

Housh Ghovae

423 150th Avenue, #1206
Madeira Beach, FL 33708
727-709-0943

housh@northsideengineering.net

RESIDENCE:

Pinellas County resident for forty five (45) years
Madeira Beach resident for twenty (20) years.

PROFESSIONAL

President and CEO, Northside Engineering, Inc.

Principal in Charge for 35 Years

Civil Engineering and Land Planning Firm

Mr. Ghovae established Northside Engineering in 1989 and has built the firm over the years to become a premiere consulting firm in civil engineering and land development services. Northside Engineering under the direction of Mr. Ghovae has completed civil engineering designs for over five thousand (5,000) projects; schools, parks, governmental facilities, new subdivisions, condominiums, apartment complexes, office buildings, hotels, high-rise buildings and commercial establishments including malls and shopping centers.

EDUCATION

Norwich University, Northfield Vermont 1980 (Electrical Engineering)

University of South Florida 1981, (Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering)

Saint Petersburg College 1998 (Business Administration)

KEY SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

Civil Engineering attributes

- 35 years of experience in Civil Engineering with following levels of Management

- Projects.

- Staff.

- Clients

- Governmental Agencies Relations.

- Risk Management.

- Finances.

AREAS OF EXPERIENCE

- *Design, Permitting and Construction Administration of small and large scale Commercial and Residential developments in Florida.

- *Zoning Code, Rezoning, PD, and Land Use Amendments.

- *Stormwater and Drainage to meet Local, State and Water Management District Requirements.

- *Infrastructure: Water Line, Fire Line, Sanitary Sewer Extension and Lift Stations.

- *Knowledge of Landscaping.

- *Knowledge of Traffic Engineering.

- *Knowledge of Environmental Requirements for Wetlands and Hazardous waste.

- *Good understanding of Code Compliance of many Governmental Agencies in the State of Florida including Counties, Cities, F.D.O.T., Water Management Districts and F.D.E.P.

- *Good relations with upper Management and Staff with Pinellas, Pasco, Hillsborough, Manatee Counties and in Cities.

- *Good relations with Development Teams and Business Groups.

- *Good relationship with most elected officials locally and statewide.

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BOARDS SERVED ON (PAST AND PRESENT)

- * SWFWMD Pinellas-Anclote River Basin Board.
Member, Board of Directors, 2010 to 2011.
- * Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.
Gubernatorial Appointment, 2003 to 2009.
- * Florida Holocaust Museum Board Member,
Board of Directors, 2010 to 2016.
- * Pinellas Pace Center for Girls, Inc.
Member, Board of Directors, 2003 to 2013.
Chairman of the Board, 2010 to 2012.
- * Greater Largo Library Foundation Board.
Board of Directors, 2007 to 2010.
- * Palm Harbor Montessori Academy Board.
Member, Board of Directors, 1998 to 2013
- * Palm Harbor Museum Board.
Board Member, 2013 to 2016.
- * Suncoast Health Council Board.
Member, Board of Directors, 2011 to 2013
- * Pinellas County's Pinellas by Design Steering Committee.
Member, 2003 to 2005.
- * Pinellas County U.S. 19 Task Force Committee.
Member, 2000 to 2001.
- * Suncoast Equestrian Association, Inc Board.
Member, 2009 to 2010.
- * City of Madeira Beach
Planning & Zoning Board
- * USF St. Pete, College of Business, Board of Directors, Since 2013
- * St. Petersburg College, Leeper-Ruther Museum Board, Since 2013
- * Juvenile Welfare Board, Mid-County Community Council Member,
Board of Directors, 2007 to present
- * Pinellas Park/Gateway Chamber of Commerce Member
Chairman of the Board, 2001, 2008, 2009
Board of Directors, 1994 to present.

REFERENCES

Available on request.

PRESIDENT
GEORGE W. BUSH

Dec. 21, 2004

Dear House,

Thank you for your great help
on my campaign in Florida.

Your state played a critical
role in this election, and the
Vice President and I were
fortunate to have your help in
campaigning in Florida.

I am honored by the trust of
my fellow citizens, confident
in our purpose, and looking
forward to continuing to lead
this Nation for four more years.

Laura joins me in thanking
you for your steadfast support
and in wishing you and your
family a wonderful Holiday.

Sincerely,
GWB

IN APPRECIATION TO
HOUSH GHOVAEE
FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE
ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF THE
PINELLAS-ANCLOTE RIVER BASIN
OF THE
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
OCTOBER 2009 TO MAY 2011





R HLOAM STATE FIS

FLORIDA FISH & W
CONSERVATION COM

"MAKING FISHING BE



C.W. BILL YOUNG
10TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

2407 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0910

DISTRICT OFFICES:
SUITE 1480
360 CENTRAL AVENUE
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33701

SUITE 606
801 WEST BAY DRIVE
LARGO, FL 33770

CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0910

October 6, 2000

Mr. Houshand Ghovae
Northside Engineering Services
304 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33765

Dear Mr. Ghovae:

Thank you for your work on the U.S. 19 Task Force.

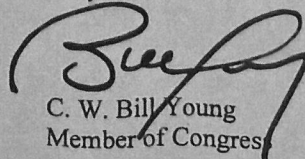
With the \$50,000,000 I have included in the Fiscal Year 2001 Transportation Appropriations Bill for U.S. 19, we take a major step forward in saving lives and reducing traffic congestion along Pinellas County's major north/south artery.

This effort demonstrates that when we work together we can achieve great things for our community. As you know, there is no greater transportation issue in our county then fixing U.S. 19. With your help, we have identified a number of safety improvements that will be undertaken with these funds including the construction of pull out lanes for transit buses that now block traffic when they stop along the highway, improved signage to enable motorists to better locate addresses and to minimize the clutter of traffic signs, sidewalk improvements to enhance pedestrian safety, redesigned medians to improve the flow of traffic, and intelligence transportation systems to monitor traffic and to immediately notify public safety officials of accidents in the roadway. These funds will also be used to initiate a number of construction projects to provide controlled access to U.S. 19 and to improve interchanges and service roads.

The House approved the Transportation Appropriations Bill today. The Senate will take action early next week and the bill should become law soon after that. You can be sure that I will ensure that the Department of Transportation expedites the release of these funds so we can move this project forward and begin planning for future appropriations needs.

Thank you again for your service on the Task Force. With best wishes and personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,


C. W. Bill Young
Member of Congress

CWY:hg

OCT 10 2000



JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA
Office of the Governor
THE CAPITOL

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

May 25, 2000

Mr. Housh Ghovae
Northside Engineering Services, Inc.
304 South Belcher Road
Clearwater, Florida 33765

Dear Mr. Ghovae:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Brownfields Remediation Project. I appreciate your interest.

Floridians work hard to pay their taxes and have every right to expect state government to spend this money wisely. As Governor, I take this responsibility seriously.

Members of my staff are working to gather information about every project contained within the budget. I will personally review each item and consider the overall benefit provided to the people of Florida. I know that many projects will be meritorious, but not all will meet the review criteria. You may be assured that I will do the right thing based on sincere principles, not politics.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeb Bush".

Jeb Bush

JB/hks

DIVISIONS OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Secretary
Office of International Relations
Division of Elections
Division of Corporations
Division of Cultural Affairs
Division of Historical Resources
Division of Library and Information Services
Division of Licensing
Division of Administrative Services



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Katherine Harris

Secretary of State

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

MEMBER OF THE FLORIDA CABINET

State Board of Education
Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund
Administration Commission
Florida Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission
Siting Board
Division of Bond Finance
Department of Revenue
Department of Law Enforcement
Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
Department of Veterans' Affairs

19 May 2001

The Honorable Housh Ghovae
304 South Belcher Road,
Suite C
Clearwater, FL 33765

Dear Mr. Ghovae,

Congratulations on your appointment as a member of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Region Eight. Enclosed is your commission, and for your convenience, a card which identifies you as the holder of this position.

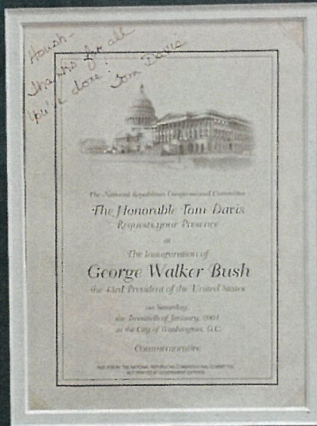
With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Katherine Harris

Secretary of State

Enclosures



N.R.C. Inaugural Committee

<i>Honorable Tom Davis</i>	<i>Chairman</i>
<i>Donna Anderson</i>	<i>Director</i>
<i>Reverend Co-Chair</i>	
<i>Richard Stengel</i>	<i>Georgia</i>
<i>Thomas Hennes</i>	<i>Connecticut</i>
<i>James J. Hoffa</i>	<i>California</i>
<i>Charles H. Johnson</i>	<i>Florida</i>
<i>Michael J. Langan</i>	<i>Illinois</i>
<i>Richard L. Linn</i>	<i>New York</i>
<i>James M. McInnis</i>	<i>Ohio</i>
<i>Donald R. Nichols</i>	<i>Florida</i>

"It is extremely rare that I will faithfully execute the office of the President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the constitution of the United States."

Oath of office of the President of the United States
Prescribed by the Constitution of the United States
ARTICLE II, SECTION 1

Commemorative Program

PRELUDE	THE UNITED STATES MARINE BAND
CALL TO ORDER	THE HONORABLE MITCH MCCONNELL <i>United States Senator, Kentucky</i>
INVOCATION	REVEREND FRANKLIN GRAHAM
THE OATH OF OFFICE WILL BE ADMINISTERED TO THE PRESIDENT BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES	
INAUGURAL ADDRESS	PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
BENEDICTION	PASTOR KIRBYRON H. CALDWELL
THE NATIONAL ANTHEM	STAFF SERGEANT ALEC T. MALY <i>The United States Army Band</i>

The National Republican Congressional Committee
National Leadership Award

presented to:

Housh Ghozaee
Florida Republican of the Year

In recognition of outstanding service and commitment to The Republican Party, and in particular for assistance and guidance administered to the National Republican Congressional Committee.



Don Matton
Don Matton
NRCC Chairman

Donna Anderson
Donna Anderson
NRCC Treasurer

The National Republican Congressional Committee

National Leadership Award

presented to:

MR. HOUSH GHOVAEE

HONORARY CO-CHAIRMAN

Business Advisory Council

In recognition of outstanding service and commitment to
Republican ideals, and in particular for assistance in furthering
the cause of tax reduction and reform.

John Linder
Congressman John Linder
Chairman

Wesley Young
Speaker Peter Young



The National Republican Congressional Committee

National Leadership Award

presented to:

MR. HOUSH GHOVAEE

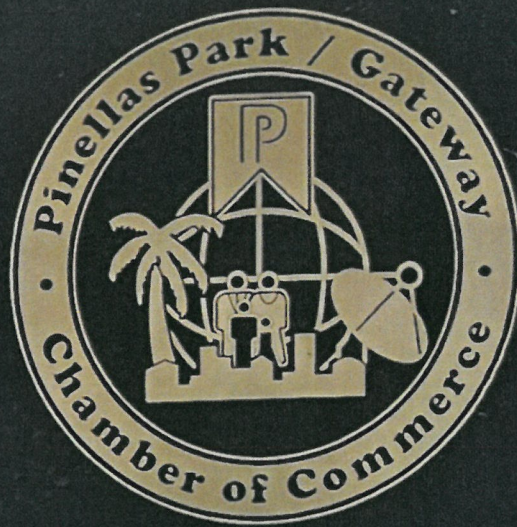
HONORARY CO-CHAIRMAN
Business Advisory Council

In recognition of outstanding service and commitment to
Republican ideals, and in particular for assistance in furthering
the cause of tax reduction and reform.

John Linder
Congressman John Linder
Chairman

Nest Gingrich
Speaker Newt Gingrich





Citizen of the Year

Housh Ghovae



With gratitude for your tireless efforts
to serve our community and in
recognition of the many good things
you have created.



Pinellas Park/Gateway
Chamber of Commerce

January 24, 2015

New Leadership At The Pinellas Park/ Gateway Chamber of Commerce For 2008

Please welcome the 2008 Leadership of the Pinellas Park/Gateway Chamber of Commerce. While this page does not reflect a complete showing of Chamber Executive and Full Boards, Chairs and Past Presidents, the people on this page do represent the strength of character and resolve for which this chamber is earning recognition.



Vice Chair &
Minutes Chair
Pamela Combs



Chairman-Elect
Dennis McClain



2008 Board Chairman
Housh Ghovae



Vice-Chair &
Ambassador Chair
Marian Capozza



Vice-Chair
Charlene Zimmerman



Ambassador Co-Chair
Dave Proffitt



Board Member
Jerry Brunton



Government Chair
H. William Isaly



Board Member
Sandy Liberatore



Exec. Director & Events &
Celebrations Chair
Ethel Mudd



Board Member
Elliot Steele



Economic
Development Chair
Terry England



Finance Chair
Nancy Hodges



Holiday Parade Chair
Laurie Oates



Media Chair &
Tourism Co-Chair
Ray Fisher



Emeritus
Rev. Jimmy Hammond



Board Member
Barbara Lombardo

Presentation of Chamber Awards: Charity – Abilities Foundation • Entrepreneur – Island Lawn Service
2 to 50 Employees – Pinellas Realtor Organization • 51 to 100 Employees – Synovus Bank
100+ Employees – Lockheed Martin Aeronautics • Outstanding Businesswoman of the Year – Shari Swafford
Outstanding Businessman of the Year – Terry England • Lloyd Tingle Good Government Award – Patricia Snook-Bailey
Youth Citizen of the Year Award – Sarah Maslar • Presentation of the Citizen of the Year Award – Jerry Gardner

EXECUTIVE BOARD: Chairman of the Board: Housh Ghovae, Northside Engineering • **Chairman-Elect:** Dennis McClain, Royal Palm, Inc.
Immediate Past Chair: Ray Fisher, Quality Self Storage • **Vice-Chair:** Marian Capozza, Primera Financial
Vice-Chair: Charlene Zimmerman, Regions Bank • **Vice-Chair:** Pam Combs, Schneller, Inc. • **Executive Director:** Ethel Mudd
FULL BOARD & COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Jerry Brookway, Affac • Jerry Brunton, Pre-Paid Legal • Sandy Liberatore, Abilities Foundation
Barbara Lombardo, Synovus Bank • Barbara Saffary, Commercial Partners Realty • Roderick W. Smith, Coast Bank of Florida
Elliott Steele, Vincent House • **AMBASSADOR:** Marian Capozza, Primera Financial • **Co-Chair:** Dave Proffitt, The Growth Coach
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Terry England, England Bros. Const. • **EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS:** Ethel Mudd, Executive Director
FINANCE: Nancy Hodges, Optek, Inc. • **GOVERNMENT:** H. William Isaly, PACE Center for Girls • **HOLIDAY PARADE:** Laurie Oates, Primera Financial
MEDIA: Ray Fisher, Quality Self Storage • **MINUTES CHAIR:** Pam Combs, Schneller, Inc. • **TOURISM:** Co-Chair: Shari Swafford, Bay Travel International • **Co-Chair:** Ray Fisher, Quality Self Storage • **WEB SITE:** Larry Steinlauf, RCS, Inc. • **EMERITUS:** Rev. Jimmy Hammond
ACTIVE PAST CHAIRMAN: 1976: Bruce Cloud • 1980-81: Harry Marlow • 1985-86: Richard Butler • 1989-90: Ray Long • 1994-95: Terry England • 1995-96: Nancy Hodges
1997: Larry Chandler • 1998: Meri Karner • 1999: Jeanne McGinly • 2001: Housh Ghovae • 2002: Bill DeLong • 2003: Alena Brown • 2003 Gateway: John Moroni
2004 Gateway: Noreen Hodges • 2004: Gene Lofgreen • 2005: Stan McKenzie • 2005-06 Gateway: Tom Wagner • 2006: Ethel Mudd • 2007: Ray Fisher

Pinellas Park/Gateway Chamber Trustees

Northside Engineering Services • ClearChannel Outdoor • Brighthouse Networks • Rokosz Media • Synovus Bank • Networks by Design
Derby Lane • Florida OfficeMart • Lockheed Martin • Quality Self Storage • Wal-Mart • City of Pinellas Park • Dali Museum



PINELLAS PARK / MID-COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



HOUSH GHOVAEE
PRESIDENT
2001

With Appreciation

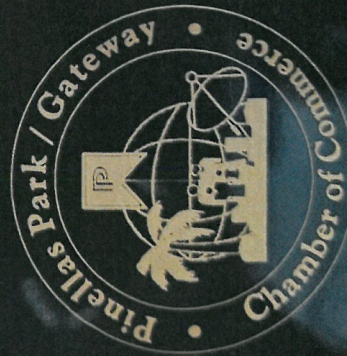
Presented To

Housh Ghovaei

Chairman Of The Board

2008 & 2009

Pinellas Park/Gateway Chamber Of Commerce







RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

Housh,

Thank you so
much for
see you!

[Signature]

NOT PAID FOR AT STATE EXPENSE

4/10/24



TEAM RICK SCOTT - WASHINGTON, DC

4/10/24

Housh,
Happy Birthday!

[Signature]

NOT PAID FOR AT TAXPAYER EXPENSE



RICK SCOTT
UNITED STATES SENATOR

Housh,
Great to see you!

[Signature]

NOT PRINTED AT TAXPAYER EXPENSE

5/15/23

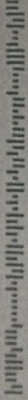
UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PRESORT FIRST CLASS

Housh Ghovace
300 South Belcher Rd
Clearwater, FL 33765

[Signature]
U.S.S.

12 DRY-RP1 33765



Meet Your Chamber Board of Directors



Dr. Dave Pipatello
Immediate past president
Chamber of Commerce



Terry England, the Chamber's president, was born in Avon Park but came to the "shore" when he was one-year-old.



Rick Kallala is the chief operating officer of the Pinellas Community Hospital and is a member of the hospital's board of trustees. He is a new chamber board member and lives in Largo.



Bud Bonley is a general manager with General Telephone Co. He has been on the board for four years and has served on the golf committee. He lives in Seminole.



Rita Bell is the executive vice president of the Pinellas Park Chamber of Commerce. She has worked for the chamber since 1976.



Rick McCullom, South Pinellas Area Manager for Florida Power, is a new member of the chamber board. He lives in Largo.



Thomas Tafelski is president of Aluminum Craftsmen, Thomas Construction and Thomas Inspection Services. He lives in St. Petersburg.



Marlene Crow is a real estate agent for Rick Butler Realty and has been a chamber board member for five years. She lives in Pinellas Park.



Matt Kanover is an Pinellas Park attorney. He received his law degree from the Stetson School of Law. He has served for more than three years on the chamber board of directors. He lives in Seminole.



Walter Taitton is the store manager of J.C. Penny at Pinellas Square. He is a new chamber board member, and belongs to the Pinellas Park Rotary Club. He lives in Palm Harbor.



Mary Potter is vice president of the Pinellas News. She is a new chamber board member. She lives in St. Petersburg.



Pastor Jimmy Hammond is in his second year as a member of the board of directors. He is principal of the First Baptist Christian School. He lives in Pinellas Park.



Wendy Hoy is Director of Provider Relations and Community Liaison for Integrated Health Services of Pinellas Park (formerly Central Park Lodge). A long time chamber member, she has served on the board of directors for six months. She resides in Clearwater.



Larry Chandler is manager and vice-president of the First Union National Bank and is a new chamber board member. He lives in St. Petersburg.



Hannah Ghosewala is president of Northside Engineering Services, Inc., a land development firm. He has been a chamber member for four years and is a vice board member. She has lived in Pinellas Park for 15 years and currently lives in Tarpon Springs.



Peggy Kunda is the president of Hank's Pawn Shop. She has been a member of the Pinellas Park Chamber of Commerce since 1983 and has been on the board of directors for one year.



David Schanzler is president of Fox Travel. He is a new board chamber member. He is on the board of directors of the American Cancer Society, and on the Kiwanis Club of Great Lakes. He is president of the Clearwater Boys' Bunch. He lives in Clearwater.

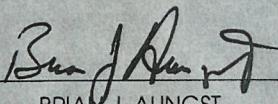
Certificate of Appreciation

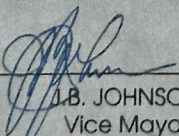


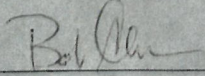
The City of Clearwater
values

*Northside Engineering
Services, Inc.*

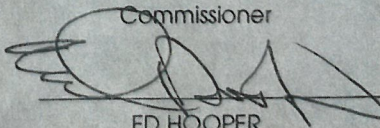
and its employees
who make our City a great
place to invest and do business


BRIAN J. AUNGST
Mayor


J.B. JOHNSON
Vice Mayor


BOB CLARK
Commissioner


ED HART
Commissioner


ED HOOPER
Commissioner

The Mayor and City Council of the

City of
PINELLAS PARK

Hereby Awards this

Certificate of Appreciation

to

NORTHSIDE ENGINEERING SERVICES, INC.

and offers special thanks in recognition of

YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE COUNTRY IN THE PARK EVENT

By Order of the City Council

of the City of Pinellas Park, Florida

this EIGHTEENTH day of MARCH, 2000

Attest:

Kathy J. Withering

City Clerk

William F. Wheeler

Mayor



HOUSH GHOVAEE
BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
Building Dedication: May 10, 2004



FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

★ GOLD ★
BUSINESS MEMBER

NORTHSIDE ENGINEERING, INC.

THE SHERIFFS OF FLORIDA DULY RECOGNIZE THIS BUSINESS AS AN
OUTSTANDING SUPPORTER OF THEIR EFFORTS TO PROVIDE QUALITY
PROFESSIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TO THE CITIZENS OF FLORIDA.

Active Membership Years

2022-2023



The Mayor and City Council of the

City of

PINELLAS PARK

Hereby Awards this

Certificate of Appreciation

to

Housh Ghovae

and offers special thanks in recognition of

Continued contributions to our Business Community

By Order of the City Council

of the City of Pinellas Park, Florida

this 13th day of December, 2001

Kathy Withings
City Clerk

Juan F. Rivera
Mayor



COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



PRESENTED TO

HOUSH GHOVAEE



FOR HIS DONATION OF TIME
AND SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY
AND OUR PARKING LOT PROJECT

PRESENTED BY

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FATHER LOPEZ COUNCIL 5737

MICHAEL SCAVELLI, GRAND KNIGHT

APRIL 23, 2003



Certificate of Appreciation

This certificate is awarded to

Northside Engineering

In recognition of their support to the community through the

Pinellas Park Angel Fund

Sandra L. Bradbury

Sandra L. Bradbury
President, Pinellas Park Angel Fund

11/8/2013

Date

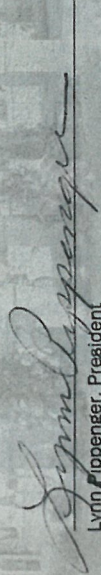
This certificate is awarded to

Northside Engineering Services, Inc

March 10, 2008

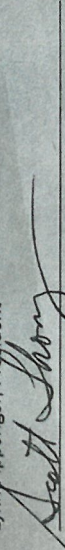
**CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
FOR SPONSORSHIP OF
OUTSTANDING AUTHOR SERIES
AUTHOR, SARA GRUEN
FEBRUARY 23, 2008**

GREATER LARGO LIBRARY FOUNDATION


Lynn Pippenger, President

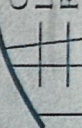
Date

3-10-08


Scott Thompson, Administrator

Date

3-10-08


GREATER
LARGO LIBRARY
FOUNDATION, INC.

GOLD TRUSTEE

This Certificate of Appreciation is awarded to

Northside Engineering Services, Inc.

in recognition of valuable contributions to the

*Pinellas Park / Gateway Chamber
of Commerce*



Debra McEwen
Chamber Chairperson

1-09-2010
Date

To

Housh Ghovae
Northside Engineering
2019



With Gratitude from

Oldsmar Cares

In Honor of Your Exceptional Support

David Wallace, Board Chairman

Michelle Baldwin, Board Vice Chairman



Pinellas Park Mid-County Chamber Of Commerce
"Your Business Partner"

Presented To




Housh Ghovae

*Given with great appreciation
For your extra ordinary help, and
Going above and beyond the call
With your unselfish devotion
To the Pinellas Park Chamber*

2006


Thank You

Neighborhood Times

 tampabay.com

Sunday, September 28, 2008 | NWE

Business

 tampabay.com for more news

New spirit imbues chamber with optimism and innovation

The merger of Pinellas/Mid-County and Gateway chambers raises energy.

BY ANNE LINDBERG
Times Staff Writer

PINELLAS PARK — Local business owners who are finding it hard to weather these tough times find a sympathetic ear and the voice of experience when they turn to the chamber of commerce for advice.

The Pinellas Park/Mid-County Chamber of Commerce has had its share of lean times and money woes that made it doubtful at times that the organization could survive. That's in the past. Today, the chamber has a new vibrancy and big plans to turn the once-struggling organization into a regional powerhouse that will help bring business and tourism to the Tampa Bay area.

The turnaround took time but it gained its major momentum last January when the Pinellas Park/Mid-County Chamber merged with the nearby Gateway Chamber of Commerce. The increased membership — about 450 total at the time of the merger — gave the organization a larger base of volunteers and new energy.

The members chose Housh Ghovae of Northside Engineering to be the chairman of the board. Ghovae had once headed the Pinellas Park/Mid-county Chamber, so he had experience to help the transition along. He also had lots of ideas that the Pinellas Park/Gateway Chamber of Commerce is pushing.

"Things are working out," Ghovae said, "but we're still thinking bigger."

Perhaps the best known of those bigger initiatives is the billboard on Interstate 4 near Disney World. The billboard, which urges tourists to visit the area, is a joint effort of Clear Channel and the chamber. Clear Channel is providing the advertising space for free for one year.

"There's no other chamber that has put up a billboard on I-4," Ghovae said.

The ideas go much further than billboards.

The chamber has reached out to Pinellas Park's horse community and is helping sponsor a horse show today. On the surface, that might not seem to be a bold move, but it signals a new attitude for Pinel-



JAMES BORCHUCK | Times

Housh Ghovae pets Bear at the Erie Equestrian Center in June. The chamber's equine interests led to sponsoring a current horse show.



las Park's movers and shakers. The Pinellas Park council and the city's horse community have had a rather touchy relationship over the past decade or more. Council members often brag about its equestrian areas but are less friendly when it comes to helping promote horse-related activities.

Ghovae and the chamber want to cure that relationship, seeing the horses as a way to entice more people to visit the city to see the horses or to participate in equine-related activities and to spend their money while there.

Other initiatives include an upcoming lunch and learn session featuring Susan MacManus of the University of South Florida. MacManus is nationally known for her expertise in public opinion and intergenerational politics. She is scheduled to discuss Florida politics at all levels and provide insight into the relationship of politics and business. The free event is open to the public although an RSVP is required because lunch will be provided. For information, call Donna Lofgren, 544-4777.

The chamber is also looking at area transportation, especially the

Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority.

"They truly have not done a good job," Ghovae said. The chamber wants to form a committee to come up with ideas to improve service and to make it more inviting for families.

The chamber is not forgetting its members amid the grandiose plans, Ghovae said. Members are working on a program that will allow visitors to the chamber's Web site a chance to click on the name of a member restaurant. The click will pull up a video of the restaurant, giving a potential customer a view of the food, the kitchen and a way to meet the owner and staff.

While the events and plans are designed to improve and promote the Tampa Bay area, particularly Pinellas Park and the Gateway area, they also serve as a way to encourage chamber membership. And they seem to be working. At the time of the merger, the Pinellas Park/Gateway Chamber had about 450 members. Now it has about 800.

When the two merged to form the Pinellas Park/Gateway Chamber of Commerce, the organization had about 450 members. Now it has about 800. The goal is to have at least 1,000.

Why 1,000?

That's what's needed before a chamber can really qualify as regional, Ghovae said.