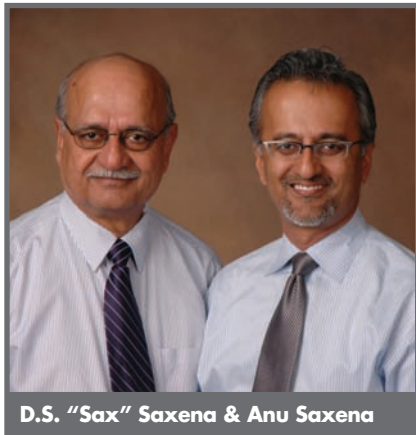


Back Home to India



D.S. "Sax" Saxena & Anu Saxena

Group, with offices in New Delhi and Jaipur, specializing in highways and airports, GPS survey and other services related to deep foundations.

"Last year was a strong year for us, and we've had India on our radar screen," says Anu Saxena, president of the 100-employee firm and Sax's son. "In the '60s, the brain drain was young professionals leaving India. Now, there's a reversal. Bright folks are choosing to stay there. It's awesome that this much change can occur in one generation."

Saxena says that opportunities abound in his family's homeland. "This will be a sustainable front office operation for infrastructure projects in India. It's not a matter of if these projects will take place but when. The funding is in place. It makes sense for us to export our talents to India. Fortune 500 companies have had an India strategy for five to ten years. It's significant that a firm as small as ours can create a bottom-line benefit by being in India."

The new operations in India will also provide back-office support for the firm's Lakeland headquarters and offices in Tampa, Fort Myers, Lake City and Panama City. And while being of Indian ancestry doesn't hurt in executing this strategy, Saxena says, "it's not vital."



Mitchell

Road Warriors

The Tampa Bay Partnership is watching the Florida legislature closely to see the bill being drafted for the creation of a regional transportation authority for the Tampa Bay area. Dewey Mitchell, past Partnership chair and co-chair of its transportation committee, says that transportation is the number-one priority. "We've been working with the bay area

legislative delegation and the governor's office to build support in concept for a regional transportation authority. We're staying focused on building consensus and letting our legislators know what we think is in the best interest of our region. It's heartening that there is an undeniably growing desire for a regional solution for improved mobility that meets the needs of our communities. With our population projected to double by 2050, we remain committed to the vision of meaningful transit."

Since May 2006, the Partnership (www.tampabay.org) has met with hundreds of business, civic, community and political leaders to spark dialogue on developing regional transportation solutions to avoid a mobility crisis in this region.

As to the impact of a new governor and compromises that occur in the legislative process, Mitchell, broker-owner of Prudential Tropical Realty in New Port Richey, says: "It evolves day to day." (For more on transportation news, see page 13.)

The Darling of His Eye ::

Purchasing his first car as a young man growing up in France in the 1950s, Alain Cerf bought a vintage car, not because it was vintage but because it was all he could



afford. That first car – a 1937 orange Peugeot Darl'mat purchased cheap at an auction – was the beginning of Cerf's collection that ultimately has become the Tampa Bay Automobile Museum (www.tbauto.org), located in Pinellas Park's Gateway Centre.

While the museum officially opened about two years ago, Cerf – an engineer always interested in mechanics and automobiles – lovingly handpicked his collection over the years, choosing each car based on the engineering achievements that made it an important part of the evolution of the automobile. "These are the cars that set the standards for the engineering of automobiles today," the founder says. Today, his museum boasts 40 cars housed in 12,000 square feet adjacent to Polypack, a manufacturer of automatic packaging machinery that Cerf founded more than 40 years ago.

Cerf says his collection demonstrates the special creativity and imagination in each car's history and engineering. It includes pioneering front wheel drive and rear engine cars from the 1920s and 1930s. The museum has automobiles from France (Tracta, Citroen and Panhard), Czechoslovakia (Tatra and Aero), Germany (DKW, Auto Union and Mercedes), England (Avis, Allard and BSA), Ireland (DeLorean) and the U.S. (Willys Knight and Ruxton). History buffs may be especially intrigued by a loan from the Deutsch Bahn Museum in Nuremberg, Germany: the world's only replica of the French 1770 Fardier de Cugnot, the world's first self-propelled vehicle.

Bizbytes ::

Circus Sarasota (www.circussarasota.org) celebrates a "decade of excellence" Feb. 2-25 under the big top at 12th Street near Tuttle Avenue ... The Florida Dept. of Transportation District 7 (www.dot.state.fl.us) received a \$400,000 grant to study the feasibility of constructing a 9.9 mile bicycle/pedestrian path along the Courtney Campbell Causeway from the Veterans Expressway in Hillsborough County to McMullen-Booth Road in Pinellas ... Clearwater-based PODS Inc. (www.pods.com) has opened a franchise operation in Australia ... Saddle Creek Corp. (www.saddlecrk.com) in Lakeland has created Saddle Creek Transportation Inc., a new division offering services nationwide including truckload, LTL (less than truckload), flatbed and consolidation services ... Bonefish Grill (www.bonefishgrill.com) is opening a 214-seat restaurant in Pasco's Trinity ... Port Manatee (www.portmanatee.com) has received the 2006 Gulf Guardian Award from the Environmental Protection Agency for its seagrass and ecosystem improvement project ... DeBartolo Sports and Entertainment LLC (www.debartolosports.com) in Tampa has acquired Pittsburgh-based Cindrich & Co. for positioning in the athlete management and hospitality industry.

Correction: The Stetson University College of Law's Eleazer courtroom is in its Gulfport campus. An article in the October 2006 issue stated otherwise.