

Money

Developer to keynote Emerge Awards Gala

Real estate developer Frank McKinney, who has built multimillion-dollar homes and vacation resorts in South Florida, will be the keynote speaker at the Emerge Awards Gala on Wednesday, September 3, 2014, at the Ritz-Carlton, South Beach.

Online today
@ 8 a.m.: See who in South Florida is making a difference.

Seminar to address association rules

Katzman & Garfinkel, a South Florida law firm, will host a free course Wednesday for residents and board members in community associations.

The course, taught by Bill and Susan Raphan, will address rules, regulations and restrictions in condominium, co-op and homeowner's associations.

The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Garfinkel offices, 5297 W. Copans Road in Fort Lauderdale.

For more information, call 954-486-7774.

— Paul Owers

Region Fights in Financial Incentives

Portage of land makes it harder to lure companies

MARCIA HEROUX POUNDS
Fort Lauderdale

Despite strong job creation, South Florida continues to struggle to attract new businesses.

Financial incentives are a key tool for many local governments to lure new businesses, but the practice is becoming increasingly controversial.

Some argue that such incentives are a waste of taxpayer money, while others believe they are necessary to compete in a global market.

The debate is particularly heated in South Florida, where local governments are vying for investment from major corporations.

One of the most recent examples is the offer of a \$100 million incentive package to a major technology company.

While the company has agreed to build a new facility, critics argue that the money would have been better spent on infrastructure.

Others point out that the company has already received significant tax breaks from the state.

The issue is expected to remain a hot topic for years to come as local governments continue to search for ways to attract new businesses.

For more information, contact Marcia Heroux Pounds at 954-486-7774.

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers

— Paul Owers



Ryan Boylston
Founder/President/CEO
Woo Creative

Woo Creative, a full-service marketing/communications/public relations firm created by Ryan Boylston in downtown Delray Beach two years ago, grew by 500 percent from its first to its second year in business.

Boylston leveraged his experience as a consultant to create Woo, starting as a one-man show operating 80 hours a week from Delray Beach coffee shops and the downtown library, until he raised enough money to hire Woo's first employee. He was determined to build the company through sweat equity, which meant no investors, no loans and no credit cards. Instead, Boylston relied on doing great work, and letting the work speak for itself.

It was a rough initial few months, but it became easier as each month passed. Woo Creative has grown into a seven-person team occupying 2,400 square feet of space at 135 E. Atlantic Blvd. "Building a startup from ground-level to seven salaried employees with benefit options, gym memberships, cell phones and other Woo perks... is the pinnacle of my accomplishments so far," Boylston says.

The company has attracted an interesting range of clients including First Service Residential Management, the largest apartment management company in the U.S.; 301 Tribeca, soon to be the most expensive residential space in New York; Republic Metals Corporation, the largest privately owned precious metal refinery in the world; and the Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Association, Delray Beach Marketing Cooperative, Delray Beach Arts Garage and the Pineapple Grove Arts District.

From its inception, Woo Creative has emphasized "giving back" and takes pride in helping organizations that don't typically have the budget for the types of services offered by Woo, but need these services more than anyone. For example, Woo's donation to Atlantic High School in Delray Beach included a new logo and custom uniform designs that were eventually seen on high-profile media like ESPN, Yahoo, USA Today, NBC Sports and Sports Illustrated, among others.

Boylston sits on the Downtown Development Authority and the board of the Pineapple Grove Arts District, and donates time and materials to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Women of Grace at Bethesda Hospital, Tomorrow's Promise and the Delray Beach Chamber of Commerce, which nominated Woo for the 2014 New Business of the Year. The winner will be selected later this summer.



Michael James Curry Jr.
President
Atlantic Southern Paving & Sealcoating

Michael J. Curry Jr. is a hardworking top executive and a family man who donates his time and effort to help those in need.

Under Curry's leadership, revenues at Atlantic Southern Paving & Sealcoating have increased by more than 140 percent over the past two years, while employee numbers have grown from 34 to more than 65 during the same period. The addition of national clients such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Target, The Home Depot and Extended Stay America, among others, helped to boost revenues. Atlantic Southern Paving & Sealcoating completed jobs in nearly every state in the country.

The company's employees work hard and Curry provides an environment in which they can feel happy, appreciated and committed to doing a good job. He recently purchased a new building for Atlantic Southern Paving & Sealcoating, where a new break room complete with a ping pong table and a flat screen television is underway, along with showers for the company's crews. Events such as company barbecues and picnics, as well as monthly massages are offered to employees.

Curry also spearheads charitable drives for organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, the Susan B. Anthony Recovery Center, the Home Depot Foundation, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and the military.

He is vice president of the Board of Directors for the Susan B. Anthony Recovery Center and has been instrumental in gaining exposure for the center as well as adding new fundraising events, including an extremely successful annual golf tournament held for the last two years. Employees at Atlantic Southern Paving & Sealcoating recently donated their time and materials to build a new walkway for the women and children residing at the center, and Curry served as construction equipment captain for a playground project at the center last year.

This year, Atlantic Southern Paving & Sealcoating was named one of the top private companies in South Florida by South Florida Business Journal and included among America's fastest growing companies by Inc. magazine.

Curry has been a member of the nationally recognized South Florida Chapter of the Entrepreneur Organization for six years, and served as moderator in 2012. An assistant football coach at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Fort Lauderdale for 14 years, Curry provided the students who played under him with invaluable guidance and experience.



Tim Courtney
Vice President of Franchise and Network Development
CruiseOne and Cruises Inc.

Tim Courtney believes that diverse viewpoints are one of CruiseOne's and Cruises Inc.'s greatest assets. To that end, he created an all-inclusive diversity statement and an incentive program for women, people with disabilities, and minorities for both companies.

Recognizing that veterans make successful franchise owners, Courtney also launched CruiseOne's nationally recognized veteran recruitment program. Its flagship is the "Operation Veteran: Become Your Own General" contest, which awards five U.S. military veterans with CruiseOne franchises, each valued at \$12,700. Each winner is honored during a special ceremony featuring local and state dignitaries.

This year, Courtney pledged that 25 percent of the CruiseOne franchise system will be comprised of military veterans and military spouses. He has been named the company's Ambassador of Veteran Affairs.

In 2008, Courtney joined CruiseOne and Cruises Inc. as a training and education manager and helped launch the company's online training academy. He joined CruiseOne's franchise development team in 2006 and focused on recruitment efforts, leading CruiseOne to record results and an increased focus on diversity and veterans' affairs.

Since joining the recruitment team, Courtney successfully grew the CruiseOne and Cruises Inc. network by 52 percent, breaking sales records each year. Staying abreast of industry trends also has proven to be a factor in his recruitment success. For example, recognizing that first-time cruisers are important to the success of the cruise industry — and that, contrary to popular belief, many are seeking the advice of travel agents — millennials have become a focus of his recruitment process and CruiseOne's millennial network has increased by 16 percent over the last three years.

Courtney keeps his finger on the pulse of the industry by having leadership roles in franchise and cruise organizations. He is a member of the American Society of Travel Agents, where he is involved with efforts to reinvent the travel agent business to protect small travel companies. He is also a member of the International Franchise Association, which designated him a Certified Franchise Executive; Franchise Congress; Cruise Line International Association; Verifran; and DiversityFran. Courtney frequently is a speaker at various franchise and travel trade industry events.

Courtney organizes CruiseOne's annual fundraising efforts for Make-A-Wish and gives to the Ann Stork Center in Fort Lauderdale, Miami Children's Hospital and Autism Speaks.



Andrew J. Garnett
Founder, President, CEO
Special Needs Group, Inc./Special Needs at Sea

Since founding his company seven years ago, Andrew J. Garnett has become well known for combining his business philosophy of attention to detail with his passion for the enablement of the special needs community.

Special Needs Group/Special Needs at Sea has become the leading global provider of wheelchair rentals, scooter rentals, oxygen rentals and other special needs equipment rentals, to become the category leader. The company has enhanced awareness in the travel industry and among consumers about the importance of accessible travel, the fastest-growing market segment in travel.

Garnett was responsible for the creation in November 2011 of Special Needs Group's Certified Accessible Travel Advocate course, the travel industry's first eLearning curriculum that teaches travel professionals about the accessible travel market segment through online study and testing. This groundbreaking initiative is leading to a more accessible world, while increasing the potential for success of travel professionals.

Garnett also helped create Scooting for Charity, with all proceeds benefitting Camillus House, which provides humanitarian services to South Florida's poor and homeless.

Under Garnett's direction, the company has donated many pieces of special needs equipment to those in need in South Florida.

By founding Special Needs Group/Special Needs at Sea, Garnett is delivering an accessible world and making it possible for anyone to travel, even if they have a disability or special need. Studies show that 24 million disabled Americans would travel or travel more frequently if their special needs were met. Twenty percent (63 million) of Americans have a disability.

Garnett has been noted as an expert on accessible travel and has made multiple presentations on Special Needs to benefit the travel industry community. Additionally, he has presented educational seminars regarding the different types of special needs equipment available in the industry, including, but not limited to, respiratory, hearing impaired, visually impaired, and mobility equipment.

Garnett participates in the Expanded Access Working Group of the Cruise Line International Association, helping to develop industry recommendations for ADA processes; the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association; and the Society for Accessible Travel and Hospitality's World Congress.

Special Needs Group/Special Needs at Sea received the Best Travel Assistance for Cruisers with Disabilities award from the editors of Porthole Cruise Magazine and was a corporate social responsibility winner of an American Business Award (Stevie Award) in 2010.

Staff Box

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT MANAGER	GARRETT A. FOSTER
ADVERTISING DESIGNER	DEBORAH DOCHERTY
SPECIAL SECTIONS WRITER	TRACY KOLODY
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND EVENTS MANAGER	SHAUN CASTILLO
ADVERTISING EVENTS PLANNER	AMY MACHADO



Andrew J. Garnett Founder, President, CEO Special Needs Group, Inc./Special Needs at Sea

Since founding his company seven years ago, Andrew J. Garnett has become well known for combining his business philosophy of attention to detail with his passion for the enablement of the special needs community.

Special Needs Group/Special Needs at Sea has become the leading global provider of wheelchair

rentals, scooter rentals, oxygen rentals and other special needs equipment rentals, to become the category leader. The company has enhanced awareness in the travel industry and among consumers about the importance of accessible travel, the fastest-growing market segment in travel.

Garnett was responsible for the creation in November 2011 of Special Needs Group's Certified Accessible Travel Advocate course, the travel industry's first eLearning curriculum that teaches travel professionals about the accessible travel market segment through online study and testing. This groundbreaking initiative is leading to a more accessible world, while increasing the potential for success of travel professionals.

Garnett also helped create Scooting for Charity, with all proceeds benefitting Camillus House, which provides humanitarian services to South Florida's poor and homeless.

Under Garnett's direction, the company has donated many pieces of special needs equipment to those in need in South Florida.

By founding Special Needs Group/Special Needs at Sea, Garnett is delivering an accessible world and making it possible for anyone to travel, even if they have a disability or special need. Studies show that 24 million disabled Americans would travel or travel more frequently if their special needs were met. Twenty percent (63 million) of Americans have a disability.

Garnett has been noted as an expert on accessible travel and has made multiple presentations on Special Needs to benefit the travel industry community. Additionally, he has presented educational seminars regarding the different types of special needs equipment available in the industry, including, but not limited to, respiratory, hearing impaired, visually impaired, and mobility equipment.

Garnett participates in the Expanded Access Working Group of the Cruise Line International Association, helping to develop industry recommendations for ADA processes; the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association; and the Society for Accessible Travel and Hospitality's World Congress.

Special Needs Group/Special Needs at Sea received the Best Travel Assistance for Cruisers with Disabilities award from the editors of Porthole Cruise Magazine and was a corporate social responsibility winner of an American Business Award (Stevie Award) in 2010.

Staff Box

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT MANAGER	GARRETT A. FOSTER
ADVERTISING DESIGNER	DEBORAH DOCHERTY
SPECIAL SECTIONS WRITER	TRACY KOLODY
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND EVENTS MANAGER	SHAUN CASTILLO
ADVERTISING EVENTS PLANNER	AMY MACHADO

Press clip courtesy of

durée
& company