The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce recently held our Annual Awards Breakfast at which 6 local non-profits are recognized for their community service with an appreciation certificate and a check from the Chamber. The breakfast was fabulously hosted by the First Presbyterian Church of Dade City.

Pictured from left to right: Angelo Liranzo, Friends of Hugh Embry Library, Johnathan McKeen-Chaff of the Amelia Foundation, Sister Roberta Bailey, Benedictine Sisters of Florida, John Moors, Chamber Director, Kelli Rossi, Eckerd Connects, Laurel Weightman, Dade City Symphony and Julie Scott (widow of our late Chief, Ray Velboom) of the Dade City Police Foundation.

Congratulations to all these deserving non-profit organizations and thank you for all the great work you do for our community.

Photos by Richard K Riley
Hello Chamber Members,

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer season. July 4th is probably the most memorable day in American history. It is commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God and Country. We celebrate with parades, shows, games and fireworks among other things.

Enjoy your family and friends – YOU are the community!

Christmas in July takes place on Saturday, July 20th.

Congratulations to Saint Leo University, Dr. Senese and Dr. Storms, Area Business of the Year, Sister Roberta Bailey, O.S.B, Chamber Member of the Year and Dr. Michael Flannery, as the Richard Tombrink Lifetime of Service award winner featured at our Chamber Banquet in June.
(See enclosed press release)

Our **Membership Referral Program** is still ongoing, thanks to all who participated and brought in new members. Remember every member you refer adds to the strength of our Chamber and credits your account by $25.00.

Our KUMQUAT COMMITTEE is busy garnering **Sponsorships** for 2020. If you have any leads or would like to be involved in Pasco County’s signature event, please contact John at the Chamber. This is an excellent way to have direct contact with some of the 30,000 attendees, and take advantage of being part of the $60,000+ marketing campaign planned for this fall and winter.

Lots of exciting things happening at the Chamber!

Thanks for your continued support,  
**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.
The Pasco Sheriff’s Office is rapidly becoming a leader in law enforcement training in not only the Tampa Bay area, but the entire state. As any viewer of television over the last 20 years can see from fictional shows such as CSI and NCIS, science and technology have transformed law enforcement and criminal investigations. However, against a backdrop of an ever-changing world filled with increasingly complex threats, our modern society has placed demands on law enforcement and the criminal justice system that mandates that we continue to advance in unprecedented ways. The solution requires collaboration and continuing research to develop new and improved methods, fill gaps in industry knowledge, skills, and capabilities, and revolutionize training for practitioners in forensics, security, and tactics.

Florida’s Forensic Institute for Research, Security, and Tactics (FIRST) represents such a collaboration – a partnership between academia and practitioners to develop a state-of-the-art research enterprise that will inform, innovate, and offer cutting-edge training. Through FIRST, we hope to empower leaders around the world with the knowledge necessary to ensure safer communities by transforming public safety through research, education, and innovation.

To accomplish this, we are creating a network of sites, which will contain both indoor and outdoor research and training facilities. The first site, located in Land O’ Lakes, Florida, will contain the Thomas Varnadoe Forensics Center for Research and Education, two outdoor forensic anthropology fields for research and mock training, a training facility, and an intelligence center that will be the hub for the innovation, evaluation, and promotion of new methods to assist with impacting crime, enhancing response to manmade and natural disasters, and ensuring safer communities.

The Land O’ Lakes site will also be home to the Helen A. Rich K9 Training and Research Campus; a cybersecurity, unmanned systems (drones) and robotics training facility; and a leadership training center to focus on refining and revolutionizing the skills, tactics, and capabilities of first responders and private-sector security across the country. Lastly, the site will support a cyber research and education facility to continue to prepare leaders for responding to threats in a digital world.

A second site is located nearby in the Pasco County area of Spring Hill and will contain an outdoor shooting range, sniper tower, shoot house, leadership reaction course (LRC) and obstacle course.

We have agreements with several prestigious educational institutions in Florida to collaborate with the research elements of the FIRST complex. These institutions include the Florida Gulf Coast University, the University of Florida, the University of Central Florida, and Pasco-Hernando State College, among others. This underscores our commitment to expand the institutional and educational knowledge of law enforcement science among academia so that our future law enforcement officers and support personnel have the most up-to-date facts and procedures as they learn the trade.

There are currently two active facilities that are in use at the FIRST complex in Land O’ Lakes and others are under construction with completion scheduled over the next two years. The Adam Kennedy Memorial Forensics Field is an active forensics research field where the decomposition of donated corpses that have been placed in a field are studied. The second is a “rubble pile” that is a simulated earthquake or other natural or man-made demolition zone where first-responders and K9 officers can search for survivors or recover bodies.

Florida’s Forensic Institute for Research, Security, and Tactics embodies a collaborative approach between academia and practitioners, together under one institute in pursuit of a common goal – shaping the future of public safety. FIRST will revolutionize training and invoke change in our communities through innovation in the fields of applied forensic science, forensic anthropology, public/private sector security, and tactics.
SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE 2020 ELECTION CYCLE
Statement by Brian Corley

With the completion and release of the special counsel report on interference and meddling during the 2016 Election Cycle, Robert Mueller’s last words on the subject were as follows, "I will close by reiterating the central allegation of our indictments... there were multiple, systematic efforts to interfere in our election and that allegation deserves the attention of every American."

The report’s conclusion echoed the unanimous assessment of the entire United States intelligence community. It is undeniable that there was interference and meddling during the 2016 election cycle by nefarious actors. The goal was threefold: erode voter confidence, attempt to delegitimize the winner, and polarize the American electorate. Amazingly, this was accomplished through fake Twitter and Facebook accounts, and by spending millions of dollars in advertising meant to influence users. As an example, over 72,000 Americans RSVP’d to a political rally that was completely fake and was created through a bogus Facebook account that originated from another country.

In creating and using fake Facebook and Twitter accounts, these bad actors planted seeds of propaganda, untruths, and rhetoric that millions of American voters unknowingly perpetuated by "Retweeting," "Sharing" or "Liking".

As an election administrator in the nation's largest battleground state, please know my team and I are highly cognizant of the ongoing and evolving threats to election's security. We have been working extensively for some time with our state and federal partners, including the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). In fact, DHS has been invaluable to our office in preparing for and ensuring response to a myriad of threats. We have modeled our approach with focus on Prevention, Mitigation and Response to both physical and cyber threats, and we continue to be hypervigilant to these real and emerging threats.

In the 2018 General Election cycle, we received reports from voters that were contacted via text message that they had not returned their vote-by-mail ballot. In many cases, our records showed that the voter hadn't requested a vote-by-mail ballot, and others had already returned theirs. The texts had no disclaimer and were generated from out-of-town phone numbers which made it impossible to identify the source. While not necessarily nefarious, it was deeply concerning to voters and caused further erosion of voter confidence.

A major concern for the 2020 election cycle is the continued misuse and manipulation of social media. Before you "Retweet," "Like" or "Share" something relating to voting/elections, et cetera, please be sure it's accurate information. I was personally made aware of many inaccuracies on social media during the 2018 midterms, and my advice for 2020 is when in doubt, verify the accuracy. If it's a voting or election related issue in Pasco County or Florida, please contact my office and we can research or confirm the accuracy or inaccuracy. If you get an unsolicited text message regarding your voter status or vote-by-mail ballot, please verify the information with us at www.pascovotes.com or call us at 800-851-8754.

While our founding fathers welcomed debate in the public discourse, let us be united in the core belief that external meddling and interference are not reliable and acceptable sources for us. Through continual polarization and the practice of talking AT each other rather than TO each other, we let the nefarious actors win! Let's all be mindful of what we read on social media and be guarded in what we share. My staff and I are only a click or phone call away, and we stand ready to assist.
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In case of a medical emergency, call 911.
The Mayor’s Communiqué

It’s hard to believe we are halfway through 2019! Hopefully, all will find some relaxing time with their children, family and friends as we celebrate holidays and other festivities during the hot summer months. Please stay safe wherever your free time or travels find you this summer.

The Fourth of July is traditionally celebrated as America’s birthday, but there is another holiday in June that has many sporting red, white and blue attire. Flag Day originated in 1949 when President Harry S. Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14 as National Flag Day. Each June 14, communities display the flag and hold appropriate ceremonies to recognize this special day. Here in Dade City, the American Legion Hall held a special ceremony recognizing the importance of our country’s flag. Members of the community gathered to reaffirm our love of this country and the ideals that have made America a great nation. Thank you to the generations of men and women who have stepped forward to serve our country and defend us from our enemies so we may live in freedom. Our gratitude to them and their families for defending our flag and the values of our great nation.

Speaking of traditions, our very own Dade City Police Department (DCPD)t has started their own tradition. The DCPD has released its second coin for the DCPD. The first coin is considered the “Department “coin and is awarded to all members upon their successful completion of their training. It is designed to signify a common bond among agency members. Recently, the DCPD unveiled its second coin, the “Chief’s Coin” which is awarded to Department members, at the discretion of the Chief, who go above and beyond the call, perhaps performing an act of heroism or altruism. The coin displays the Chief’s name and Department badge over a tattered American flag. The opposite side has the Department patch and on the border in Latin is a phrase that translates to “Already Ready” and “Send Me”. Sergeant Tungate, was the first recipient of the Chief’s coin. Tungate was awarded this recognition after entering a smoke-filled residence that was actively on fire. He located the only resident who was unconscious and was able to get her out of the house. Although she unfortunately succumbed to smoke inhalation, Sergeant Tungate’s actions were no less heroic. Thank you Sergeant Tungate and our entire DCPD for all you do to keep us out of harm’s way in our community.

As always, it is an honor and privilege to serve the residents of Dade City. Your ideas are encouraged and welcomed. Please contact me at chernandez@dadecityfl.com with your questions or comments as we continue to make Dade City a great place to live work and play for all our residents and visitors. Together we can make a difference for all in our great community!

Camille, Mayor, Dade City
Saint Leo University Named 2019-20 Military Spouse Friendly® School

Commitment to educating spouses, families of those serving their country noted

Saint Leo University has earned the 2019-2020 Military Spouse Friendly® School designation for providing exceptional education opportunities and support for the spouses and families of those serving in the armed forces.

“The Military Spouse Friendly® Schools designation helps military spouses select schools that will support them in their education journey by meeting their unique needs as a part of a military family,” said Brian Hucik, national program manager for Military Friendly. “Schools that are selected for the list are at the forefront of supporting the goals of military spouses.”

In January, Saint Leo University was named a Top 10 Gold-level Military Friendly® School Award recipient for 2019-2020 in the category of private institutions offering doctoral degrees. Saint Leo is ranked seventh in the nation as a Military Friendly® School.

“Saint Leo University is humbled to be recognized for not only educating those who have served and continue to serve our country, but also for providing educational opportunities for their spouses and other family members,” said Dr. Jeffrey D. Senese, university president. “Being designated as a Military Spouse Friendly® School is an honor for Saint Leo because we value the sacrifice of our military families. The university supports the many military spouses who are completing their Saint Leo degrees while raising a family, dealing with deployments, and working outside of the home.”

The university will be included in the 2019-2020 Military Spouse Friendly® Schools list to be published in the September issue of Military Spouse magazine. The list can also be found at www.militaryfriendly.com.

Methodology, criteria, and weightings for the listing were established by VIQTORY, a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business (SDVOSB) that connects the military community to civilian employment, educational, and entrepreneurial opportunities through its G.I. Jobs®, Military Spouse, and Military Friendly® brands. Input also was received from the Military Friendly® Advisory Council of independent leaders in the higher education and military recruitment community. Final ratings were determined by combining the institution’s survey scores with an assessment of student retention, graduation rate, job placement, loan repayment, persistence (degree advancement or transfer) and loan default rates for all students and, specifically, for student-veterans.

The university has a history of being supportive of military. When the U.S. Air Force approached Saint Leo about educating its personnel, the university opened an education center in 1973 at Avon Park Bombing Range in Highlands County, FL, as well MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, FL. Now, Saint Leo educates students on 13 military bases in seven states as well as online throughout the world.

Saint Leo also has Military Resource Centers at three locations—at its main campus north of Tampa, at the Newport News (VA) Education Center, and at the Savannah Education Center. The centers are places where the university’s military-affiliated students may study, hold meetings, get training, and relax.
REMINDER: Refer a New Member and receive $25.00 credit towards your membership renewal!

New Chamber Partners!!

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Clinics (Mobile), Health Care  
Referred by: Vicki Wiggins
Area Rotary Clubs Donate

Barbara Mallory, President of the Rotary Club of Dade City Sunrise started the “Ripple Project” to help raise money for computer and internet access for the Divine Mercy Girls Seminary in Tanzania, Africa. This International project was supported by the area Rotary Clubs of Dade City, Zephyrhills Daybreak, Zephyrhills Noon, Land O Lakes, Wesley Chapel Sunrise and Wesley Chapel Noon. Individual donations came in as well and she met her goal of $5,000.00!

A Rotary Social was held for the East Pasco Cubs at Brass Tap May 30th, 2019 in Dade City where Barbara presented Marie Martin, President of the St. Therese of the Little Flower World Mission, Inc. a check. Other STLFWM Board of Directors present were Tim Livingston, VP • Carlos Baldor, Jr., Secretary • Marie Cloutier, Director • (Missing was Amalia Bracho)

Founder of St. Therese of the Little Flower Orphanage & Divine Mercy Girls seminary is Pudentiana Kirungo Tibabyekonya, STH or fondly known as “Sister Puddy” couldn’t make the event but was represented by the Board of Directors.

Rotary District #6950 Governor Elect Jeanie Germain and Assistant DG Nicole Newlon were present for the check and banner presentation. More information can be found at www.stthereseworldmission.org

Photo Credits: Jean Nathe and Richard Riley

A Time to Celebrate

The Pioneer Florida Museum & Village celebrated the completion of two new buildings with a dedication ceremony and multi-chamber ribbon cutting with almost 100 in attendance. The Wood Wright Building and the Blacksmith Shop and tool collections were graciously donated by Paul Rhinesmith, a long-time museum trustee and demonstrator.

Pictured L to R in front of the Wood Wright Building, Sandra Wright (museum board treasurer), Beverly Rhinesmith, Ruth Ann Rhinesmith, Phillip Rhinesmith, Paul Rhinesmith, Seth Mann (museum board president), Ron Oakley (Pasco Co, Commissioner), Stephanie Bracknell Black (museum exec. director), Pat Pennington (museum trustee), Kelli Boles (museum board secretary), and Jane Hancock (museum board vice president).
What is a County Canvassing Board, What Does It Do and Why Should You Care?

As your elected Supervisor of Elections, my team and I are responsible for all facets of election administration, including registering voters, maintaining the voter rolls, qualifying local candidates, counting ballots, training poll workers and the logistics of equipping 110 precincts on election day. Within the framework of the Florida Election Code, F.S. 102.141, establishes the county canvassing board. Its responsibilities are the cornerstone of the checks and balances systems designed to ensure the integrity of the elections process.

The board is comprised of the supervisor of elections, the chair of the county commissioners, and a county court judge who acts as chairperson. While serving on the canvassing board, members cannot be on the ballot for re-election or actively campaigning for a candidate that is on the ballot. In this situation, alternate members are appointed, and in the case of the supervisor of elections that is up for re-election, the supervisor will serve only in an advisory capacity. The work of the canvassing board is totally transparent. Statutes requires the canvassing board to meet in a public-accessible building and our office posts public notice of the time and location of the meeting 48 hours prior. When in session, the canvassing board schedule is available online at www.pascovotes.com.

The canvassing board’s responsibility begins with the public testing of the voting tabulation equipment. They then oversee the canvassing of the vote-by-mail ballots to include observing the tabulation, duplication and signature cure processes. When the polls close on election day, our office (with the oversight of the board) has 30 minutes to report all early voting and tabulated vote-by-mail results to the Division of Elections. As the precincts close and begin reporting individual returns, the canvassing board examines the polling place inspectors’ returns and certificates that are filed with the precinct supervisors. They are required to file updated results every 45 minutes as the polls close, and once all precincts have reported, the board approves and submits the unofficial results to the Division of Elections.

Post-election responsibilities include the canvassing of the provisional ballots cast at the polls, and overseeing any recounts required for each election by a losing candidate or issue. Recounts are determined by the defeat of a candidate or ballot measure by a margin of ½ of a percent or less of the total votes cast for that candidate or ballot measure.

In short, through a series of statutorily-mandated checks and balances, the canvassing board insure that the returns of an election correctly reflect the votes cast. Through its oversight of the tabulation process and reporting, the canvassing board secures the integrity of the electoral process and is responsible for certifying the election results to the Division of Elections. The survival of democracy is dependent on checks and balances, and although statutorily-mandated, it’s the right thing to do to instill voter confidence in the processes/procedures affiliated with election administration.

Sunrise Announces Dates set for Holes for Hope Golf Tournament

Sunrise Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center in Pasco County, has announced that the annual Holes for Hope Golf Tournament at Lake Jovita Golf and Country Club is scheduled for October 7th with a shotgun start at 8:30 am. This is the seventh year for one of Sunrise’s most successful fundraisers which helps fund the agency.

If you or your organization would like to be a sponsor, purchase a hole sign or sign up a foursome, please contact Sunrise at 352-521-3358 or events@sunrisepasco.org.

Sunrise of Pasco is an equal opportunity, non-profit services provider that offers victim services free of charge. Since 1982, Sunrise of Pasco has been providing free victim services to people in the community who are hurting. Sunrise maintains a 40-bed emergency shelter to provide protection for women and children in crisis; provides free counseling services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and foster a culture of non-violence through various community engagement efforts. The agency serves thousands of women, men and children annually, when - in a better world - this kind of work would not even be necessary.

For more details about this release, please call Vicki Wiggins at 352-521-3358 or email vwiggins@sunrisepasco.org.
Saint Leo University’s 20th Command Officer Management Cohort Graduates

Law Enforcement Officials from Lake, Citrus, Pasco, Sumter, Highland Springs, Wildwood Part of Class

The 20th cohort of Saint Leo University’s Command Officer Management Program graduated on May 10. The Lake County Sheriff’s Office hosted the latest cohort at its training center in Tavares and law enforcement officers from the Lake, Citrus, Pasco, and Sumter county sheriff’s offices as well as the Highland Springs and Wildwood police departments made up this class.

Saint Leo University Command Officer Management Program was designed to provide onsite education that prepares law enforcement officers for the transition to command staff by addressing areas such as leadership, ethics, human resources, critical incident management, and other relevant administrative competencies. By offering the command school at an agency facility or at one of the university’s education centers, law enforcement agencies realize a significant cost savings in travel, housing, and meals. The 18-credit hour certificate program consists of six courses during six months (three terms) for undergraduate or graduate academic credits.

Saint Leo University Command Officer Management Class XX graduates are:

- Citrus County Sheriff’s Office: Sgt. John Bergen
- High Springs Police Department: Deputy Chief Antoine Sheppard
- Lake County Sheriff’s Office: Cpl. Robert Bedgood; Sgt. Cameron Crews; Sgt. Derek Deland; Sgt. Deidra Gordon; Sgt. David Malloy; and Lt. Tom Willis
- Pasco County Sheriff’s Office: Capt. Joseph Irizarry and Lt. Robert Roach
- Sumter County Sheriff’s Office: Sgt. Nicole McCue
- Wildwood Police Department: Sgt. John Walker and Sgt. Brian Harrie

The graduation ceremony was held at Lake Receptions in Mount Dora with Dr. Karin May, assistant professor of criminal justice, as the master of ceremony. The 80 people in attendance included command staff from the Lake, Citrus, Pasco, and Sumter county sheriff’s offices, and the High Springs Police Department as well as leadership, faculty, and staff from Saint Leo University, and family members of the graduates.

Saint Leo University President Jeffrey Senese welcomed the guests, and after lunch, the keynote speech was delivered by Lake County Sheriff Peyton C. Grinnell. Dr. Robert Diemer, director of Saint Leo’s Department of Public Safety Administration, addressed the graduates, and College of Education and Social Services Dean Susan Kinsella provided closing remarks.

Saint Leo University is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of College and Schools (SACS). For more information on the program, contact Nikki Heister at Nikki.heister@saintleo.edu or (352) 588-8487.

Photo: Members of the 20th cohort of Saint Leo University’s Command Officer Management Program and agency administrators. From left to right: Sheriff Peyton C. Grinnell; Lt. Robert Roach; Capt. Joseph Irizarry; Capt. Rachael Williamson, Lt. Tom Willis; Cpl. Robert Bedgood; Sgt. David Malloy; Sgt. Cameron Crew; Sgt. Derek Deland; Sgt. Deidre Gordan; Sgt. John Bergen; Major Elena Vitt; Sgt. Nicole McCue; Sheriff William Farmer; Deputy Chief Antoine Sheppard; and Chief Joel DeCoursey Jr.
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Hometown Heroes

The City of Dade City would like to salute those employees who previously served in the military and are now serving their community:

Brandon Ayers – Brandon has been a Specialist E-4 (Sergeant) since 2015 in the US Army Reserve Military Police. He is currently a Police Officer with the Police Department.

Jesse Barnes – Jesse was a Petty Officer 3rd Class for 4 years in the US Navy. He is currently a Police Officer with the Police Department.

K. Steve Bryant – Steve retired as a Sergeant, E-5 after 10 years in the Army and Florida National Guard. He joined the Army in 2006, 3 months before his 40th birthday! He was a Blackhawk helicopter mechanic and crew chief, which means he also flew missions with the helicopter. Steve spent his last 4 years as Quality Control, where he inspected other mechanics’ work and aircraft. During his 10 years in the service, he spent a year in each of the following countries: Korea, Sanai, Kuwait, and Kosovo. Steve is currently a Public Safety Information Operator with the Police Department.

Jose Felix – Jose was a Specialist E-4 (Sergeant) for 3 years in the US Army. He is currently a Police Officer/Field Training Officer with the Police Department.

Lorenzo Moreno – Lorenzo was an E-5 Sergeant for 8 years in the US Marine Corp/Reserve. He was a general’s driver, a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program Instructor (MCAP), and an Emergency Vehicle Operations Course Instructor (EVOC) during his service. Lorenzo also assisted with the search for the D.C. Sniper incident in Virginia and was also presidential support for the Pentagon and White House. He was awarded a Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and a Meritorious Mast. He is currently a Police Sergeant with the Police Department.

R. Anthony “Tony” Gibson – Tony was an E-5 Sergeant in the US Army in the 24th Infantry Division (Rapid-Deployment Force), Fort Stewart, GA. He proudly served for 7 years – 2 tours overseas. He is a combat veteran with 2 Bronze Stars awarded for meritorious service during Desert Storm (MOS_19Kilo, M1A1/MaAZ Tank Commander, 1 tour Camp Casey, Korea_DMZ). He is currently a Groundskeeper III – Perk Ponds for the City.

Garry Gilbert, Jr. – Garry was a 63B Light-Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic for 3 years with the 181st Chemical Co., 2nd Chemical Battalion, US Army, stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. He served during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Garry fought in Iraq for 372 days during the war. He earned the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation. He is currently a Water Treatment Plant Operator ‘C’ for the City.

Marvin Hays – Marvin was a Vehicle Maintenance Control & Analysis Specialist for 8 years in the US Air Force. He served at Clark AFC in the Philippines, Grissom AFB in Indiana and Edwards AFB in California. Marvin earned a Good Conduct Medal and a Meritorious Service Medal. He is currently a Groundskeeper I for the City.

W. Ray Johnston – Ray was a Squad Leader for 4 years at Forward Operating Base Shank, Afghanistan in charge of 12 soldiers in the US Army. They built the communication network for all of Eastern Afghanistan. Ray earned the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the NATO Medal and the Army Commendation Medal. He is currently an Equipment Operator II-Trees for the City.

W. Blane McCullough – Blane retired as a Chief Warrant Officer 3 after 21 years in the US Army; he was a helicopter pilot and worked in the intelligence community. He is currently a Groundskeeper II for the City.

Noel Mercado – Noel served as an E-6 Staff Sergeant in the Infantry (11 Bravo) in the US National Guard Reserve for 12 years in Puerto Rico. He is currently a Code/Safety Enforcement Officer for the City.

Douglas True – Doug retired as an Assistant Chief of Fire Prevention after 20 years in the US Air Force; he served at air bases all over the world. He is currently a Fire/Code Inspector for the City.
Picture attached is Dr. Paula O’Neil, Clerk of the Court and Comptroller of Pasco County donating to Sunrise of Pasco CEO Kelly Sinn. Sunrise is one of 4 recipients of funding from the Commissioners of Pasco County.
**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

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**Our Mission:** “to promote economic growth and quality of life in the Greater Dade City area.”

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FUN FACTS—July 4th

On this federal holiday, also known as Independence Day, marking the Colonies’ adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, which declared independence from the Great Britain and its king. We are already familiar with the fireworks, parades, barbeque and festivities like picnics, fairs, concerts and parties that take place on this day, but there are some things many people don’t know about the Fourth.

2. Only John Hancock actually signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. All the others signed later.
3. The Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 men from 13 colonies.
4. The average age of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence was 45. The youngest was Thomas Lynch, Jr (27) of South Carolina. The oldest delegate was Benjamin Franklin (70) of Pennsylvania. The lead author of The Declaration, Thomas Jefferson, was 33.
Member Testimonials

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
Member Testimonials Continued..

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
The Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce
14112 8th Street
Dade City, FL 33525

- Florida Hospital Zephyrhills
- Travelers Rest Resort
- 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

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Join us for a delicious breakfast, networking and an informative presentation from Amanda Martin, MSN, APRN, Administrative Director of Clinical Services at AdventHealth Dade City

Where: AdventHealth Dade City, Classrooms 107 and 108
13100 Fort King Road, Dade City, FL 33525

RSVP: Jo Uber at juber@dadcitvchamber.org

$10 for members and $15 for non-members.
Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting

14946 US Hwy 301
Dade City, Florida 33523
352-437-4070

Thursday, July 11, 2019
11:00am – 10:00pm
Ribbon Cutting at 6:00pm

~Giveaways~
~Specials~
Christmas In July
In Historic Downtown Dade City

Saturday, July 20th
10:00am - 5:00pm

Merchant-Centric Activities
Activities and Goodies
In-store Promotions
Sidewalk Sales
**JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**STROKE LIFESTYLE GROUP**
If you're a stroke survivor or have had a TIA, you may be experiencing some challenges. You can find emotional and moral support through one another, and learn coping skills that will empower you. This group is facilitated by AdventHealth Zephyrhills Stroke Educator.

*Monday, July 1, 11 am to Noon*
*No reservations required.*

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**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT; STOCK MARKET BASICS**
If you'd like to understand the nuts and bolts of investments including terms, products and options, Scott Taylor, a Certified Financial Planner, would enjoy giving you an overview and answering your questions. The class is purely for educational purposes and no solicitation is permitted. Scott is employed by the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

*Tuesday, July 9, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm*
*Reservations required. Call 813-779-6476.*

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**QUIT TOBACCO TODAY**
A representative from Tobacco Free Florida will provide the free tools and services to help you quit any kind of tobacco. You’ll set a quit date, get support, learn to use nicotine replacement therapies correctly and understand your triggers.

*Wednesday, July 10, 10 am to Noon*
AdventHealth Dade City, Classroom 108
13100 Fort King Road, Dade City
*Reservations required. Call 813-929-1000 (Gulfcoast North AHEC).*

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**ACTING IN LOVE EVEN WHEN YOU FEEL DISRESPECTED**
This class is about the cycle that needs to be broken in relationships when love and respect are lacking. Taught by Doug Higgins, M.Div., AdventHealth Zephyrhills Senior Chaplain, the core principles are based on the book “Love & Respect” by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs.

*Wednesday, July 10, 11 am to noon*
*Reservations required. Call 813-779-6476.*

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**KNOW THE 10 WARNING SIGNS OF ALZHEIMER’S AND DEMENTIA**
Alzheimer’s and dementia cause changes in memory, thinking, and behavior that interfere with daily life. Learn about the 10 common warning signs and what to watch for in yourself and others. This program is facilitated by an Alzheimer’s Association representative.

*Wednesday, July 10, 2 pm to 3 pm*
*Reservations required. Call 813-779-6476.*

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Due to the July 4 holiday, there will not be a Diabetes Support Group. However, this group will meet from 3 pm to 4 pm on Wednesday, August 7.

You can also register for these programs by visiting AdventHealthZephyrhills.com and going to the events page.

**CLASSES ARE FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.**

(Continued on the back)
**JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Grief Support Group**  
Grief is personal and everyone copes differently. Our AdventHealth Chaplains have created a space where you can deal freely with your loss. Their goal is to help you move to a more positive place emotionally and spiritually.  
**Thursday, July 11, 3 pm to 4 pm**  
No reservations required.

**Summer Movie Fun**  
*Priceless* is a 2016 drama about a desperate widower who agrees to drive a truck across the country with no questions asked. But when this widower learns that two frightened sisters are involved, everything changes. This powerful story of love, strength, and redemption will keep you engaged. Popcorn will be provided for a small donation and we'll briefly discuss the movie afterwards.  
**Friday, July 12, 1 pm to 3 pm**  
Reservations required. Call 813-779-6476.

**Art Therapy**  
Have fun with Tampa Bay artist Junior Polo, who'll provide instruction on how to use acrylic paint to create a beautiful canvas that you can take home. There’s a $15 fee per person that includes all art materials.  
**Thursday, July 18, 1 pm to 3 pm**  
Reservations required. Call 813-779-6476.

**Gentle Chair Yoga for Relaxation**  
Hesitant to try yoga but want a great and easy stretch routine? Cara Godwin, yoga instructor, will lead you through this wonderful exercise. Please dress in loose, comfortable clothing. All levels are welcome.  
**Wednesday, July 24, 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm**  
Reservations required. Call 813-779-6476.

**Quit Tobacco Today**  
A representative from Tobacco Free Florida will provide the free tools and services to help you quit any kind of tobacco. You’ll set a quit date, get support, learn to use nicotine replacement therapies correctly and understand your triggers.  
**Tuesday, July 30, 5 pm to 7 pm**  
AdventHealth Wellness Center Zephyrhills  
Reservations required. Call 813-929-1000 (Gulfcoast North AHEC).

You can also register for these programs by visiting AdventHealthZephyrhills.com and going to the events page.

**CLASSES ARE FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.**