

Letter from the Editor



Women are pillars in the local business community

There is no shortage of successful women here in Columbia County. From small-business owners to CEOs, our area is full of women making their mark on the world.

While trying to decide who to feature in this year's Women In Business issue of Currents, the selection process was lengthy. With so many successful, inspirational women to choose from, narrowing it down was quite a challenge. These stories are about just some of the many powerful businesswomen here in our area.

It's these women who have paved the way for future generations. Their strength, their confidence and their sheer determination to make something happen for themselves is inspiring to us all.

Like The Spa on Marion owner Danette Lewis, who after raising her 10 children decided to start a new journey and open her own business, showing us it's never too late to follow your dreams. Or Cherie Hill, whose passion for teaching children eventually led her to becoming assistant superintendent, proving that hard work really does pay off. And Dr. Celia Martin, who is changing the way children live their lives one smile at a time through her work and her community outreach. These ladies along with the others we've written about are true role models.

When I moved to Lake City a year and a half ago, I was fresh out of college and starting my first full-time job at the Lake City Reporter. When I became the Special Projects Editor and was put in charge of Currents last October, I was excited, but nervous that I wouldn't be able to showcase just how special our little corner of the world is. I quickly learned that when you live someplace special, it's easy to make other people see it too.

With a talented staff, an encouraging boss and an office support system that works tirelessly every day, we make it happen. At Currents, we believe in showcasing just how special Columbia County and Natural Florida really are. It's the people who make it special, and these ladies we've featured certainly are the epitome of this.

As always, this issue of Currents contains a variety of stories. Our feature on women veterans shares the journeys of four local women who bravely served our country. We've included everything you need to know about all the upcoming fall music festivals and festivities in the area, as well as some great fall recipes.

As we continue through our 11th year of publication here at Currents, we want to thank all of you for taking the time to pick up a copy. Thank you for continuing to support Lake City's original magazine, and we look forward to sharing your stories!

Kayla Lokeinsky

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ON THE COVER



The Women In Business issue of Currents features 50 local businesswomen on the cover. Find out more about these prominent women inside.

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