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Greater Mulberry Chamber of Commerce

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Website: MulberryChamber.org

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT CLARKE FREED

WELCOME TO SUMMER!

We are in the dog days of summer with the heat index in the 100's, the grass needs to be cut every 5 days and the electric bill spiking in order to keep cool inside. This is a time when many of us take vacations. From watching social media and hearing from some of you, it seems that favorite places to travel to this summer include the beach, traveling out west, or a cruise to Alaska or down the Danube River. Whatever your choice this summer, we pray you stay safe and enjoy the travel that many of us have not been able to do since the beginning of the pandemic over two years ago.

While the world slowly gets back to "normal" many of us are still struggling with supply chain issues and labor shortages, and we are asking ourselves the question – "is this the new normal?" These challenges put additional stress on the business community that has already had a couple of challenging years. One way to help relieve some of that stress is through connection. By connecting with other businesses, business owners and business managers we can share the stress and collectively seek creative ways to work through the issues that plague us. I encourage you to use your Chamber connections. Come join us as we gather on the third Wednesday of each month for our Chamber breakfast. It's a great way to start the day. You'll experience good food, connection, fun and even learn something new from our program each month.

As July comes to a close and August is upon us, that means school is about to start. Over the summer, the Chamber has been involved in collecting school supplies for the Back-to-school-bash to be held on August 6. We also held our July breakfast at the new Mulberry High School cafeteria and had tours of the new building. This newest school in Polk County is set to serve the students and the community for years to come and we are so blessed to have Mr. Michael Young as its principle. As a Chamber we will continue looking for opportunities to support our schools.

Our Chamber continues to grow as we have added a number of new members over the past year. Last month we hosted our first new member reception since the pandemic. It was an enjoyable and engaging evening for all who attended. For our long-time members, let's reach out and get to know some of our newer businesses and engage with them in their business. For our newer members, I encourage you to seek business opportunities with your fellow Chamber members. Let's work together to grow our business community and add value to the greater Mulberry community. As fall rolls in and the weather cools a bit, more activities will be available throughout the City, the Chamber and the business community. Fall is a great time to connect, engage and participate.

SEE YOU AT THE FOOTBALL GAME!

Member SPOTLIGHT



SUPERB IMAGES, having been a Chamber member for a long time, many know that I am on career "2.0". Wade Altman, my former partner in Florida Tech Group is now carrying on our IT work and I have semi-retired to work full time on professional photography, something I have done for many years. I have been licensed since 1980 but recently completed all the requirements for my **CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER** designation. These days, almost anyone can buy a camera and call themselves a professional photographer, and many do. Few, however, have achieved CPP status, which tells our clients they are working with someone who has demonstrated that they truly are a professional with the experience and skills required.

I have most recently been involved with tutoring photography students, providing real estate photography (We are FAA licensed for commercial drone operations) and doing other commercial photography projects. I recently did a photo shoot for a national calendar put out by a automobile paint manufacturer, traveling from Leesburg to Ft. Lauderdale to photograph classic automobiles.

I would love to work with families who want to update their portraits, Realtors who need their listings to stand out and individuals, perhaps retirees, who want to take up or improve their photography skills.

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Mulberry High School Varsity Football Schedule

| Date | Day | Opponent(s) | | |
|----------------|----------|--------------------------------|------|------|
| Aug. 19, 2022 | Friday | Cocoa Beach | Home | 7:00 |
| Aug. 25, 2022 | Thursday | Lake Region | Away | 7:00 |
| Sept. 2, 2022 | Thursday | George Jenkins | Home | 7:00 |
| Sept. 9, 2022 | Friday | Tohopekaligia (Kissimmee) | Home | 7:30 |
| Sept. 16, 2022 | Friday | OPEN | | |
| Sept. 23, 2022 | Friday | Santa Fe Catholic (Homecoming) | Home | 7:30 |
| Sept. 30, 2022 | Friday | Discovery * | Home | 7:30 |
| Oct. 7, 2022 | Friday | Lake Placid | Away | 7:30 |
| Oct. 14, 2022 | Friday | Frostproof * | Away | 7:30 |
| Oct. 21, 2022 | Friday | Bayshore (Bradenton) | Home | 7:30 |
| Oct. 28, 2022 | Friday | Tenoroc * | Away | 7:30 |
| Nov. 4, 2022 | Friday | Parrish (Senior Night) | Home | 7:00 |

* District Game

Advantages:

- Publicity Boost
- Networking Opportunities
- Assistance in Creating Business Solutions
- Educational Opportunities Available
- Value Added Marketing
- Community Involvement

When consumers know that a small business is a member of its local chamber, the business enjoys a 44% increase in its consumer favorability rating, a 51% increase in consumer awareness, a 57% increase in its local reputation, and a 63% increase in the likelihood that they will patronize.

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DID YOU KNOW???

The Mulberry Chamber has 16 businesses that were nominated for BEST OF CENTRAL FLORIDA? These awards celebrate and recognize the best our community has to offer. These businesses were nominated by the public earlier this year and the response was overwhelming! Only the top companies in each category made it to the final voting stage. Congratulations to the following members:

Bartow Ford • Central Florida Speech and Hearing • Charm City Seafood • Citizens Bank and Trust • ServPro • Dena's Place Diner and Grill • Edward Jones • Eye Specialists of Mid-Florida • Rita Staffing • Headley Insurance Agency • State Farm Insurance – Michell Githens • Mulberry Ace Hardware • SouthState Bank • Spath Jewelers Inc. • Suncoast Credit Union • Two Men and a Truck

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Ambassador

SPOTLIGHT

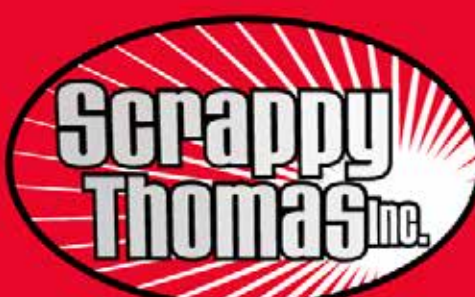
KATIE TRUTA



Meet **Katie Truta** one of our Chamber Ambassadors.

- **Katie** has been with Rita Staffing since 2019. Rita Staffing is a Staffing Agency in Central Florida that has been in business for 49 years. We offer Clerical, Light Industrial and Professional positions for candidates and thriving businesses.
- The agency became part of the Chamber in 2019
- What I like most about the Mulberry chamber are the relationships built through the chamber. Everyone involved either works or lives in the area so everyone has buy in to make the community a better place.
- I grew up in Mulberry and when we decided to buy a house and raise a family, we knew there was no better place for us. **It truly is a great community!**

If you are interested in becoming a chamber ambassador please contact Lisa Hall at lhall@ritastaffing.com




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NEW GREATER MULBERRY *Chamber Members*

The Greater Mulberry Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome the following new members. We encourage you to stop by or somehow connect with them and give them a warm Mulberry welcome.

Miller's Ale House

5650 South Florida Avenue

863-709-9262

Contact - Jorge Burgoa

Serving comfort food, casual sports bar, family friendly. Outdoor seating available.



Mulberry Food & Pharmacy

806 North Church Avenue

863-943-6270

Contact – Joe Abraham

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Nothing Bundt Cakes

Lake Miriam Square

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Contact: Andrea Jarmon

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Contact: Savannah Rudolph

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AT CITY HALL

It's hard to believe that another summer has come and gone in the City of Mulberry. We love offering fun activities to do throughout the year but summer is always jam-packed!

The Mulberry Public Library celebrated the season with the summer reading theme of "Oceans of Possibilities". This theme inspired other departments throughout the city for a fin-tastic time.



City pool enjoyed by guests

The library welcomed the Florida Aquarium with a presentation on marine mega fauna, presented by The Friends of the Mulberry Library.

A pirate reading challenge has been issued (nearly completed as this goes to print) of 100,000 reading minutes.

Participants log their minutes with a chance to win "the pirate's booty."

The pool opened for summer with Summer Splash. This year's opening highlighted "Oceans of Possibilities" with a real mermaid being in attendance at the event.

The Mulberry Phosphate Museum is thrilled to bring back Shark Week Comes Ashore, a celebration of all things sharks. Why sharks, you ask? Millions of years ago the area that would be Mulberry was home to sharks, including the fearsome Megalodon.

Fossilized shark teeth are often found in the local phosphate layer as a result.

The Gem Theater hosted themed screenings of 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea and Hook to be a part of the splashy fun.

While these are only a few of the offerings and projects busying city staff, "Oceans of Possibilities" proved a whale of time city-wide!



A real mermaid for Summer Splash!



Beating the heat in city pool



More pool opening fun!



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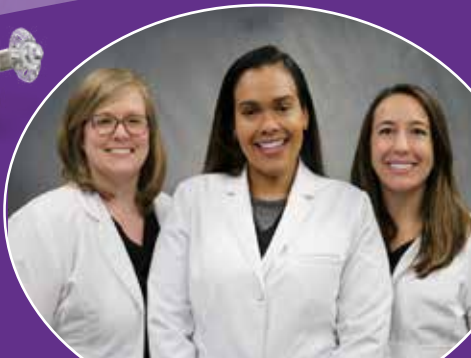
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Sponsored by State Representative Melony Bell Doors open at 7:30
- September 21 - Chamber Breakfast - 8am - 9am Mulberry Civic Center**
Sponsored by Edgan Murray (Kiwanis presenting) Doors open at 7:30
- October 19 - Chamber Breakfast - 8am - 9am Mulberry Civic Center**
Sponsored by Clark Environmental Doors open at 7:30
- October 29- Monster Mash 5K walkrun - 7am Mulberry Civic Center**
Sponsored by TBA
- November 3 - Let's get down to Quizness - Mulberry Civic Center**
Sponsored by TBA 7:30pm
- November 16 - Chamber Breakfast - 8am - 9am Mulberry Civic Center**
Sponsored by TBA Doors open at 7:30
- December 21 - Chamber Breakfast - 8am - 9am Mulberry Civic Center**
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