

*WE LOVE MULBERRY! (AND ALL OF OUR HEROES!)*



You may have seen these banners in and around the Mulberry City Limits. In this fight against COVID-19, there are unsung Heroes on every corner. Even in our small town there are people working every day to keep our community safe and strong. First Responders, Health Care Workers, Restaurant Workers, Retail Workers and Truck Drivers. Several of our local businesses are part of the front line fight and we thank you!

*And thanks to the City and Southern Graphics for helping recognize them.*

## *Inside . . .*

Ribbon Cutting  
President's Message  
Community Updates

## **Greater Mulberry Chamber of Commerce**

PO Box 254, Mulberry, FL 33860

Ph. 863.425.4414

Email: [Chamber@MulberryChamber.org](mailto:Chamber@MulberryChamber.org)

Website: [MulberryChamber.org](http://MulberryChamber.org)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JIM JONES  
PRESIDENT

CLARKE FREED  
LISA HALL  
VICE PRESIDENTS

JACOB DRIGGERS  
TREASURER

CINDY BRYSON  
SECRETARY

PAT STOTTEMYER  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

SANDI SIMPSON  
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WADE ALTMAN

VALERIE ARTER

JUAN BOCANEGRA

TRACIE CARLEY

BETH CLARK

RUTHANN STAFFORD-COUTO

RICHARD DAMES

CHRIS MINCEY

SUSAN SKIPPER

SHERRY WARREN

GREG WILKERSON

CHELSEA YOUNG

## HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

RICK JOHNSON

JOY HALL

GEORGE HATCH

## IMPERIAL DIAMOND CLUB



Mulberry Chamber 2



## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT JIM JONES

### "THE NEW NORMAL"

Most of us have experienced some significant events in our lives that changed the way we did things and created a "new normal". I remember the Tylenol scare of the 1970's that changed products on the shelves and introduced "tamper evident" packaging to our society. Certainly, the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> changed the face of air travel forever.

With remarkable speed all of us have adapted to "social distancing", increased hand washing and sanitizing, wearing of face masks as well as frequently taking temperatures and monitoring symptoms of COVID-19. As with the events I mentioned above this literally happened almost overnight, and none of us would have ever expected that we would all be at home or that businesses, churches and schools would be closed for weeks on end.

And while all of us are eager to return to "normal", none of us really knows what the "new normal" will look like and there is even a possibility that we won't be able to return to the way things used to be. Until a vaccine is developed for COVID-19 a subset of our population will continue to be at risk. How that affects all of us moving forward and for how long is still an unknown. But to move forward we must continue to do certain things:

- FOLLOW GUIDELINES SET BY HEALTH AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENTS
- CONTINUE THE USE OF MITIGATION THAT HAS PROVED EFFECTIVE
- STAY CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER IN ANY WAY WE CAN
- SUPPORT EACH OTHER ....ESPECIALLY OUR LOCAL ECONOMY
- SHARE IDEAS TO FIND STRATEGIES TO EFFECTIVELY RETURN TO BUSINESS
- BE CREATIVE, RESILIENT, FLEXIBLE AND READY TO PIVOT

In the coming weeks and months, The Greater Mulberry Chamber of Commerce will be here to support and assist our members and our community. Whatever our "new normal" looks like, I find comfort that we will experience it together.



**PAT STOTTELMYER**, Past Chamber President , says the recent weeks have been a blessing, although trying time for his business. But Pat's advice to our local businesses.....continue to find ways to serve your customers and community in the midst of COVID and Quarantine. Initially, Doss Flowers had to make adjustments and look for opportunities when restrictions were put into place.

As flights were canceled into the country the supply chain was interrupted and Pat found it difficult to get his daily shipment of flowers from South America. Imagine that....a florist with no flowers! When he did find supplies, the costs were 2-3 times more expensive than prices before the pandemic. And on top of that, weddings, funerals and events were canceled or postponed. So some days he didn't even need flowers!

The daily change of the narrative and constant change of information caused Pat and his staff to look for new norms and to get creative. **BUT ONE THING HE SAYS HAS HELPED THEM WEATHER THE STORM...TAKE IT ONE DAY AT A TIME.** Then establish new goals. Change your goals when needed. And look for and embrace the new norms. As a result of this attitude, sales begin to rise ...20% on Easter 40% on Mothers Day. Pat says they had to do some things they had never done before....but you have to focus on the future to build upon your past. He said he would have never imagined when he bought a florist years ago that someday he would come up with the idea of "contactless delivery"! But the willingness to change and the desires of the customer may have created a new norm in his business.

**WHAT IS YOUR NEW NORM? HAVE YOU FIGURED OUT YOUR NEW GOALS?**

**Opportunity may mean you need to make adjustments!**

## JOIN TODAY!

### Newsletter Advertising Rates

(4 issues - full color)

Business Card	3.75" x 2.5"	\$100
Quarter Page	3.75" x 4.875"	\$150
Third Page	10.125" x 2.5"	\$200
Half Page	4.875" x 7.75"	\$250
Full Page	8.5" x 11"	\$400

#### 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

Call 863.425.4414 or email [chamber@mulberrychamber.org](mailto:chamber@mulberrychamber.org) to schedule your ad today!

Newsletter printed by Press Express • [www.pressexpresspolk.net](http://www.pressexpresspolk.net)



**Badcock & more**  
HOME FURNITURE

find the nearest store at :

**www.badcock.com**

## INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*Sandi Simpson*

With cancelled and rescheduled events, many of you have not had a chance to meet our interim Executive Director, **Sandi Simpson**. When you do meet her, you will be in for real treat.

Sandi is an experienced administrator and businesswoman who retired several years ago. She even once worked for the Chamber of Commerce in Sausalito, California!

Sandi resides in Lakeland and has worked for two of our member companies ...Rita Staffing and Sterigenics. Her background has helped the Chamber in this time of transition.

# WELCOME SANDI!

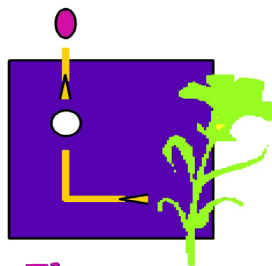
Feel free to call her at 425-4414 or  
send her an email at [chamber@mulberrychamber.org](mailto:chamber@mulberrychamber.org)

**Clark**  
ENVIRONMENTAL

**Cleaning Earth**  
One Ton at a Time

**Transportation  
Treatment  
Disposal  
Drums & Bulk  
Sludges  
Liquids  
Solids**

**ClarkEnv.com**  
**863.425.4884**  
**Mulberry, FL**



**Doss Flowers & Gifts**

P.O. Box 282  
111 West Badcock Blvd.  
Mulberry, FL 33860  
ph: (863) 425-2021  
[dossflorist@hotmail.com](mailto:dossflorist@hotmail.com)  
[www.dossflowers.com](http://www.dossflowers.com)



*Just 4 Kids Preschool, Inc*

**Just 4 Kids Preschool Inc.**  
Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6  
[just4kidsmulberry.com](http://just4kidsmulberry.com)

801 NW 3rd Street, Mulberry, FL 33860  
209 East Canal Street, Mulberry, FL 33860  
863-869-9624 or 863-425-0012  
Email: [just4kids@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:just4kids@tampabay.rr.com)



# 21 Years of President's Awards For Customer Service

• High Volume Discount • Small Town Customer Service! •



Come see why we're different and we prove it!

## BARTOW FORD

INTEGRITY • TRUST • HONESTY

Bartow Ford 2800 US Hwy 98 N, Bartow, FL 33830

863-533-0425

[www.bartowford.com](http://www.bartowford.com)

## Your Local Mulberry Real Estate Professionals



*SERVICE YOU DESERVE • PEOPLE YOU TRUST*

**6615 N. Church Avenue, Mulberry**

(Inside the Storage Authority, next to Walmart)

### Kathy & Paul Chalue

**863-582-1109**

- \* Free Comparative Market Analysis
- \* Professional Photography included
- \* Proven Results for Buying & Selling
- \* A Committed team with 100% Guarantee of Service



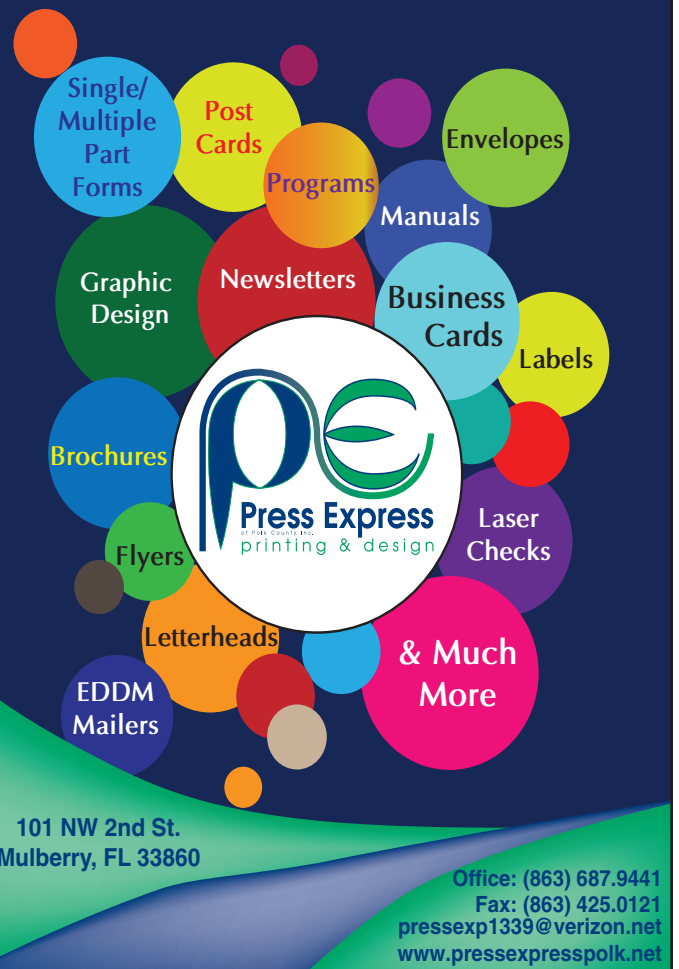
## Suzanne Murphy

Email: [digitalrevenuenow@gmail.com](mailto:digitalrevenuenow@gmail.com)

Phone: 863-581-9819

101 NW 2nd St.  
Mulberry, FL 33860

Office: (863) 687.9441  
Fax: (863) 425.0121  
[pressexp1339@verizon.net](mailto:pressexp1339@verizon.net)  
[www.pressexpresspolk.net](http://www.pressexpresspolk.net)





# Parrish & Parrish CPAs, P.A.

Is building your business keeping you up at night?

Need a helping hand?

Have questions and just want a straight answer?



Let Parrish & Parrish CPAs, P.A. help you understand your money!  
We're a small business dedicated to meeting your small business needs.  
Around here, you're not just a number, but our *neighbor*! Our roots run deep  
in this community and it's our pleasure to join with you in helping it thrive.

Contact us today to schedule your free consultation!

6700 S Florida Ave, Ste 19 • Lakeland, FL 33813

863.709.8337 • [www.parrishfinancial.com](http://www.parrishfinancial.com) • [info@parrishcpas.com](mailto:info@parrishcpas.com)





## Meanwhile at City Hall ...

The City of Mulberry is slowly beginning to re-open our various buildings to the general public. We will begin by opening the **Mulberry Public Library** on **Tuesday, May 26th**, followed by the **Mulberry Cultural Center** and **Mulberry Phosphate Museum** on **Wednesday May 27th**. **Mulberry City Hall** will remain **closed to the public at this time**. Please see below for all the details on our Phase 1 openings.

Beginning Tuesday, May 26th the Mulberry Public Library will re-open to 50% capacity. There will be no lingering, or computer usage allowed, and all in-person programming is suspended for the time being. Please utilize the Mulberry Public Library's YouTube and Facebook for their extended virtual programming catalog. They will continue their door-side service, and faxing, printing and coping will be available only for government, medical and job search needs. These services will be complimentary through the end of May.

On Wednesday, May 27th, the Mulberry Cultural Center and Mulberry Phosphate Museum will re-open to 50% capacity, and suspending all in-person programming. Please check out the Mulberry Cultural Center and Mulberry Phosphate Museum on their Facebook and YouTube pages for quality virtual programming and content.

**When all three facilities re-open we ask that all visitors practice social distancing and recommend that masks be worn.**

City Hall is remaining closed at this time, but accepting payments online and check or money orders in the drop box at the City Hall parking lot. We are suspending all late fees, disconnection fees, and point and pay fees for the time being. There will be no water cut-offs through mid-June.

All rental facilities are closed through the month of June. Parks and Playgrounds (sanitization happening twice daily) are open and we ask all visitors to practice social distancing.

For more information check us out on Facebook at @CityofMulberryFL, and online at [cityofmulberryfl.org](http://cityofmulberryfl.org).

# Stay safe, Mulberry!



*There are a million ways to beautiful -  
I'd like to help you find yours!*



### Tracie Carley

Independent Sales Director  
[Marykay.com/tcarley](http://Marykay.com/tcarley)  
(863) 738-0145



## CenterState

We're here to  
*simplify* your  
banking life.

Lake Miriam Branch  
4719 S. Florida Ave.  
Lakeland, FL 33813  
**863.648.0900**

[CenterStateBank.com](http://CenterStateBank.com)



DELICIOUS

## Reasey DONUTS

202 E. Canal Street  
Mulberry, FL 33860  
Phone: (863) 943-4401

Tuesday - Sunday  
4:30 A.M. - 1 P.M.  
Saturday  
4:30 A.M. - 1 P.M.

BREAKFAST • CROISSANTS • DONUTS • BAGELS • BISCUITS • MUFFINS • TURNOVERS • EGGROLL





# STAFFING SOLUTIONS TO FIT YOUR BUSINESS NEEDS

Express Employment Professionals has a solution for your hiring needs. Whether you want temporary help now, or you're looking for the perfect fit for a long-term position, Express has skilled workers ready when your business needs them.

Call or go online today to see how Express can help.

Solutions include:

- Evaluation to Hire
- Flexible Staffing
- Industrial
- Administrative to Professional

(863) 535-1318

1805 US Hwy. 98 South, Ste. A&C  
Lakeland, FL 33801

**Express**  
EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS

*Putting a million  
people to work.*



ExpressPros.com

*Not just a Realtor,  
Your Realtor!*



- Buy
- Sell
- Build
- Invest



**Carla Meeks**

863-604-9287

[www.carlameeksrealtor.com](http://www.carlameeksrealtor.com)





Fee Only Fiduciary Advisors specializing in:



**Hurlburt Financial**  
ARE YOU READY...GET READY  
Evans & Hurlburt CPA's, P.A.

- ◆ Personal Financial Planning
- ◆ Retirement Planning
- ◆ Estate Planning
- ◆ Tax Strategies

863.701.9717

Are You Ready...Get Ready...

**GROW!**



[www.HurlburtFinancial.com](http://www.HurlburtFinancial.com)



# Affected By **COVID-19**?

## Let US Help!!



**The Polk County - BOCC and United Way of Central Florida has partnered with the Mulberry Community Service Center and the Personal Finance Center of Polk County to offer**  
**Economic Relief to Polk County Residents**  
**who have experienced loss because of COVID-19**

**Eligibility Requirements:**

- Household Income Less than \$75,000
- Liquid Assets Less than \$2000
- Polk County Resident and US Citizen
- Picture ID and Social Security Card
- Copy of Bills to be Considered
- Proof of Income Reduction/Loss Due to COVID-19



**Apply online at:**

<https://www.mulberrycsc.com/forms>

**Or Call:**

**Mulberry Community Service Center**

Meeting Community Needs, One Family at a Time  
1392 N. Church Ave, Mulberry, FL 33860  
863-425-1523





# Business SPOTLIGHT



Carla Meeks is more than a Realtor- She is a resident of Bartow, a neighbor and a Mulberry Chamber member! She knows Central Florida. And whether you are buying or selling, she has contacts and knows the local market trends that help make your Real Estate experience successful. She understands that buying or selling Real Estate is an investment and that it is important to you....and she believes in having a personal relationship with her clients and is there right beside you every step of the way. Her website allows you to see homes for sell in whatever area you are looking for, and if you are a buyer, you can see what is available in the market as well. As a Member of the Greater Mulberry Chamber, Carla is concerned and engaged with what is going on in our Community. She cares about the people and businesses that live and work along side of her. Carla donates 10% of her commissions to the charity of her client's choice.



Recently, she moved into a newly renovated office at 1510 N Broadway Avenue in Bartow. (pictured above) On May 13th, President Jim Jones and Past President Pat Stottlemeyer were COVID compliant when congratulating Carla Meeks and her husband, Mark with an official ribbon cutting at her new location.

Stop in to see her and let her **FIND YOUR DREAM HOME!** [Carlameeksrealtor.com](http://Carlameeksrealtor.com)



# HOLMQUIST & CO.

DIGITAL BRANDING FIRM

*Specializing in social media & creative  
digital branding strategies*

Social Media Management

---

Video / Podcast Editing

---

Graphic Design

@holmquistandco

(863) 220-9584

Schedule your free discovery call today!  
[www.holmquistandco.com/discovery](http://www.holmquistandco.com/discovery)







## PREPARE, PROTECT & PRESERVE: REOPENING AFTER COVID

To ensure our community continues to move forward through the coming recovery phases, A-C-T is here to help prepare your facilities, protect your people and preserve your peace of mind.

We help **PREPARE YOUR FACILITIES** to reopen by performing pre-opening cleaning and disinfecting services.

We help **PROTECT YOUR PEOPLE** — your employees and patrons — by decontaminating facilities and vehicles with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 exposure.

We help **PRESERVE YOUR PEACE OF MIND** by customizing and implementing routine decontamination programs as part of your regular, active facility operations.

A-C-T will perform these services or train your staff to safely and properly disinfect your facilities.



**A-C-T RESPONSE HOTLINE**  
**1.800.226.0911**

### **A-C-T INFECTIOUS & HAZARDOUS RESPONSE**

#### *Health & Safety is Our #1 Priority.*

We implement comprehensive site safety protocols on every project.

#### *Experienced Professionals.*

Our team decontaminated commercial aircraft and government facilities after passengers and employees were identified as having tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).

We were called upon by and supported the FBI in decontaminating anthrax delivered to the AMI Building in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

#### *We Are Ready.*

We employ the best people, whose experience and expertise, combined with the right equipment and capabilities are ready to respond to any coronavirus related assignment.

*If you have a confirmed case or suspect your facility may have been exposed to COVID-19, contact our decontamination experts.*



**A-C-T RESPONSE HOTLINE: 800.226.0911**  
1875 W. MAIN STREET • BARTOW, FLORIDA 33830  
INFO@A-C-T.COM • WWW.A-C-T.COM





# Ladies Night

As sad as we are that we had to postpone our fifth annual Ladies Night the committee is excited at the prospect of holding the event in the fall of 2020.

The moment we have a date secured, we will alert the membership!

Your committee,

Wade Altman, Tracie Carley, Ruthann Stafford Couto, Faye Doppelheuer,  
Debbie Knox, Suzanne Murphy, Susan Skipper and Chelsea Young.



## SOUTH LAKELAND

5850 Florida Ave. S.  
Lakeland, FL 33813  
863-225-1460

Mark Shapiro, Office Manager  
NMLS# 1314385

Proud to be your bank, since 1920. Member  
CITIZENS-BANK.COM FDIC



Clarke Freed  
Business Coach

## FREED & ASSOCIATES, LLC

**863-559-3786**

clarke.freed@gmail.com



*An independent certified coach, teacher and speaker with the John Maxwell Team*

*"Helping you create the change you want for yourself and your business."*



## SERVPRO of Bartow/Lakeland Highlands

Independently Owned and Operated

### 24-Hour Emergency Service

Mold, Fire, & Water ~ Cleanup & Restoration  
Carpet, Tile, & Upholstery Cleaning

**863~510~5962**

PO Box 208  
Highland City, FL 33846

[www.servprobartowlakelandhighlands.com](http://www.servprobartowlakelandhighlands.com)

Mulberry Chamber Members receive a **15% discount** on their first carpet cleaning. Mention the Mulberry Chamber when you schedule an appointment.



**"Like it never even happened."**



*We're Inspirational*

**863-701-7230**

2020 Shepherd Rd. • Mulberry FL 33860

joshuaskitchen@yahoo.com

M-Th. 6AM-10AM Special

2 eggs, home fries or grits & toast \$2.99 (no sub)



**863-425-5080**

211 NW 1st Avenue. • Mulberry FL 33860

All you can eat Fish & Chips \$10.49

Starts at 10:30AM Fridays

**America's *TAX* & ACCOUNTING SERVICE**

**TAX SERVICES  
ALL YEAR ROUND**



**MULBERRY CHAMBER  
MEMBERS**

**\$25 OFF**

**ACCOUNTING/BOOKKEEPING SERVICES**

- Payroll Services (including all quarterly filings)
- Financial Statement Preparation • Account Reconciliations
- **State & Federal Income & Sales tax filings**
- Cash flow analysis • Company Formation

**863.644.9756**  
[www.americas-tax.com](http://www.americas-tax.com)

5304 S. Florida Avenue, Suite 404  
Lakeland, FL 33813



**214 E. CANAL ST., MULBERRY, FL 33860**

**(863) 943-5917**

**Drive Thru:** Mon.-Sat. 5am-10pm, Sun. 6am-10pm

**Dine-In:** 7am-10pm daily

SUBWAY® is a Registered Trademark of Subway IP Inc. ©2016 Subway IP Inc. SUBTAM-16154



**BUY A 6-INCH SUB OR 6-INCH FLATBREAD WITH  
A 21 OZ. DRINK AND GET ANOTHER 6-INCH SUB  
OF EQUAL OR LESSER PRICE FOR FREE!**

**NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS | ONLY VALID AT 214 E. CANAL ST., MULBERRY, FL 33860**

Additional charge for extras. Plus tax where applicable. May not be combined with any other offers, discount cards or coupons. Must be surrendered at time of purchase. No cash value.  
One coupon per customer per visit. Void if transferred, sold, auctioned, reproduced or altered. SUBWAY® is a Registered Trademark of Subway IP Inc. ©2016 Subway IP Inc. SUBTAM-16154

MULBERRY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
P.O. BOX 254  
MULBERRY, FL 33860



# STAFFING POLK COUNTY FOR 47 YEARS

WE WORK FOR YOU!



SOUTH LAKELAND • NORTH LAKELAND  
PLANT CITY • WINTER HAVEN • SEBRING

[WWW.RITASTAFFING.COM](http://WWW.RITASTAFFING.COM)



• WAREHOUSE WORKERS  
• CLERICAL CANDIDATES  
• TEMP TO HIRE STAFFING  
• FLEXIBLE STAFFING



## *Save the Dates*

**MAY 20**

**Chamber Breakfast – 8AM  
Virtual Meeting**

**JUNE 9**

**Lunch and Learn - Noon**

**JUNE 17**

**Chamber Breakfast – 8AM  
Virtual Meeting**

## *Sponsor* **OPPORTUNITIES**

**CHAMBER EVENTS ARE A  
GREAT WAY TO GET YOUR  
BUSINESS IMPORTANT  
NAME RECOGNITION**

### **OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:**

- HOSTING MIXERS
- CHAMBER BREAKFASTS
- FUNDRAISING EVENTS
- DIRECTORY ADS
- ANNUAL DINNER

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT THE  
CHAMBER OFFICE  
(863)425-4414**