

HELLO JANUARY

WEEKLY E-NEWS



January 29, 2024

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 **Advent Health**

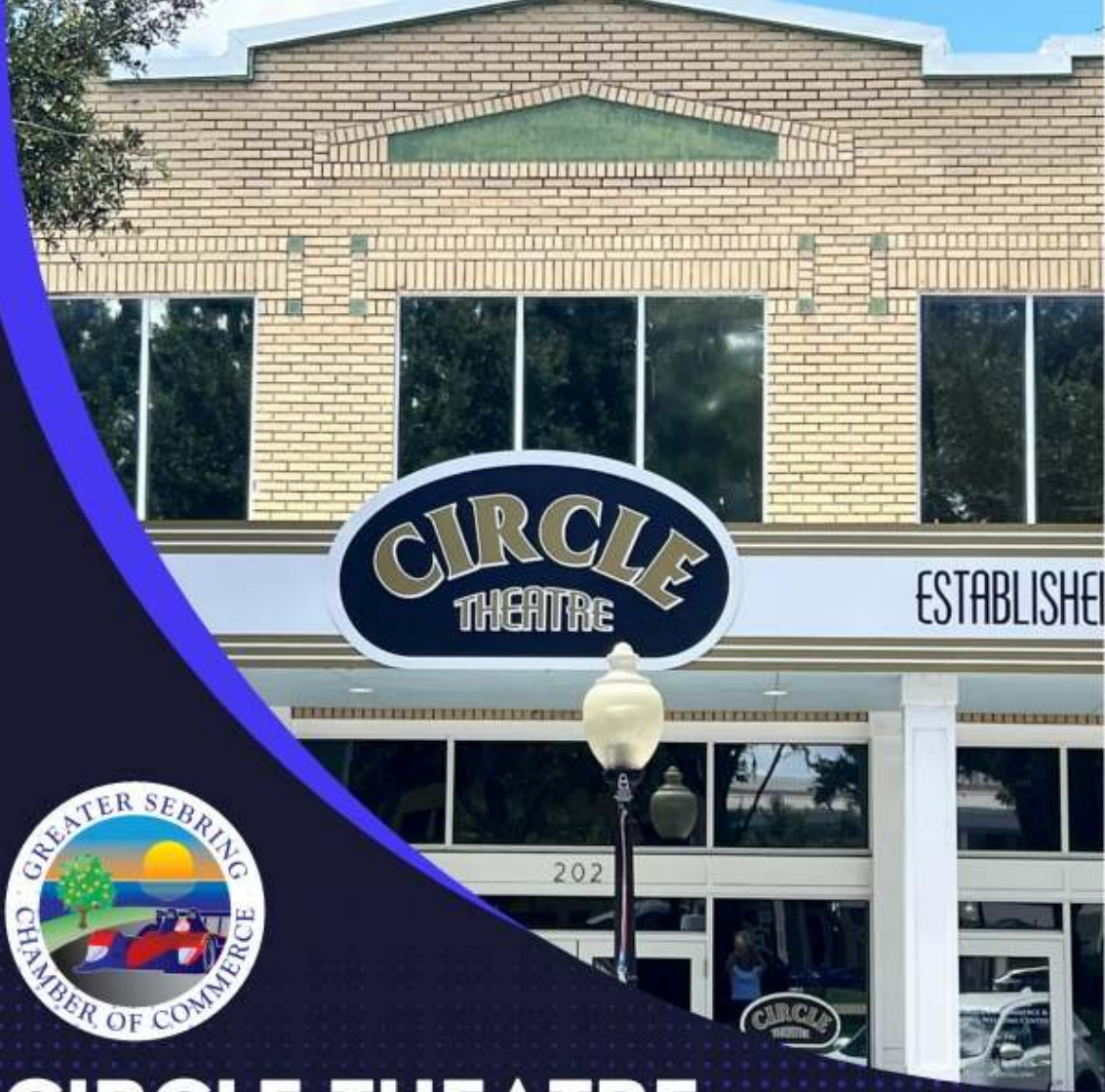


CIRCLE THEATRE CAPTIAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDRAISER

Greater Sebring
Chamber of Commerce

Contact:
863-385-8448
ceo@sebring.org

2024-2026



Sebring Chamber Luncheon



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH • 12 PM
ISLAND VIEW RESTAURANT AT SUN 'N LAKE
DOORS OPEN AT 11:30 • PROGRAM STARTS AT 12PM

*PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED ONLINE
WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM THIS MONTH'S SPEAKERS:
HIGHLANDS COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Thank you to
our sponsor:

LAST DAY TO
PRE-REGISTER:
TUESDAY,
FEB. 6TH



RSVP here!

A WORK OF THE HEART



*Home is the key
to a better future.*



It's a Silent Auction
at the Greater Sebring
Chamber of Commerce
Luncheon on February 8!

We'll be bringing a few special
donations for a silent auction to
support our mission to build homes,
communities & hope.

Bidding will open at 11:30 am and close
at 1:15PM. Auction item winners will be
announced at the conclusion of the
event.

The Alley family is working on sweat equity
hours in the ReStore and on the
construction site as part of their
partnership for a home. The Alley's
youngest daughter has Spina Bifida, which
has presented many challenges for the
family. They are looking forward to a safe,
affordable home where they can all thrive.

February 8, 2024 at 11:30am

The Island View, 5223 Sun'N Lake Blvd., Sebring, FL 33872

HIGHLANDS COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
159 S. Commerce Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870
863-385-7156 | www.habitathighlands.org

Review Us!



SO
GOOD!



SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR CAMERA APP

Not working with your camera app?

Search for a free qr code reader on your app store.

Install the app and try scanning again.

A service provided by  **QR-Code-Generator**.com



Our High-C To-Go FaceBook Group is growing thanks to our wonderful members! It's a great way for you to post about what's happening, a great experience you had somewhere, ask for recommendations and more! We'd love for you to invite others and use it to promote anything you have going on! You do not have to be a member of the Sebring Chamber to participate, but our members will be recognized in a special way on the page whenever they post! Please continue to invite others to the page! Check it out!

Thank you to our year round Sponsors!

2024 Chairman Circle Sponsors



CONNECT. CREATE. COLLABORATE.



SUN 'N LAKE
GOLF CLUB



Heacock Insurance

2024 President's Club



E-Stone USA



BRIGHTON



We have placed ALL of our member names into a bowl to draw from every week. New members will be added to the drawing as they join.

On Mondays we will draw
FIVE Members to highlight on Facebook and in the newsletter
for the next week!

Your 'highlight' can be ANYTHING you want it to be. It can be promoting a special event, history, a great customer service story you would like to share, etc.

You can send a video (30 sec or less) or flyer (PDF or JPEG format). It must be received no later than the Friday the week before you are set to be highlighted. We will let you know what day you will be highlighted on Facebook

Once everyone has been drawn, we will start over again!

If you are a current member of the Sebring Chamber, you do not need to do anything extra to be included.

SALISBURY STEAK DINNER

SEBRING RECREATION CLUB
333 POMEGRANATE AVE, SEBRING

SATURDAY, FEB. 24, 2024

4:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.

\$12.50 SUGGESTED DONATION

Salisbury Steak
Mashed potatoes & gravy
Carrots
Lettuce salad
Dessert – Beverage

See club member for tickets or call
Gloria at 217-377-8892

Congratulations to this weeks Marvelous Members. We look forward to hearing more from them next week:

- Highlands Jewelers
- Boy Scouts of America, Greater Tampa Bay Area Council
- J. Biance Financial
- American Red Cross
- Enjoy Your Lil Bit of Paradise

Recycling centers are open!



All three of the County's recycling drop-off centers are now open!

Residents will be able to bring items to the recycling centers only during the posted hours of operation. See below for that information.

WHAT CAN BE RECYCLED?

- Glass
- Plastics (bottles, jugs, and jars)
- Steel, tin and aluminum cans
- Clean flattened cardboard
- Newspaper, junk mail, office paper (not shredded) and other non-coated paper

The plastic, paper, aluminum, and cardboard will all be combined into one bin, while glass will go into a separate bin. Bags used to transport recyclables to the drop-off center will need to be emptied and then disposed of as garbage (unless they are re-usable). **Plastic bags are not accepted.**

The on-site attendant will be able to answer questions, help residents deposit the items that can be recycled, and make sure the items are deposited in the appropriate recycling containers to avoid contamination.

Find more information online at highlandsfl.gov/departments/solid_waste/recycling.php.



Lake Placid's site opened 6/1.

WHERE:

Downtown, at the corner of Hickory Avenue and West Royal Palm Street

OPEN:

Mondays and Wednesdays from 2-5:30 p.m.

Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Avon Park's site opened 8/1.

WHERE:

Downtown, at the intersection of South Prospect Avenue and Eddie Cannon Street

OPEN:

Mondays and Wednesdays from 2-5:30 p.m.

Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Sebring's site opened 8/2.

WHERE:

At Max Long Recreational Complex, using the entrance off Westminster Road

OPEN:

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-5:30 p.m.

Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



**Overview of the CareerSource Heartland Region
Not Seasonally Adjusted
January 19, 2024**

- The unemployment rate in the CareerSource Heartland region (DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, and Okeechobee counties) was 3.8 percent in December 2023. This rate was 0.8 percentage point greater than the region's year ago rate of 3.0 percent. The region's December 2023 unemployment rate was 0.9 percentage point above the state rate of 2.9 percent. The labor force was 78,162, up 1,623 (+2.1 percent) over the year. There were 2,989 unemployed residents in the region.
- Okeechobee County had the lowest unemployment rate (3.1 percent) in the CareerSource Heartland region followed by DeSoto County (3.3 percent), Hardee County (4.0 percent), and Highlands County (4.3 percent).
- Employment by industry in the CareerSource Heartland region totaled 56,406 jobs in June 2023 (the latest available data). CareerSource Heartland region's employment increased by 2,304 jobs (+4.3 percent) over the year.
- The Other Services (+12.3 percent); Leisure and Hospitality (+12.2 percent); Manufacturing (+10.9 percent); Financial Activities (+9.2 percent); and Professional and Business Services (+6.5 percent) industries grew faster in the region than statewide over the year.
- The industries gaining jobs over the year were Leisure and Hospitality (+708 jobs); Education and Health Services (+359 jobs); Professional and Business Services (+298 jobs); Government (+208 jobs); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+184 jobs); Manufacturing (+179 jobs); Financial Activities (+152 jobs); Other Services (+142 jobs); and Construction (+29 jobs).
- The industries losing jobs over the year were Natural Resources and Mining (-53 jobs) and Information (-7 jobs).

Sebring Metro Area

- In December 2023, nonagricultural employment in the Sebring MSA was 27,900, an increase of 500 jobs (+1.8 percent) over the year.
- The Government industry was unchanged in jobs over the year.

Note: All data are subject to revision.

Source: Florida Department of Commerce, Bureau of Workforce Statistics and Economic Research.



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- ★ Market growth & marketing strategies
- ★ Workforce & much more



No-cost consulting available monthly at Sebring Chamber with Randy

LEARN MORE



SBDC AT USF IN HIGHLANDS COUNTY

Visit an expert business consultant, at no-cost,
now at the Greater Sebring Chamber of Commerce in Highlands
County. Located at 202 Circle Park Dr, Sebring, FL 33870



SBDCTampaBay.com





COME OUT & PLAY!



To see a listing of parks with
playgrounds in our community,
scan the QR code below.

Open your camera app >> hold it up to the code >>
open the notification that will appear



Sign-Up for Texts from Us!

We'll text you about upcoming
Chamber events, and we're
making it easier to RSVP and buy
tickets, right on your cell phone.
Sign up now!



News from Your Fellow Members

Please see the list of links below to view upcoming events, specials & promotions from your fellow members.

***CLICK ON THE PICTURE OF THE FLIER TO MAKE IT LARGER OR THE LINK PROVIDED FOR MORE INFORMATION**

****The emails below were submitted by Chamber members and do not represent the views of the Sebring Chamber of Commerce.****



Get Your Information Included In Next Week's Email!

To submit your information to be included in the Friday Email Blast, please email a **PDF** flyer to admin@sebring.org. Flyer must be received by Thursday at 3PM preceding the Monday blast to be included. The flyer must be in PDF format. If a flyer is sent in another format, we will contact you to re-send.

Valentine's Dance
Wednesday, February 14
7:30-10:30

Music by
Happy Days
\$7.00 Members
\$9.00 Non Members

BYOB & SNACKS
For Your own Table

For Tickets call:
Carol DeArmitt 863-991-1350 & Barry Katz 863-202-0603

Attention Highlands County Tourism & Hospitality Industry Partners

Highlands Co. Tourism & Hospitality Awards Open for Nominations; Deadline March 10

In an effort to recognize and celebrate the hundreds of dedicated tourism & hospitality professionals who provide exceptional customer service and ensure our visitors create special memories with their families and friends throughout their time here, Visit Sebring/The Highlands County Tourist Development Council (TDC) has created the Winner's Circle Tourism Awards.

With eight special tourism-related award categories, find which category your favorite tourism or hospitality professional or volunteer falls into and nominate them before **March 10, 2024**. Be sure to connect their work with the tourism industry.

Join us later in the year as we announce the winners and recognize our local tourism industry stars at our Tourism Awards Ceremony.

Veranda Breeze
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4 Bedroom \$1017

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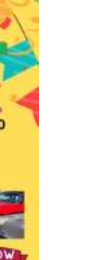
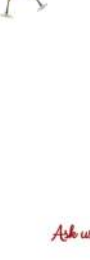
HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024

2308 Wightman Ave. Sebring FL 33870 TTY: 711 Veranda@vxd1998.org
863-382-0044

3 Bedroom \$920	4 Bedroom \$1017	5 Bedroom \$1150	6 Bedroom \$1250	7 Bedroom \$1350	8 Bedroom \$1450	9 Bedroom \$1550	10 Bedroom \$1650	11 Bedroom \$1750	12 Bedroom \$1850
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Who Uses Document Preparation?
The court process does not have to be thought of as an expensive task. However, if you are not prepared, you can be a victim of the system.

FLORIDIAN REQUIREMENTS:
The court process does not have to be thought of as an expensive task. However, if you are not prepared, you can be a victim of the system. The court process does not have to be thought of as an expensive task. However, if you are not prepared, you can be a victim of the system.



Cleats for Kids
BRING SMILES TO THE CHILDREN IN PERU

Be a blessing & make a difference by donating your old soccer cleats to the children in Peru!

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Peru Fresh

We Love Love

Ask us about our Love Package in the month of February

Love Package Includes:
Mini Mimosas with Chocolate Covered Strawberries

\$20 per couple
\$10 for single

Join us for our

BINGO

Community Appreciation Event and One-Year Anniversary at Our New Home

February 6 | 3-5pm

We are excited to welcome you to our office for our ONE-YEAR anniversary in our new location! We'd love if you and a guest could join us to play one of our favorite games — bingo! — and enjoy some wine, appetizers, and prizes!

863.658.4874

RSVP by February 5th. When you RSVP, let us know if a guest will be joining you. The more, the merrier!

Central Florida HEARING SERVICES
AUDIOLOGY & HEARING AID CENTER

7711 US 27 N, Sebring, FL 33870 • centralfloridhearing.com • 863.658.4874

THE PALMS FOUNDATION OF SEBRING

Benevolent Dinner

February 1, 2024
6:00 pm

Cash Bar
Doors Open at 5:30 pm

Meal Choices:
Chicken
Beef
Vegetarian

\$75

Masquerade Dinner
Find a mask and wear it well...
So your true identity no one can tell...
Dress for the Event

For Tickets or More Info:
Ashley 863-243-9957 • Julia 863-381-1715

Island View Restaurant
Sun 'N Lake, Sebring

Yoga for Life

IYENGAR YOGA CLASS

Instructor: Nancy Dale
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Tuesday 1pm
Thursday 5:30pm
Friday 1pm

Shield Medical Group Wellness Center
4597 Casablanca Circle
Sebring, FL 33870

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LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR GOALS TO SELL.

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PRESENTED BY THE HEALTH EQUITY COALITION

MULTICULTURAL DAY

Saturday, April 20 | 1:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.
231 Wilbur C. King Blvd Zolfo Springs, FL 33890

FREE EVENT ADMISSION

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5 BIG CHALLENGES FACING 90% OF SMALL BUSINESSES:

- Financial Mystery:** Master small business finance to avoid cash flow issues and bankruptcy, covering cash flow, funding, and expenses.
- Customer Triumph:** Conquer customer challenges with effective marketing in competitive markets. Target your audience through strategic channels.
- Complete Smart:** Stand out and thrive against giants by highlighting your unique selling proposition (USP).
- Operate Efficiently:** Boost productivity and cut costs through streamlined operations.
- Talent Success:** Attract and retain skilled employees with competitive strategies, improving turnover and fostering sustainable growth.

Presented by:
Sean Alexander, CFO
President | Sean Alexander, P.A.

seanalexanderllc.com | 813-443-1338

The Vault
Modern European Finesse and Bar

Belgian Coffee Waffle 12
Fresh Berries, Honey Butter & Syrup

French Toast 14
Thick Cut Brioche, Vanilla Mousse, Berry Compote, & Toasted Walnuts

The Vault English Breakfast 15
Crispy Potato, Bacon, Mushroom, Baked Beans, Sausage Patties, Toast, and Choice of Eggs

Classic Omelet 13
Caramelized Shallots, Ham, Bacon, Cheese, Breakfast Potatoes, & Toast

Shrimp & Grits 16.50
Buttery Grits, Cajun Spiced Tiger Shrimp, Andouille Sausage, Arugula, & Lemon Butter Sauce

Eggs Benedict 13.50
Fresh Toasted Bagel, Grilled Ham, Two Poached Eggs, In House Hollandaise Sauce, With Breakfast Potatoes

The Vault Lox with Bagel 16.50
Fresh Toasted Bagel, Smoked Salmon, Crispy Capers, Dill Cream Cheese Spread, Pickled Red Onions, & Mixed Greens

Bacon 4 Sausage 4
Fresh Fruit 6 Breakfast Potatoes 4

"Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, seafood, shellfish, or eggs may increase your risk of foodborne illness, especially if you have certain medical conditions."

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THE COTTAGE MARKET

EVERY SATURDAY | 9-2 PM
DOWN TOWN SEBRING

A Cottage Market event in Sebring gives you the chance to support your community's food system, give local companies your support, and enjoy fresh, local food.

We Accept SNAP Benefits

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• Perfect for the busy day
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• Perfect for the busy day

EVENTS
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• Perfect for the busy day
• Perfect for the busy day
• Perfect for the busy day
• Perfect for the busy day

SPORTS
EVERYONE WINS WITH KONA
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• Perfect for the busy day
• Perfect for the busy day
• Perfect for the busy day
• Perfect for the busy day

WORKPLACE
THE PERFECT BREAK TO ANY DAY
• Perfect for the busy day
• Perfect for the busy day
• Perfect for the busy day
• Perfect for the busy day
• Perfect for the busy day

PARTIES
WE BRING THE PARTY TO ANY CELEBRATION
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• Perfect for the busy day
• Perfect for the busy day
• Perfect for the busy day
• Perfect for the busy day

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USDA SECTION 502 SINGLE FAMILY HOUSING DIRECT LOANS

"Our Mission is to assist low-income families obtain safe, decent, and affordable housing."

Program Highlights:

- Zero Money Down
- As of September 1st, 2023, current interest rate is 4.125%
- Interest rate when modified by payment assistance, can be as low as 2%
- Up to 33 year payback period – 38 year payback period may be available to very-low income applicants.

Requirements:

- Home must be purchased in a rural area. (Highlands County qualifies)
- Household income must not exceed the income limits.
- Credit score of 640 or higher ** (may still qualify if under 640)

Annual Income Limits	Household Size (1-4)	Household Size (5-8)
Very-low income	\$32,750	\$43,250
Low income	\$52,400	\$69,150

Contact Cristian at (863) 451-5894 for additional information.

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HEARTLAND FOOD BANK

A Plea for Families

The purpose of a food bank is to offer temporary aid to those struggling with food insecurity. Unfortunately, our current economic conditions have prolonged these struggles. Seniors and Veterans living on fixed incomes and working families have seen a 30% drop in their usable income due to rising rents and food costs. Over 80% of Highlands County school children are provided breakfast and lunch so they can learn, grow, and be healthy. Anxiety and depression over food insecurity have risen 25% since the pandemic, higher than any other economic concern, (CDC study).

We are asking our community leaders to support the Heartland Food Bank in its effort to help our friends and neighbors in their time of need. Scan the QR code above or click the link below to support the Heartland Food Bank's capital campaign and "Let no one go hungry" in Highlands County.

www.heartlandfoodbank.com

A HIGHER PLACE IN HEAVEN

JANUARY 12 – 28, 2024

HIGHLANDS LAKESIDE THEATRE

Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 7:30
Sunday 2:30

HIGHLANDS LAKESIDE THEATRE
BOX OFFICE: 664-065-2550
3066 AMFIST CENTER AVENUE
SEBRING, FL 33670

Written by PAMELA PARKER
Series Sponsors DENTAL CARE OF MIDFLORIDA, MICHAEL'S AUTO SALES, and the LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL KUBER, Blue Spatter HEARTLAND ROOT GROUP. Produced by special arrangement with DRAMATIC PUBLISHING, INC. Directed by TOM STARK.

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- SOCIAL MEDIA ADVERTISING
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Instructor: Sifu Mike Nitch
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Thursday 4pm

Shield Medical Group Wellness Center
4597 Casablanca Circle
Sebring, FL 33870

SHIELD
WELLNESS CENTER

DEVOUT DOULA SERVICES

ABOUT US

Whether you need assistance with birth planning, postpartum support, lactation education, or just support, our doula services ensure all areas of your reproductive health and well-being are covered. At Devout Doula Services, our mission is to support, enlighten, and equip birthing individuals, helping them experience their reproductive journey in a way that aligns with their personal desires and beliefs.

In our ever-changing healthcare landscape, Sifu Mike, certified doula, and maternal support nurse, has a trusted partner for all your doula needs. She's not just devoted to her profession, but also to every birthing individual she works with, because the doula (Devout) at Devout Doula Services and Devout Doula Services help you navigate your personal reproductive journey with confidence, compassion, and dignity.

888-755-5899
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www.devoutdoulaservices.com
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Scan QR to complete an application

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5 BIG CHALLENGES FACING 90% OF SMALL BUSINESSES:

- Financial Mystery:** Master small business finance to avoid cash flow issues and bankruptcy, covering cash flow, lending, and expenses.
- Customer Triumph:** Conquer customer challenges with effective marketing in competitive markets. Target your audience through strategic channels.
- Complete Smart:** Stand out and thrive against giants by highlighting your unique selling proposition (USP).
- Operate Efficiently:** Boost productivity and cut costs through streamlined operations.
- Talent Success:** Attract and retain skilled employees with competitive strategies, enhancing turnover and fostering sustainable growth.

Presented by:
Sean Alexander, CEO
President | Sean Alexander, P.A.

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HOPE FOR HIGHLANDS

Building a Trauma-Informed Community

Monthly Highlight

Human Trafficking and Trauma

- Did you know Florida is home to the 3rd highest reports of human trafficking of all states in the Nation?
- Individuals from any class, religious, cultural, or ethnic group can be targeted in human trafficking schemes.
- The compounded nature of trauma in human trafficking can have a significant physical, mental, and emotional impact on its victims.

Training Spot-Light

Many know about human trafficking, but few understand what it is, how it affects our society, and what must be done to end it. Do you want to learn more about Human Trafficking? Visit the Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking website and watch the human trafficking informational video at <https://www.floridallianceendtrafficking.org/understanding-trafficking/>

Action Challenge

If you're someone you know needs help, or if you want to report a tip of suspected human trafficking, please contact the Florida Alliance to End Human Trafficking at 1-866-362-7233. This is a confidential, multilingual hotline for victims, survivors, and individuals with human trafficking concerns. If a stressor is involved, please call 1-866-362-7233.

Community Resource to Know

The New York Child Support Services provides a free, confidential assessment for victims of an individual in a dual state and assists them with their child support issues. If you are a parent, you can request a free, confidential assessment for your child support issues. Contact them at (866) 487-8883 or info@nyschildsupport.org

NEWSLETTER

SEBRING HILLS ASSOCIATION

January 2024

2024

The Sebring Hills Board of Directors would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy new year.

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT
"EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION"
The Board of Directors election will be at the January 12, 2024 meeting. If you are interested in running for non-voting anyone, please contact Lena Phelps, (number below)

SEBRING HILLS RENTALS
Clubhouse rentals (including the Library, Multipurpose Room and Lakefront property) - Members will receive a \$100 discount. Call our number below for more information if you are interested.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY
Our 2024 membership dues, good for 1/1/24 through 12/31/24 are due. The dues are \$25 a year per household. Encourage your friends and neighbors to join. Associate memberships are also encouraged. Please bring a letter from the Clubhouse or mail it in.

NEW MEMBERS
Betsy & Roy Hoeller
Beverly J. Smith-Ford (A)

STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS
What skills do you have? Carpenter, plumber, handyman? Volunteers for all activities are always welcome: kitchen, cake baking, phone calls, lawnfront property, bingo, pancake breakfast, monthly potluck, setup and breakdown for clubhouse functions and more. Let us know what you can help with and how much time you can lend. Please contact Cindy at the Clubhouse or call 863.362.6554.

CONTACT INFO:
info@sebringhillsassociation.org
288 Lake Ave., Sebring, FL 33870
863.362.1554

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
January 6, 2024
Please join us for the first pancake breakfast of 2024! The cost is \$10 per person, \$5 members. Pancakes, scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy, sausage, bacon, potatoes, coffee & juice.
December recap:
Santa visited us at the December pancake breakfast. The food was great as usual. The rickety horse raffle was won by Karen McKeown and the 50/50 was won by Charlotte Darg.
The Sebring Hills Christmas Dinner on 12/25/23 was enjoyed by 62 people. The Auction provided the most, potatoes and beverages and delicious side dishes were provided by attendees.

CLUBHOUSE HOURS
Cindy, the Clubhouse Manager, will normally be at the Clubhouse M-F from 10a-2p; however, this may vary from time to time. We hope to get someone to fill in on occasion when needed.

POTLUCK DINNER/GENERAL MTG.
The next potluck dinner is January 8th at 6pm followed by the General Meeting at 6pm. The main dish and a drink provided by the Association. Please bring a side dish to share.

JOIN US FOR FUN & GAMES
We are still looking for more players for Texas Hold'em, Dominion, Bingo, Bridge and Trivial Pursuit. Let us know if there is a game you would like to suggest.

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