

Murtha & Flischel CPAs Can Get You & Your Business Ready For Tax Season

By Joey Stanziani

Neighborhood News Correspondent

With the inevitable, annual tax season arriving now, the firm of Murtha & Flischel Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) is already focused on preparation, staffing and proactive planning to help individuals and businesses avoid last-minute surprises.

Based in the Seven Oaks Professional Park off S.R. 56 in Wesley Chapel, with a second office in Zephyrhills, Murtha & Flischel was founded by Thomas Murtha and his son, Patrick Murtha, with partner Kyle Flischel joining in 2014. These days, Tom focuses on mentoring and training newer accountants, while Patrick and Kyle handle the majority of the firm's day-to-day management and client operations.

Heading into this tax season, Murtha & Flischel is employing 14 full-time staff members, including the three partners, and plans to bring on seasonal employees to meet high administrative demands. Since featuring Murtha & Flischel in these pages last year, the firm has added three additional junior accounting staff members.

Patrick says the firm hires ahead of tax season to ensure company flow during its busiest months. "Our strategy historically has been to hire more staff before our current staff is at capacity," Patrick says. "It ensures that the client experience remains superior, which is our number one priority."

Several seasoned team members play critical roles in maintaining Murtha & Flischel's high-quality practices. Kaitlyn Kociba, who started as an intern while attending Central



(L.-r.) Kaitlyn Kociba, Patrick Murtha, Kyle Flischel & Lourdes ("Lou") Alers of Murtha & Flischel Certified Public Accountants, which has a nearby office off S.R. 56. (Photos by Charmaine George)

Michigan University, is the senior tax and accounting manager who oversees four junior accounting staff members.

Kaitlyn Little, who also started as an intern while attending St. Leo's University near Dade City, is the firm's Zephyrhills senior tax specialist who handles clients in both Zephyrhills and several in Wesley Chapel.

Lourdes ("Lou") Alers serves as Murtha & Flischel's office director. She manages administrative operations and oversees the administrative staff and has created internal practices that improve efficiency for clients throughout the year.

Murtha & Flischel currently is seeking seasonal employees for data entry and administrative support. Patrick says these roles offer great opportunities for college students to gain real-world experience and notes that many interns start with the firm this way go on to become full-time employees after graduation.

In addition to tax preparation, Murtha & Flischel CPAs offers advisory support for business owners through its Chief Financial Office (CFO) Retainer Program, which includes accounting/bookkeeping services, tax preparation, tax planning and corporate financial planning.

Patrick says that the program has become popular over the years, due to the firm's wealth of resources available to its clients.

"We have dozens of business clients currently working with us via this CFO Retainer Program," Patrick says. "Our clients love having our team of experts at their disposal for any and all financial and tax-related events and concerns throughout the year."

The program's success is one reason Murtha & Flischel continues to hire more junior accounting staff, to keep up with demand.

In a recent example of the CFO program in action, the firm identified a \$40,000 overpayment on a construction materials invoice. After flagging the invoice and alerting the client, the client was able to recover the funds.

In addition to identifying invoice errors, the CFO program enables businesses to plan well in advance for potential tax obligations. Throughout the year, Murtha & Flischel works with clients to create strategies to minimize tax liability far in advance of tax deadlines.

'Big Beautiful' Tax Law Changes

This tax season, several tax law changes are affecting 2025 filings, many of which are attributed to President Donald Trump's "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," and Kyle says that many clients are contacting Murtha & Flischel's partners for clarification on what has changed.

While Florida-specific tax rules remain largely unchanged, Federal tax updates can still affect Florida individual and corporate taxpayers, including the elimination of taxes on overtime

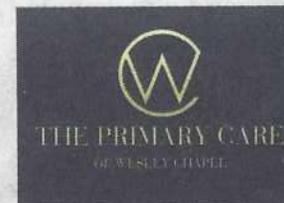
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and tips, the expiration of the solar power tax credit, increased senior deductions, and higher state and local property-plus-sales tax deduction limits. Patrick says he and the other partners are working directly with clients to help them understand and adapt to these changes.

Murtha & Flischel delivers detailed explanations of tax law changes and updates through direct client communication, both in the firm's newsletter and through business consulting with Patrick, Kyle and Tom.

Beyond tax filing, Murtha & Flischel offers exit planning and consulting services to clients who may wish to sell their businesses, whether soon or in the future. The firm assists in determining the business' market value, identifying any weaknesses, and improving overall

optimization to ensure success in a future sale.

Expansion of a third Murtha & Flischel office remains a long-term consideration for the partners— whether through acquisition or organic growth. But for now, Patrick, Kyle and Tom are focused on serving their clients through this tax season before revisiting any expansion ideas.

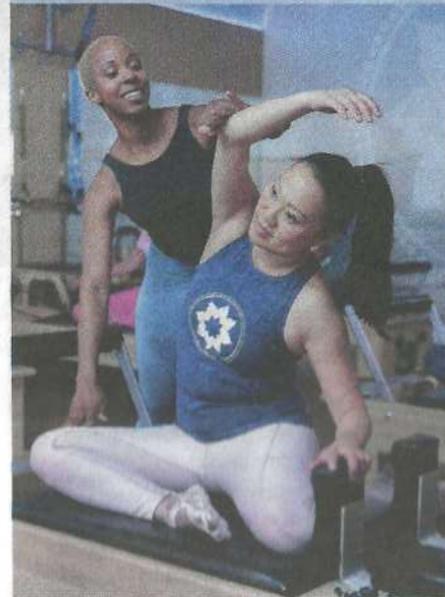
With another tax season kicking off, Murtha & Flischel CPAs continues to position itself as a resource for the Wesley Chapel area, ready to assist clients with all of their tax needs.

The Wesley Chapel office of Murtha & Flischel CPAs is located at 2236 Ashley Oaks Cir., Suite 101. For more information, call (813) 991-1120, visit TampaTaxFirm.com or see the ad on pg. 34. The firm also has a location at 5315 8th St., Zephyrhills.

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