bay clubs across Florida for an online presentation you can see and hear on your computer. Last year the Florida Association of Tiger Bay Clubs presented four widely acclaimed virtual programs and this is their first offering of 2021. This **March 25th** statewide program features major political strategists in Florida to discuss their take on the current state of politics. **Steve Schale**, a leading Democratic political operative will join **Frank Terraferma**, his Republican counterpart, and **David Jolly**, an independent politician turned pundit, for a candid exchange of the behind the scenes thinking of major political strategists. It promises to be a memorable exchange of ideas presented in the traditional Tiger Bay format emphasizing candid and respectful dialogue.

This program will be available through the First Coast Tiger Bay Club webpage and Facebook page; specific information will be forwarded to members a day before the March 25th program.

Summary of March Tiger Bay programs

March 19th in-person at the River Club featuring Mary Kelli Palka and Nate Monroe **Reservations needed by March 12th**

March 25th virtual statewide program featuring major political operatives. More information will be sent as program date approaches

**2021
Tiger Bay
Officers**

Bill Bishop, President
Dr. Stephen Baker, Vice President
Henry Cordes, Secretary
Hazel Gillis, Treasurer

FIRST COAST TIGER BAY CLUB meets for lunch every month, except June, July and December, on the 3rd Friday at 11:30 at The River Club, 1 Independent Drive, 35th Floor. Cost for the event, which includes the wonderful buffet and parking, is \$28.

Reservations are required: Call (904) 404-5471 or E-Mail: fcTigerBay@gmail.com