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Blueprint Notes

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"MEMBERS WORKING WITH MEMBERS"

A Newsletter for Members of Gulf Coast Builders Exchange, Inc

November 2008

Chairman's Comments

By Doug Sutter, Vice President, Sutter Roofing Company of Florida

Greetings Fellow Members!

We would like to congratulate all of the GCBE endorsed candidates - the winners and those who fought the tough races. We were glad to support their campaigns and know that they will all do what is best for Manatee, Sarasota & Charlotte Counties.

The last time I was writing this column I was sleep-deprived as many of you were in rooting for the Tampa Bay Rays in their first World Series appearance. We all know how that played out but what a great season for the Rays and their long-suffering fan base! With a young and talent-rich roster and the excellent leadership of Manager Joe Maddon, the future looks very bright for the Rays. Our local baseball future, however, is not as bright. We let the Cincinnati Reds get away from us last year and lost the opportunity to land the spring training camp of the mighty Boston Red Sox. I applaud the volunteers who put their heart and souls into this effort. Going forward, we urge City and County leaders to embrace these golden opportunities and bring together the private and public interests, which will benefit us all. Unfortunately, we know these teams are not coming here and this may be a decision we may look back upon with regret. The opportunity lost to draw in a world-famous team, possibly bringing thousands of new visitors, potential real estate buyers and helping to jumpstart our local economy is unfortunate.

The Holiday season is upon us and the GCBE is kicking it off with our Winter Networking Social & Toy Drive at Ceviche Tapas Bar and Restaurant on December 4th. Please come by after work and join us at the awesome rooftop bar to mingle, network, and socialize with your fellow members. This promises to be a fun and very well attended event, so please make your reservations as soon as possible and arrive early. We will be collecting toys on behalf of the local charity Children First, so please remember to bring a toy to place in the donation box. In this year of record job losses, employment challenges and low-earnings, this may be the only gift that a less-fortunate child receives this Holiday season so lets all help out the best we can.

I have two exciting announcements to report regarding the Builders Exchange. First, we are delighted to be moving into beautiful new office digs located in the Bank of Commerce Building in Lakewood Ranch effective January 2009, which is centrally located for our members. One of the perks to our new location is the use of the 12,000 square foot deck where we will be able to hold some of our networking socials- watch for those events early next year!

Lastly, it is my pleasure to introduce Mary Dougherty-Slapp to the Membership as the new Executive Director. Mary comes to us most recently from the Home Builders Association of Manatee County where she served in a similar capacity. The Board of Directors is very excited to work with Mary and admires the leadership, vision, and goals she brings with her. Please be sure to introduce yourself and welcome her aboard!

The future is bright for your Builders Exchange and we are glad you are a part of it!

Douglas Sutter
Chairman

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2008 KEYSTONE MEMBERS

J.E. Charlotte Construction Corp.
Key Glass, LLC
SunTrust
Sutter Roofing Company of Florida

Bontrager Construction • Cortez Heating & Air
Gulf Coast Business Review • Jesse Hostetler Masonry
Jon F. Swift, Inc. • Kellogg & Kimsey, Inc. • Tampa Groves Mining
United Rentals • Zirkelbach Construction

SAVE THE DATES!

Thurs., Dec. 4	**Winter Networking Social and Toy Drive at Ceviche in Downtown Sarasota**
Thurs., Feb 5	**Annual Meeting, Installation & Awards Banquet – Lakewood Ranch Country Club**

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

RE Crawford Construction - On Tuesday, November 18th officials from the Social Security Administration together with executives from RE Crawford Construction and Cambridge Venture Partners celebrated the groundbreaking of the Morgan Johnson Commerce Center. The commerce park will consist of two office buildings as well as future outparcels which will be located on the corner of State Road 64 and Morgan Johnson, four miles west of Lakewood Ranch with close proximity to I-75.

Zirkelbach Construction - has been selected to renovate Faith Lutheran Church at 9608 U.S. Highway 301 in Parrish. The project consists of the selective demolition and reconstruction of the existing sanctuary, fellowship hall and narthex.

Rex Jensen, CEO of Schroeder-Manatee Ranch & Ed Hunzeker, Manatee county administrator, will speak at the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance November membership luncheon on November 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Fete Ballroom at Polo Grill, 8140 Lakewood Main Street, Lakewood Ranch. The cost is $20 for members and $30 for non-members. Visit www.lwrba.org for registration information.

SunTrust Bank has promoted Pamela Peelor to regional trust advisor in Private Wealth Management. Peelor is based at the downtown Sarasota office and will be responsible for handling high net worth relationships with complex fiduciary issues.

Servpro - Teresa Mock and Pamela Kalaczynski have joined Servpro of East Manatee County as marketing consultants. Servpro (www.servprobradenton.com) offers professional fire and water cleanup and restoration services and mold remediation.

Kirk Pinkerton, P.A .- (www.kirkpinkerton.com) shareholder Julie Horstkamp recently was appointed to the board of directors of the Sarasota County Bar Association. Kirk Pinkerton's associates Jerilyn Hattendorf and Zachary Ross were both appointed to the board of the Young Lawyer's Division.

Wilson Miller, Inc - James Paulmann, senior vice president and principal, has been elected secretary of the South Tampa Bay Area Transportation Partnerships, known as STARTUPS (www.transportationstartups.com). A privately funded regional coalition, STARTUPS was established to provide a strong voice on transportation issues at the local, state, and federal levels.

Zirkelbach Construction - The Future Builders of America (FBA), Manatee Chapter, partnered with Zirkelbach Construction on Thursday, October 30, 2008 and toured the construction firm's FedEx Ground regional distribution facility project in Manatee County. Over 100 students viewed construction progress photos, walked the job site, and had the opportunity to ask project executives and supervisors questions

The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce presents "Money, Money: How do I get the Money?" on Wednesday, November 19 from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at the chamber building, 1945 Fruitville Road. The cost is $20 for chamber members and $30 for nonmembers. Guest panelists include Brain Palmer of Brian Palmer Accounting & Tax, Inc., Carolyn Griffin of the MCC Business Resource Center and Charlie Murphy of the Bank of Commerce. Reservations not required. For information, contact Jennifer Geils at jgeils@sarasotchamber.com or call 556-4031.

The Home Builders Association of Manatee County will host a membership meeting and business card exchange on Thursday, Nov. 13 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Holiday Pools, 7405 28th St. Court East. The free event is open to all HBA members. Call 749-7035 x 302 or e-mail mmartinez@hbamanatee.org for reservations and information.

Zirkelbach Construction - has been selected to provide design and build services for the Manatee County Fleet Services Division. The 14,000-square-foot facility will be located at 4700 66th Street West in Bradenton. The building is scheduled for completion in November 2009. Zirkelbach's design and build team includes Ugarte and Associates, King Engineering and ME3 Engineering.

E. John Lopez, partner in the law firm of **Norton, Hammersley, Lopez & Skokos**, has been appointed to the board of directors of Pines of Sarasota Foundation. Lopez's practice emphasis is in estate planning, probate and tax planning

Welcome New Members:

My Green Buildings (Sarasota)
Mark B. Boenker
General Contractor

Total Air Solutions, LLC
(North Port)
Bill Albert, Vice President
Air Conditioning

The GCBE has received membership applications from the following companies:

Island Specialties, Inc. (Sarasota)
Mike Searcy, President
Promotional products
Eco-friendly products

Membership Directory Updates:

We are in the process of finalizing information for our 2008-2009 Membership Directory. Print date to be determined. If you have any questions please call Heather Bareis, Executive Assistant at 330-8668.

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2008 UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR

CALL 330-8668, FAX 330-9545 FOR RESERVATIONS OR EMAIL heatherb@gcbe.com FOR RESERVATIONS or ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Thurs., Dec. 4 Winter Networking Social & Toy Drive at Ceviche Tapas Bar and Restaurant, Downtown Sarasota, 5:30-7:30p.m.

Thurs., Feb 5 Annual Meeting, Installation & Awards Banquet – Lakewood Ranch Country Club

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GULF COAST BUILDERS EXCHANGE, INC.

1487 Second Street, Suite B
Sarasota, FL 34236-4911
Telephone 941-330-8668 • Facsimile 941-330-9545
Email: heatherb@gcbe.com
www.gcbe.com

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Heather Bareis, Executive Assistant

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Highlights from our Fall Golf Tournament
Heritage Oaks Golf & Country Club

GCBE Results:

1st Gross – Team W.G. Mills: Yanick, Alex, Bobby & Richard

1st Net – Team Universal Engineering & Wolverine Engineering: Robert, Brewster, Mike & Gregg

2nd Gross – Team Delta Southern: Gregg, Jeff, Mike &Gary

2nd Net – Team Spectrum Contracting: Joel, Rich, Chris & Joe

Closest to the Pin: Ben Bolt; Ben Wagner; Mike Cule & Joe Befera

Crooked Drive: Bobbie Ann Weyler

Longest Drives: Connie Harding & Jerry Wolf

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Letter from the Interim Executive Director

By Stan Sabuk, Skyline Builders Group, Inc.

As we prepare to transition the executive office, I wanted to take a moment and extend my appreciation to everyone I've had the privilege of working with over the past two months.

As acting director, I've been able to witness first-hand the election of the new Director, Mary Dougherty-Slapp, and the hiring of executive assistant Heather Bareis. I have found Ms. Bareis to be a quick learner and capable of serving the demands of the GCBE membership. She's efficient, organized and will be a great asset to the organization.

For two years, I've had the privilege of working with Mary Dougherty-Slapp and have found her to be a person of many talents and we're lucky to have such a strong advocate for the organization at the helm. Mary has a strong relationship with a wide variety of people statewide and, coupled with her unique relationship with Tallahassee and various members of the state legislature, she comes uniquely equipped as Director of the Gulf Coast Builders Exchange.

But Ms. Dougherty-Slapp's strength is not just with her statewide network. She understands the power of local advocacy, and how it all relates to the big picture. And if we have learned anything from the recent presidential election, we have learned that the power of the many is powerful indeed.

We are at an exciting moment in our organization. Poised to realize our own strength of many, with a Director who embraces the vision of the big picture and the power of coming together, the days ahead for the GCBE hold the promise of great things. Changes are afoot. You can look for a new facility, a discussion about where we want to go in 2009, and much more.

It's an exciting time for our organization. And, as chair-elect of the Board of Directors, I look forward to working together with the new administration and together, achieving great things.

I'm delighted to have been a part of the transition to get us there.

Stan Sabuk

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Construction Technology Careers (CTC) is the award-winning, best-practice model preapprenticeship partnership for high school youth, which is building our future workforce. Realizing the benefit CTC provides the region's economic and community development, the Sarasota Association of Realtors (SAR) Commercial Investment Division (CID) used its annual charity golf scramble net proceeds to benefit the youth preapprenticeship. Pictured here is CTC Coordinator Kristey Richardson receiving the generous donation from SAR CID President Dan McLeroy. CTC takes teamwork and we've got it! Thanks SAR CID members!

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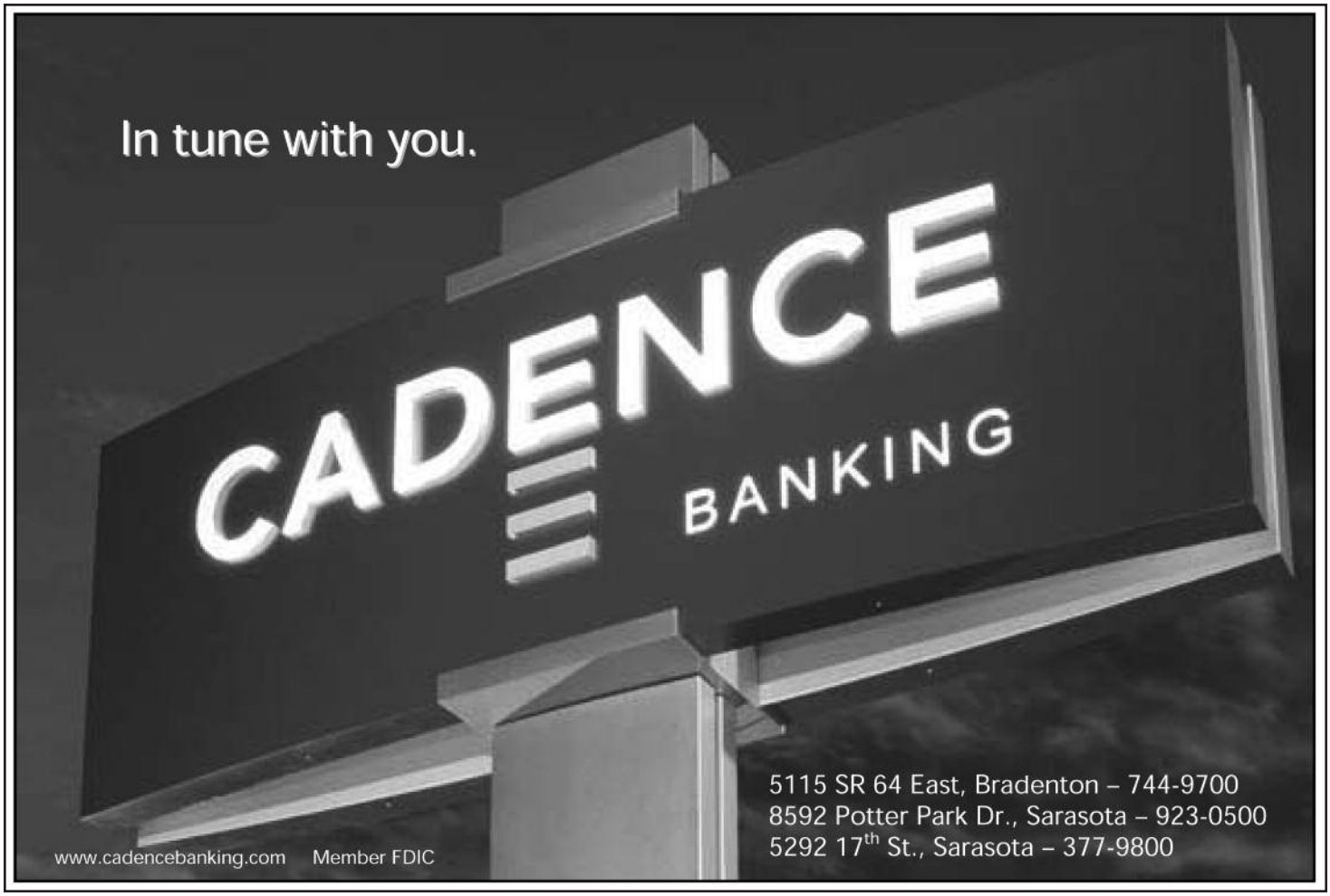
Target Your Market and Support the GCBE!

When space is available, non-members and shorter time commitments may be accepted. Photo-ready artwork deadline is generally during the first week of each month. Payment is requested in advance for full page ads and to reserve other ad space for a six month minimum period. For your convenience, the GCBE gladly accepts Visa or MasterCard.

Please contact Heather Bareis, Executive Assistant at (941) 330-8668 for current deadlines and space availability.



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