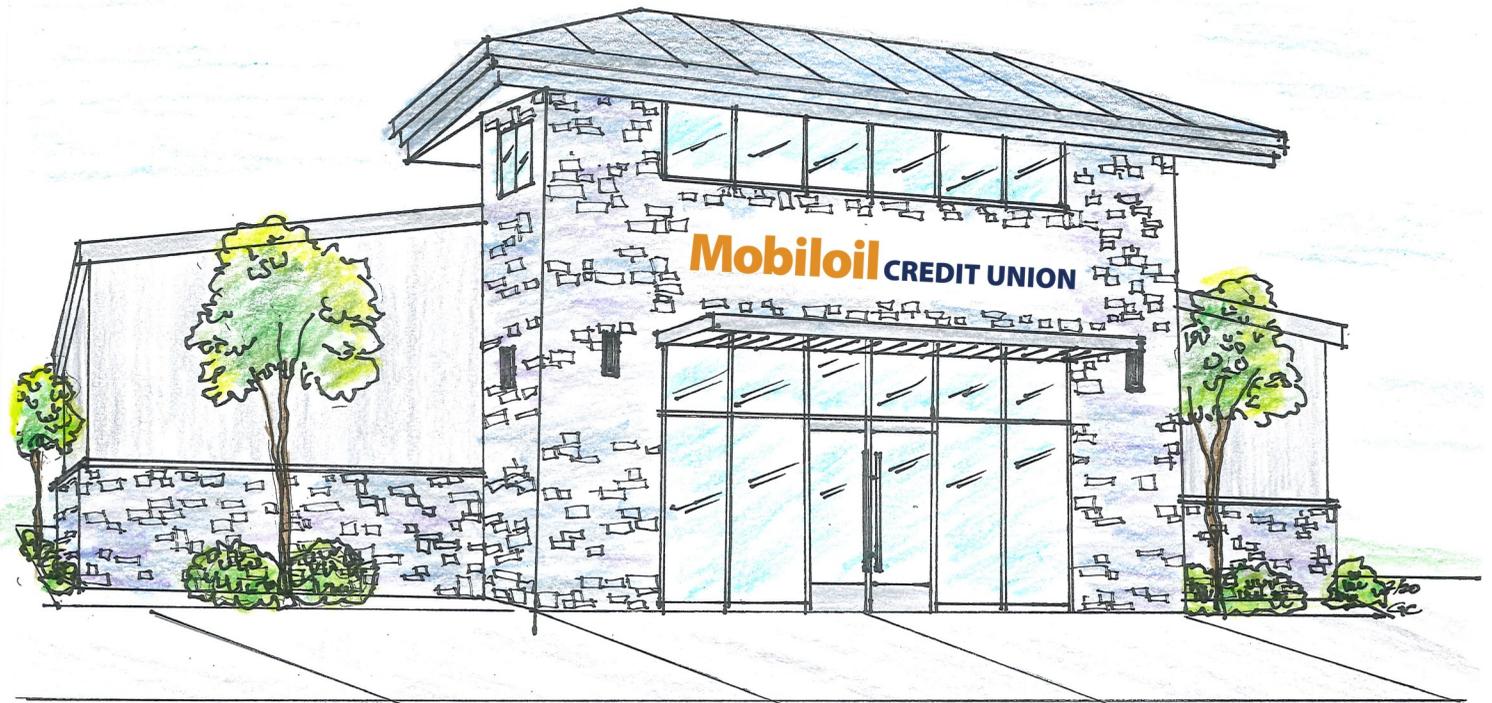


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Spring 2020



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Spring EVENTS



**3
MAR**

Dayton Chamber of Commerce
First Responders Luncheon
11:30 AM to 1:30 PM
Dayton Community Building

**17-19
APR**

Dayton Ole Tyme Days
www.facebook.com/daytonoletymedays/
4:00 PM to 10:00 PM

**4
APR**

Dayton Chamber of Commerce
Mudbug Fest
4:00 PM to 10:00 PM
Dayton Community Building

**13-17
May**

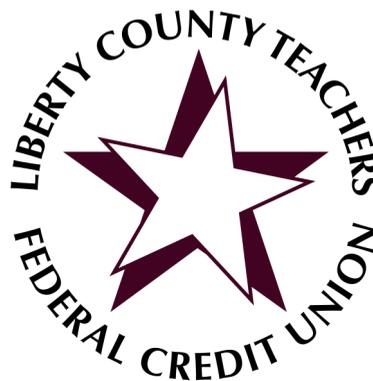
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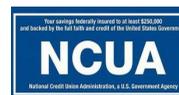
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If you would like to advertise please contact Paula Moorhaj at paula@DaytonTxChamber.com or call 936-257-2393. You can find more information at www.DaytonTxChamber.com

We would like to say thank you to all the citizens and businesses who have contributed to this issue.

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TAKE THE TIME



Schedules seem to run most of our lives. We begin the week looking at all that we have to do and the calendar seems to run us ragged as opposed to us taking control of it. Each individual day has a similar feel. If you have children, perhaps your day is like ours. We wake up in the morning to get ready for the day, and breakfast must be consumed, hair combed, teeth brushed, shoes located and put on and oh, by the way dad will you sign this permission slip?! The morning rush is punctuated by the unheard but ever-present tick-tock of the clock as we get to school and work on time. The end of the day is the same thing in reverse. The tick-tock is now counting down to bedtime and there is a flurry of piano lessons, ball practice, church activities...in the middle of which meals must be eaten – sometimes by way of a box from McDonald's (extra fries, toy included). All of this is very important and necessary – but we must remember to stop.

However, even when we stop - we don't stop. Most of us carry around our electronic devices. When we sit at home, we are checking social media, texting, or emailing. When people are out having fun, it is not uncommon to see a group "together", but not really together. They are in close physical proximity, but their conversation is stunted by faces in phones.

In all of the busyness, do we stop and make time for God?

In all of the busyness, do we make time for each other?

Jesus was arguably the busiest person that ever lived. The Son of God that came to Earth had a public ministry of around three years. We read the Gospels and we see Jesus healing and teaching. His popularity grew and more and more people followed. The Bible says something amazing about Jesus and how He managed His time.

¹⁵Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses.

¹⁶But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed."

-Luke 5:15-16 (NIV)

If Jesus, who was God wrapped in human flesh, needed time to rest and pray – then so do we. He certainly could have spent every hour attending to those around Him, but Jesus took the time to be with the Father. We need the same. Take the time each day to pray. Take the time to rest and read the Bible. The schedule can wait. The clock will still turn - but this is time well spent. Do this often so that you will be spiritually, emotionally and physically renewed. Take the time.

**Article Written by Ken Davis
Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church
4031 FM 1960
Sunday Worship 11 AM & 6 PM**

"...unheard
but ever-present **TICK-TOCK**
of the Clock..."



Business Spotlight



Scents of Soy is a family owned candle company that has found a way to capture some of your favorite memories and Texas scents in their natural candles. For example, have you ever wondered what a Texas Sunset smells like? Or how about a Cowboy? The answer to both is incredibly good and amazingly Texan! Scents of Soy isn't just producing some of the best smelling fragrances in the Lone Star State, they're also a company with heart. Whether that's helping build a

playground, sponsoring and volunteering with the local Dayton Youth Sports Association or utilizing their Fundraising program to raise money for hundreds of schools within Texas, the Scents of Soy team is committed to doing their part to better the community around them.

The Scents of Soy team also works hard to put Dayton, TX on the map! Their products are available on the shelves of over 2,000 stores throughout the U.S.

Check out their line of candles locally at Brookshire Brothers in Dayton or at a nearby H-E-B store. You can also find their products nationwide at Tractor Supply Company or Cavender's Boot City.

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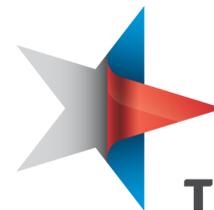
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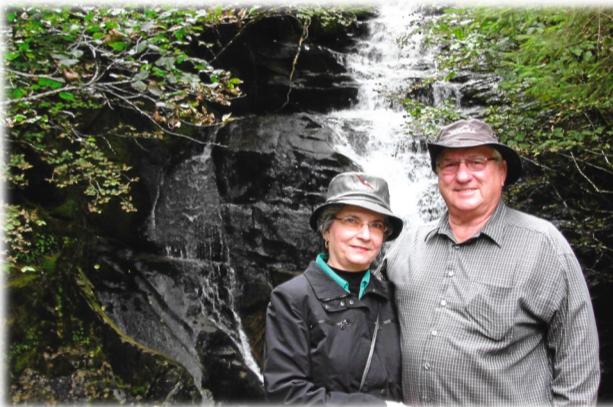
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Dayton Family Life



Felix and Marie Skarpa have called Dayton home for many years. Felix was born in Dayton and Marie has lived in the area for many years. They raised their children, Steven Skarpa, Theresa Skarpa Williams, and Bridget Skarpa Sjolander in Dayton. The couple first met at St. Michael's Catholic Church Bazaar in Needville, Texas, but the Bill Mraz Dance Hall in Houston is where they first really caught each other's eye. This May they will be celebrating their 55th Wedding Anniversary.

Felix attended the University of Houston and Southwest Business School to study drafting. He has had several jobs throughout the years including truck driving, Air Traffic Controller, Skarpa Enterprises owner, general contractor, Champion Water Wells owner, and Skarpa Insurance Agent. Felix loves the Dayton community and served on the

Dayton City Council (2006-2011), Mayor (2011-2015), and continues to serve on a couple of committees. Marie studied business at Southwest Business School and worked at the Bank of the Southwest in Houston. After getting married, she stayed home to raise the family and assisted Felix in running the various businesses over the years. They are now enjoying a semiretirement while Felix is still on the board of directors of Catholic Life Insurance.

Felix and Marie decided to raise their family in the Dayton community because of the good schools, the convenient location to Felix's work, and they also inherited land from the Skarpa farm and were able to be near their extended family. Felix grew up being the only son with 6 sisters. Before his father's passing the family farm was divided among all the children and each of the siblings raised their families in Eastgate on their portion of the family farm. This gave their



children a unique environment to be able to grow up with their cousins.

When their children were young their favorite place to travel was Colorado. They all hold fond memories of their trips there. Now, Felix and Marie enjoy traveling to visit friends in different parts of Texas. They are currently planning another trip to Branson, Missouri.



“When their children were young their favorite place to travel was Colorado. They all hold fond memories of their trips there.”



Felix and Marie enjoy reading, dancing, visiting friends, and traveling in their free time. The couple also has many things in common including both are of Czech heritage, the Catholic faith, and they even have the same blood type (AB+, the 3rd rarest form in the world). They also enjoy eating at many restaurants in the Dayton area including Los Compadres and the new Tuscany Italian restaurant.

Their son Steven Skarpa and wife Marianne live in Tarkington, Texas. They are proud parents of two sons, Alex Scott and wife Shanna, Chris Scott and wife Kasey. They also have two grandsons Lane and Colton. Steven owns Skarpa Insurance in Dayton and just moved to a new location at 2866 FM 1960. Skarpa Insurance Agency was founded in Dayton in 1992 by Felix Skarpa and it is currently in the 3rd generation of family operation,

as Steven’s daughter-in-law, Kasey also works at the agency. Steven was a former Dayton Chamber of Commerce President. In their free time, Steven and Marianne love working with horses.

Their daughter, Theresa Skarpa Williams and husband C.D., are lifetime Dayton residents. Their daughter, Hayley, is currently studying marketing at Mays Business School at Texas A&M University. Their son, Ryan, passed away at the age of 5 from Neuroblastoma. After Ryan’s passing, they founded The Ryan “Batman” Williams Foundation in his memory to help “little superheroes fighting against cancer.” C.D. is a State Farm Insurance Agent, a Dayton ISD School Board Trustee, and on the Dayton Community Development Committee. Theresa taught in Dayton ISD for 8 years before staying home to raise their kids.

Their daughter, Bridget Skarpa Sjolander and husband Mark, have been married for 24 years and have 3 children. Bridget is a local relator and Mark is a Land and Rail Development Consultant. Their oldest son, Matthew, is a senior at Sam Houston State University and will graduate this summer with a Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting. Their daughter, Alyssa, is a Junior at the University of Texas in Austin. She is working towards her Bachelor’s Degree in Public Relations with a minor in Business. Their youngest son, Timothy, is a Junior at Dayton High School. He is on the football team and is involved in FFA. Bridget and Mark have been involved in several community and civic organizations. However, in their free time they enjoy outdoor activities and spending time with family.

Meet The Skarpa Family





For those busy nights, plan on this simple yet savory sliders recipe. Kids are almost certain to love the taste and you will enjoy how quick and easy they are to make.

For more recipes, visit culinary.net.

PEPPERONI PIZZA SLIDERS

Ingredients

- 1 package slider rolls
- 1/2 cup pizza sauce
- 1/2 cup mini pepperoni
- 1 1/2 cups shredded, low-moisture, part-skim mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon parsley flakes
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 cup shredded parmesan cheese
- nonstick cooking spray

- Heat oven 350° F.
- Keeping rolls connected, cut sheet of rolls horizontally, separating tops from bottoms. Place bottom halves of rolls in baking dish.
- Spread pizza sauce evenly over bottom halves. Sprinkle pepperoni over sauce. Sprinkle mozzarella over pepperoni and cover with top halves of rolls.
- Mix melted butter with parsley flakes, dried oregano, garlic powder, and shredded parmesan cheese. Spoon evenly over sliders.
- Cover baking dish with aluminum foil sprayed with nonstick cooking spray to keep cheese from sticking.
- Bake 20 minutes.
- Remove foil and bake additional 5-10 minutes or until parmesan is melted and golden brown.
- Cut sliders and serve immediately.



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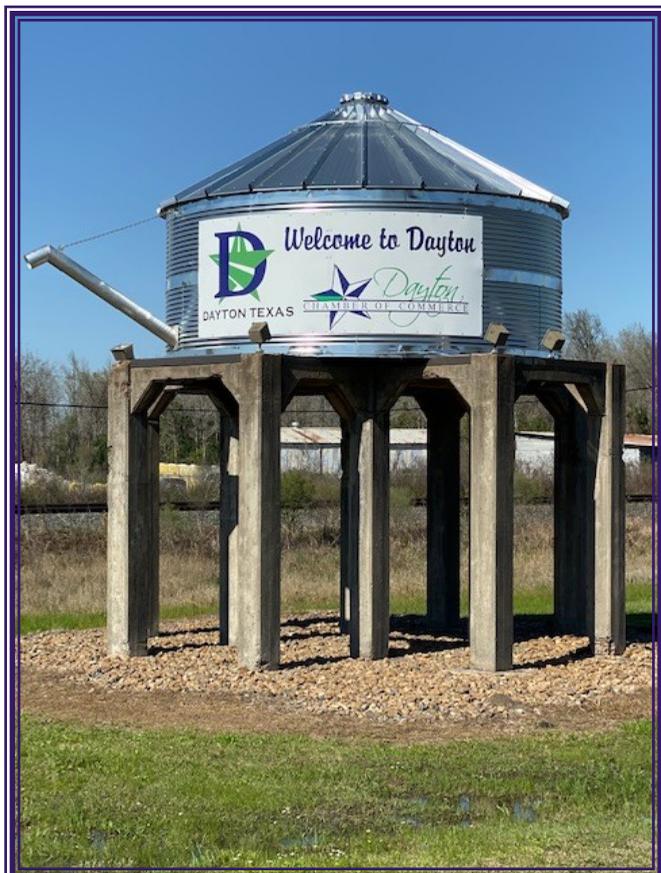
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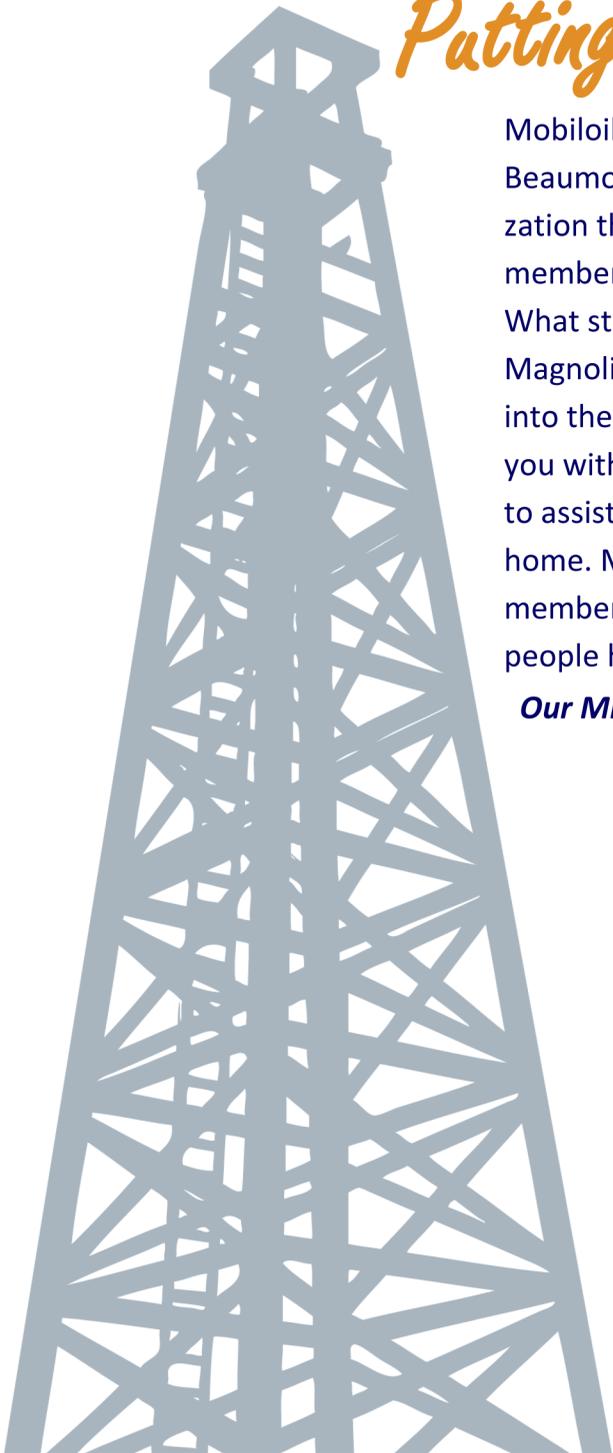
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Introducing the 2020 Board President Tammy Alexander



Tammy is currently the Human Resources Director for the City of Dayton, with 15 years of service to the City/Police Department. She is a Dayton Youth Advisory Commission Sponsor. She serves on the Dayton Enhancement Committee and on the board for the Dayton Fire and Police Museum.

She is a member of the Dayton Leadership Alliance Group and part of the Reading Buddies program with DISD. She has been married to Shane Burleigh for 13 years and they have blended their family to include 5 children (4 boys, 1 girl) and 2 grandchildren and one pet, Paris, her DIVA Teacup Yorkie.



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City News!

New Kiosks Offer 24-Hour Service

Paying your water bill just got a little easier in Dayton. The City of Dayton has unveiled two new 24-hour service kiosks that will allow customers to take care of their utility bills at their convenience. The new kiosks are located on the west side of City Hall (117 Cook St.) and inside of the lobby at the Police Station/Municipal Court building (2004 N. Cleveland).

“The new kiosks allow greater flexibility for those making payments to the City,” said Finance Director Rudy Zepeda. “Utility customers can look up their accounts and see

not only their current balance, but overdue amounts, usage, and account history.”

Zepeda added, “Eventually, Municipal Court customers will be able to pay fines and review the status of their cases at either kiosk as well. We’re working with our software vendor on that portion of the service now.”

Kiosks will accept cash, checks, and most major credit cards. Residents who wish to initiate or terminate water service must still do so in person.



“The new kiosks allow greater flexibility for those making payments to the City,”

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*Source: MMR Strategy Group study of unaided awareness.



FIRST RESPONDER'S LUNCHEON





Ruben Aguilar Jr., a senior at Dayton High School, has lived in Dayton his whole life along with his parents Ruben and Maria and his sisters Mariela and Maria. After high school, Ruben plans on attending college and majoring in Business Management.

Ruben is involved in several organizations and holds leadership positions in many of them. He is the President and Region Vice President of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Editor-in-Chief of the Yearbook, Vice President of National Honor Society (NHS), Vice President of Business Professionals of America (BPA), Student Body President, President of Quill and Scroll International Journalism Honor Society, and the Vice President of Dayton Youth Advisory Commission. He is also a member of National Technical Honor Society (NTHS), Science National Honor Society (SNHS), National Social Studies

Honor Society (NSSHS), Interact Club, University Interscholastic League (U.I.L), and the Dayton Junior Ambassadors. Ruben says he joined these organizations because “[He] wanted to create projects that help [his] community and raise awareness for many problems of today’s society.” He also enjoys being involved in these organizations because he gets to help others and be a part of a positive change in his community. Although balancing such a heavy workload proves to be challenging at times Ruben stays organized through his planner.

Ruben believes that his leadership skills from all of the organizations he is involved in makes him unique. He says that “Being a leader has made [him] a better person by helping [him] take initiative of projects, give [him] the energy to work hard, and have confidence and motivation.” Ruben is proud to have won the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizenship Award,

saying “...it was an honor knowing that teachers and students saw me as the recipient of such an honorary award.”

He has many people he admires in his life, “My family has played a major role in my success and I’m thankful for their support,” Aguilar said. “I also admire my club advisors and teachers, Mrs. Rosser, Mrs. Thibodeaux, Ms. Stephenson, Mrs. Luter, and Dr. Wright for always believing in me and for always supporting me in my goals and success.”

When asked for his final thoughts Ruben said, “To the readers, I would like to say that Dayton is my home. I am grateful to have lived here my entire life and I cannot wait to be a part of the change Dayton will go through. I give thanks to God for all the people who have been there for me, for the opportunities given to me, and for giving me a great life.” ★

RUEBEN AGUILAR JR

“...it was an honor knowing that teachers and students saw me as the recipient of such an honorary award.”

CAROLINA TINAJERO

Carolina loves being able to give back to the community and “[She] enjoys competing and working hard to bring back the gold for Dayton”



Carolina Tinajero, a senior at Dayton High School, has lived in Dayton her entire life with her parents Carlos and Lucia and three older sisters, Nancy, Maricela, and Luz. "I have watched this tiny town turn into a booming city over the last couple of years," Tinajero said. After high school Carolina wants to go to college to study biology as a pre-med and then go on to medical school. With her degree she wants to be an emergency medicine doctor.

Carolina stays busy throughout the year with all the organizations she's involved in. She is the Public Relations Chair for the Science National Honor Society (SNHS) and Vice-President of Achievement of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). She is also a member of National Honor Society (NHS), the Math and Science U.I.L. team, Dayton Junior Ambassadors, and Business Professionals of America (BPA). Carolina loves

being able to give back to the community and "[She] enjoys competing and working hard to bring back the gold for Dayton," through her involvement in various organizations. Over the summer Carolina said, "I made it to Nationals for Applied Mathematics for Culinary Management for FCCLA and traveled to Anaheim, California to compete along with my team and lovely advisors. We received a silver medal and

ranked 4th in the nation for our event." She strives to do good in her events not only for herself but also for the organization she is representing. To keep up with her busy schedule she says, "I like to use a planner to layout my entire schedule in advance. This way, I can check and update my planner daily and make sure I have some days off to just be a teenager." Carolina admires her oldest sister Nancy Hager and says "Although all of my sisters are pretty extraordinary, she stands out to me for her perseverance, intelligence, and compassion. No matter what life threw at her, she had a goal in mind and let nothing stand in her way. I can only hope to be half of the woman she is and hope to bring her as much pride as she's brought me." ★



CHEROKEE JOHNSON

"I love all of the activities that I get to be a part of thanks to these clubs. It is so much fun and fulfilling to participate in everything we do as a club for each thing I am a part of."

Cherokee Johnson, a senior at Dayton High School, has lived in Dayton since she was born with her parents Bobby and Brandy, and her older brother Bobby Jr. Cherokee is also enrolled in Lee College to take her basics for college. After college she wants to be an aerospace engineer at NASA.

Cherokee is involved in several organizations including National Honor Society (NHS), Science National Honor Society (SNHS), National English Honor Society (NEHS), Business Professionals of America (BPA), Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Interact Club, Dayton Junior

Ambassadors, and the Math U.I.L. team. She joined all of these organizations to give back to her community and gain valuable skills and experience to benefit her later on in life. Cherokee says "I love all of the activities that I get to be a part of thanks to these clubs. It is so much fun and fulfilling to participate in everything we do as a club for each thing I am a part of." She says her favorite organization to be involved in is Interact Club. "The Rotary Club is kind of like the grown up version of Interact and they paired with the school to send four juniors to camp RYLA, a leadership camp run by Rotary members and lead by senior members of Interact who attended the

camp the previous year. I was one of the juniors who was sent to this camp last year and it was the most fun and educational experience of my life. We learned how to interact and work together with all kinds of people, how to step up and lead when needed, and so much more. They took me, one of the most antisocial people in the world, and taught me how to not only work efficiently with others but also how to lead them and help them to reach our goal. Now I am the president of the Interact Club at my high school and despite how small our club is, it is one of my favorite things about high school right now." Cherokee credits being able to attend

RYLA to helping develop her leadership and communication skills. To balance all of her commitments, she spends a lot of time after school and has had to learn to be good at time management.

When asked who her role model is she said it is her calculus teacher, Mrs. Lewis. Cherokee says "She is a great teacher and has been a huge part in why I love math as much as I do now. I aspire to be as confident and hardworking as her one day." ★

A Night On The Town

The Dayton
Chamber of Commerce
19th Annual Banquet





Edward Jones



TARVER
ABSTRACT CO.



RE/MAX



TRANSFORMATION
CENTER
MemphisFit
Reyna Lopez



Ribbon Cuttings

From the Desk of the Executive Director



Welcome, Springtime! Springtime brings out a new energy in us, a fresh start. Hibernation is over and we are looking for ways to invest that renewed energy. How do we bring new life to our businesses? Why not start with the Dayton Chamber of Commerce? There are so many ways to get involved in the Dayton Chamber. Involvement equals increased contacts. Contacts equal increased visibility for your business. You might be asking, "How do I get involved?"

First and foremost, be present. When was the last time you attended a luncheon or an event? Luncheons are a great time to meet new people. Scope the room, look for someone new to sit with. Engage in conversation. Yes, it can be scary sometimes. But I promise you no one has ever been rude to me at a Chamber luncheon for being friendly. You would be surprised how many people sit with the same person at every lunch and then tell me I never meet new people. Well, imagine that. On average we have 5 to 6 new members at every luncheon. If you searched out a new face every time imagine how much they would appreciate the warm welcome they received at the Dayton Chamber.

Second, what is the last committee you joined? What a great time to work with someone and get to know them on a one-on-one basis. Also, building a relationship with the chamber staff is important. The more we know about you and your business the more we can share your information and services. And boy, could we use good help, plus it is just collaborative fun. Committees include Ambassadors, Banquet, 1st Responders Lunch, Mud Bug Fest, Women's Conference, New Teachers Lunch, Tailgate, Taste of Dayton, Top Golf Networking and Spirit of Christmas.

Third, have you ever considered hosting a Business After Hours, Networking Breakfast or even a Networking Lunch at your place of business? What a great opportunity to share your business and what you do with others. It's very simple, schedule a date and time with the chamber, you host, you provide a food/snack of your choice and we get the word out and publicize your event. Simply a winning move on your part.

Fourth, we could also use enthusiastic Board Members who have Talent, Treasure or Time they can share. Serving on the Board of Directors is a rewarding

and important position. The board is volunteer leaders who are responsible for the direction of the chamber. The board governs, develops policy and sets a course for the Chamber to achieve its goals and mission.

Personally, 20 years of Chamber membership has always been rewarding and filled a sense of community involvement for me. As a past insurance agent, insurance was never a hardcore sale for me, but it was about building relationships and who can better offer opportunities to build relationships than the Chamber. Now I enjoy the role of being the connector, reach out and I'll help you make connections. But it is your responsibility to build those relationships. If I could offer any advice it would be to be genuine, kind, and help others to achieve their goals. Don't worry, relax and enjoy the rewards (business leads) of your kindness. And no, not everyone will fully return the kindness but that's okay, you will truly be blessed by many others. Get involved today! Feel free to call me, I'd be happy to sit down with you one-on-one if you'd like and share some personalized thoughts for you.



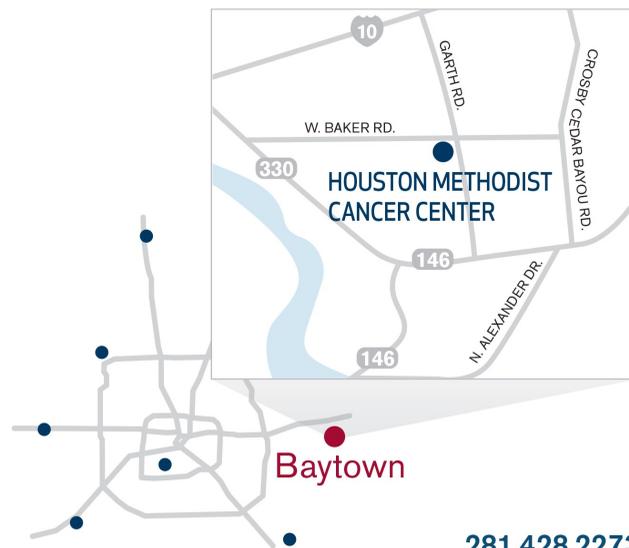


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Our nationally recognized specialists are finding new ways to outsmart cancer.

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