

# NOTES OF INTEREST

A Newsletter For Our Customers And Shareholders • Volume 21 • Number 4 • October 2019  
Revised/Republished November 8, 2019

## PREZ SEZ

### A Walk Down Memory Lane

In anticipation of our merger with MIDFLORIDA Credit Union, I thought it would be nice to take a walk down memory lane and reminisce about all the great things that Community Bank & Trust of Florida has accomplished over the last 21 years.



As many of you will remember, we opened our doors with 11 employees on April 2, 1998 as Community Bank of Marion County at what is now our Golden Hills Office on Highway 27. There were numerous people standing in line to be the first customers to open accounts with us. It was a great feeling to know we had so much support. It was just a glimpse of things to come. Here is a quick list of our accomplishments.

- 2000 – We opened 3 more offices – Main, East and Belleview
- 2001 – We hit \$100 million in assets
- 2003 – We were granted trust powers by the State of Florida
- 2004 – Opened the North office and topped \$200 million in assets
- 2005 – Changed our name to Community Bank & Trust of Florida
- 2006 – We expanded outside of Marion County and opened our first office in The Villages; we reached \$300 million in assets
- 2008 – We surpassed \$400 million in assets
- 2009 – We topped \$500 million in assets
- 2010 – We continued our expansion and opened our first office in Gainesville – The Oaks office
- 2012 – Opened our second office in The Villages area at Spruce Creek
- 2013 – Assets exceeded \$600 million
- 2014 – Second office in Gainesville opened at Roberts' Stadium Club and third office in The Villages opened at Pinellas Plaza
- 2017 – CBTFI reached \$700 million in assets and 137 employees
- 2018 – Celebrated 20 years of Community Banking

This list is quite a testament to the hard work and dedication that all of our employees, directors and shareholders have given over the years. Looking back, we faced our own set of challenges – 4 major hurricanes, a deep recession, Y2K, Dodd Frank and the Patriot Act. However, CBTFI prospered and was always profitable through the hard times – that is something we are most proud of.

I am excited to see what the future holds for us as MIDFLORIDA Credit Union. Community Bank & Trust of Florida has a vision to provide local products and services with excellent customer service. MIDFLORIDA holds those same values, and we look forward to continuing to provide you with the same personal service from the same people you've come to know for many more years.

Sincerely,



Hugh F. Dailey,  
President

### Habitat for Humanity

On Friday, August 30th, employees of Community Bank & Trust of Florida attended the Habitat for Humanity of Marion County House Blessing for Doraimy Soroa. Community Bank & Trust of Florida donated \$50,000 towards the building of this home. This is the 7th Habitat for Humanity home that Community Bank & Trust of Florida has participated in. CBTFI has donated approximately \$320,000 towards these homes since 2007.



## Congratulations to local swimmer, Elise Bauer, on 2020 Olympic Trials Qualification and National Junior Team Selection

Local swimming standout, Elise Bauer, recently competed at the Phillips 66 National Swimming Championships in Palo Alto, CA where she qualified for the 2020 U.S Olympic Trials in two events. Her personal best times of 8:45.27 in the 800 freestyle and 16:39.87 in the 1500 freestyle qualified for the Olympic Trials, which will be held next June in Omaha, NE.

Elise was also recently selected by USA Swimming for the National Junior Team to represent Team USA. Her performance in the 1500 Freestyle ranks her 74th in the World in the event and solidified her spot on the team. She is the first swimmer under 18 from Ocala to ever qualify for Olympic Trials or to be selected for the National Junior Team.

Elise is the daughter of CBTFM Marketing Director, Tara Bauer. We are very proud of her accomplishments and to call her a part of the CBTFM family!



## Should I refinance my home loan?

Financial planners agree that for many homeowners, refinancing due to low interest rates are the best reason to refinance now. In addition to lowering your rate, consider shortening the length of your loan term. Lowering both the interest rate and the length of your loan could save thousands in interest. The other “school of thought” would be refinancing into another 30-year fixed and using the savings on your payments for other investments that may generate higher returns.



Jo Lukas  
VP/Residential Production  
Manager

It's also recommended consumers should go local when possible. A face-to-face meeting with somebody that you've actually met, makes a difference versus somebody you're talking to on the phone.

If you have a home equity loan or a home equity line of credit, consolidating the two loans could save money by allowing you to pay one low rate on the entire amount.

If you have equity in your home, a cash-out refinance lets you pull money for productive uses. But don't make the mistake of draining equity to pay for vacations or consumer purchases.

Look at the cost to refinance carefully and make sure your savings will pay back those costs in a reasonable timeframe.



## Volunteer Of The Quarter

Craig Carpenter, SVP/ Commercial Loan Officer, was chosen as the Volunteer of the 2nd Quarter for 2019. Craig was chosen for his donation of personal time to assist with the Southeastern Youth Fair Committee. Congratulations Craig.



## Team Player Of The Quarter

Laura Schenck, VP/ Market Manager, was awarded the Team Player of the 2nd Quarter for 2019. Laura was chosen for her efforts to go above and beyond every single day to help those around her in any way she can while always having a smile and asking nothing in return. Congratulations Laura.

# COMMUNITY CORNER



## Bus Brigade

Employees and customers of CBTFL participated in this year's Bus Brigade – which collects school supplies for the Marion County Homeless Children and Youth Program.



## Gainesville Bowling at GACAR Event

Employees and their family members of our Gainesville branches participated in the GACAR bowling fundraiser for charity on July 24th to help raise funds for St. Francis House.

**Here are the facts:**

- Government employees will not threaten to take away benefits or ask for money or personal information to protect your Social Security card or benefits.
- Scammers can fake your caller ID. So don't be fooled if the call seems to be from the SSA's real phone number (800) 772-1213 or the SSA Inspector General's Fraud Hotline number.
- If a caller asks for your Social Security number, bank account number or credit card information, hang up.

**Scams involving your Social Security number and benefits are on the rise!**

Report suspected scams to the SSA Inspector General at (800) 269-0271 or [oig.ssa.gov/report](http://oig.ssa.gov/report). Visit [IdentityTheft.gov/SSA](http://IdentityTheft.gov/SSA) for more tips.

### FAKE CHECK SCAMS

Did someone send you a check and ask you to send some money back?

**THAT'S A SCAM.**

**MAYBE:**

- You win a prize and are told to send back taxes and fees.
- You get paid as a "secret shopper" and are told to wire back money.
- You sold an item online and the buyer overpays.

**IN ALL CASES:**

- You get a check.
- They ask you to send back money.

**IF IT'S A FAKE CHECK, WHY IS MONEY IN YOUR ACCOUNT?**

Banks have to make deposited funds available quickly, it's the law. But the bank may not learn for days that the check was bad. By then, the scammer has your money. And you have to repay the bank. Remember – just because the check has cleared does not mean it is good.

**WHAT TO DO:**

- Be wary. Talk to someone you trust and contact your bank before you act.
- Never take a check for more than your selling price.
- Selling online? Consider using an escrow or online payment service.
- Never send money back to someone who sent you a check.

Spot this scam? Tell the Federal Trade Commission: [ftc.gov/complaint](http://ftc.gov/complaint)

**ftc.gov/ScamAlerts**      **aba.com/Consumers**

## Security Tips – Protecting Your Passwords

Today, more than ever it is imperative that you protect your confidential information. It is almost a guarantee that some type of data breach, past or present, has exposed at least one of your passwords.

When passwords are exposed, hackers can buy them for a small sum, giving them unlimited access to your accounts and sensitive information. And, if you've used that password for multiple online accounts, bad guys could access those accounts too. So, if you're still using your old MySpace password for your Facebook account, change that password immediately!

Here are some tips to keep in mind when creating new passwords:

- Make your passwords complex
  - Complex passwords use at least eight characters with a combination of upper and lower case letters, numbers, and symbols.
    - Example: a3D\$8k0\*
- Use passphrases
  - Passphrases are a phrase or sentence. Don't use the lyrics of your favorite song or a quote from a book! Make it unique but make it something you can remember.
    - Example: Pa\$\$wordSafety1sC0o!
- Use a password generator
  - Password creators such as LastPass and 1Password can generate passwords for you.
- Don't use variations of your old passwords
  - Hackers know that untrained users will do this, so they use automated tools to figure out these variations.
    - As a simple example, if your password is "Password", don't make it "Password1". Hopefully, none of your passwords are actually "Password"!

Whether or not you're sure that your password has been exposed, make the safe choice and make all of your passwords unique.

Stop, Look, Think – Don't be fooled.

## CBTFL Names New Commercial Loan Officer for Gainesville Market



Justin Head  
Commercial Loan Officer

Justin Head has joined Community Bank & Trust of Florida as Commercial Loan Officer for the Gainesville market.

Justin comes to CBTFL with over 20 years of banking experience. In this role, he will manage commercial business development, loan applications and accounts for the Gainesville market.

Justin has worked at other local banks throughout his career including Drummond Community Bank and Perkins State Bank where he started his banking career as a Loan Officer.

Justin earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Florida. He is also involved in the community as a member of the Rotary Club of Williston, City of Williston Council Member and Board Member and Vice President of the Levy County Schools Foundation.

### Score board

As of June 30th, 2019

Assets	\$755 million
Deposits	\$682 million
Loans	\$300 million
Employees	135

### New Employees

Justin Head – Commercial Loan Officer  
Tatiana Farkas – Service Specialist  
Stephanie Salgado – Service Specialist

### Promotions

Melissa Clark – Trust Administrative Officer  
Ashley Shorb – VP/Human Resources Officer

### Ocala

#### 1. Main Office

352-369-1000  
1603 S.W. 19th Ave.  
(across from Target)

#### 2. Golden Hills Office

352-671-1363  
6850 N. U.S. Hwy. 27

#### 3. East Office

352-671-3002  
1520 E. Silver Springs Blvd.

#### 4. North Office

352-351-5208  
7139 N. U.S. Hwy. 441

#### 5. Heath Brook Office

352-854-7898  
5450 S.W. College Rd.

### Gainesville

#### 6. Oaks Office

352-331-1063  
6120 NW 1st Place  
(next to the Oaks Mall)

#### 7. Stadium Club Office

352-313-4900  
1800 W. University Ave.  
Suite 130

### Bellevue

#### 8. Bellevue Office

352-291-5990  
10131 S.E. U.S. Hwy. 441

### Summerfield

#### 9. Spruce Creek Office

352-350-2903  
11220 SE 179th Place  
(Spruce Creek Plaza)

### The Villages

#### 10. The Villages Office

352-259-3070  
2285 Parr Drive (CR 466)

#### 11. Pinellas Plaza Office

352-674-5200  
2535 Burnsed Blvd.  
(CR 466A)

