Chairman’s Perspective

Can we take a pause in our mortal combat against COVID-19 and remind ourselves of our mission as business leaders in a free society? As we engage in a pitched fight against the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have somehow lost sight of our objective. Does our goal remain to “flatten the curve” and protect our health care resources or has it changed to eliminating COVID-19 from our ecosystem? Defining our objective will dictate our rules of engagement.

If our objective is to “flatten the curve” and protect our health care resources for the most vulnerable in our society, there is a strategy that has been emphasized by the CDC for months now: wash hands often; avoid close contact (social distance); cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others; cover coughs and sneezes; clean and disinfect; and monitor your health. This strategy seems simple enough, yet people refuse to wear face masks in local businesses and have bucked this strategy with catastrophic results. Instead of locking arms and uniting in support, a large portion of our population has rejected the strategy for selfish, inexplicable reasons. We now find ourselves caught between the devil and the deep blue sea – we are far beyond the point of preventing community spread, but far away from “herd immunity” (where enough of the population has been exposed to the virus to reduce its transmission and mortality). We cannot go back (e.g. draconian, disastrous lockdowns) and we cannot seem to find our way forward.

If our objective is to eliminate COVID-19 from our ecosystem, prepare to be disappointed. As a business community, and as leaders in society in general, we must face the sobering reality that we will not repel or eradicate this biological foe. We must respect this natural biological pathogen and accept that it will be with us for a long while. It is part of our mortal existence, our biology, our world. We need to give due deference to Mother Nature and the awesome power of the natural world around us. COVID-19 is not some wartime foe that can be defeated by hiding in our foxholes and bunkers.

Volusia County Chamber Alliance Partners with Volusia County on PPE Distribution

As we strive to help our area businesses re-open safely, we are pleased to be able to offer Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies to area businesses as part of the Relaunch Volusia campaign, spearheaded by Volusia County.

To obtain PPE kit(s), the business must provide a business card indicating they are from a Volusia County business and sign that they received the product. Businesses can go to any of the sites that are convenient to them.

PPE kits will include masks, gloves, sanitizer, paper towels and cleaning product. Up to two kits per business can be obtained upon request at a distribution site.

“Funding for these products is provided by the CARES Act allocation to Volusia County. Without the support of the Volusia County, it would be unlikely that we could provide this at no cost to area businesses,” noted Nancy Keefer, President & CEO, Daytona Regional Chamber.

All distribution times are from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the following locations:

- Monday, July 6 – Port Orange
  Port Orange South Daytona Chamber
  3431 S Ridgewood Avenue, Port Orange

- Tuesday, July 7 – Daytona Beach
  Daytona Regional Chamber
  126 E. Orange Avenue, Daytona Beach

- Wednesday, July 8 – New Smyrna Beach
  Southeast Volusia Chamber
  115 Canal Street, New Smyrna Beach

- Thursday, July 9 – Ormond / Deltona
  Ormond Performing Arts Center
  339 US-1, Ormond Beach
  The Center at Deltona
  1640 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd., Deltona

- Friday, July 10 – DeLand
  Wayne G. Sanborn Activity & Events Center
  815 S. Alabama Avenue, DeLand

Relaunch Volusia Grants Eligibility Expanded

Relaunch Volusia Small Business Reopening Grant Program is available to an increased number of small businesses thanks to additional offerings. The emergency relief is designed to support local businesses with a commercial presence within the County who have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the initial offering for small businesses with physical locations in Volusia County, the program is expanding to offer support for nonprofit organizations and home-based businesses.

Small Business Reopening Grant Program

Qualifying businesses may be eligible to receive a one-time Reopening Grant Program grant of $3,000 for businesses that have 25 employees or less, or $5,000 for businesses that have between 26 and 50 employees. To qualify for the program, these small businesses must have a physical location in Volusia County.

Nonprofit Grant Program

On May 26, the Volusia County Council approved a $2.5 million grant program to assist nonprofit agencies in the county that have sustained financial impacts from the coronavirus crisis. Qualifying nonprofits may apply for a one-time assistance grant.

See CHAIRMAN, P2
See GRANTS, P4
Daytona Regional Chamber Hosts Institute for Political Leadership

The Daytona Regional Chamber recently hosted the Florida Institute for Political Leadership, an initiative of the Florida Chamber of Commerce. This FIPL session was presented by Florida Power & Light, and sponsored by TECO Peoples Gas and Avalon Park – Daytona Beach.

The intent of the program is to not only get people involved in the election process but help community-minded individuals elected to office.

Guest speakers included Senator Tom Wright and Volusia County’s Supervisor of Elections Lisa Lewis.

A total of 31 individuals participated in this three-part non-partisan campaign school and community leadership training program. Some of the comments about the program:

“The FIPL speakers and sponsors were very knowledgeable. The course had very useful information to have if you are considering, or are already running for office. But do not be surprised if what you learn can be applied to business and your everyday life!”

“The strategies and tools presented in this campaign school were so well presented. The three-day curriculum was well organized, and the presenters were truly knowledgeable, and dynamic.”

“FIPL is a must-do for current and future candidates, and anyone interested in the campaign process! I can’t believe how much I learned in 3-days! FIPL covered things to think about before running, planning to run, telling your story, budgeting, fundraising, communications and so much more.”

“After Session 1, word spread of how informative it was. An individual asked me, ‘Why didn’t I get invited?’, but then admitted they didn’t check their email. Bet that won’t happen again.”

“Thank you for giving us the opportunity to attend this inaugural session of FIPL. As someone with no background in politics, but future interest in getting involved I found this to be highly educational, helpful, and engaging.”

“It’s a challenge to hold office much less get elected. I took this class with the presumption that I may want to hold office again or be appointed to a position in which I can make a positive difference in our community. This was a great class to get my head and heart into the Volusia County mindset. I appreciate the great wealth of information offered in this class. Knowledge is the key to our future, and I hope to be a part of this future.”

What Our Members Said

The Daytona Regional Chamber surveyed its members on a variety of issues related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Here are some of the results:

- 50% of respondents said they would be comfortable returning to in-person events with social distancing and/or masks protocol
- 22% said they would return to in-person events immediately regardless of protocols
- 19% said they have no plans to return to in-person events in the near future
- 82% are following increased sanitization standards
- 76% are following social distancing protocol
- 31% are checking the temperatures of staff
- 50% are requiring staff to wear masks
- 83% were aware of the resources available to them through the “Back in Business Safely” campaign
Daytona Regional Chamber Upcoming Events

Zoom into Eggs & Issues: 37th Annual Legislative Welcome Back Breakfast
Thursday, July 9th at 8:00 a.m.
Virtual via Zoom*
$17 for members, $35 for non-members

Let’s Connect: Virtual Networking
Tuesday, July 21st at 4:00 p.m.
Virtual via Zoom*
$10 for members, $25 for non-members
RSVP to morgan@daytonachamber.com

Non-Profit Roundtable
Friday, July 24th at 8:00 a.m.
Virtual via Zoom*
RSVP to morgan@daytonachamber.com

*Limited to 100 participants

Volusia County Association for Responsible Development Events

The Local Perspective on Market Activity
Friday, July 17th at 9:00 a.m.
Virtual via Zoom*
ResponsibeDevelopment.com

*Limited to 100 participants

NEW MEMBERS

The Daytona Regional Chamber would like to introduce June’s newest members to our business community:

- AFD Technologies
- Atlantic Business Loans
- BBVA Bank
- Blue Spring Adventures
- Dream Rentals of Daytona
- East Coast Signs & Trophies
- Ideas by Design, Inc.
- Lohman Daytona Memorial Park & Funeral Home
- True Family Lawn Care & Landscaping dba Willow Birch Outdoors
- Universal Towing, Inc.

Congratulations for the decision you have made! Now is the time to join over 900 member businesses and professionals from across the Volusia County region that are working to keep the economy and quality of life in our community healthy and prosperous.

If you are interested in becoming a member, contact Business Development Consultant
Brian Miseveth at 386.523.3680.

New Members Still Making Connections

The Daytona Regional Chamber currently hosts four Regional Business Connections (RBC) which meet regularly in Volusia County: two in Daytona Beach, one in Port Orange, and one in Ormond Beach. While contact with others is limited at this time, growing your circle of influence should still be a priority.

Often times it is known people will work with who they know and trust. The RBC groups are available only to Daytona Regional Chamber members and are industry exclusive. Once an industry category is represented in a group, no other members in that industry are able to participate. Until the social distancing guidelines allow larger meetings and meeting sites are comfortable making accommodations with open doors, the groups are connecting safely via secured, online video conferences. These virtual meetings are moderated by the members and monitored by a Daytona Regional Chamber staff person. Ask Brian how you can take advantage of these exclusive, members-only meetings to continue growing your business in these crucial times at 386.523.3680.

Friday, July 17
Register Free
ResponsibeDevelopment.com

The LOCAL PERSPECTIVE on Market Activity

GG Galloway
CANC

Dwight Selby
Selby Realty

Tim Davis
SVN Alliance

Jeff Douglas
Douglas Property & Development

Daytona Beach Area Association of Realtors®

VCARD

Cobb Cole
Attorneys at Law
Since 1922
sustained financial impacts from the coronavirus crisis. Qualifying nonprofits may apply for a one-time assistance grant. Qualifying nonprofits that have up to 25 full-time employees, or the part-time equivalent, may be eligible to receive a one-time grant of $3,000. Qualifying nonprofits with 26 or more full-time employees, or the part-time equivalent, may be eligible for a one-time grant of $5,000.

**Home-Based Business Grant Program**

On June 16, the Volusia County Council approved a $3 million grant program to assist home-based businesses in the county that have sustained financial impacts from the coronavirus crisis. For home-based businesses that meet the eligibility criteria, they can qualify for a one-time grant of $1,500. The allocation is enough to provide 2,000 grants, which will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Businesses must be based out of Volusia County, have the equivalent of 50 or fewer full-time employees and show a minimum of $6,000 in gross income or gross receipts on their most recent tax return. The businesses also must certify that they have suffered at least $1,500 in financial impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For those that receive a grant, the money can be used to offset the negative financial impact they experienced and to help defray the cost of reopening or relaunching their business.

Owners of home-based businesses in Volusia County that have or are in the process of receiving a COVID-19 rent or mortgage assistance grant from the county do not qualify for the home-based business grant program.

For more information on any of the Relaunch Volusia Grant programs, be sure to visit VolusiaBusinessResources.com or call Volusia County Economic Development Division at (386) 248-8048.