

SEMINOLE CHAMBER CHATTER

FEBRUARY 2009

Volume XVII Issue 4

Upcoming Events/February 2009

Together We Will Shine In '09!!

Tues 19th City Council, 7:00 p.m., City Hall

Wed 11th Business Education Workshop
SPC Seminole campus, 7:30 a.m.
TLC Building, Rm. 108

Sat 14th Valentine's Day
Shop first with Seminole Chamber
members for your gifts & gift certificates

Mon 16th President's Day

Wed 18th Chamber Board Meeting,
7:30 a.m. Chamber Office

Thurs 19th Chamber Luncheon
11:30 a.m. Banquet Masters

Mon 23rd Chamber Mixer/Open House
Office of State Rep. Janet Long
5 p.m. to 7 p.m. (545-6421)
5511 Park St. N.
Colonial Bank Building, Suite 101

Tues 24th City Council, 7:00 p.m., City Hall



Community Events

Sat, Feb. 7: GFWC Pinellas Seminole Woman's Club Fashion Luncheon. The event is a fundraiser to provide scholarships. For tickets & information, call Marty Mohn at 391-7960 or Janet Stinson at 581-8745

Chamber Office Info

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Seminole, FL 33775-3337**

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Gretchen Cain:

gretchenc@myseminolechamber.com

Tammy Bibelhauser:

tammyb@myseminolechamber.com

Notary Services Available



First New Member of the Year!

Executive Director Jimmy Johnson was happy to pick up a new membership at Hometown Family Restaurant from the owner, Maria Vasiliadis. Her business at 10395 Seminole Blvd. (483-9420) was the first to join the Chamber in 2009!

Chamber Luncheon Set for February 19

"Re-Engineering The Chamber To Meet Your Needs" will be the program, to be presented by Chamber President Paul Ziegler, at the Chamber's monthly business luncheon. President Paul views this as a great opportunity to review the Chamber's mission and talk about upcoming programs and activities. The luncheon is **Thursday, Feb. 19**, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd. N. Advanced payment (\$12 per person) and registration appreciated. For more information, please call the Chamber office at 392-3245.

Richard Caton Named Chamber's Mr. Seminole

The selection committees, headed up by last year's winners, had their work cut out for them this year with so many worthy nominees from which to choose. Receiving the Chamber's most prestigious was past president 1991-92 Richard Caton "Mr. Seminole." Other recipients: Boss of the Year - Wallace Hopkins, Bay Pines VA Healthcare System; Business of the Year - Uncle Bob's Self Storage/Dan Berard and Merit Award Winner - Bob Holtzman, Ameriprise Financial Services. Each was lauded for his accomplishments this year. (Please see more photos www.seminolechamber.net)



Dr. Jim Olliver & Richard Caton



Bob Holtzman & Harriet Brown



Dan Berard & Bob & Pat Matthews



Wally Hopkins & Dr. Bonnie Cangelosi

SEMINOLE CHAMBER CHATTER



The Eagle Has Landed!

There was excitement in the air Jan. 26 when an American Bald Eagle landed on the rooftop of a residence on 84th Avenue, near the Seminole Chamber Office. The bird was injured and looking for a place to rest. Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary rescue workers were on the scene and able to move the bird to a place of safety, where it can be examined and treated. It is speculated that the eagle flew lower than usual and hit a power line.



You're Invited! Chamber Mixer

Legislative Assistants Barclay Harlass and Katie Eiland brought flyers to be inserted in the Chamber Chatter newsletter, reminding all of the Mixer/Open House at the office of State Rep. Janet Long on Monday, Feb. 23, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Colonial Bank Building, Suite 101, 5511 Park St. N. (545-6421 for directions)

Blessed Sacrament

Carnival 2009
11501 66th Ave. N.
391-4060
Friday March 6 to
Sunday March 8
Please see flyer in this newsletter
New this year! "Guitar Hero" &
Laser Tag

Spring Fling

Multi-Chamber Trade Show
Friday & Saturday, May 8, 9
Both days 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
\$50 for 6 ft. tables
\$60 for 8 ft. tables
Electricity \$25
Reserve Your Space Now
Call the Chamber office at
392-3245



Chamber President's Column By Paul Ziegler

The Work Begins - The Chamber Can Help You Get From Hoping Things Will Be Better to Taking Control

For those of you that missed the annual installation and awards banquet on January 10, it was a fun-filled evening, made so by Ken Burke, our Master of Ceremonies. Ken conducted a local history trivia quiz throughout the evening that kept everyone on their toes, testing their knowledge of the Seminole area. In addition to installing the directors and officers of the Chamber, awards were given to the following: Boss of the Year - Wally Hopkins, administrator Bay Pines VA Hospital, Business of the Year - Dan Berard/ Uncle Bob's Storage, Merit Award Winner, Bob Holtzman and Mr. Seminole, Richard Caton. Congratulations to all of you for being leaders in our community! (Please see photos on our Chamber web site: www.seminolechamber.net).

I want to thank Doc Kinsey for all the hard work he did last year for the Chamber. His dedication continues as he is getting things in place for this year's Seminole Stampede to be held on April 11. This year will be bigger than ever, to include family Easter activities, and Jim Graden's Cardio Karate will host a Stampede kick-off party and Chamber mixer on Thursday, April 9.

As I write this column, Barack Obama is being sworn in as our 44th President, riding into town on a platform of hope and change with the DOW falling another 332 points. While millions cheer in Washington and around the country, many thousands on New York's Wall Street fretted another day of losses. Where will it end and where are we headed? The answer is, it is all up to us. We each have a great deal of influence on the economy in terms of the way we act.

If we are withdrawn and defensive by slowing or stopping our spending out of fear, that behavior spreads to others and eventually we see a contraction in our economy. On the other hand, if we are confident and wise in the way we spend money to build our businesses, the effect is positive and the economy has a good chance of improving. Markets have a way of leveling out over time, but we can speed up the process of recovery by remaining rational focusing on our individual business plans. Remember to do business with a Chamber member whenever you can.

And remember that your Chamber can help you. A benefit of your membership are free Seminole Business Education Workshops where you will be given ideas to you run a better business while making connections with other business people in the community. The workshops are on the second and fourth Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at St. Petersburg College and the information you receive will prepare you to transform from hoping things will change to taking control, so that you make things change. In these tough times, this kind of knowledge is valuable and may be the edge you need to be successful.

Meanwhile, the board of the Chamber is hard at work on getting proposals to improve our web site, changing the monthly lunch format to allow more time to promote each other's business, and we have started a Saturday Morning Think Tank, 8:30 a.m. at Hometown Place Restaurant (formerly Sophia's), for discussing ways to make your Chamber of Commerce work harder to support all our members. We are moving forward - have a good month!



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SEMINOLE CHAMBER CHATTER



Restaurant

Hometown Family Restaurant
 Maria Vasiliadis
 10395 Seminole Blvd.
 Seminole, FL 33708
 Phone: (727)483-9420

Pool Service, Maintenance & Sales

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 Chris Jones
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 Phone: (727)224-1679
 cjspoolservice@gmail.com
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New Member: Pet Supplies Plus
 Welcomed by Gretchen Cain and Jimmy Johnson, owners Dave Oser, left, and Ken Darrish, right, are excited to be new members of the Seminole Chamber of Commerce. On Jan. 16, Chamber and City officials, representing Pinellas Park and Seminole, participated in a ribbon cutting for the store's grand opening. The business is located at 7331 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park. For a list of pet supplies and *pluses* offered, please see the web site: www.petsuppliesplus.com



"Always Shop First With A
 Seminole Chamber Member!"

Pet Store

Pet Supplies Plus
 Dave Oser
 7331 Park Blvd.
 Pinellas Park, FL 33781
 Phone: (727)541-1199
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President Paul Ziegler took this photo of the Board of Directors at their monthly meeting Jan. 21. He was trying out his new 'toy' - a digital camera. Clockwise are Jacob Valintine, Jackie Tatsak, Dan Berard, David Bates, Gretchen Cain, Steve Zazzaro, Marianne Fisher, Nancy Giles, Bob Holtzman and Doc Kinsey.



It pays to keep in touch with your Chamber!
 Seminole Chamber member Chad Livingston (Chad's Window Tinting) recently dropped by the Chamber office just to say "hi" and

found a job waiting for him: window tinting this car in the Chamber parking lot. For more information, call Chad at 545-5839.

Jimmy's Gem: Paul Ziegler

Equipped with lots of ideas and even more enthusiasm, Paul Ziegler is off to a good start as President of the Chamber of Commerce. Shown with his family at the Installation Banquet, Paul is prepared to do whatever it takes to



move the Chamber forward in spite of these difficult economic times. "Paul is very professional, and with his finance and managerial experience (Colonial Bank), we are fortunate to have him on the Chamber team," said Jimmy. Paul is taking the lead in getting some interesting programs lined up for our monthly luncheons this year, and will assist as co-chair of the Seminole Stampede. "Paul is all about helping our members and making sure they utilize all the benefits of belonging to our Chamber," said Jimmy. Paul is familiar with all the Chamber's projects and activities, having been an active participant, and is focused on helping businesses survive and thrive.

It pays to advertise in the monthly Chamber Chatter newsletter!

\$50: inserts, you provide 500 copies
 \$25: business card \$75: half page ad



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

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

SEMINOLE CHAMBER CHATTER

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Open House Station 29

City of Seminole Fire Rescue

Sunday, March 8

Noon to 3 p.m.

11195 70th Ave. N.

Come Join in the Fun!!

- Free Food & Drinks
- Learn about Fire & Injury Prevention
 - Fire Clowns
 - Tour the Fire Station
 - Extrication & Live Fire Demos

SEMINOLE CHAMBER CHATTER

Feb. 11: EnviroBusiness

Hazardous Waste

Collection Day Scheduled

The EnviroBusiness hazardous waste collection days are just for businesses and are scheduled for the second Wednesday of every month (Feb. 11) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Household Electronics & Chemical Collection Center, 2990 110th Ave. N., St. Petersburg.

Businesses pay the contractors directly, at the county's reduced contract prices.* Any business may drop off their hazardous electronics. To drop off chemicals, businesses need to qualify as small waste generators (producing less than 25 gallons, or 220 pounds, of chemical waste per month). For more information, call (727) 464-7500 or visit

www.pinellascounty.org/



Lake Seminole Presbyterian Church celebrates 45 years

Lake Seminole Presbyterian Church, a Seminole Chamber member, celebrated its 45th anniversary Jan. 17 and 18. On Saturday, a fun-filled celebration was held with a chili cook-off, games for all ages, hot dogs and drinks, good fellowship, renewal of old friendships and a great deal of camaraderie and fun. The Sunday worship service was a continuation of the celebration of 45 years. Those in attendance included Chamber Executive Director Jimmy Johnson/Mayor of Seminole and Vice Mayor, Thomas Barnhorn. Helen Huntley, Moderator brought greetings from the Presbytery of Tampa Bay and Kelly Anderson, Voluntary Service Specialist at Bay Pines VA Healthcare System, presented the church with a certificate of appreciation for members who visited with gifts at Christmas. George Clark, a charter member reminisced about the early beginnings and Bonnie Cook who grew up in the church spoke of her memories as a child. Holly Davis, a new member, described her impressions of the current church.

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SEMINOLE CHAMBER CHATTER

Learn & Have Fun! Chamber Business Education Workshop Programs Ahead

Meetings of the Seminole Chamber's Business Education Workshops are on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month, 7:30 a.m., St. Petersburg College, Seminole, TLC Building, Room 108. The presenter for Feb. 11 is entrepreneur Linda Burhans, who will lead an interactive program on "The Power of Working Together." On Feb. 25, Chuck Vosburgh, Pro Techniques, will give helpful hints on "Using the Internet to Grow Your Business."

This is an opportunity to exchange business cards that will produce leads, but foremost a workshop to facilitate learning. Participation is one of many intangible benefits of being a Chamber member. Enjoy the free coffee, camaraderie and fun!



Pow Wow Parade Participants Wanted

The City of Seminole and the Pow Wow Committee are looking for sponsors to partner with for the 41st annual Seminole Pow Wow Festival March 13, 14 and 15. Those interested should call Jim Sheets for details at 391-8345. Participants for the parade, which will take place Saturday, March 14 at 10 a.m., also are being sought. The deadline to register is February 20.



Registration Now Available:

*Seminole Stampede 5k and Imile runs
& Family Easter Outing*

Saturday, April 11, 7:30 a.m.
Walsingham Park

727-392-1000



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At the Installation & Awards Banquet, President Doc Kinsey exchanges the gavel with incoming president Paul Ziegler.



Board Members being installed by Clerk of Circuit Courts Ken Burke, included, from left, Jackie Tatsak, Dr. Jim Olliver, Jacob Valintine, David Bates, Dan Berard, Paul Ziegler. Also installed were Nancy Giles, Mike McQuilkin, Marianne Fisher, Bob Holtzman and Steve Zazzaro.



Installation & Awards Banquet 2009

This year's banquet was indeed memorable as Seminole Chamber members received awards and the Board of Directors for 2009 was installed by the Clerk of Circuit Courts Ken Burke. It was an opportunity to thank the 2008 Board and Chamber Staff for a job well done, and to recognize some of their accomplishments of the past year:

- Successful projects such as Seminole Sings, Stampede, Tribute to Teachers, Kids Appreciation Day, Back to School Supplies Drive, Really Big Show concert, Golf Tournament, Trade Show, Holiday Night Parade.
- Business Assistance Partnership program with city and county, identifying at risk and growth postured businesses in Seminole, list of "empty storefronts" and redevelopment sites for prospective renters or buyers.
- Practical Entrepreneurship and Business Education Workshops
- Arranging for and participating in numerous ribbon cuttings and open houses for our 50 new businesses, as well as and socials for other members.



A special thank you was given to our Directors who finished out their terms of office: Dr. Sandra Lilo, Bob Castles, Harriet Brown, Dr. Claude McMullen, and (not pictured) John Watkins and "Rep" DeLoach.



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