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President's Message

Dear Valued Members:

July has proven to be a busy month with lots of exciting things happening in our community.

With the hot heat of the summer and constant energy needed to cool off, electric bills can rise. The Chamber has found a solution to the problem. Thanks to our partnership with Duke Energy, we presented a free energy efficiency workshop. Participants were welcomed and educated by Danny Collins, Community Relations Manager, Michele Cavallo, Small & Medium Business Solutions Manager and Derick Farfan, Business Energy Manager. The workshop was designed to help us learn about the programs and incentives available to our businesses, including the Business Energy Check Program. This program is a no cost energy assessment that provides businesses with an analysis of their energy use, and the better business program which provides incentives to businesses making qualifying purchases to improve the energy efficiency of their business. Mr. Farfan gave an overview of their programs to a very eager group of business owners and employees on ways to help them. This information has been placed on the chamber web site, www.wakullachamber.com. Also, if you wish contact Derick Farfan you can do so by email, derick.farfan@duke-energy.com. He would love to help you to find ways to save energy, which saves you money. The Chamber continually offers workshops throughout the year on various topics with the main goal to help you, our business community.

The Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce is all about our businesses and with that said, it is an honor to give recognition and congratulate what helps to make our community strong and to grow.

Recently, Bo Lynn's Grocery in St Marks was added to the National Registry of Historic Places. Having previously been recognized as one of Florida's Historical Places, BoLynn's is now one of the elite places throughout the United States of America honored for their rich historical significance.

In 1965 Joy Brown and her family bought Bo Lynn's Grocery from Bo's widow who had run the store since her husband's death in the mid-50's. It is the oldest commercial retail store building still standing in St. Marks. This new honor will bring recognition to the St. Marks community and bring travelers from all parts of the globe who plan special adventures seeking out Historical Places.

Congratulations Bo Lynn's Grocery for your well-deserved dedication to preserving our rich history and culture for future generations.

On behalf of the Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce, I would like to congratulate Hydra Engineering & Construction, LLC and Inspired Technologies, Inc. for being selected as Florida Companies to WatchSM from 500 nominees across the state. These companies were selected based on several factors including management, community involvement and their marketing position. Florida Companies to WatchSM is a program managed by GrowFL, an economic development group.

Wakulla County is proud to call you ours and we wish you, and all our business, much success in all you do!

Marg Wallace



Congratulations to the 2017 Florida Companies to Watch!

We were recently informed and are very excited that two of our members, Hydra Engineering & Construction Company, LLC, and Inspired Technologies, Inc. are among 50 statewide companies expected to see significant growth over the next several years. Hydra Engineering & Construction Company, ILLC, and Inspired Technologies, Inc. were selected from over 500 nominees for Florida companies to watch, a statewide program managed by economic Development group GrowFL, in association with the Edward Lowe Foundation.

Both companies' management team, competitive market position, and strong community involvement were among several factors that put them in contention for the award.

"These stand - out companies are all led by entrepreneurs, and have demonstrated their capacity and intend to grow" said r. Tom O'Neal, executive director of the Florida Economic Gardening Institute and Associate Vice President for the University of Central Florida's Office of Research and Commercialization. "They also all have critical intellectual property or a niche position that gives them a competitive edge in their markets" he said.

2017 FLORIDA COMPANIES TO WATCH

October 14, 2017 | Straz Center, Tampa, FL

Presented by GrowFL, in association with the Edward Lowe Foundation



GR^oWFL
TAKING SUCCESSFUL COMPANIES TO THE NEXT LEVEL

2017 HONOREES

3D Digital
A1A Solar Contracting, Inc
AdRizer
Amazing Explorers Academy
Azure Water Company
Big Top Brewing Company LLC
Boys Electrical Contractors
Captozyme Inc
Clickbooth
Cribb Philbeck Weaver Group
Dixie Belle Paint Co
Dougherty Manufacturing
GenCare Resources Home Healthcare
Global ETS, LLC
Global Safety Management
Grimaldi Candy Company
Human Potential Healthcare Workforce Solutions, LLC
Hydra Engineering & Construction, LLC
Hydro-Dyne Engineering
Inspired Technologies
iProcedures
JAX Refrigeration, Inc.
Jaycon Systems
Just Ryt Foods, Inc
K. Parks Consulting, Inc. (KPC)

Lap of Love Veterinary Hospice
Lightspeed Voice
LiveTrends Design Group
Lukos
Madrid Engineering Group, Inc.
Marion Precision Tool, Inc
MICROJIG
Mini Doughnut Factory
MzeroA.com
Natural Vitamins Laboratory LLC
PropLogix
Raneys Inc
REDCON Solutions Group, LLC.
RedTeam Software
SawStreet LLC
Society+
Sorensen Moving and Storage
Spoleto My Italian Kitchen
Stickboy Creative
Up-Rev
Verdex Construction
Winco Mfg., LLC
Xplor Inc
Yachtico Inc.
Zenenergy LLC

2016 Business Excellence Awards Winner Spotlight

Service Business of the Year

By JoAnn Palmer

Sponsored by



Over this year, the chamber articles will be dedicated to the winners of our business excellence awards. We're taking advantage of showcasing these businesses and organizations to honor their incredible dedication and commitment to our community. It's difficult for me to condense the outstanding work, accomplishments and information in a way to truly express the dedication and commitment by these winners, it is amazing what we may take for granted about some of these outstanding businesses and they are all truly deserving of these awards.

This award is presented to a business that focuses on providing a service to their customers. Excellence in service indicates you operate in a professional manner delivering outstanding service and customer relations. Excellence service occurs when something is done for you correctly to your satisfaction, in a timely, pleasant, hassle-free manner. Good service requires an attitude of helpfulness, a willingness to bend over backwards to insure the job is done properly and service that distinguishes "good" from "excellent".

Our 2016 service business of the year is one of our members with a large work force. They provide goods and services that, following the recent hurricane, we have a new appreciation for. Their home office is actually in Quincy Florida where they began their venture in 1940 by a group of 200 Gadsden county rural residents who came together to form the electric cooperative. Talquin electric cooperative and Talquin water & wastewater, Inc. Built lines to reach those rural areas when other companies would not because it was not profitable or economically feasible to do so. Talquin currently services liberty, Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla counties. Their business model and principals include voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, autonomy and independence, education, training and information, cooperation among cooperatives and concern for their communities. Their goal is to provide members with services at a low and fair economical price and their mantra is "owned by those we serve" they are a member-owned – not for profit business.

Talquin is committed to being a presence in their local communities and is involved by volunteerism and financially supporting local athletic teams, educational outreach with classroom presentations on safety around electricity & energy efficiency. They also participate with local colleges offering internships towards degrees in engineering, communications and several other areas.

We all saw how hard the Talquin employees and contractors worked to restore our power following Hermine in September. I know I was personally ecstatic to see them on our street.

Talquin invests in their employees through tuition assistance and enhanced on-site and off-site training courses to enhance their job skills and knowledge. Employees are given opportunities to influence decision making, have input on safety procedures and are encouraged to participate in serving their community. Please join me in congratulating

Talquin electric cooperative – Talquin water & wastewater, Inc.,
our 2016 service business of the year.



Ribbon Cuttings

Cricket Wireless Inaugurates New Store in Crawfordville



Wakulla Chamber members and Retail Manager, Marion Russ along with Assistant Retail Manager Josh Pfister, celebrated the inauguration of a new Cricket Wireless store this past July 20, 2017. The new store is owned and locally operated by SunCom Mobile. This is the first Cricket Wireless store owned by Suncom Mobile in Wakulla County.

The new location will benefit consumers who are looking to shop for wireless services. Cricket Wireless brings simple and transparent monthly plans starting at \$30/month which include monthly taxes. And the new store will also carry a great selection of smartphones and accessories.

Cricket is known for bringing consumers more value with a simple, friendly, and reliable nationwide wireless experience with no annual contract.

The new store located at 2000 Crawfordville Hwy, Suite F in Crawfordville, FL and operates Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m on Sunday.

Vision Restaurants, Inc., DBA Taco Bell

TACO BELL ANNOUNCES A NEW RESTAURANT OPENING IN CRAWFORDVILLE, FL

New location on Preston Circle, Crawfordville FL

Crawfordville FL, Wed., July 26, 2017 – Taco Bell Corp. and Vision Restaurants, Inc. are pleased to announce the opening of a new Taco Bell restaurant at 49 Preston Circle in Crawfordville, FL

Taco Bell celebrated the opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony July 25, 2017 at 9:30am.



People who live and work in Crawfordville will now be able to enjoy the convenience and great taste of the Taco Bell products that they crave," said Nick Davis, President. "This restaurant design features a dining room with rich colors and modern styling to create an atmosphere that is comfortable and inviting," added Nick. Everyone is invited to visit this new location seven days a week for breakfast, lunch, dinner, late night or just a snack. The store hours are Sunday-Thursday 7am-12am, Friday-Saturday 7am-1am.

"Taco Bell's goal is to be a valuable member of the community in which we do business while providing consumers with great tasting, high quality food that is quick and convenient. Taco Bell is very proud to be a member of the Crawfordville community," said Daniel Lieb, Operating Partner.

About Vision Restaurants

Vision Restaurants, Inc. is a franchisee of 5 Taco Bell restaurants. They operate in South Georgia and Northern Florida and are based in Gainesville, Florida.

About Taco Bell Corp.

Taco Bell Corp., a subsidiary of Yum! Brands, Inc. (NYSE:YUM), is the nation's leading

2016

Business Excellence

Award Winners

Sponsored by



Retail

The Little Black Dress



Professional Service

Hydra Engineering & Construction LLC



Service Business

Talquin Electric Cooperative



Hospitality & Tourism

Shields Marina, Inc.



Non - Profit

Florida Wild Mammal Assoc.



Green Business

Bay Leaf Market



Government & Schools

City of St. Marks



President's Choice

Walter (Wally) Dodson
Presented Posthumously



Volunteer

Sherrie Miller



Wakulla Area Business

Kent's
Property Preservation, LLC

Mexican-inspired quick service restaurant. Taco Bell serves made to order and customizable tacos, burritos, and specialties such as the exclusive Doritos® Locos Tacos, gourmet-inspired Cantina Power® Menu, lower calorie fresco options and is the first QSR restaurant to offer American Vegetarian Association (AVA)-Certified menu items. Taco Bell breakfast offers portable, classic items such as the Breakfast Crunchwrap®, Biscuit Taco and signature breakfast burritos. The company encourages customers to "Live Más," both through its food and in ways such as its Feed The Beat® music program and its nonprofit organization, the Taco Bell® Foundation™. Taco Bell and its more than 350 franchise organizations have nearly 6,000 restaurants across the United States that proudly serve more than 40 million customers every week.

Welcome New Members

Welcome Daniel Lieb - Vision Restaurants, Inc., DBA Taco Bell, specializing in Mexican inspired quick service food

49 Preston Circle, Crawfordville 850.926.8226

<https://www.tacobell.com/>



Wakulla Medical Center

is proud to announce:

Dr. Karen Bartley has joined our group. She has been practicing since 1995 and is Board Certified. Dr. Bartley has extensive experience in working with patients and as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine, UNC, Chapel Hill, NC.

NC.

Welcome Dr. Bartley! We are glad to have you join the team!

Dr. Bartley is available to speak to your community group.