

On behalf of the Chamber, we appreciate the collaborative approach taken to arrive at a decision that recognizes the current economic conditions and is supportive of Wakulla County residents and businesses.

As the review process continues, the Chamber looks forward to the opportunity to collaborate and build a positive business climate.

Community

Due to the current economy, a number of our friends and neighbors have been unable to provide the basic necessities such as food to their families. As a result, the Chamber has increased its emphasis on ensuring that no one in our community has to experience hunger. Though the effort is Chamber driven the food collected is being distributed by "Feeding Wakulla County," a volunteer organization who ensures that items collected are provided to the five food pantries in Wakulla County.

To that end, last month I shared with you that St. Marks Powder, a Chamber business and local subsidiary of General Dynamics, implemented a companywide food drive. Well, I am happy to report that food drive was a success! Our community is dependent upon our business partners taking on additional leadership functions during critical times.

Additionally, our local Wal-mart joined in the giving back effort by matching the donation made by St. Marks Powder.

Kudo's to both businesses for making a difference when it counts!

As Chamber President, I am pleased to be in the midst of community business partners who are willing to pitch in and lend a hand. If your business would like to participate in hosting a food drive at your location, please contact the Chamber staff at 926-1848.

Thought to remember: Care starts with action.



Education

We are nearing the end of the 1st set of classes offered under the Brown Bag Lunch and Learn Series. By all accounts, the training has been an absolute hit with our business community.

I appreciate the continued support of our partners: Florida State's Jim Moran Institute, FAMU Small Business Development Center and Tallahassee Community College - Wakulla Center.

To continue the momentum, the Chamber has entered into a formal agreement with FAMU Small Business Development Center that would allow for the continuation of the training and business counseling services at **No Cost** through December 2011.

If you haven't taken advantage of the classes being offered, please contact the Chamber staff to register today at 926-1848.

Membership

There are many efforts underway to ensure that our current Chamber membership receive a return on their investment made through their dues. It is absolutely imperative that we continue to grow our membership and that our role as the "voice of business" maintain a strong presence in the community. If you haven't paid your dues, please get them in as soon as possible. We need your support to keep our message strong. If you are not currently a Chamber member, please don't miss out on an opportunity to impact the decisions made in your community.

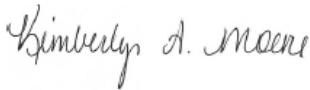
Upcoming Event

Please mark your calendar for the Chamber's Candidate Forum scheduled for October 5, 2010. The Chamber encourages the participation of incumbents and those who have filed to enter the political arena. We would like to ensure that the community has an opportunity to hear your views specific to our business community and the future of Wakulla County.

I would like to thank the Rotary of Wakulla County who has graciously agreed to provide the refreshments during the event.

In closure, I appreciate the opportunity to serve Wakulla County. Please feel free to provide suggestions or feedback regarding your needs.

Yours in service,



Kimberly A. Moore, MBA
Wakulla Chamber of Commerce, President

Shop locally because: Small local businesses account for a large share of new jobs created each year, and locally based businesses provide some of the most stable employment opportunities in a community. These employees in turn spend in the local economy.



The Donut Hole

The Wakulla Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for new member, The Donut Hole on Tuesday, June 15th.

The Donut Hole is a family owned business, operated by Jeff Jackson, his wife Brandy and his mother in law Kyle Beckett. They are located next to El Jalisco at 2481 Crawfordville Hwy. Donuts and pastries are baked fresh from scratch daily. In the fall of this year the shop will also be adding espressos, frappes, hot cocoa, cappuccinos, and will introduce a coffee flavor of the day. In addition, designer donut cakes are available for your special occasion now.

Hours are Monday-Friday 5am-1pm, and Saturdays from 6am-1pm, closed Sundays.

You can reach them at 926-1005, and keep them in mind for your next gathering or fund raiser!



NAMI Wakulla

Nami Wakulla (an affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness), a non-profit organization, was formed in January 2009. It has grown from a handful to a roomful of committed people who are educating the public about mental health and providing information on services for the mentally ill and their families.

One of NAMI Wakulla's first steps was to set up a 24 hour hotline: **926-1033**. Now NAMI Wakulla has opened an office as a hub for people to drop in for information, participate in support groups or hold meetings. The office, with easy parking, is at 2140-C Crawfordville Highway (next Southeast Eye Center).

On the fourth Monday of each month, NAMI Wakulla hosts programs for the community on mental illness. Call our office at 926-1033 to find out what programs are coming up.

All meetings are open to the public and everyone is invited to join NAMI Wakulla.



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The following online classes are offered to Chamber members and employees for the remainder of this year as part of our ongoing effort to add value to your membership. Each are 6 week courses that you take at your leisure, you even pick the time of day that is most convenient for you. To find out more or to obtain a registration form call the Chamber office 926.1848 or email wakullacochamber@embarqmail.com. All registrations have to be processed through the Chamber office.

Classes start dates are: July 21, August 18, September 15, 2010

A to Z Grant Writing

Accounting Fundamentals I

Accounting Fundamentals II

Administrative Assistant Fundamentals

Advanced Microsoft Word

Business & Marketing Writing

Creating Web Pages I

Creating Web Pages II

Grammar Refresher

HIPPA Compliance

Introduction to Microsoft Excel

Intermediate Microsoft Excel

Introductions to Microsoft Word

Intermediate Microsoft Word

Introduction to QuickBooks 2009

Marketing Your Business on the Internet

Professional Sales Skills

Speed Spanish

Understanding Workers Compensation

Deepwater Horizon recovery: BBB® tips for donors and volunteers

Pensacola, Fla. (June 11, 2010) – In the wake of any disaster, many reach for their checkbooks or look for volunteer opportunities. Your BBB [Wise Giving Alliance](#) cautions, however, that the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is unlike previous disasters and offers specific advice to potential donors and volunteers.

"Although tens of thousands of individuals are already involved in the response to the oil spill, many others wonder how they can pitch in and help, whether it means writing a check or volunteering their time," said Norman Wright, president and CEO of your BBB|Northwest Florida. "Businesses, communities and wildlife across several states have been seriously impacted by the spill and the need for assistance is great. However, the constraints in the clean up effort limit what charities can do with your money or how you can volunteer."

Your BBB recommends that donors and volunteers consider the following:

- Ø **Beware of well-intentioned but inexperienced organizations** – New non-profits and relief organizations spring up following any major disaster. While these groups might have the best of intentions, new charities may lack the resources, experience and management needed to be effective. Ideally, look for established organizations with environmental expertise or experience aiding Gulf communities.
- Ø **Understand where your money is going** – Charities are assisting in a number of areas including shoreline rescue and protection, needs assessment, litigation, economic relief, advocacy for new governmental energy policies and research into long-term solutions to minimize effects of future disasters. Ask whether the organization will restrict your donation for a specific program, for use only in its Gulf-related activities or for general support for all of its programs.
- Ø **Rely on expert opinion when it comes to evaluating a charity** – Be cautious when relying on third-party recommendations posted on blogs or websites, as the authors might not have fully researched the organizations they list. Start with www.bbb.org/charity to research charities to verify that they are accredited by the BBB and meet BBB's [20 Standards for Charity Accountability](#).
- Ø **Ask if the charity is doing Gulf-related work or raising funds for other Gulf relief organizations** – If a charity is raising money for other groups, you may consider "avoiding the middleman" and giving directly to those performing the work. Research ultimate recipients of donations to ensure the organizations are equipped to do the job you're supporting and are aware of the individual or organization soliciting on its behalf.
- Ø **Volunteering for Gulf clean-up may require special skills or training** – Learn what qualifications are necessary before setting off for the site. If you're looking to get your hands dirty, you're out of luck unless you're certified to handle hazardous materials or have received training to care for injured wildlife. In fact, Gulf residents are being told not to handle any tar balls that wash up on the beach or animals that might be affected by the spill. Other volunteer opportunities are available and charities with volunteer programs ask that you register with them so that they can assess your skills and place you appropriately.
- Ø **There will be many opportunities to give, so keep checking** – The Gulf region will be suffering from the effects of the oil spill for years to come and, as the situation unfolds, there will be more opportunities for donors to help in the future. If you can't find a cause you can get behind right now, plan to revisit the possibility of making a donation or volunteering in the months to come.

BBB Wise Giving Alliance has compiled a [list of nationally soliciting charities](#) which meet BBB standards that are asking for donations and volunteers for the Gulf effort. For additional information and to find charity evaluations, start with www.bbb.org/charity.

Chamber Networking Event



"Put yourself in the mix"

Mowrey Law Firm, P.A.

The attorneys and staff of the Mowrey Law Firm wish to thank the Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce for sponsoring last Thursday's mixer at the newly re-opened Crawfordville office. It was great to see such a turnout, old friend, clients, and new faces of businesses in the community. Our firm looks forward to sharing our combined experience with the citizens of Wakulla County.



Carrabelle—Wakulla Chamber Networking Event

Wakulla Chamber members accepted the invitation from the Carrabelle Chamber of Commerce to join a combined networking event and ribbon cutting for The Wharf Express at Summer Camp Thursday June 24.

The turnout was great, and the get together gave members from both Chambers a chance to experience the spacious grounds and lovely board walk around the club house, meet and make new contacts.



Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program

If you are a small business owner and your business has been adversely affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, you may now apply for an interest-free loan through the **Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program**. Gov. Charlie Crist has allocated \$5 million from General Revenue to fund the bridge loan program.

Small business applicants are eligible for up to \$25,000 in interest-free assistance for up to 12 months to help bridge the gap between the time a catastrophe hits and when the business secures other resources, including payment of BP claims, federal disaster assistance, profits from revived business or long-term loans. Counties currently approved for the emergency bridge loan program are: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Gulf, Franklin, Wakulla, Jefferson, Taylor, Dixie, Levy, Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Monroe, Dade, Broward and Palm Beach.

Loan applications are available through the Chamber office.

July 2010

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3 4th of July Celebrations Sopchoppy 10:30am - fireworks 9pm	4 St. Marks River Park-Fireworks 9pm
5	6 Chamber Executive Board Meeting 4pm	7	8 St. Marks City Commission Meeting 7pm	9	10	11
12 Sopchoppy City Commission Meeting 6:30pm	13 Chamber Board Meeting – Open Membership Meeting 8am-Legislative Recap	14	15	16	17	18
19 BOCC Meeting 5pm	20	21	22 Chamber Networking Event – Wakulla Urgent Care RSVP 926.1848	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

We thank the following members for their membership renewal and continuing support:

El Jalisco Restaurant, Metro Electrical Services, Moon Majik, Wakulla Title Company, Wakulla Urgent Care and Diagnostics, Wells Fargo.

Welcome New Chamber Members!

Panhandle Drug Testing

53 Covington Circle
Crawfordville, FL 32327
(850)545.0869

Rob Ross

Insurance Group

of North Florida, Inc.
4369 Crawfordville Hwy.
Crawfordville, FL 32327
(850)745.8762

Jim Stokley

The Donut Hole LLC

2481 Crawfordville Hwy
Crawfordville, FL 32327
(850)926.1005

Brandy Blue