



2015 Greater Mulberry Chamber of Commerce

A CLOSER *look*

VOLUME 3 2015 WINTER ISSUE



SAVE THE DATE

April 24, 2015 • 1:00PM Shotgun Start • Post Reception and Awards

All Proceeds Support the Greater Mulberry Chamber of Commerce • Bartow Golf Course • 190 Idlewood Ave., Bartow, FL 33830

Look out for registration & sponsorship opportunities available in March!!

SAVE THE DATE

February 21st-
All About the Bass Tournament
April 24th-
Golf Tournament

Greater Mulberry Chamber of Commerce

400 N. Church Ave. • PO Box 254
Mulberry, FL 33860
Ph. 863.425.4414

Email: Chamber@MulberryChamber.org
Website: MulberryChamber.org

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Mulberry and the surrounding community.



TANYA TILLIS

Happy New Year! The Greater Mulberry Chamber, as reported by our Treasurer, had a fantastic year in 2014 with a net income for the first time in three years! Numerous contributing factors were reported as only a Treasurer can do with numbers, percentages, and the like; but with the simple mind of this President, I attribute it to great TEAM WORK! Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

To me, the key word in this quote is DO. We CAN just speaks of the possibilities while we DO speaks of carrying out those possibilities. Individuals joined together do not necessarily guarantee success, but when individuals join together, all DOING their part, success is sure to follow. I think the Chamber is gaining more DOERS! It excites me to see the many goals that were presented at the 2013 Annual Chamber Dinner come to pass. Businesses of the Year, map for the City of Mulberry, Lunch & Learns, and Chamber Newsletter really made 2014 an outstanding year. Brandy Freidank, our Executive Director, has done a great job during her time with us. Talk about picking up the ball and rolling with it, that's exactly what Brandy did when she joined us in the early Fall. When faced with one event after the other and one new project after the other she stood to the challenge and excelled. For personal reasons Brandy had to resign effective in January, but in Brandy fashion she helped in locating, interviewing, and training her replacement.

Madalyn Kissel became our new Executive Director on January 20. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Communication, Honors with a Minor in Leadership Studies at the University of South Florida. She graduated magna cum laude with a 3.80 GPA. Madalyn shows great potential in helping the Chamber move forward to increase membership, productivity, and fulfill our purpose to foster and enhance the economic growth, development, civic and general interest of Mulberry and the surrounding community. I trust you all will welcome her and volunteer your assistance as we transition.

Important events for you to look for in this issue of "A Closer Look", include the Businesses of the Year 2014 and our 1st Annual "All About the Bass" Tournament taking place on February 21. In addition, I want to mention in advance that our Golf Tournament this spring is being relocated to Bartow Golf Course. More information on all these events are in this issue so be sure to and take a look at the opportunities for you to be involved. As always if your business has something you'd like us share in our newsletter be sure to send pictures and the information via email to chamber@mulberrychamber.org

Thank you for your continued involvement, Together Everyone Accomplishes More!



CHAMBER annual dinner



On January 16th, The Chamber Annual Dinner had pirates from near and far join together to celebrate the success of the Chamber and it's members from 2014. We enjoyed shakin' booty with music provided by Burt Howard Entertainment and nested well at the Eaglebrooke Golf Club. Thank you to our sponsors who included Mosaic, Edgen Murray, and Scrappy Thomas. Tanya Tillis spoke of our successes to include the Golf Tournament, Clay Shoot, and Monster Mash 5K to name a few. Jacob Driggers spoke on the positive financial standing of the Greater Mulberry Chamber of Commerce. 2014 was a year of great achievement for the Chamber, but the year ended with a bittersweet goodbye to our beloved Al Dorsett as he retired from his position after 26 years on the board. Al Dorsett assisted with bringing the Greater Mulberry Chamber of Commerce to life and nurtured it with his wisdom and guidance to the growing success it is and continues to be. Thank you Al for 26 amazing years!



Mr. & Mrs. Al Dorsett

Awards of the Night

Non-Profit Business of the Year
Small Business of the Year
Large Business of the Year
Chamber Rookie of the Year
MVP Member of the Year

Mulberry Phosphate Museum
Butterfly Bistro
Badcock Furniture & More
Central Florida Health Care
Clark Environmental

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Call 863.425.4414 to schedule your ad today!

CITY OF MULBERRY COMING SOON



We are quickly approaching the completion of construction on the first floor of the Civic Center, which will become the new home of the city's Library. This project will double the square footage of the current library. The library's new location will feature a teen room, children's library, two study rooms, and meeting space. Outside of the facility, the city's gazebo has been restored as an ideal location for outside classes and gatherings to be used by both library staff and the public. If you have any questions about the new library or want to assist in the move or with donations, please contact the library staff at (863) 425-3246.

WHY SHOULD I BECOME A CHAMBER MEMBER?

Advantages:

Publicity Boost

Networking Opportunities

Assist 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 it's consumer favor ability rating, a 51% increase in consumer awareness, a 57% increase in it's local reputation, and a 63% increase in the likelihood that they will patronize the business in the future.
(Source: The Schapiro Group, 2007)

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for details**

Mulberry Chamber 3

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Christmas Tree Design AMERICAN LEGION POST #72



The American Legion Post #72 had a beautiful veteran theme tree that edged out the competition. The Mulberry Phosphate Museum was a close second followed by the Mulberry Library. The American Legion Post #72 received a trophy for the best tree design. Thank you to our participants for their hard work and efforts to include Doss Flowers, The Mulberry Phosphate Museum, Central Florida Healthcare, Mulberry Library, Classy & Sassy Salon, City of Mulberry, Joshua's Kitchen, and Badcock & more!! And let's not forget the hard work of our voters...this year's judge winner is Tracie Carley!! Thank you to all judge participants for venturing out and visiting our members to judge and choose your favorite tree!

MONSTER MASH 5K OCTOBER 18, 2014 Mulberry Civic Center



Butterfly Bistro



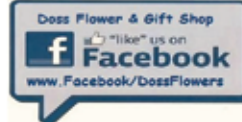
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business SPOTLIGHT

by Callie Neslund



For many native Mulberry-ians, counting the number of phosphate companies in the area in the 1980's takes ten fingers and ten toes. Today, that list is much more condensed and comprised solely of The Mosaic Company, formed in 2004 through a merger of Cargill Crop Nutrition and IMC. Throughout the months of October and November, Mosaic employees from across the world gathered to commemorate the company's 10 year anniversary.

During this 10 year celebration, employees reflected on their accomplishments together and on giving back to the communities where employees live and work. Mosaic facilities provided one-time \$10,000 gifts to local non-profit organizations. In total, they gifted \$370,000 to help their neighbors.

Here in Polk County, non-profit recipients included the Mulberry Boys and Girls Club (New Wales), Achievement Academy (South Pierce) and George Harris Youth Shelter (Bartow). In many cases, representatives from the charity organizations attended Mosaic United Way events and were surprised with a check for \$10,000.

"With ten years of hard work and accomplishments behind us, this was a great way to pay it forward," said Callie Neslund, Public Affairs Manager of The Mosaic Company. "This company was and continues to be Built By People and Bound By Purpose. We are grateful for our more than 4,000 Central Florida employees' service and are encouraged by their steadfast dedication to supporting our communities."



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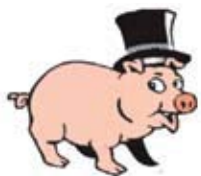
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MULBERRY MIXERS

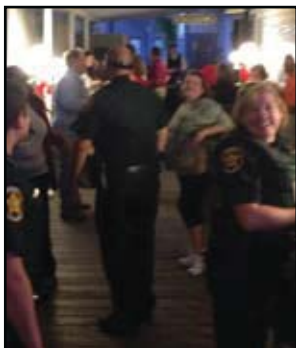
The Greater Mulberry Chamber of Commerce enjoying Mixers courtesy of Community Southern Bank and The Fine Swine at the Pit, LLC.



OCTOBER 2, 2014
3340 South Florida Avenue,
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DECEMBER 4, 2014
Mulberry Mixer hosted by
The Fine Swine at the Pit, LLC.
at The Mulberry Phosphate Museum



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Come Out for a Fun filled day of bass fishing and a chance to win the 1st place prize of \$500! All proceeds go to benefit the functioning of the Greater Mulberry Chamber of Commerce. All participants will receive an All About the Bass Shirt and goodie bag

Raffles to include fishing lures, rod & reels and a YETI ROADIE!!

ALL ABOUT THE
BASS
TOURNAMENT



saturday **\$75.00** per boat
february 21st two fishermen
Lake Shipp Park
WinterHaven, FL

registration begins at 6am
safe light - 2pm
awards ceremony begins at 3pm



1 st Place	\$500
2 nd Place	\$250
3 rd Place	\$100

For additional information contact the Greater Mulberry Chamber of Commerce, chamber@mulberrychamber.org or 863.425.4414

BUSINESS EXPO & TASTE OF MULBERRY

November 6, 2014

Thank you to our sponsor A-C-T Environmental and all of our members who came out to support the Chamber!



LUNCH & LEARN | December 2, 2014

A big THANK YOU to Andy McGaffigan for speaking to our Members about "Servant Leadership."



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ABWA, IWLTA and numerous Chamber of Commerce's



meanwhile, AT CITY HALL



by Chelsea Young



The New Year is underway and the city is ready to tackle new goals and projects.

All around the city, the city's Utilities and Public Works staff are working to improve Mulberry with beautification and maintenance projects. The city pool has received

a new pumping system, which separates the main pool from the children's pool. The new water treatment facility is nearing completion. New sidewalks are being poured. Roadways are continuously being upgraded to allow easier travel on city roads. The city's "Finding of Necessity Study" for a municipal Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) was approved unanimously by the Polk County Board of County Commissioners in November. A Community Redevelopment Agency is designed to alleviate designated areas of slum and industrial blight in order to promote growth in the city's private sector. The approval of the "Finding of Necessity Study" allows the Mulberry City Commissioners, city staff, and city representatives to begin working on the CRA's Master Plan, which will guide the CRA Board in how to proceed with strategic projects and funding for the coming years in the designated CRA areas. Workshops are underway, and all involved hope to finish the Master Plan as soon as possible.

In December, Mulberry hosted the Ridge League of Cities' meeting at the Club at Eaglebrooke. The city staff, led by Sharon Lauther, assembled a wonderful event with a holiday theme for nearly two hundred city officials from around Central Florida. George Tinsley, the featured speaker, delivered a moving presentation that was



enjoyed by all. It was a great night for Mulberry and it's guests.

During the holidays, the city got into the festive spirit. Mulberry introduced new seasonal banners on electric poles throughout the city, just in time for guests to view while watching the city's annual Christmas Parade. The museum hosted Mrs. Claus, who shared holiday stories with guests, while

they enjoyed complimentary hot chocolate and cookies. The library was joined by the main man, himself, Kris Kringle. Over 60 children got to meet and greet with Santa Claus and participate in activities provided by library staff.

The museum is looking forward to a great 2015! In October, the museum will host a Smithsonian traveling exhibit, "The Way We Worked". For six weeks, guests can view a high-quality exhibit that tells the story of the American work force. As part of the grant from the Florida Humanities Council that allows the exhibit to travel to Mulberry, the museum will offer programming and events to highlight the theme of "work" and "industry" throughout the New Year. Guests of the museum can look forward to a book club, movie series, guest lectures, and more! For more information on "The Way We Worked" and all museum activities, please visit www.mulberryphosphatemuseum.org.

As the city strives to improve and grow in 2015, we would like to wish you and your family a productive and happy New Year!



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from our members

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

February 14th, Valentine's Day Baby Sitting at the Civic Center from 6:00p.- 10:00p. Drop off your children for fun activities while parents celebrate Valentine's Day! \$10 a kid, \$25 for a family.

chamber HAPPENINGS

Does your business have a public event you would like to promote in the next Chamber Happening Calendar and on our website? Email your event to chamber@mulberrychamber.org or call 863.425.4414. We would love to promote your event.

FEBRUARY 2015

February 14th -
Valentine's Day Baby Sitting
Friends of the Library
Mulberry Civic Center
6:00pm - 10:00pm

February 18th -
Mulberry Chamber Breakfast
Mulberry Civic Center
7:45am

February 21st -
All About The Bass Tournament
Lake Shipp, Winter Haven
Safe Light - 3:00pm

MARCH 2015

March 18th -
Mulberry Chamber Breakfast
Mulberry Civic Center
7:45am

APRIL 2015

April 2nd -
Mulberry Mixer
New Mulberry Library
5:30 - 7:30pm

April 15th -
Mulberry Chamber Breakfast
Mulberry Civic Center
7:45am

April 24th -
Golf Tournament
Bartow Golf Course
1:00pm

MAY 2015

May 20th -
Mulberry Chamber Breakfast
Mulberry Civic Center
7:45am

Monthly Chamber Breakfasts begin at 7:45 am.
Interested in hosting a Mulberry Chamber
Breakfast? Call 863.425.4414 to
Reserve a Date today!!

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 am

Worship 10:30 am

Wednesday

Children & Youth Activities 6:00 pm

Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm

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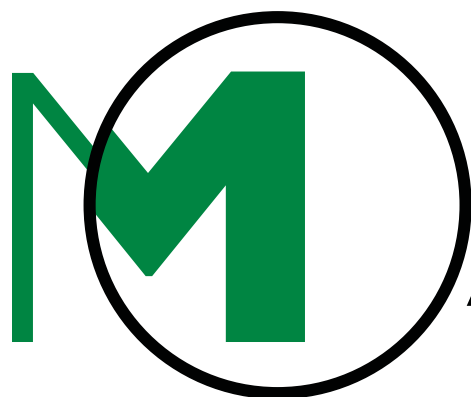
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APRIL 24TH

Golf Tournament

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