



Chamber Times

Always Buy Chamber



May 2008

www.chamberinaction.com

Volume 16 Issue 5

Transportation Update at Chamber Luncheon

Miami-Dade Transit speakers updated luncheon attendees on the progress of transportation projects in Miami Dade County as well as future plans for transportation in the South Dade Area. Steve Alperstein, Transit Planner, Service and Mobility, updated the group on Metrobus service; Robert McClellan, Manager, Field Engineering gave a general overview on fare collection; and John Garcia, Principal Planner, Planning and Development, provided a very detailed update on the Metrorail extension.



Above: Chamber Board Chair, Katy Oleson of the Redland Hotel with Steve Alperstein, Robert McClellan and John Garcia, who presented an update on the Miami-Dade Transit system.



On a fun note, Chair Katy Oleson presented Chamber Chair-Elect Jerome Williams, with a pie baked by Robert Morgan Educational Center culinary students for his birthday. Happy Birthday, Jerome!



We're moving!

The Chamber is closed from May 23 - 30 for moving.

We will re-open on June 2nd at our new location

in the historic Lily Lawrence Bow Library
212 NW 1st Avenue
in Homestead

Some Helpful Websites

Homestead/Florida City Chamber
www.chamberinaction.com

City of Homestead
www.cityofhomestead.com

City of Florida City
www.floridacityfl.us

SCORE, Counselors to Small Business
www.score.org

State of Florida Information
www.myflorida.com

Tropical Everglades Visitors Center
www.tropicaleverglades.com

Miami-Dade County
www.miamidade.gov

Non-Partisan Elections Site
www.voteforflorida.org

Miami Dade Public Schools
www.dadeschools.net

Small Business Development Center
www.floridasbdc.org

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Avon Products
Nels Kumar
826 N. Krome Ave
Homestead, FL 33030

Bangkok Cuisine, Inc
Pon Wansakul
27319 S. Dixie Hwy
Naranja, FL 33032

Miami Hotels
Anthony DeRosa
9600 NW 25th Street
Miami, FL 33172

Ralph's Hair Salon
Ralph Garza
405 East Palm Drive
Florida City, FL 33034

THANK YOU FOR RENEWING

- S&S Design Studio
- City of Florida City
- Badcock Home Furniture & More
- The Weekly Newspapers
- Keys Gate Golf Club
- North American Title Company
- Lewis Electric
- B & R Electronics Supply, Inc.
- YMCA
- Sweet Vine Incorporated
- Old Town Trolley Tours
- Econo Lodge
- CTB Truck Brokerage
- R. P. Smith Plumbing
- 1st State Insurance & Financial Service
- Town & Country Real Estate Service
- Redland Woman's Club
- Dalton Marine Supply Inc.
- American Ju-Jitsu Center, Inc.
- Josefa L. Binker, M. D.
- Golden Corral Buffet & Grill
- Upright Screen
- Homestead Rex Tire Mart
- Farm Credit of South Florida, ACA
- Cobblestone Antiques
- Dade County Federal Credit Union
- Homestead Mower Center, Inc.
- Miami Bridge Youth and Family
- Village Profile
- Macarthur Sr. High South
- Woody's Barber Shop
- Zoological Society of Florida
- Alger Farms, Inc.
- Coalition of FL Farmworkers Org.
- Allied Paper Company
- Guaranteed Floridian Pest Control
- Bank of America

Personal & Professional Service
Barbara Eads, CRS, GRI
BROKER
Barbara Eads Realty, Inc.
LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER

MM 100, Oceanside
P.O. Box 2379, Key Largo, FL 33037
Office: (305) 451-1946
Cell: (305) 586-7326
E-mail: Barbara@keysforsale.com
Website: www.keysforsale.com




1st National Bank
of South Florida (Since 1932)
Your 1st Choice for Better Banking

305.247.5541
www.1stbanking.com

FREE - Online BillPay
Auto & Boat Loans
Commercial Loans
Home Improvement
Equipment Purchases
Construction
Real Estate
Mortgages


Member FDIC

Military Appreciation



Master Sgt. Tabitha Neville, 70th Aerial Port Squadron, goes through a congratulatory line after being named the Homestead Air Reserve Base 2007 Senior NCO of the Year at the Annual Award Banquet on April 12. The event was co-sponsored and hosted by the 482nd Fighter Wing and the Military Affairs Committee of the Greater Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce, and recognized the best and brightest of our local military. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean)

Network Breakfast at Redland Grill



L-R: Chamber Membership Chair Ed Powell; Chamber Chair Katy Oleson; Alexis Martinez, A&D Creative; and Chamber Executive Director Mary Finlan.



L-R: Tony Moss who won the Redland Grill \$50 gift certificate; and host, Luis Montejo, Redland Grill.

Lunch & Learn...Doing Business with the Military



The Chamber's April Lunch & Learn, "How to Do Business with the Military" presented by Air Force Reserve Command's Contracting Chief Henry Burgains provided insight and contact information on how to become a vendor to the various military groups located on Homestead Air Reserve Base. His contact information is Henry.Burgains@homestead.af.mil 305-224-7406. Lunch was catered by the Atlanta Bread Company. This is a continuation of our Lunch and Learn Series "How to..." for business owners. Check our web site www.chamberinaction.com for future programs held 11:30 am on the third Tuesday of each month.

GEOCare Grand Opening

GEOCare South Florida Evaluation and Treatment Center celebrated their Grand Opening, April 3. The 200 bed privately managed forensic mental health facility is contracted by the Florida Department of Children and Families. The brand new, state of the art facility is located at 18380 SW 376th Street in Florida City. State and GEOCare corporate dignitaries toasted the Grand Opening as they enjoyed an impressive array of hors d'oeuvres and desserts by GEOCare's on-site nutritionist and chef.



GEOCare Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting: L-R: Dale Frick, Vice President Project Development & Client Relations, GEO Care; Jerome Williams, Chamber Chair Elect; Gary Thompson, Department of Children & Families; Silvia Quintana, District Program Supervisor, Department of Children & Families; Dr. George Zoley, Chairman, CEO & Founder, The GEO Group; Lee Packer, Hospital Administrator, South Florida Evaluation & Treatment Center; Thomas M. Wierdsman, Senior Vice President, Project Development, The GEO Group; and Jorge Dominicis, Senior Vice President Residential Treatment Services The GEO Group and President GEO Care, Inc.



L-R Ed Powell, Chamber Membership Chair; Chris Himmel, Office of Mayor Carlos Alvarez; Homestead Vice Mayor Jon Burgess; Chrissie Alveari, owner, Robeks Juice Oasis Plaza; Marisol Herrera, Robeks Juice Oasis Plaza; Tony Bonwell, Robeks Juice Corporate; Homestead Councilwoman Judy Waldman.

Robeks Juice Joins Chamber And Celebrates Grand Opening

Robeks Juice "Fruit Smoothies & Healthy Eats" celebrated their Grand Opening, Sunday, April 6 with Thunder Country on location; face painting for kids, a magician, free giveaways, discount smoothies and special offers. The ribbon cutting, coordinated by the Greater Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce Membership Committee, started the festivities off at Robeks Juice located at 2634 NE 8th Street (Campbell Drive) in the Oasis Plaza across from the new Homestead Hospital. Robeks Juice, Oasis Plaza, 305-242-5305 is open weekdays 7am-9pm and weekends 8am-9pm.

Shop from our online catalog
www.designsbydarenda.com
 Call us or stop by and visit.



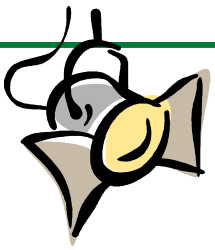
Designs by Darenda

FLOWERS and GIFTS
 240 S. Krome Avenue, Homestead

(305)245-4355

Send Flowers2Anywhere®





Spotlight on Everglades Alligator Farm

The Chamber's Spotlight in April shone on the Everglades Alligator Farm. Located at 40351 SW 192nd Avenue, Florida City 305-247-2628 www.everglades.com. Our hosts Charles and Debbie Thibos welcomed a throng of Chamber members and their guests with refreshments including Schnebly wines and alligator bits. Their staff volunteered to stay after hours to provide entertainment at a snake and alligator show, airboat rides and tours around the extensive property-yes there are over 2,000 alligators! There are educational wildlife exhibits including Florida panthers, a 100 lb rat, and other exotic animals and birds. The gift shop has many unusual gifts. The Everglades Alligator Farm opens daily at 9:30 am including weekends. The last airboat ride departs at 5:25 pm. People travel thousands of miles to visit this attraction in our backyard.



And you thought your job was risky!

L-R: Chamber Membership Chair Ed Powell (center) Chats with new members Graham Hinchcliffe (L) and Ron Mongole(R) of Complete Energy Solutions.

Chamber in Action at Sunrise Balloon Race



Saturday morning after cooking about 5000 pancakes at the 25th Anniversary of the Sunrise Hot Air Balloon Race at Tamiami Airport, Past Chamber Chair, Parsuram "Ram" Ramkissoon owner of the Naranja IHOP, relaxes with Miami Heat dancers after they performed a few of their moves for the balloon race crowd who had started coming in as early as 5:30am.



Partners



An old age home never looked like this

*W*e designed the Palace Gardens on Krome Avenue as a high-quality Assisted Living Community. It incorporates what is best about South Dade, and we have changed the myths people have when they think about senior living.

The grounds are spacious and beautiful. The care is great. The staff is great. The food is

great. The atmosphere is pure South Dade. Home health visits, therapy, and doctor visits take place on site. Residents have privacy, but nursing assistants are always available just outside their door, to help with any need. Younger South Dade residents can bring their parents to be near them, close enough to visit but not under the same roof.

Call Michael at (305) 247-0446 for more information and a tour.



The Palace Gardens
Assisted Living Community
1351 North Krome Avenue
Homestead, Florida 33030
(305) 247-0446

**Serving the South Dade community
for more than 25 years.**

TEVA Goes Green for Earth Day!



Local South Florida artist, Kristin Jayd, is currently at work on a mural at the Tropical Everglades Visitor Center in Florida City. When complete, this 40 foot panorama will showcase the picturesque landscapes and native wildlife of our Biscayne and Everglades National Parks.



HOMESTEAD 14
2250 N. E. 8th Street

NOW OPEN!

All stadium seating and digital sound

Offering:

- Birthday parties
- Group Sales
- Gift Certificates
- Film Fanatic memberships (loyalty program)
- FREE movie on your birthday
- And MUCH MORE!

Check out our website for upcoming details on our new theatre and **GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION.**

WWW.FLAGSHIPCINEMAS.COM

See You At The Movies!

FOR YOUR BUSINESS... the easiest most convenient way to deposit checks!

Teller-In-a-Box from TIB Bank

NOW, your TIB Branch comes to Your Office.



- Scan and deposit your business and personal checks right from your desk
- Receive same day credit for deposits received by 5pm on a normal business day
- No late night deposit trips
- Safe and secure

TIB BANK



Se habla Español!

Set up is easy! Call today!

777 N. Krome Avenue | 305.245.6666
600 N. Homestead Blvd. | 305.247.5000
Business Banking Center | 305.246.1061

Member FDIC

www.tibbank.com ■ Nasdaq: TIBB



**Homestead
Hospital**

P&B
Pierce & Bowen, CPA



The Chamber Trustee members are leaders in our community who recognize that their business success and failure is tied to the area around them. In taking a leadership position, the Trustee Members are insuring their future success by reinvesting in the local business community through the Greater Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber Trustee Members voluntarily contribute more than required because they believe in the important programs of the greater Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce. They understand that the prominence of their organization makes it appropriate for them to assume the role of a substantial participant and contributor to the Chamber's operation. Members like this refuse to let the burden of improving the business climate and our local quality of life fall on others.

We thank our Trustees.

2007-2008 Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Chairman - **Katy Oleson**, *The Redland Hotel*

Chair-Elect - **Jerome Williams**, *Common Sense Management Consulting, LLC*

Immediate Past Chair - **James Pierce**, *Pierce & Bowen, CPA*

Executive Director - **Mary Finlan**

Treasurer & Operations - **David Peyton**, *1st National Bank of South Florida*

Economic Development Council - **Robert Wardenga**, *Nationwide Financial Network*

Financial Development Council - **Sharon Wilson**, *ComBank Mortgage*

Membership - **Ed Powell**, *Waterman Powell Consultants*

Minority Business Council - **Jerome Williams**, *Common Sense Management Consulting, LLC*

Directors

Carla Alger, *Alger Farms...* **Orlando Carr**, *FPL...* **Al Dos Santos**, *Prime Outlets*

Bill Duquette, *Homestead Hospital...* **Ramon Flores**, *Bell South...* **Rob Griffiths**, *Homestead Transfer & Storage*

Tony Hazard, *Hazard Insurance...* **Linda Hicks**, *TIB Bank*

Dr. Jeanne Jacobs, *Miami-Dade College...* **Charles LaPradd**, *Miami-Dade County...* **Orlando Lopez**, *Financial South Corp*

Nathalie Salas, *Homestead-Miami Speedway...* **Steve Shiver**, *Global Technology Partners...*

Members by Virtue of Office

Miami-Dade County **Mayor Carlos Alvarez**, Homestead **Mayor Lynda Bell**, Florida City **Mayor Otis Wallace**

Colonel William Binger, HARB **Brig. General Charles Cleveland**, SOCSouth

Mike Shehadeh, City of Homestead **Mark Ben-Asher**, City of Florida City

Dade County Farm Bureau, **Katie Edwards** - TEVA, **Brian Conesa** - M-DCPS Region VI, **Neyda Navarro**

Naranja Area Business Council, **Parsuram Ramkissoon** - Vision Council, **Dennis Daley**