



# SEMINOLE CHAMBER CHATTER

JANUARY 2009

Volume XVII Issue 3

## Upcoming Events/January 2009

- Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> New Year's Day - Office Closed
- Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Installation & Awards Banquet  
6 p.m. Wine Cellar restaurant
- Tues 13<sup>th</sup> City Council, 7:00 p.m., City Hall



**Last year's award winners...** Who will be named the next Boss of the Year, Business of the Year, Merit Award winner, or Mr/Ms Seminole? Attend the Jan. 10 banquet and find out. **This event takes the place of the monthly luncheon.**

- Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Business Education Workshop  
SPC Seminole campus, 7:30 a.m.  
TLC Building, Rm. 108
- Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Chamber Board Meeting,  
7:30 a.m. Chamber Office
- Tues 27<sup>th</sup> City Council, 7:00 p.m., City Hall
- Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Business Education Workshop  
SPC Seminole campus, 7:30 a.m.  
TLC Building, Rm. 108
- Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Employability Workshop  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Chamber Office Info

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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3337  
Seminole, FL 33775-3337

Phone: 392-3245 Fax: 397-7753

web site: [www.myseminolechamber.com](http://www.myseminolechamber.com)

Jimmy Johnson:

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Gretchen Cain:

[gretchenc@myseminolechamber.com](mailto:gretchenc@myseminolechamber.com)

Tammy Bibelhauser:

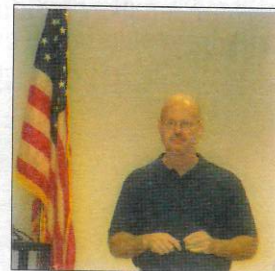
[tammyb@myseminolechamber.com](mailto:tammyb@myseminolechamber.com)

**Notary Services Available**

## New Chamber Board to Take the Lead in 2009

Despite an uncertain economy, the Seminole Chamber Board is optimistic about the year ahead. "It is more important than ever to pull together and help our business community," said Paul Ziegler, incoming president. At a recent Board workshop, directors and officers were asked to examine the Chamber's mission statement to ensure the association is focused on economic development, and also to craft a plan to balance the budget. Board members took a long hard look at the Chamber's list of fund-raising projects and were asked to rate them as "Must Do" "Could Do" and "Do We Really Want to Do?"

Some projects help businesses while others benefit segments of the community. "Must Do's" include the *Seminole Stampede & Family Easter Outing* slated for Saturday, April 11. The Committee has a strategic plan for upgrades. Please see sponsorship opportunities in this "Chamber Chatter" newsletter. Mindful of the excellent relationship maintained with the City of Seminole, Mark Ely, Community Development Director for Seminole, was asked to be the guest speaker. He gave an update of properties and their stages of redevelopment.



Mark Ely

\*Several residential projects, including the Hutchinson property and the former Bay Pines Mobile Home Park, are in foreclosure and "stalled on the tracks."

\*There have been many inquiries about the World Savings Bank site, sold to a New York property developer, the latest being from Aldi discount grocery stores.

\*A Walgreen's could replace the Circle K at the Winn Dixie Shopping Center on Park Boulevard.

\*The Greco family is still trying to lease the "Kash N Karry" property.

\*Changes to Seminole Mall are still undecided, but any plans will stay in the city to be reviewed, rather than going to the state or county redevelopment boards.

\*A hotel at the former Jesse's Landing is still under consideration. The developer is pursuing a cross access easement with Home Depot.

## Ken Burke to be Master of Ceremonies at Banquet

Clerk of the Circuit Courts Ken Burke will serve as Master of Ceremonies for the Chamber's Installation & Awards Banquet Saturday, Jan. 10, 6 p.m. at the Wine Cellar. The evening's agenda items include presenting awards to the new Mr./Ms. Seminole, Boss of the Year; Business of the Year and Merit Award.

The Board of Directors for 2009 will be inducted: officers, Paul Ziegler, President; Jackie Tatsak, President-elect; Dan Berard, secretary; Dr. Jim Olliver, treasurer; and directors, David Bates, Marianne Fisher, Nancy Giles, Robert Holtzman, Mike McQuilkin, Jacob Valintine and Steve Zazaro. Special thanks will be given to those whose Board terms have expired: Harriet Brown, Robert Castles, "Rep" DeLoach, Dr. Sandra Lilo, Dr. Claude McMullen and John Watkins.



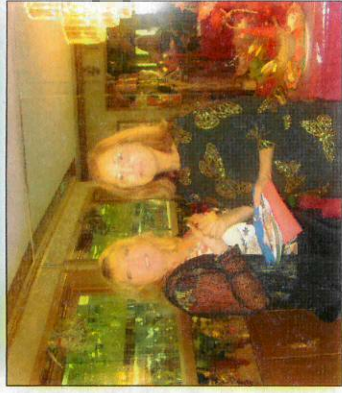
Ken Burke



## SEMINOLE CHAMBER CHATTER



At the Seminole Chamber's holiday breakfast Dec. 18 are Andrea Sieradski, left, and Sarah Jones. Dance teacher Sarah brought her Company "B" Ballet Center students to perform numbers befitting the season.



Lisa Cole & Patricia Farrell, Ambrosia Spa, enjoy themselves at Marty's beautifully decorated home



David Shilling and Beckie Berry, B-Squared Automotive at 8478 Seminole Blvd., receive a Chamber plaque from Bob Holtzman, membership chair



Happy Birthday, Martha Mohn! Marty celebrated her 83rd birthday by hosting a party at her home Dec. 17 for Seminole Chamber members. Note her colorful Christmas stockings.

*"Always Shop First With A Seminole Chamber Member!"*

### Vendor Resources In Our Seminole Community

Diane VanDiver, of Freedom Square Retirement Community, has set up a "Vendor Resources in Our Community" expo at Seminole Mall for the first Friday of each month (9 a.m. to noon.). This is an opportunity to showcase your business or service. For more information, please call Diane at 398-0451.

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## Chamber President's Column



### New Year's Resolutions and More - Do Business First With A Chamber Member!

What A Year! I think we are all relieved to see 2008 pass by as we turn the page to a fresh new horizon for 2009. There is much excitement in the air at the Chamber Office over our resolutions for the year ahead. The main focus you will see repeated in everything we do is making your membership in the Chamber a good investment of your time and money. I hope you will resolve to do business whenever possible with other Chamber members, a responsibility we all share. Starting from this simple resolution at its core, the leadership of the Chamber has planned several other initiatives that will support the goal of adding value to your membership.

The newly-elected Board of Directors had a planning workshop on Dec. 11 at which we committed to the goal of adding value to your membership by making changes in the focus of our efforts. Planned changes include an improved web site with increased functionality and exposure for member businesses, more efficient delivery of your Chamber Chatter via e-mail, web site advertising opportunities, a member-to-member discount directory, a survey of needs of all Seminole businesses, more informative monthly lunch meetings designed to promote your business, continuation of the popular Seminole Chamber Business Education Workshops (formerly "Leads Group") and the addition of a second trade show this year. The changes will ensure we are doing projects that are relevant and supportive of building a strong, profitable business community in the greater Seminole area. The other major initiative we have set for 2009 is to increase membership by 10%, or 35 net new members with a stretch goal of reaching 400 members by this time next year. We have several ideas in the works to make this happen! Anyone that would like to help can volunteer for one of the project committees, the Membership Committee, or the Ambassador Committee.

The goals will take some time to achieve but we are working on them and we will announce each one as it is completed. We have many dedicated volunteers from the Board involved in the process so I want to take this opportunity to say thanks to the entire Board Of Directors for their help.

I also want to say this Chamber is blessed with an exceptional Executive Director, Jimmy Johnson, who's energy and positive attitude is an inspiration. By his side are dedicated staff members Gretchen Cain, Business Assistance Specialist, and Tammy Bibelhauser, Administrative Assistant, who keep everything running smoothly. Thank you also to Doc Kinsey, Immediate Past President, for all his help.

Please join in and be a part of the Greater Seminole Area Chamber of Commerce during 2009 and do business with a Chamber Member whenever you can. The more you become active in the Chamber, the more you will benefit. I look forward to seeing you at our events this year!

### OFFICERS 2009

**President, PAUL ZIEGLER**  
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**Past President, "DOC" KINSEY**  
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## SEMINOLE CHAMBER CHATTER

### Employability Workshop Set for Jan. 31

Plans are in the making for an "Employability Workshop" to be sponsored by the Seminole Chamber of Commerce, Seminole First Baptist Church and WorkNet Pinellas. Pastor Michael Mott and his congregation wanted to do something to help those out of work during these uncertain economic times. After discussing the situation with the Chamber staff, it was decided to have an "Employability Skills Workshop" at the Seminole Chamber office on Saturday, Jan. 31, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. With the help of WorkNet Pinellas, the workshop will provide "real world" in a nutshell information on how to prepare a resume, fill out job applications, dress for success and resources to tap for employment opportunities. To register for the workshop, please contact the Chamber office at 392-3245.

### Mark the Date:

*Seminole Stampede & Family Easter Outing*  
**Saturday, April 11, 7:30 a.m.**  
 Walsingham Park

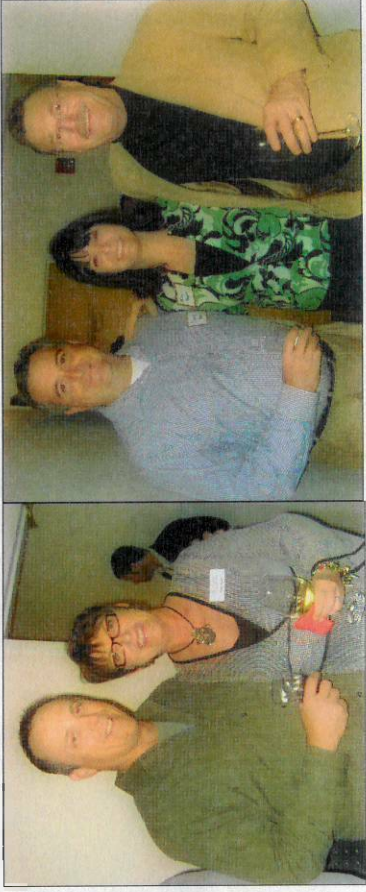
### Chance to win 50/50 & prizes at Seminole Chamber Events

In addition to our 50/50 cash raffle (\$5 for 10 tickets) at our Seminole Chamber luncheons, there are frequently opportunities to win door prizes. We thank all our Chamber members who consistently donate items or gift certificates: Linda Burhans; "Goodnight and God Bless"; Steve Harding, King Productions; Marty Mohn, Lewis W. Mohn Funeral Home; Thom Barnhorn, Edward Jones Financial Services; Trish Springer, AAA Insurance Bureau; Henry Hlas, Miss Seminole Scholarship Pageant; Hugh Watson, Wine Works; Dan Berard, Uncle Bob's Self Storage; State Senator Dennis L. Jones; Marty Maddox, Yoga4 All & Serene Body Care; Sandra Malanowski, Chick-fil-A; Lisa Crimella, Synovus Bank; Leslie Waters, Government Relations; Mary K. Larmore, Southern Commerce Bank; Patricia Farrell, Ambrosia Spa, Nancy Giles, PARC; Jamie Nueman, Wigs By Abby, and Dolce's Salon & Spa. Thank you to anyone else we missed! *Special thanks to Jeanne Blauvelt, pianist!*

## SEMINOLE CHAMBER CHATTER



Scarr Insurance employees: Lori Rose, center, with Christina Harrold and Anthony LoSchiavo



Randy Ware and Tomi Scarr

Doug and Kim Harr with Barry Scarr

**A good time had by all at Seminole Financial Centre**  
 We thank the Seminole Chamber businesses at Seminole Financial Centre (Scarr Insurance, Art Hartselle & Associates, Bartholmey & Thomas), for providing holiday cheer and a wonderful networking opportunity to greet one another and collect business leads before the year's end.

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 Virginia Ryan



## SEMINOLE CHAMBER CHATTER

### Jan. 14: Ed Tate, "Goal Setting for 2009"

Meetings of the Seminole Chamber's Business Education Workshops will resume in 2009 on the second and fourth Wednesday of the

month, 7:30 a.m., St. Petersburg College, Seminole, TLC Building, Room 108, with the first meeting being Jan. 14. Ed Tate, World Champion Public Speaker, will be the presenter and help those attending set goals for the new year. Then on



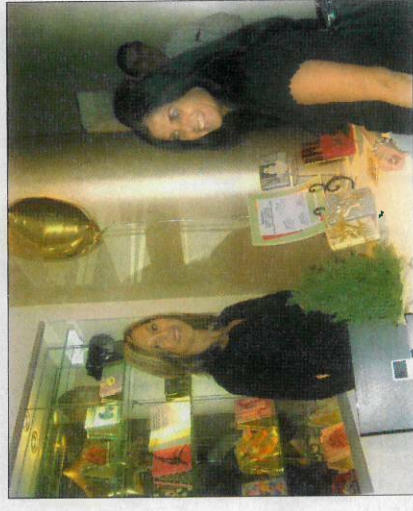
Jan. 28:

**Rhonda Sanborn**, Education Director for the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Tourist Development Council and Convention Visitors Bureau will present: "Creating A Customer Service Culture."



### Rejuvenesce Med Spa brings in the holiday

The welcoming committee: (from left) Katie Kaffai, owner, with staff members Linda Pauguni and Gail Lohman are on hand Dec. 11 to greet Seminole Chamber members to a holiday mixer at Rejuvenesce Med Spa at their business, 8686 131st St. N.



Rejuvenesce Consultant Jenn Luciano, left, with client Shawn Eichelman. Rejuvenesce offers the latest techniques to improve the body from head to toe.

## SEMINOLE CHAMBER CHATTER

### Jimmy's Gem: Steve Zazzaro



Steve Zazzaro, P.B.S. Computer Services (shown with Jimmy Johnson at Martha Mohn's holiday party) is Jimmy's Gem for January. Steve keeps the Seminole Chamber's 3 computers humming. "I don't know what we would do without him," said Jimmy. "If there is ever a computer-related problem, Steve is right there to fix it." Additionally, Steve serves on the Chamber's Board of Directors and sponsors many of the association's projects, such as the Seminole Stampede and the annual golf tournament. We appreciate you, Steve!

### Manufacturing/Aviation Collaborative Industry Forum

WorkNet Pinellas has partnered with PTEC, St. Petersburg College, the Pinellas Education Foundation and Pinellas County Economic Development to bring you a *Manufacturing/Aviation* business forum that will focus on current and emerging workforce needs.

The forum will focus on current and future staffing needs and offer your business a chance to have your voice heard by educators regarding curriculum development and class offerings.

Date: January 29, 2009  
Time: 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM

Place: EpiCenter  
13805 58th St. N.  
Clearwater, FL

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Contact Kristin Dailey, WorkNet's Director of Economic Development Services, at (727) 524-4350 x3004 or [kdailey@worknetpinellas.org](mailto:kdailey@worknetpinellas.org) for details and reservations.

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## Your Business on the County's Networking List!

The Networking Directory at [www.PCED.org](http://www.PCED.org) provides free local and global marketing opportunities to Pinellas County businesses. It can be downloaded in its entirety, or searched for product descriptions, company name, or location. For products or services, visit [www.PCED.org/networking\\_directory](http://www.PCED.org/networking_directory)



## Business Opportunities - Manufacturing Needs

### UNITED STATES SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Small Business Innovation Research Office is scouting for small businesses that can provide unique technologies to Special Operations Forces. The current research and development pursuits are described in the FY09.1 Department of Defense Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) solicitation and can be found at [www.acq.osd.mil/osbp/sbir/solicitations/index.htm](http://www.acq.osd.mil/osbp/sbir/solicitations/index.htm).

Several USSOCOM topics included in the solicitation are summarized below for your convenience:

- **Novel Nanomaterials for Environmental protection** of Special Operations Divers: Develop novel environmental protection for Special Operations divers utilizing nanomaterial to provide enhanced diver comfort, effectiveness, and expanded ability to operate in extreme cold environments.
- **Low Visibility Decoy Flare:** Assess and identify innovative technologies, and/or advanced materials that emit an effective infrared (IR) countermeasure in the desired IR spectrum range while minimizing detectable signatures in the visible light spectrum. This topic is restricted under the International Traffic in Arms Regulation (ITAR).
- **Geo and Ortho Rectified Video With Fused 3d Mapping, Light Detection and ranging (LIDAR), and Live Video Overlays:** Develop a net centric, open architecture, operating system independent video system capable of geo/ortho-rectifying Airborne Full Motion Video with Light Detecting and Ranging (LIDAR) and Intelligence overlays using Commercial and Government off the Shelf (COTTTS/GOTS) navigational aids and three dimensional mapping applications in near real-time. This topic is restricted under the International Traffic in Arms Regulation (ITAR).

For more information, contact: Jennifer Olsen, Phone: 727-547-7358

Email: [olsenj@ctc.com](mailto:olsenj@ctc.com)

## Chamber Renewals November/December

*We thank those businesses that have renewed their Seminole Chamber membership. The continued support of all our members is vital to the economic health of the Chamber:*

Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.  
Beef O'Brady's of Seminole  
Cornerstone Bank  
Crow Industries  
Cruise Planners  
Davidson, Jamieson & Assoc., P.A.  
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