

SEMINOLE CHAMBER CHATTER

JUNE 2009

Volume XVII Issue 8

Upcoming Events/JUNE 2009

- Tues 2 Kids Appreciation Day
- Tues 9 & 23 City Council, 7:00 p.m., City Hall
- Wed 10 Business Education Workshop
SPC Seminole campus, 7:30 a.m.
TLC Building, Rm. 108
- Thurs 11 Ribbon Cutting, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Colonial Bank, St. Petersburg Office
5858 Central Ave.
- Wed 17 Chamber Board Meeting,
7:30 a.m. Chamber Office
- Thurs 18 Chamber Luncheon
11:30 a.m. Banquet Masters
- Sun 21 Father's Day - Shop first With Chamber
members for gifts and gift certificates
- Wed 24 Business Education Workshop
SPC Seminole campus, 7:30 a.m.
- Thurs 25 Chamber Forum, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
"Business Advisory Board" (BAB). Please see insert

Membership Drive Underway

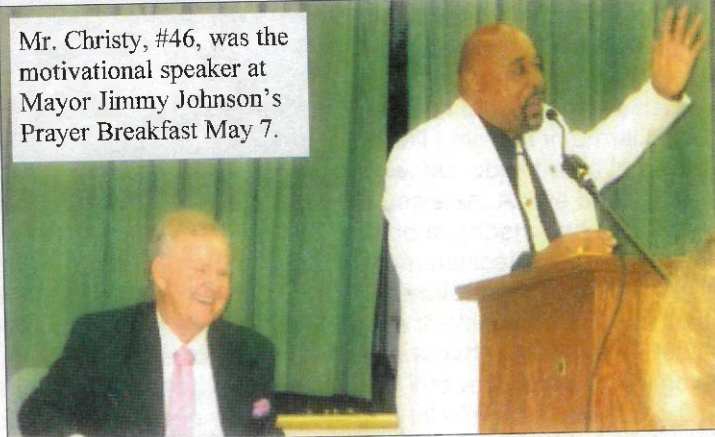
The Greater Seminole Area Chamber of Commerce has launched its biggest membership drive in years. This program features a mailout designed to outline the many benefits of joining the chamber. In the mailing, we also highlight the results of a recent national study that shows consumers are 63% more likely to buy from a chamber member. If you know of a business that is not already a member, please encourage them to join. They can sign up online right now!

Chamber Office Info

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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3337
Seminole, FL 33775-3337
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Gretchen Cain:
gretchenc@myseminolechamber.com
Tammy Bibelhauser:
tammyb@myseminolechamber.com
Notary Services Available

NY Jets Superbowl III Champion to speak At Seminole Chamber Luncheon June 18

Earl Christy, hard running punt and kickoff returner for the New York Jets, has taken what he learned as businessman and former professional athlete/Superbowl champion on the road, and is a much sought-after motivational speaker. He will give a presentation at the upcoming Seminole Chamber



Mr. Christy, #46, was the motivational speaker at Mayor Jimmy Johnson's Prayer Breakfast May 7.

luncheon Thursday, **June 18**, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at Banquet Masters. Pre-payment (\$12 per person) and reservations are requested.

New Web Program to Put Your Business on the Map Scheduled for July Luncheon - Change of Venue - SPC

Everything you ever wanted to know about the Seminole Chamber's new web site, and were afraid to ask, will be covered at the monthly luncheon/workshop Thursday, July 16, 11:30 a.m.

Instead of the Banquet Masters location, we will meet at St. Petersburg College, Seminole campus, in the Conference Center in the Library Annex Building. This venue will enable us to utilize the latest in technology.. Stay tuned for more information in the July newsletter...

It Was All About the Kids!! Donations Appreciated

The 30th annual Kids Appreciation Day was June 2. This was the last day of school for most elementary school students and time for a giant party at Seminole City Park.

In addition to live entertainment, bounce house and mist tent, there were contests, games, fun, food and lots of chances to win prizes! Each child received one raffle ticket and a food/drink ticket.

Kids Day is an annual event co-sponsored by the Seminole Chamber, City of Seminole and committee members. All donations from those who are "kids at heart" were appreciated. This year more than 1,000 children attended the event and numerous businesses participated as sponsors.



SEMINOLE CHAMBER CHATTER

Welcome New Seminole Chamber Members!

Pond Equipment Maintenance:

Nick Reale

Eco Pond Rescue

8417 - 121st Street N.

Seminole, FL 33772

412-4323

Email: nick@ecopondrescue.com

Web: www.ecopondrescue.com

Pizza:

Carol Condra

Dominos Pizza

11125 Park Blvd.

Seminole, FL 33772

278-9203, FAX 249-6638

Email: ccondra@tampabay.rr.com

Web: none



Receiving membership plaques at the Seminole Chamber Luncheon on May 21: from left, Carol Condra, Domino's Pizza of Seminole; Nick Reale and John Allan, Eco Pond Rescue; Wendy Fulvi & James Fulvi, Hire Assurance, LLC; and Donna Valdez and Julio Valdez, Valco Plumbing.



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*"Always Do Business First
With A Seminole Chamber
of Commerce Member."*



Chamber President's Column By Paul Ziegler

OUR 'HUBBLE' PROJECT

It seems fitting that we label the launch of the new Seminole Chamber website our 'Hubble Project' because it was taking place at the same time NASA astronauts were completing work on their 'Hubble Project'. The effect both projects will have on their missions will be far reaching and will last for years.

Unlike the Hubble upgrade whereby the physical work was completed and the Hubble telescope will not be touched by human hands again, our 'Hubble' web site revamp will be constantly improved with meaningful information that we will be adding over time - touched by our dedicated team of Chamber workers led by volunteer Dan Berard and Assistant Chamber Director Gretchen Cain-Wells, who will help edit information for the new site. Also unlike the Hubble telescope, our objective is to be seen by the universe rather than seeing into the universe. As we build information into the pages of the site we want to provide members and visitors a collection of data, statistics, marketing tools, communication pathways and insight on what Seminole is all about. It will be information that will be useful if you own a business in Seminole now, or are thinking of moving or expanding your business in the greater Seminole area. It will also serve to inform anyone thinking of visiting Seminole of key information including good restaurants to check out; unique sites to visit or a bit of history about the City. Let's not forget we are minutes away from our beautiful world-class beaches.

We are at the beginning of where this new web site can take us. Seminole has a story waiting to be told to the business world as well. We are geographically located in the middle of all the above from a micro view, but better yet, from a global economic view, we are at the nexus of what could be the largest economic boom Florida has seen. Yes - dare to see the possibility!

There is a high probability that US trade with Latin America will increase in the future and with the high cost and logistical problems of trade through Miami, we are much more conveniently located for trade to increase through the ports of Tampa and Manatee. The widening of the Panama Canal due for completion in 2014 will have a major impact on shipping by sea from the Far East, and that, combined with the anticipated increase in trade with Latin America will have a positive impact on the Tampa Bay area. If you need more evidence of this prediction, look at the plans for expansion for the Port of Tampa or take a short ride to Port Manatee and look at all the newly constructed buildings.

This is a good time for us to tell the world about the benefits of living and working in the Seminole area which is conveniently located near the center of this anticipated growth of activity. Growth of trade related business will provide a ripple effect for Seminole's economy; and the Chamber can help capture attention to all we offer. We have a number of quality assets like a great school system, the beautiful Seminole campus of St. Petersburg College, a first rate recreation center and library to name a few. Our mission is rooted in the efforts of a few dedicated volunteers but I see the spark of great things in the future as we act as a beacon for the business community to be represented. We truly want others to come grow with us as we use the power of the web to tell our story to all who might come our way.

Back down here on Earth we have had another successful Kid's Appreciation Day that would not be possible without our faithful business and individual contributors. Events as humble as these may seem, form the core of a great community. We will soon be moving on to our next activities as we pass mid year, like changing a tire on a moving car, we are a 'Hubble' but busy Chamber!

SEMINOLE CHAMBER CHATTER

Chamber Champion: Paul Ziegler

Seminole Chamber President Paul Ziegler is indefatigable! Shown with Henry Hlas, Chamber Champion committee chair, his experience in banking as a vice president/branch manager has certainly been an asset in leading the Chamber through several successful projects. Paul is a strong advocate of some new ventures, such as the Chamber's very high tech web site. Paul is ever on the lookout for possibilities to promote the Chamber, including a membership drive. He is interested in what Chamber members have to say and is very approachable to all. Thank you, Paul!



The Seminole Chamber's recent trade show at Seminole Mall included several crew members from the "Resolute" US Coast Guard Cutter. A short ceremony took place to introduce the crew to vendors.



- Weddings
- Corporate Events
- Beach Portraits
- Social Gatherings



- Holiday Inn Beachside Location Snapshots
- HDPS Digital Photography
- Online Photo & Print Ordering

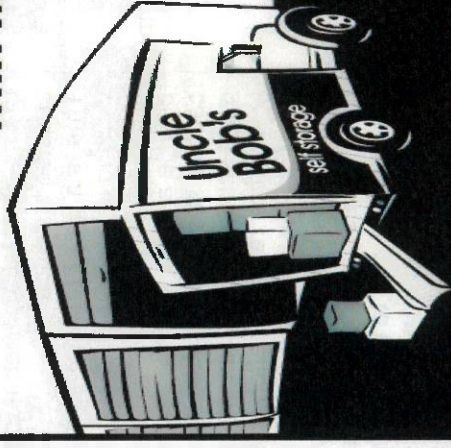
Sherry Sandstrom
Phone: 727-504-8950
Email: sa_sandstrom@yahoo.com
Website: www.SnapshotsBySherry.com

At Taste of Seminole May 2, Paul volunteered, along with others, to pour beer. The Chamber received proceeds from the sales.



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SEMINOLE CHAMBER CHATTER

Learn & Have Fun! Seminole Chamber of Commerce Business Education Workshop Programs Ahead

Open to all area business people, the free Seminole Chamber-sponsored Business Education Workshops are on the **second and fourth Wednesday of the month, 7:30 a.m., St. Petersburg College, Seminole, TLC Building, Room 108.** This venue allows attendants to practice their "elevator speeches" and to network with other business people before and after the program. The program, which is designed to be interactive, is an educational opportunity. *"When You Stop Learning, You Stop Leading."*



June 10:

Dale Hutchins: "Out of the Box Marketing." Dale, who has his own advertising business, will help participants to identify untapped markets and general ways in which their marketing can be more effective.



June 24:

Mary Campbell: "Growing Your Business By Thinking Green." Mary, Pinellas County Extension Director, will speak about criteria for a new Green Business Program certification that is being developed.

July 8:

Jimmy Johnson: "How to Stay Positive In the Midst of Negativity." As a lung transplant survivor, Jimmy will share from his own experience and from others who have persevered.

July 22:

Nancy Giles & Gretchen Cain: "Book Talk," bring your favorite business or personal motivational book to trade or share.

Chamber Publishes New Website

A new website made its debut in Seminole on May 8, 2009. This first edition contains many new functions like online event registration, a calendar, members directory and more detailed member profiles with searchable keywords.


The first phase of this development focuses on the important functions required to operate our chamber more efficiently. Our members will be able to modify their profile online and adjust the business description searched by online buyers.

All member businesses will receive activity reports to monitor the effectiveness of their keyword description, banner ads and logo presentation. Your comments will be captured with a Message Board service that will document your ideas and suggestions.

Our next step will soon follow with the online payments feature and a large set of banner ads allows members to select ads with many options based on size and location. Check our Advertising Rates section for details.

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Accountant

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St. Petersburg, FL 33708
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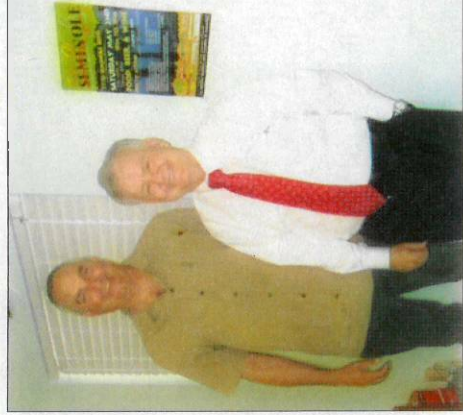


727-709-0378
SlapYouBeautiful@gmail.com

SEMINOLE CHAMBER CHATTER

Welcome New Seminole Chamber Members!

Jimmy's Gem: Scott Meehan



"Scott is one of the most enthusiastic people I have ever known," said Jimmy Johnson. Through his company, Meehan Special Events, Scott put on the second annual Taste of Seminole May 2. The Chamber was invited to handle the beer and wine concessions. "We

appreciate what Scott is trying to do in gaining more exposure for our local restaurants and providing food and entertainment to Seminole families," said Jimmy. A member of the Chamber since 2008, Scott has proved he knows the value of not only showing up for events, but of helping to coordinate and volunteer at the Seminole Stampede, Golf Tournament and Kids Appreciation Day. We appreciate all you do, Scott!

PROGRAM HELPS VENDORS

DO BUSINESS WITH THE COUNTY

The Small Business Enterprise (SBE) program is a sheltered market created for qualified vendors that allows small businesses to place bids for County purchases from \$2,000 up to \$10,000. The program is non-specific to gender or race and benefits all small businesses principally located in geographical Pinellas County with sales and staffing below the established thresholds.

To learn more, or contact Karol Crain, Program Coordinator, at (727) 464-3148.



A Positive Sign!

At the Multi-Chamber Expo May 8 & 9 at Seminole Mall, the team of Sonnenberg Insurance prepares to educate potential customers about their services. Shown are Laverne Welch, standing, and Joe Zimmerman and Barbara Baenen

SEMINOLE CHAMBER CHATTER

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Scott Sharik
HammerHead Pawn
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517-3376, FAX 517-33770
Email: jarmstrong@armstrongderm.com
Web: www.armstrongderm.com

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James Fulvi
Hire Assurance, LLC
3993 Tyrone Blvd. suite 608-104
St. Pete, FL 33709
642-1699; FAX 877-698-8890
Email: info@hireassurance.com
Web: www.hireassurance.com

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Chamber Chatter newsletter!

\$50: inserts, you provide 500 copies
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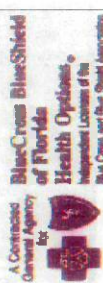
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JUNE 2009

Volume XVII Issue 8

SBA America's Recovery Capital Loan Program - Apply Now!

If your small business is stressed meeting expenses during these economic times, the U.S. Small Business Administration has a new loan program designed just for you.

SBA's America's Recovery Capital (ARC) Loan Program can provide up to \$35,000 in short-term relief for small businesses facing immediate financial hardship, to help ride out the current uncertain economic times and return to profitability. Each small business is limited to one ARC loan. ARC loans are made by commercial lenders who are SBA participants. **ARC loans will be offered beginning June 15, 2009 for as long as funding is available or until September 30, 2010, whichever comes first.**

About the ARC Loan Program:

ARC loans provide an immediate infusion of capital to small businesses to help with making payments of principal and interest on existing debt. These loans allow borrowers to redirect cash flow from making loan payments to investing in their businesses, to help sustain the business and retain jobs.

ARC loans do not require collateral, are interest-free to the borrower, carry a 100 percent guaranty from the SBA to the lender, and require no fees paid to SBA. Loan proceeds are provided over a six-month period and repayment of the ARC loan principal is deferred for 12 months after the last disbursement of the proceeds. Repayment can extend up to five years.

The best candidates for ARC loans are small businesses that are struggling, yet have been making loan payments, or those just beginning to miss loan payments due to financial hardship. Your small business must be an established business, have financial statements demonstrating it was profitable in one of the past three years, and be able to project sufficient cash flow to meet current and future loan payments over a two-year period from loan approval. **Borrowers whose loans are already severely delinquent or whose past performance or future cash flow indicates that the business is not viable are not good candidates for an ARC loan. ARC loans are not designed for start-up businesses.**

For more information about the America's Recovery Capital Loan Program, go to the SBA web site at www.sba.gov.

Applying for an ARC Loan:

ARC Loans are provided by commercial lenders and guaranteed by the SBA. Your next step is to contact your lender who will help you determine if you are a candidate for an ARC Loan.

If you need help preparing a cash flow projection to qualify for the program, contact SCORE at www.scorepinellas.org or call (727) 532-6800.