



# SEMINOLE CHAMBER CHAT

www.MySeminoleChamber.com Spring-Summer 2020

Photo Credit: Linda Burhans "Goodmorning Seminole"  
Connecting Caregivers

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## Farewell to Two Great Leaders

You will be missed

"Councilor Matthews and his wife Pat exemplified the spirit of giving back to the community.



Bob loved the Chamber and often and vocally spoke of the Chamber's contributions as the City's "economic development" arm. As a small business man himself, he recognized the critical importance of small businesses in our community, and he was always there with flowers and balloons to show he recognized that fact. He believed "we're all in this together" his whole life. He gave joyfully. I especially remember how much he enjoyed providing the corsages for the "Tribute to Teachers" breakfast.

He'd pin them on with a twinkle in his eye and thank all our wonderful teachers for their often unsung efforts to make our schools great. It was such a joy for Shelia and I to sit with him and Pat at the recent Awards Banquet when he was duly recognized for a life of love and support for Seminole."

-Councilor Dr. Jim Olliver

Our condolences to the Family and friends of John Elias. Mr. Elias served as the Seminole city attorney for 34 years; also, among his service to many other civic and not-for-profit organizations, he was a dedicated member of the Seminole Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, as well as a Past President in 2002; Seminole Chamber of Commerce Merit Award winner; Seminole Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year; and Mr. Seminole 2005. Our appreciation of Mr. Elias's service to the City and the Chamber will be treasured.



-Chamber

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# A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

DR. MARK STRICKLAND



2019 was a good year, but a year of transition for the Chamber, with gaining a new building, new director, new staff, etc. However, what wasn't new was the Seminole community coming together for events and activities that not only supported businesses, but also the citizens of the city. During my time on the board, I have found that Seminole continues to be a place where people live, work and play, but also do business. I have also found that the Chamber, the city, and its citizens are civically engaged and want to help people and businesses no matter the cause.

I am now in a familiar position in that Dr. Jim Olliver passed the baton to me to serve as Chamber president for 2020. For those of you that don't know, I followed in Dr. Olliver's footsteps when I became Provost of the Seminole Campus at St. Petersburg College in 2015. I mention this sequence of events because having followed Dr. Olliver before, means that I do not need to recreate the wheel and that his vision for the Chamber is much in line with my own.

I recognize that the Seminole community and its businesses give back in many ways. My challenge to the great people and businesses of the Seminole community is to find a Chamber event that is near and dear to you and support it. We are all better off in the long run when the Chamber is humming in unison with the city and its citizens. We need to support one another because that's what we do in Seminole.

I also recognize the history of the Chamber and its mission and see how it is intertwined with the city of Seminole. Because of this history of partnerships, the city of Seminole has thrived and now is ready to celebrate 50 years of being a city. The Chamber is ready and prepared to be a part of the semi-centennial celebration. Let's celebrate in Seminole, with the people of Seminole, and the businesses of Seminole.

Let us not forget where we came from and the people that came before us who led and served, but let's also look to the future to forge a new path that brings forth new success. The Seminole Chamber is poised and ready for 2020 and all that it brings. Please consider playing a part in volunteering, sponsoring, or giving back to Chamber events. We look forward to a great year!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Mark F. Strickland, Jr.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# Chamber Launches GO LOCAL, GO B.I.G. Campaign

Thriving local businesses keep small economies humming. Since our founding in 1963, the Greater Seminole Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) has been charged with the purpose of promoting and supporting new and existing businesses through a wide variety of resources, while building a strong community through civic engagement, outreach programs, and various events. The Chamber has and will continue, to fulfill our duties to the best of our abilities; But now, we're placing some of the duty into the hands of the community.

The Chamber has created an initiative, "GO LOCAL and GO B.I.G." B.I.G. stands for "Buy In Greater" Seminole. This initiative is being launched in order to educate and remind the community of their responsibility to spend money locally to support recovery of our local economy. It is important now more than ever for us to shop local businesses, due to the effects of COVID-19, which has left many shops scrambling to revive and reimagine.

The Chamber urges area consumers to shop local. It is understood that not everything needed can be found in a locally owned retailer, shopping at well know "big box" stores or chains also helps the community. We would encourage consumers to spend in the Greater Seminole area, rather than outside our community or online. To assist with finding what local consumers need, the Chamber hosts a local directory on their website at [www.MySeminoleChamber.com](http://www.MySeminoleChamber.com).

## WHY SHOULD YOU GO LOCAL GO B.I.G.?

**MONEY SPENT LOCALLY STAYS LOCAL**  
When you buy from locally owned businesses significantly more of your money stays in your local economy.

**SUPPORT COMMUNITY GROUPS**  
Non-profits receive an average 250% more support from small business owners than they do from large businesses. Large firms often contribute to the area where the corporation is headquartered, not necessarily, where they do business.

**LOCAL CHARACTER**  
The local one-of-a-kind businesses where you live eat and have fun are a major part of your local community's character and identity.

**PUT YOUR TAXES TO GOOD USE**  
Businesses in town centers or downtowns generally require less investment in infrastructure and make better use of public services as compared to nationally owned stores.

**CREATE MORE GOOD JOBS**  
Local merchants are the largest employer nationally and in communities, providing good opportunities for residents.

**BETTER SERVICE**  
Local merchants take time to know their customers, and often have a better understanding of the products they are selling.

**INVEST IN THE FUTURE**  
Local businesses, often owned by local residents, are more invested in the community's future, and less likely to leave.

**REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**  
Locally owned businesses are often located in a downtown or city center. This means less development on the fringes, contributing less to sprawl, energy use and pollution. Additionally, local businesses source more of their purchases locally, meaning less transportation of goods and more dollars staying in the local economy.

**GO LOCAL, GO B.I.G.**  
Following CDC Guidelines  
Local  
**GO B.I.G.**  
Buy In Greater Seminole  
When spending, spend local!  
FIND LOCAL BUSINESSES. SHOP LOCAL BUSINESSES.  
Seminole Florida

Visit [MySeminoleChamber.com](http://MySeminoleChamber.com) or give us a call at (727) 392-3245 to learn more. *Help us continue to build a strong community, together.*

Look for this logo whenever you shop local!





# DeLoach Groundbreaking UPDATE

It was a cold morning, but on January 30th, DeLoach, Hofstra & Cavonis, P.A. broke ground! In addition to the hot coffee, the camaraderie warmed everyone's heart during this groundbreaking ceremony celebrating the start of construction on their new building. The event double as a 'thank you' to those who helped bring the project to life. Dr. Jim Olliver, current city councilman and our former Chamber President, served as the master of ceremony.

The building was designed to meet the growing needs of their clients, staff and community. Our Executive Director, Tara Pearson, and our Communications Coordinator, Alexandria Watson, visited the construction site in early June, and was amazed at how far they had come. Many projects have been put on hold due to COVID-19, however, DeLoach, Hofstra & Cavonis, P.A. was lucky to have missed this cut-off date.

Their current office will remain open for business, as their new building is being dressed up with more offices, conference rooms and a larger meeting room for seminars and events. It will also be hurricane resistant with a back-up generator to protect files, equipment and provide a refuge for staff in the event they personally lose power during a storm. They have also acquired a new marketing building within walking distance of construction--which may have been one of our favorite parts of the tour.

Thank you to Simone DeLoach, Director of Marketing, for giving us a wonderful tour of your new buildings!

Download a Free Book or Report on Florida Legal Topics, provided by DeLoach, Hofstra, & Cavonis, P.A. here: <https://www.dhclaw.com/reports/>



## COVID-19 RESOURCES

[www.MySeminoleChamber.com/covid-19-preparedness](http://www.MySeminoleChamber.com/covid-19-preparedness)

*Relief · Reopen · Recover · Reimagine*

**To help you and your business make it through this time.**

- Federal funding
- County grants
- Loans
- And More

**To help you get back up and running.**

- Ribbon Tying Ceremony
- Executive Order updates
- Guides to Reopenings
- And More

**To help get your business back to normal.**

- Gift Cards
- Daily Deals & Member-to-member Coupons
- Advertising Opportunities
- And More

**To help you know how we can assist you.**

- Text Reminders
- Grow with Google Partner
- Business Trainings
- And More

# Winter '19 to Spring '20 EVENTS RECAP

The Chamber began 2020 with our Membership Appreciation & Drive at the Studio Movie Grill in Seminole! This event doubled as our first 1st Thursday Networking Mixer, with an exceptional turnout! We then had a quick turn-around event with our Quarterly Installation Luncheon only a few days after. Everything went smoothly and our 2020 Board of Directors were presented and installed.

After these two events, we let our members take over! We facilitated three Grand Openings & Ribbon Cuttings for our newest Chamber members: Atomic Lotus Yoga, My Style Reinvented, and Allen Sports Decoration. In between these celebrations, our 1st Thursday networking Mixers were hosted by Your CBD Store-Seminole in February and Wareheim Insurance in March. Our monthly Business Breakfasts (sponsored by Florida Central Credit Union) topics were Social Media 101 in January, led by Learning Labs Tutorial, and The Entrepreneurial Equation in February, led by Aaron Middleton of Edwards Jones Investments. The last two events held pre-COVID-19 were Chamber 101 and a Grow with Google Livestream event: Spring Into Action.

Lastly, let's not forget to mention the annual Awards Banquet featuring Mr. or Ms. Seminole! This Mad Hatter themed event was formal attire, and we asked all to wear a hat that matched their persona—we saw a lot of charismatic personalities! Prior year winners--Pat Marlowe of Flooring America, Dennis DeLoach of DeLoach, Hofstra, & Cavonis P.A., and Dr. Mark Strickland, presented awards for Business of the Year, Boss of the Year and Chamber Merit winner of the year (see winners below), respectively.

Since quarantine closed the Chamber office, we have tried to remain connected with our members. We held online events over the last couple of months, such as virtual 1st Thursday mixer in April and two online training meetings "Managing Your Digital Presence," and "Working Remote Best Practices and Tools."



Check our events page for NEW Virtual Meetings

## 2020 Winners

### MR. SEMINOLE



**Bob Matthews**  
Seminole Garden Florist

### BOSS OF THE YEAR



**Marty Maddox**  
Yoga 4 All & Serene Body Care

### BUSINESS OF THE YEAR



**Claude D. McMullen**  
Claude D. McMullen, O.D.

### MERIT AWARD



**Mark Ely**  
Director of Community Development  
City of Seminole

# Member Highlights



## Treasure Island Fun Center

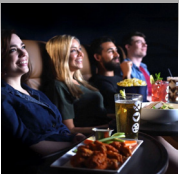
7770 Seminole Blvd  
727 391-9105 | [TIFunCenter.com](http://TIFunCenter.com)

Treasure Island Fun Center a staple for fun in Seminole, has been entertaining kids and families since the mid 1960's. Originally located in Treasure Island, and moved to Seminole in 2007. The Noell family purchased the business in 1998 from the Tolisino family and they have owned it ever since.

Jenny Noell shared how happy she was to re-open her doors, even if at half capacity. The business, well established, has weathered the COVID-19 storm after being closed for two months. "We were fortunate enough not to lay off any of our employees and paid them while we were closed, it meant a lot that we were able to do that and of course our loyal employees were thankful," says Noell.

The Fun Center reopened May 22 with a new hand washing station at the door, which parents love, and an abundance of hand sanitizer stands throughout. Staff are wearing masks and clean the entire game center almost hourly. With the removal of a few table the entire center has been spaced out to give gamers ample room to enjoy some fun, that now accommodates social distancing. "All of the games are open," says Noell, "but of course we ask players to be courteous and wait if an area is occupied."

The Chamber is encouraging people to support local businesses and enjoy what we have in our community. Go Local and Go B.I.G., Buy In Greater Seminole is the best way to keep Treasure Island Fun Center and our local economy moving

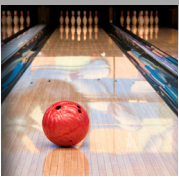


## Studio Movie Grill

7718 113th St  
727 894-2200 | [StudioMovieGrill.com](http://StudioMovieGrill.com)

The Studio Movie grill has become an entertainment mecca in the Seminole Community. Not only does it stay busy with residents but visitors from around the county come to dine while entertained in luxury seating. Guests can kick back in a plush recliner as they become absorbed by state-of-the-art sound and mega screens. You will feel comfortable and safe, even with COVID-19 on everyone's mind. The theater has incorporated extra measures, like reduction in show times and seating, to accommodate 6ft. of space per guest. They have even increased how frequently they clean high-touch surfaces, and created an app for touchless ordering from their food menu.

Studio Movie Grill reopened on Friday, June 26. The company says that upon reopen of the theater, they have implemented simple and safer ways to enjoy the show, and new technologies to improve your experience.



## Seminole Lanes

8668 Park Blvd N  
727 392-2271 | [SeminoleLanes.com](http://SeminoleLanes.com)

Seminole Lanes, once located in Pinellas Park, is a locally-owned-and-operated family business since 1957! The Lanes moved to Seminole in 1974 and has been in their Park Blvd. location ever since. The business was started by Jerry Kraus and has been passed down to his son, Kevin, followed by grandson Cory, who is currently managing operations.. The family is also the owners of Sunrise Lanes in St. Petersburg.

They are still providing summer youth bowling leagues. Other fun activities include Galactic Bowling and daily specials!

The Lanes are open and with measures in place for the safety and comfort of their guest. Currently they open later every morning to ensure extensive cleaning of their facilities. Bowling lanes are limited to 50% in order to allow appropriate separation of bowler and groups. Further, when a party leaves, that lane is closed until it is cleaned thoroughly--including bowling balls. The lounge is set-up for ample social distancing, as is the game room. To protect guest and employee's, divider shields are in place at cashier areas. "We want everyone to feel comfortable when they visit our facilities. Visitors should be able to have some fun and relax without worry. We hope to give them that experience," says Cory.

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# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Your Spring-Summer Newsletter Is Here!

# Hello Chamber Members!

