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Executive Director: John Moors
Email: jmoors@dadecitychamber.org
Senior Administrative Assistant: Melody Floyd
Email: mfloyd@dadecitychamber.org
Administrative Assistant: Jo Uber
Email: jub@dadecitychamber.org
Photographer: Richard Riley
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Mission Statement
“To promote economic growth and the quality of life in the greater Dade City area”

January Chamber Business Breakfast
Sponsored by:
Pasco County Fair Association and Heritage Park Health & Rehabilitation Center
(Flyer Enclosed)
Happy New Year to all of our members, partners, friends and family of the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce!

It is my privilege and pleasure to serve as the Chamber Executive Director going into a new year! We have a supportive and active Board of Directors, super volunteers, ambassadors and committee members and a dedicated office staff, all committed to serving you, our members. My thanks to our President Dr. Randy Stovall who is completing his leadership role with our Chamber. The foundation for our Chamber is based on our Mission Statement. “To promote business development and quality of life in the Greater Dade City area.” In support of our mission, our goals for 2019 include growing our membership base, producing quality events and programs, promoting our members, businesses and merchants, supporting our government agencies and encouraging volunteer support and philanthropy throughout our community.

In order for you to receive the maximum benefit from your Chamber membership, I would suggest and encourage you to become involved in a volunteer committee, attend some of our many functions, take advantage of Chamber advertising opportunities and network with fellow Chamber members. I don’t know how many times I have witnessed a Chamber member making contact with a new customer or supplier through interaction and conversation at a Chamber function. It works! It really does!

Our Sponsors of various events – especially AdventHealth Dade City as the headlining the Annual Kumquat Festival®, are invaluable to the continued operation, marketing and promotion of our area, through Chamber activities. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, for your continued financial and logistical support of what we do.

The 23rd Annual Kumquat Festival® will be held on Saturday, January 25th, in downtown Dade City. We expect upwards of 30,000 attendees, have signed 400 vendors and 30 sponsors – all coming together to showcase our community, do some business and have a lot of fun! Please call the Chamber if you would like to become involved with our Festival – we have lots of volunteer opportunities.

Please contact the Chamber with any questions about upcoming events. They are listed within this Newsletter and we would love to see you there!

Hope to see you at one of our very popular Chamber Business Breakfests (always the 3rd Tuesday, monthly). You can now prepay for a whole year of breakfasts online at www.Dadecitychamber.org or by calling Jo at 352 567 3769.

Thank you for your partnership and support and I look forward to working with you in 2020.

John Moors, Executive Director
Please remember the Chamber Membership is our life blood. Please refer a member, retain a member and let the staff know about prospective members. THANK YOU for your continued partnership!!

The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce does take pictures and videos at Chamber events in order to promote our Chamber members and the organization. These images/videos may be used by the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce in their printed and online publicity, on social media, in newspapers and magazines, or in any other ways that further the aims of the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce, whose mission is “to promote economic development and quality of life in the area”

The Chamber publishes this newsletter for our members information. Much of this information is provided by our members. The articles and information submitted to the Chamber belong to their author and do not necessarily mirror the views and opinions of the Chamber.
January is National Human Trafficking Awareness Month. There will be various events this month hosted by different organizations to raise awareness and assist frontline groups combating human trafficking. The Pasco Sheriff’s Office will again be hosting the Light Up the Night event at 6 p.m., on Saturday, February 1, at the Shops at Wiregrass mall in Wesley Chapel. We will highlight amazing organizations, raise awareness, and stand together united in this cause.

Human trafficking is known as "modern day slavery." The perpetrators of this crime find victims who are vulnerable and use force or fraud to exploit them. The International Labor Organization estimates that there are 40.3 million victims of human trafficking throughout the world, who are exploited to the amount of $150 billion, which certainly makes this a global epidemic. The Polaris Project has identified many forms of human trafficking and the three forms that are the most identifiable and investigated here in the United States includes labor trafficking, sex trafficking, and involuntary servitude. We know these three forms are present here in the Tampa Bay area.

The Pasco Sheriff's Office, in partnership with key stakeholders in our community, has been working diligently over the years to end human trafficking in Pasco County. Some of the methods and partnerships we have utilized have included:

- Hosting the annual Light Up The Night community awareness event;
- Operating our Pasco County Human Trafficking Task Force which is comprised of law enforcement, code enforcement, fire inspectors, building inspectors, Florida Department of Health, and various non-governmental organizations (NGO);
- Creating a specially-trained Human Trafficking investigative unit;
- Working with our local educational institutions such as Pasco County schools, Pasco-Hernando State College, and St Leo University to raise awareness and to enhance prevention;
- Partnering with Sunrise of Pasco to study the cross-indicators of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking;
- Being a member of our Pasco Commission on Human Trafficking and the Tampa Bay Human Trafficking Task Force, which is comprised of more than 40 law enforcement and NGOs, which was recently awarded a US Dept. of Justice grant, and the state attorney general’s Statewide Council on Human Trafficking;
- Working with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to create specific training mandated by Florida law for statewide dissemination;
- Being a chair of the Criminal Justice subcommittee creating working groups to propose effective strategies to effectively implement criminal justice remedies to reducing human trafficking;
- Providing training to identify and report human trafficking for circuit task forces, community groups, law enforcement, NGO’s, faith-based organizations, victim services organizations, and many others;
- Developing partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies and organizations to effectively combat human trafficking;

As we move into 2020, the Pasco Sheriff’s Office will remain committed to our mission to end human trafficking in our community. Reducing the demand for human trafficking, rescuing the victims, and arresting the traffickers and buyers remains one of our community’s top priorities.
Good news. Rates just got lower.

I’m excited to announce auto insurance rates just went down. I can help you find coverage that works for you.
LET’S TALK TODAY.

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State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas, Richardson, TX

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The Mayor’s Communiqué.......................... 

Happy New Year!

Thank you to all the individuals and organizations that worked tirelessly to make Dade City shine for our residents and visitors during the holiday season. A big THANK YOU to the Greater Dade City Chamber for their Magical Christmas Night Parade, the Dade City Merchants Association for the Christmas Stroll, decorated shops and parks throughout the City, and city residents for coordinating our unique Church Street Christmas. A very special thank you to Commissioner Shive who once again coordinated the City’s holiday decorations throughout downtown. He worked months coordinating the purchase and hanging of decorations for all to enjoy this holiday season. Working together, once again, Dade City looked amazing for our visitors and residents who call Dade City home.

The City entered a float in the parade that was beautifully decorated along with music and snow thanks to our very own Santa’s helper, Noel, from the Code Enforcement Department. Under his leadership, the staff ensured our float was the best! Children of city staff participated in this beautiful heartwarming evening. It was a picture-perfect evening enjoyed by many residents and visitors in our charming town.

This year, the Dade City Youth Council, held its 3rd annual event to their busy calendar. The program, “Shop with A Cop,” helped to bring a little holiday cheer to 21 children of different ages and backgrounds who got to buy $100 of gifts for their families and a small gift for themselves for the holiday season. The students met with their chaperones, a Dade City Police Officer, a Dade City Youth Council member and a Dade City Police Explorer. They spent some time with the youth council and explorers before heading off to their shopping destination at Walmart. After the shopping, the students headed back to the City Hall/PD complex for gift wrapping and a pizza party. It was a rewarding experience for all, especially the opportunity to be one on one with the students. Awesome opportunity to share goodwill and friendship. Looking forward to our Back to School” Shop with A Cop” that will be held in August 2020.

With the 2020 Legislative Session under way beginning of February 2020, members of the Dade City Commission will attend the FLC Legislative Conference in Tallahassee. Not only is this a great opportunity to keep informed of the state’s legislative priorities, but a tremendous opportunity to network with elected officials and their staff from all over the State of Florida. The Dade City Youth Council will also attend and engage in some awesome educational activities with the Florida League of Cities.

Wishing all a safe, healthy and prosperous 2020 year. It is an honor and privilege to serve the residents of Dade City. Because of citizens like you in our community, Dade City continues to be an authentic destination for all. God Bless.

Please contact me at chernandez@dadecityfl.com with your questions or comments.

Camille

Camille Hernández, Mayor Dade City
PHSC GRADS CELEBRATE SUCCESS AT WINTER COMMENCEMENT

Pasco-Hernando State College (PHSC) will host winter commencement on Wednesday, December 11, in the Physical Fitness Center at the West Campus in New Port Richey, 10230 Ridge Road. Two commencement ceremonies will honor graduates earning bachelor’s and associate’s degrees and certificates. The morning ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. and the afternoon commencement will begin at 3 p.m. The event live stream link will be available at phsc.edu.

This year’s fall graduates include many ambitious and accomplished students, and some who have encountered adversity in pursuit of a higher education.

Meclina Priestley, 44, of Wesley Chapel, will earn her Associate in Arts degree with honors. Priestley, a single mom of three daughters, is a successful artist and an Art Fellow at the James Weldon Johnson Foundation. Priestley has been doing shows and events for that foundation in New York and the Berkshires. She is also the Artist in Residence at the Renaissance Tampa International Plaza Hotel. Priestley combines her love of art with the skills she learned in the drafting and design program at PHSC. “My goal is to work alongside architects and developers to integrate the thought of design and art, making it a part of the architecture,” said Priestley. She is a member is Phi Theta Kappa and the SkillsUSA club where she was a medalist at the state competition.

Hunter Karius, 23, of Weeki Wachee, is a full-time, first-generation college student who will earn his Associate in Arts degree with honors. Karius is the North Campus Student Government Association president, a student ambassador, and an enrollment management specialist in the Academic Success Center. Additionally, he is the Florida College System Student Government Association (FCSSA) Region Two Coordinator. Karius grew up in Hector, New York and moved to Florida two years ago harboring a passion for dentistry. “The Student Life and Leadership staff at PHSC has been a vital measure in my success as a person,” said Karius. “I came to this state a shy and scared individual who would never step outside the boundaries of comfort. Through mentorship, coaching and added responsibilities, I tapped into unknown skills and potential.” Karius plans to attend Nova Southeastern University to study biological sciences followed by dental school. His goal is to own a dental practice where he can provide comprehensive dental care.

Patricia Jauregui, 30, of Dade City, has overcome many obstacles, from kidney failure and transplant as a teen, to developing breast cancer when she was 22 years old. She enrolled at the college in fall of 2010 and the following year learned her kidney transplant had failed and she was diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer. A true fighter, Jauregui never gave up. She resumed her studies as soon as her doctors would allow. “I still required dialysis three days a week because I was not eligible for a transplant at the time,” said Jauregui. “I would go to dialysis in the morning, come home to sleep for a couple hours, go work part time at a daycare center, and afterwards go to school part time.” Her health issues and the compassion she received from her nurses shaped her career path. Jauregui is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and Psi Beta who is earning her Associate in Science degree in nursing with honors. “No matter what I was going through, I always tried to maintain a smile. I thought about the many people I would one day help and that motivated me. I want to inspire and give my patients hope that despite their diagnosis—it’s not the end.” She aspires to give back, working as a nurse either in pediatric oncology or in breast oncology.

Adriana Huapilla, 20, of Dade City, has served East Campus as a student ambassador and Student Government Association vice president. Huapilla is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and Phi Beta Lambda and is the first generation in her family to earn an Associate in Arts degree. With careful planning, she balances being a full-time student with a full-time job and often driving family members from home to school or work. “I first review the class schedule and fit it into my working schedule while still being able to have time for homework as well as family and personal obligation,” said Huapilla. After graduating Huapilla plans to continue her education at PHSC pursuing a bachelor’s degree in supervision and management with a concentration in public safety.

Steeven Andrade, 20, of Wesley Chapel, was born in Ecuador and moved to the United States three years ago. Coming to a new country with few possessions and not speaking the language did not stop Andrade from pursuing his dream of a higher education. “I remember my first day of class, I didn’t know anyone or what to expect,” said Andrade. “It was my first time in college, in another country, in another language, far away from where I felt comfortable.” Andrade made friends, became familiar with the college and professors, and by the fall of 2018, he was the Student Government Association vice president at the Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch. He is earning his Associate in Arts degree, with honors. He plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree in management with a minor in global business at the University of South Florida in spring while working at Publix.

Student speakers include, Meclina Priestley (morning) and Hunter Karius (afternoon). Other graduation speakers include: District Board of Trustees Vice Chair Marilyn Pearson-Adams (morning) and District Board of Trustees Chair Alvaro Hernandez (afternoon); Charge to the Graduates Speakers, Chris Nocco, Pasco County Sheriff (morning), and Richard Corcoran, Education Commissioner (afternoon); and Faculty Remarks by Faculty Senate Vice President Julie Hendriksen, assistant professor, natural sciences (morning) and Faculty Senate President Jessica LaBossiere, Ph.D., associate professor, English (afternoon).

Approximately 345 degrees and certificates will be conferred at the ceremonies. An estimated 1,328 summer and fall graduates are eligible to participate.
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Saint Leo University Opening Benedict’s Coffeehouse, Neighbors Invited

Dade City and East Pasco County residents, businesspeople, and visitors are invited to check out the new Benedict’s Coffeehouse at Saint Leo University. The newly designed space is at the east end of the Kirk Hall lawn (near recreation basketball court).

Benedict’s is a We Proudly Serve Starbucks venue, featuring Starbucks coffees, specialty drinks and teas, and a variety of breakfast sandwiches and lunch items including, salads, and snacks. Designated parking for guests will be created near Benedict’s for the convenience of university guests.

On Monday, January 13, the Saint Leo University community and its neighbors will officially celebrate the grand opening of Benedict’s Coffeehouse.

Open daily from 7 a.m. to midnight following the grand opening, Benedict’s Coffeehouse offers indoor and outdoor patio seating and ramped up Wi-Fi for the ultimate coffeehouse experience.

The festive grand opening for Benedict’s will start at 10 a.m. on Monday, January 13, and include a ribbon-cutting ceremony, music, giveaways, and a reception. Enjoy special giveaways and prizes, and join the Loyalty Rewards Member Program to earn free coffee and the chance at bigger prizes!

Guests who are one of the first 250 customers will receive a free Benedict’s Coffeehouse travel mug with purchase. This entitles the winners to unlimited coffee refills at a discount.

To learn more about Benedict’s Coffeehouse, visit webpage https://www.saintleo.edu/benedicts-coffeehouse. Please note the following holiday hours until the grand opening on January 13.

**Holiday Hours:**
- December 9 – 20: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (weekdays)
- January 2 – 12: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (weekdays)

Saint Leo University is at 33701 State Road 52, St. Leo, FL 33574. Benedict’s is located to the right (east) of the traffic circle.
Pasco EDC Launches New Workforce Tool for Businesses

The WorkforceCONNECT website provides workforce data and talent connection resources for Pasco County businesses.

The Pasco EDC WorkforceCONNECT Program was created in 2018 to align the supply and demand of talent in Pasco County by working with employers, educational institutions, and other resources to identify workforce gaps. WorkforceCONNECT has launched the first tool of its kind in the area, to help employers find engaged workers, training programs, and industry specific data.

“This is a huge resource and tool for Pasco County employers, as well as the workforce” said Bill Cronin, Pasco EDC President and CEO. “Employers can find data and resources to develop pipelines of talent, which in the long run will reduce talent and acquisition costs. Job seekers can explore in-demand career paths and available education programs in Pasco County.”

The newly launched, www.workforceconnectpasco.com website features both an employers and job seekers option. On the employers landing page, businesses can view a quick, three-minute tutorial that presents how they can best use the site. Additional resources include detailed data and information showing where Pasco’s future workforce is being trained, how many people are being trained, and the level of training they are receiving. The site connects employers directly with an abundance of quality talent, focused on the six target industries that represent rapid growth in high skill, high wage job openings.

The site also provides a roadmap for new hires that goes from initial employment all the way to advancement into leadership roles, and showcases how to streamline the process to reduce the costs through strategic partnerships with CareerSource Pasco Hernando and others. “I am proud of the Pasco EDC and how they continue to evolve to meet the needs of our businesses and workforce in Pasco County,” said Pasco County Commissioner Mike Wells. “Giving the business community access to workforce data and resources specific to Pasco is huge and will help them continue to grow.”

WorkforceCONNECT is a pilot program approved by the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners in 2018 and is funded by the Penny for Pasco. The program aims to reduce long term employee recruitment and retention costs by bringing together employers, training providers and assistance programs to help local firms create seamless pipelines of talent to meet their current and future workforce needs.
Saint Leo Welcomes Alumni, Guests for Homecoming Weekend
Honors Presented to 5 Graduates Including Virginia Beach Police Chief

Alumni and guests from throughout the United States and the world came home to Saint Leo University to celebrate homecoming weekend at University Campus, November 1 – 3.

The weekend kicked off Friday evening with a Greek Mixer, where alumni and current members of Saint Leo’s Greek organizations mingled. Four organizations were celebrating milestone anniversaries: Alpha Sigma, Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, and Sigma Lambda Gamma.

Saint Leo College Preparatory School and Holy Name Academy graduates enjoyed good food and sharing memories at a special dinner in their honor, held at the Daniel A. Cannon Memorial Library on Friday. Alumni enjoyed Brews & Bites in Kirk Hall where they sampled local beers and wines, along with tasty appetizers.

The Rho Xi chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha celebrated its 30th anniversary with a scholarship ball. The chapter presented the university with a check for $28,080 for scholarships for Saint Leo students.

On Saturday, November 2, attendees enjoyed brunch with President Jeffrey Senese, who discussed the exciting future of Saint Leo. During the brunch, five alumni were given awards in recognition of their accomplishments. Alumni receiving honors were:

**Roaring Onward Recognition:** Antonio Cruz of Miami, Class of 2018; Christopher Laney of Lakewood Ranch, FL, Class of 2015; and Kevin Sullivan II of Dade City, Class of 2013

**Benedictine Spirit Award:** John Gassler of Dade City, Class of 1947. Gassler attended Saint Leo College Preparatory School and credits the education he received as preparation for attending college at the Georgia School of Technology as an electrical engineering co-op student, and later graduating from Georgia Tech with a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering. Glassler has held multiple positions as an avionics engineer with companies such as Eastern Airlines, Sperry Gyroscope Company, and Sunbeam Electronics. Glassler served many years as a volunteer fireman and is very involved in the Knights of Columbus, serving in several local, state, and district capacities.

**2019 Distinguished Alumni Award:** James Cervera of Virginia Beach, VA, Class of 1981. Cervera graduated with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from the South Hampton Roads Education Center in Virginia and went on to earn a Master of Public Education degree from Old Dominion University. He is employed as the chief of police for the city of Virginia Beach, as well as an adjunct professor at Tidewater Community College, specializing in criminology and social sciences. On May 31, 2019, Virginia Beach experienced a mass shooting at the Virginia Beach Municipal Center. Sixteen people were shot, resulting in the deaths of 11 employees, including two Saint Lalumni, and visitors. Years of enhanced training and a philosophy of discipline and compassion prepared Cervera to lead officers to immediately respond to the active shooter scene and heroically save additional citizens from the violence.

Later that afternoon, softball and baseball alumni took part in the annual alumni games, and everyone enjoyed the Lions Rally, which featured food trucks, live music by Forrest Hoffar, games, and other activities.

Athletics dominated the afternoon with volleyball and men’s and women’s soccer games. During the evening’s men’s basketball game, the homecoming king and queen were crowned. Congratulations to Maurqise McGill and Victoria (Tori) Omorogie, Saint Leo’s 2019 homecoming king and queen. McGill is from Clearwater and is a graduate of Anclote High School. Omorogie is a graduate of Newsome High School in Tampa.

The weekend wrapped up on Sunday, November 3, with goat yoga, Mass at the Abbey Church, and brunch.
The Joseph J. Herrmann and Rose A. Herrmann Charitable Foundation of San Antonio, Fla. donated $2,000 to the Thomas Promise Foundation for the third consecutive year. “We appreciate the support of the Herrmann family,” said The Thomas Promise Foundation Executive Director Joe Simmons. “They began supporting us after we took over the planning of the Rattlesnake Festival with which the Herrmann family was so thoroughly involved. We’ve made a lot of changes and we’re encouraged to see that the family sees us as worthy of support. It is a tremendous shot-in-the-arm to us as an organization and it helps provide 4,000 meals for our kids.”

Tim Baldwin, CEO of the San Antonio Federal Credit Union and a trustee on the Joseph J. and Rose A. Herrmann Charitable Foundation said, “Thomas Promise has been on our list for years because of what they do, and we think the festival will support that even better as we continue.”

The Thomas Promise Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides bags complete with six meals and snacks for primarily Pasco County students over the weekend when they would otherwise go without. Currently 27 Pasco schools and more than 1,500 children bene-fit from this program every week of the school year. The Rattlesnake Festival has been held every year since 1967 and has always benefitted local children.

The Thomas Promise Foundation
4542 Gall Blvd. Zephyrhills, FL 33542
Contact: Joe Simmons (813) 782-0000
ttpf.org@gmail.com
Santa’s Tree Christmas Wishes Delivered!

San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union partnered with Restored Hope, The Thomas Promise and Samaritan Project programs to receive a list of Christmas wishes for families that could use a little help this year. Each year the credit union places a Santa’s Tree (Giving Tree) in their 4 lobbies to fulfill Christmas wishes for people in their community. This year their employees and members delivered a Merry Christmas to 31 people in 7 families. SACFCU is proud to be a part of such a generous community.

Hometown Hero

COMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The City of Dade City has reorganized the Development Services Department into the Community and Economic Development Department. Bringing Code Enforcement, Building Services and Safety Services together with the Planning Department, the reorganization is one of many changes happening to better serve our citizens and business owners. In addition to the new structure, we are expanding to add in a new Building Inspector/Reviewer, a Planner II and a Planner I/GIS Analyst.

Melanie Romagnoli leads the department as the Director, holding a Master’s Degree in Public Administration, with a focus on Planning and Economic Development. Melanie brings with her over 25 years’ experience in public and private community & economic development, including residential and commercial development, planning, brownfields, Main Street programs, and nonprofit management. Saad “Sam” Mirza, Planner II, joined the department in November and is excited for what the future holds for the City. Being a resident of Dade City, he has a vested interest in the wellbeing of the City and his neighbors. He holds two Master’s Degrees - Architecture and Urban Planning, and brings a new perspective through his experience in the United Kingdom. Sarah Rader is the newest addition to the team as Planner I/ GIS Analyst. She began her GIS career with Pasco County Property Appraiser’s Office and has lived in Dade City for over 10 years. Sarah is excited to be working for the City and to expand her knowledge in GIS Analytics, and other areas of planning to continue to serve our citizens. The Building Inspector/Reviewer position remains open at this time and the City is currently accepting applications.
New Chamber Partners

**REMEMBER:**
Refer a New Member and receive $25.00 credit towards your membership renewal!

- Peter Coyne
  - Hamlin & Associates Realty, LLC
  - PO Box 3838
  - Plant City 813-601-1813
  - Real Estate Agents/Companies
  - Referred by: Eugenia Parlow

- Jessica Burton
  - Poly Vinyl Creations, Inc.
  - 11313 SR 52
  - Hudson 727-857-9618
  - Manufacturer & Distributor specialty outdoor products

- Joel & Debbie Knickerbocker
  - Pasco Rehabilitation
  - 37104 Clinton Avenue
  - Dade City 352-521-0002
  - Health & Wellness/Rehabilitation

- Cindy Seifert
  - Cindy Seifert Art Garden, LLC
  - 15300 Lake Iola Road
  - Dade City 352-588-3832
  - Attractions/Shopping
  - Referred by: Jennifer Frazier Creative Stable

- Paula O’Neil, Ph.D.
  - Leadership Solutions LLC
  - PO Box 610
  - San Antonio 727-271-5776
  - Consulting & Training
  - Referred by: John Moors

- Debora Lerda
  - Face2Face
  - 14012 7th Street, Suites 5 & 6
  - Dade City 352-424-0549
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  - 4600 W Cypress Street Suite 300
  - Tampa 813-574-5741
  - Home Builder
  - 2020 KF Sponsor

- Julian Ford
  - The Neighborhood Market (Farm Basket)
  - 20810 US Hwy 301
  - Dade City 352-583-4521
  - Shopping (Fresh Produce, Meats & More)
  - Referred by: Richard Riley

- Jennifer Merchant, Realtor
  - 306 E Oak Avenue
  - Tampa 850-207-240
  - Real Estate Companies & Agents
Local Foundation Receives a Lot of Joy

The South Central Chapter of Joy in Childhood Foundation has approved a grant for $10,000 for The Thomas Promise Foundation. Joy in Childhood Foundation is an independent 501(c)3 organization powered by Dunkin' and Baskin-Robbins Brands as well as the generosity of their partners, franchisees, employees and guests. The grant will provide more than 20,000 meals for the foundation whose mission is to supply weekend meals to food-insecure students in local schools.

“Our mission is to provide joy to kids who are battling hunger or illness, and we are humbled by the work you do to bring joy to kids when they need it most,” said Kari McHugh, executive director of Joy in Childhood Foundation. “We appreciate everything you do and are excited to work with you to make a difference.”

“All I can say is that we should eat a lot of donuts and ice cream to thank the supporters of the Joy in Childhood Foundation,” said Joe Simmons, executive director of The Thomas Promise Foundation. “What a wonderful Christmas gift!”

Currently, the Thomas Promise Foundation is in 28 schools in Pasco and Hillsborough Counties serving more than 1,500 bags filled with six meals each weekend to students who may not have certain access to meals when the school breakfast and lunch programs are not in operation.

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Dogs’ Day in Dade City

Saturday, March 21, 2020
10 AM – 2 PM
Agnes Lamb Park
(Across from The Edinola on Meridian)

Blake Veterinary Hospital  Dade City Youth Council  Dog-Mania & Cats
Farmers Feed Depot  Granny’s Animal Camp  Green Door on 8th
Life is unpredictable
Trust the ER Experts

When an emergency happens, get in quicker at AdventHealth Dade City with online ER registration. Simply reserve your treatment time and our team of experts will be waiting for your arrival. With pediatric amenities and a senior friendly environment, we’re ready to help restore your body, ease your mind and lift your spirit.

Learn more at GetInQuickER.com

EMERGENCY CARE
13100 Fort King Road
Dade City, FL 33525

In case of a medical emergency, call 911.
Welcoming the New Year With the Presidential Preference Primary

At the elections' office we'll be ringing in the new year with preparations for the 2020 Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) on March 17, 2020, the first of four elections we'll administer in 2020. The PPP is a unique primary in which voters express their preference for their favorite candidate among all the presidential hopefuls within their party. For the first time since 1992 an incumbent president will face opposition in the primary, and both democrats and republicans will be voting in the PPP. Although the outcome of the PPP does not directly determine which candidates will go on to the final race, the PPP in Florida determines which candidate the party delegates will be bound to vote for during the national party conventions.

It's important to remember that the PPP, like all primaries in Florida, is closed. Simply stated, a closed primary means that the candidate choices on your ballot will be only candidates that are the same party affiliation as your voter registration. Unlike many states, party changes on Election Day are statutorily prohibited in Florida. Changing party affiliation in order to vote for a particular candidate is permissible, but it has to be done 29 days prior to the election date when the registration books close. The bookclosing date for the 2020 PPP is February 18, 2020.

As usual, our status as a "perennial" swing state means all eyes will again be on Florida. The states with the earliest primaries are targeted heavily on the campaign trail, and historically are more influential to the process of nominating presidential candidates. Some states hold caucuses which differ from primaries in that they are managed by the political parties themselves rather than the local governments. Either way, Presidential Preference Primaries are the creation of political parties, and were never part of our country's constitution. The political parties make the rules about how the party delegates are allocated throughout the states, and to win a party's nomination for president a candidate must receive the majority of the party's delegates.

As the new year unfolds please take a moment and ensure that your voter registration is current, and that you are registered in the same party as your candidate of your choice for the PPP. If not, be sure to make application for a party change before February 18, 2020. Visit PascoVotes.gov to access an application for voter registration or to change your party, to view the early voting schedule or to request a vote-by-mail ballot. As always, my staff and I stand ready to serve you. If you have any questions do not hesitate to call 800-851-8754.

New Year's Day is a national holiday celebrated on January 1st, the first day of the New Year, following both the Gregorian and the Julian calendar. Many people celebrate New Year's in the company of loved ones, involving traditions meant to bring luck and success in the upcoming year.

The celebrations generally go on past midnight into New Year's Day, 1 January. Tonga and Kirimiti (Christmas Island), part of Kiribati, are examples of the first places to welcome the New Year while Baker Island in the United States of America is among the last.
Congratulations!!

*The Neighborhood Market – The Farm Basket “A Fresh Start”*

Julian Ford owner of The Neighborhood Market held his Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting was on Saturday December 14th.

The Neighborhood Market is located at 20810 US Hwy 301, Dade City.

Our product focus is produce, meat and deli. Our goal is to provide convenience, quality goods at competitive pricing with friendly service!

Open Monday through Saturday 6:00 am– 7:00 pm
2020 Offers Many Ways to #serveandconnect

The new year brings the approach of a couple of Pasco County Clerk & Comptroller fixtures: the Big Shred and the Valentine’s Day Group Wedding Ceremony. Each will arrive before we can say, “The Visa bill is here already?!”

This well-received pair represents only the leading edge of what promises to be a lively 2020, which is scheduled to include a variety of special programs and recognition ceremonies. In these, we will serve our customers and partners, boost awareness of critical needs in our community, and provide insight into each clerk & comptroller’s wide and varied responsibilities as described by the Florida constitution, statutes, and court orders.

Here, in calendar order, are some of the highlights.

As has become tradition, the Big Shred III is set for the final Saturday in January and the first Saturday in February, at the judicial centers in New Port Richey and Dade City, respectively. Participants may bring up to three banana-crate-sized boxes of sensitive, outdated documents for immediate obliteration by Shred360. The first two events, held in tandem with Data Privacy Day and coordinated with Pasco County Recycling and Education and Covanta, witnessed the destruction and recycling of nearly 18 tons of personal information. … We’d love to push the three-year total above 30 tons!

Back for its 12th annual iteration, our Valentine’s Day Marriage Ceremony returns to the historic Pasco County Courthouse February 14. Last year, 19 couples tied the knot in our group celebration, bringing the 11-year total of unions to 219. Registration for the 2020 event is underway; the deadline for registering is February 7.

Our first Passport Day, on the first Saturday of spring break in 2019, was such a hit, we’re bringing it back this year. Designed to help families get a head start on their summer international travels on a date that doesn’t require them to miss school or work, Passport Day II is set for Saturday, March 14, at our Official Records offices in the East and West Pasco Government Centers. No appointments are necessary; simply review the passport application information on our website, www.pascoclerk.com.

May brings Juror Appreciation Month, when we make extra efforts to demonstrate our gratitude to Pasco citizens who heed their call to serve the judicial system. We know jury duty can be inconvenient and even a nerve-rattling, but America’s founders listed the denial of jury trials as a reason for breaking with King George III and England — so it’s something worth fighting for. Later, authors of the Constitution guaranteed trial by jury as a fundamental civil right. We’re delighted to spend May highlighting the appreciation we feel all year for Pasco citizens who help us deliver on that guarantee.

Operation Green Light, a driver’s license reinstatement event, helps motorists whose licenses have been suspended over unpaid court costs, fees, or fines recover their driving privileges at a discount. OGL kicked off last October; it becomes an annual event in 2020 on a date to be determined.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month arrives each October, providing us a fresh, focused opportunity to remind Pasco folks living under threat from a household or intimate partner that year-round help — indeed, deliverance — is as near as the telephone, or a visit to the judicial centers in east and west Pasco.

Among the key moments of each Veterans Stand Down program, held in mid-October, is the Friday Veterans Court. In a makeshift courtroom at the Home Depot building at Safety Town, Sixth Circuit Court Judge Shawn Crane, in cooperation with the state attorney and public defender, dispenses justice in a way that helps down-on-their-luck veterans plagued by lingering legal issues get back on their feet. We register the veterans and provide lawyers with their court files, and make certain Judge Crane’s orders are duly recorded and filed.

Among the best days — perhaps the best day — on our judicial calendar is Adoption Day, which arrives in early November. Witnessing children, from tots to teens, being welcomed officially into forever homes, and being reminded you don’t have to look alike to be family, is a scene that never fails to bring a tear of joy.

As we say, this represents only a partial list of the above-and-beyond activities in which we’ll be participating in 2020. And every business day, we’ll be at our posts, ready to help our customers and partners in whatever way is within our power, from filing deeds and taking marriage license applications to managing super-sensitive trial evidence and summoning and looking after jurors to keeping the minutes at every official County government meeting and making certain taxpayers’ money is spent in accordance with statute and best accounting practices to assisting those who want to represent themselves in certain court proceedings.

In these ways and so many others, the Office of Pasco County Clerk & Comptroller helps the gears of government, justice, and the community turn smoothly, and turn together. In 2020, as ever, we are here to #serveandconnect.
**Our Vision:** “to be the best resource to support our members and attract new business”

**Why Join?**

**Promotion of your business**
- Links on our website - the preferred conduit for business development and tourism in our area
- Advertising Opportunities
- Sponsorship Packages

**Awareness of your brand**
- Multimedia program partnership
- Event participation
- FREE Ribbon Cuttings

**Introduce your business to the community**

**Networking with your clients**
- Interaction with potential customers
- Business Breakfasts
- Chamber Ambassador Opportunities
- Events and Committees

**Receive a credit of $25.00 for each new member you refer!**

**Our Mission:** “to promote economic growth and quality of life in the Greater Dade City area.”
Red White Blue CPR is proud to share our numbers tallied so far are...drum roll please...

Since moving to our new office at the Dade City Business Center on 4/01/2019 and updating our address we have certified:

92 American Heart BLS or Heartsaver Adult & Pediatric FA/CPR/AED learners
&

63 American Red Cross Adult & Pediatric FA/CPR/AED learners!

WooHoo!

Most of our American Heart learners have come from Advent Health, Lakeland Regional, Challenging Ideas, Maxim Healthcare Services, nursing students, firefighters, new Orlando daycare business owners, and many At-Home Assisted Facility Groups!

Red Cross group trainings using our mobile on-site service at their facility was completed for:

Consolidated Container Co., E.S.S.A. – Elite Soccer Skills Academy, and Coca-Cola employees in Tampa.

Other Red Cross classes included: new A.L.F. owner based in Clearwater, Pasco County School employees, Daycare employees, Gym trainers, Assisted Living Facility employees from Brooksville, Griswold Home Care, grandparents, At-Home Caregivers, & even an A.L. F. resident who rode the bus from Tampa to attend our class. Wow! We are continuing to grow every year.

Happy New 2020 Year! Drive Safely

Red White Blue CPR Staff
We have been a member of the Greater Dade City Chamber for many years. We believe that it is just good business to work alongside our community neighbors. The chamber represents the areas of Dade City and San Antonio, where two of our four offices are located and provide banking services. The chamber’s events have continually grown and become staples for our community. We try to be involved with as many as we can. They are a wealth of information, sharing new developments via email blasts and at the monthly business breakfasts. They do a great job of representing our community to others, we are proud of this local partnership.

San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union

When I was the director of several drug and alcohol rehab centers I wish I knew the powerful networking opportunities available within a Chamber of Commerce. Like in all businesses, marketing was costly and took up a large part of my time in order to keep our services visible in our community and in front of our referral sources such as health professionals, clinics, hospitals and employers, etc. I wish I knew then what I known now, that all those sources can be found in one place and that place is the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce.  

Frank Notarianni, Dade City, Florida

John, I just wanted to thank you and the Dade City Chamber for the leadership displayed over the last couple of weeks. With the announcement that Dade City Main Street was shutting down, there was a lot of ‘uneasiness’ among the retail merchants. But you stepped up immediately to reassure us all that the Chamber was more than willing to help with any gaps that might exist after the shut down. As a member for the last 16 years I am not surprised that this show of leadership was swift and immediate. The Dade City Chamber of Commerce is the arm that reaches out for all the small businesses that are unable to do this alone. The business climate in Dade City today is strong and vibrant and I believe the major contributor for this success is the Dade City Chamber. Again, thanks for all you do.

Jim Hendry, A Matter of Taste

“The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce has been instrumental in the success of our business. John, Jo Mel and all the volunteers at the Chamber are always willing to help and guide my business. If they do not have an answer to your question, they will tirelessly to get an answer and a contact for you. Thank you to entire team, you are great!”  

Deatrice Blossom, D & R Specialty Hot Dogs

San Antonio Antiques applauds the Dade City chamber of Commerce for its year-round promotion of local businesses and community events that have positive impact on small business owners like myself. I appreciate all the networking and marketing opportunities available to Chamber Members.

John Herrmann, Proprietor, San Antonio Antiques

Jarrett Ford has been a proud member of the Dade City Chamber of Commerce since we opened in February of 1978 which is over 40 years ago. The Chamber is an integral component in our community and touches so many people and businesses. If you want to succeed in a community you have to be part of the community and the Chamber is a great place to begin.

Cliff Martin, Jarrett Ford

I became employed in the Dade City area at Lake Jovita Golf & Country Club in Feb. of 2014. Moving here from Western Colorado I had no connection with the community or the surrounding area. In the spring of 2015 I joined the chamber’s golf committee for the Dade City Chamber’s annual Joe Kiefer Golf Tournament held at Lake Jovita. That opened the door for me to get involved and meet many of the local business leaders. Since that first year, my career has moved me from the Golf Pro Staff into the General Manager Position overseeing 100+ employees, maintaining 500+ acres, and a full service restaurant at Lake Jovita G&CC and the connect with the community and area businesses has been crucial to the success myself and Lake Jovita is experiencing. The Chamber was the gateway to those relationships and the business to business workings that help every aspect of Lake Jovita G&CC.

Michael Johnson, Lake Jovita Golf and Country Club
Brown & Brown Insurance of FL- Brooksville would like to thank the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce for welcoming us into the community with open arms. We have been in Brooksville for over 20 years and becoming a part of the neighboring community as well as getting to know the community has been enjoyable with the help of the team at the Greater Dade City Chamber. Even though we have only been a part of the Chamber for about 6 months we feel as if we have been with them for years. The team at the chamber is very welcoming and accommodating to our questions and needs. We look forward to working with the chamber and the local community in the future.  

Brown & Brown of Florida, Inc.

John, thank you for working with us on the 2016 Annual Kumquat Festival! Trusted Senior Care’s “Westbrooke Manor” believes being part of the Annual Kumquat Festival® is critical to successfully doing business in East Pasco. You and your team are doing superior work!

Hunter Anstine, Chief Development Officer  Trusted Senior Care, Inc.

We are so excited to welcome our new members The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce! At the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce their mission is to promote economic growth & quality of life in the Greater Dade City area. The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce has been operating as a successful trade association organization for over 50 years and now represents over 430 business, associations, non-profits and individuals throughout Pasco County. Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce, we are so thankful for your support! For more information about this great organization please feel free to visit http://www.dadecitychamber.org/index.cfm.  

The Thomas Promise

There are two words that I cannot say enough and those two words are “Thank You”. I hope the three of you truly know how much you helped me in “2016” AND “2017” has already started off with a bang! If it were not for your support and friendship I would not have been able to help make all the “Littles” dreams come true by helping find them a “Big Brother” or “Big Sister” in Pasco County – You never know who has made the decision to make a difference in someone’s life and by your mere act of kindness that you have shared with me time and time again by sharing our mission and event dates you definitely had a direct impact on the success of my efforts. Just think - What if every child reached their potential? What if every child stayed in school? What if every child gave back to the community? What if every child was sent on the right path? Our mission is to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported 1-to-1 relationships that change their lives for the better, forever. Just a little bit of time can make a BIG difference. Once again, “Thank you” Jo, Mel & John for all you do to help make Pasco County such a special place to live and share our lives.  

Deb Kristol-Irwin, Director of Partnership Development Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay

“The East Pasco Democratic Club has utilized the services of several of our fellow Chamber members for items we needed - from t-shirts to a vinyl sign - and found the services great and the quality of the items ordered top-notch. We look at the directory first to see if we can find what we need from our fellow Chamber members. Our goal is to shop Dade City first! and to support the Greater Dade City Chamber.”

Beverly Ledbetter, East Pasco Democratic Club

“I have been very pleased with the effective communication and outreach efforts of the Greater Dade City Chamber. As the president of Galen College of Nursing for the Tampa Bay region, I find the meetings and events helpful as I navigate the business climate in our numerous surrounding counties that my college serves. Thanks for all you do!”  

Rob Wolf, President  Galen College of Nursing, Tampa Bay Region Saint Petersburg FL
"Thank you for hosting the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce Breakfast! I saw some people that needed to contact me later that day and some new folks that I will be collaborating with later this Fall. Thank you for providing this forum to allow such great networking opportunities!"  

Ahmy S. Arca, Student  
Life & Leadership  Pasco-Hernando State College East Campus

Thank you so much John, Mel and Jo for the many years you have worked with the Dade City Garden Club to market and sell our Historic Dade City Ornaments. In 1994 when we produced our first ornament, the Pasco County Courthouse, the Chamber was there to help us. You have continued over the years to sell our ornaments and you have many loyal customers that would only buy their annual ornament at the Chamber. It is the Garden Clubs main yearly fund raiser and your efforts are critical to our success. We are a non-profit organization and all the money is used to maintain our historic building and grounds. It is not an easy job for you and we appreciate your dedication and continued support all these years.

Members of the Dade City Garden Club

"If you are serious about business, get serious about joining the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce. The place where serious business owners discuss serious business with other serious business owners. Time to get serious."

Steven D. Hickman, President & CEO First National Bank of Pasco

Being 13 year member/supporter of our Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce I have gained countless relationships with those in my community. Visibility is key in establishing community connections while promoting your business. The networking opportunities are endless through the Chamber, and there's no better way to promote your business because it’s “free marketing” and people do business with people they know. Our Greater Dade City Chamber offers many programs and events throughout the year as a way to give back to the community and business owners who supports the Chamber. Joining The Chamber is great. A business receives many benefits visibly and behind the scenes. However, joining only gets you so far. Participating is the true key to receiving the benefits of chamber membership. Being a member of the Chamber only works for you if you participate in what the Chamber has to offer to help you succeed in business and community connectivity. To sum it up, our Greater Dade City Chamber is the very “Best” when it comes to promoting, representing and supporting our community and its local businesses.

Bonnie Krummen, CenterState Bank VP/Branch Manager  - Dade City office

Jarrett Ford has been a proud sponsor of the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce's Annual Kumquat Festival since it’s inception 22 years ago in 1998. It fills our city’s streets with many visitors and many potential future patrons to our community. They see how unique we are here in east Pasco County with our eclectic community of restaurants and shops and friendly people. We're looking forward to another exciting year with another successful festival.

Cliff Martin, Vice President / General Manager Jarrett Ford, Inc.

We appreciate your testimonials and kind words, thank you!

If you would like to submit a testimonial please email to:  
juber@dadecitychamber.org
- AdventHealth Zephyrhills
- Jarrett Ford
- Saint Leo University
- San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union

A great way to package all of your advertising, and partnering sponsorships for the Chamber together.

Want more information, please call Melody Floyd at 352-567-3769
You’re Invited to the
JANUARY BUSINESS BREAKFAST

January 21, 2020
7:00am Networking
7:30am Breakfast

Co-Sponsored by:
Pasco County Fair Association
and
Heritage Park Health
and Rehabilitation Center

Pasco County Fairgrounds
Madill Building
36722 SR 52 • Dade City, FL

Cost is $10 Members or $15 Non-Members

RSVP if attending to:
The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce
352-567-3769

ADVANCE PREPAY ONLY
Register online (credit card only) or Stop by the Chamber Office
and pay with Cash, Check, or Credit Card prior to breakfast date.
RSVP Cut-Off is 12 Noon, January 16th
START A NEW FAMILY TRADITION AT THE ANNUAL

KUMQUAT FESTIVAL®

IT’S THE FAMILY FRIENDLY ALTERNATIVE TO GASPARILLA HELD ON THE SAME DAY, SATURDAY, JAN 25 • FROM 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M • DADE CITY, FL.

Few opportunities offer greater brand visibility than the Annual Kumquat Festival. Sponsors enjoy inclusion at the day of the event, in all festival marketing materials, and on the festival website. It’s a signature event for the community that attracts more than 400 vendors, an interactive Kid’s Corral, one of the largest car and truck shows in the Tampa Bay area, and tens of thousands of people of all ages from throughout Tampa Bay and beyond.

BETTER YET, ADMISSION IS FREE,
AS IS TRANSPORTATION FROM TWO SATELLITE PARKING AREAS.

SO, COME ON OUT TO THIS YEAR’S KUMQUAT FESTIVAL, AND CREATE MEMORIES YOU’LL CHERISH FOR A LIFETIME.

Learn more visit www.kumquatfestival.org or call the Dade City Chamber of Commerce at 352-567-3769.