



# WEEKEND WAVE

Friday Economic Roundup | 02.24.2017

## Babcock Ranch partners with CenturyLink

By **SHELLY CHITWOOD**- Staff Writer - Charlotte Sun

### CENTURYLINK

CenturyLink Inc. and Kitson & Partners this week announced they will provide one of the fastest residential internet speeds available in the U.S. to residents of the new, solar-powered town of Babcock Ranch. CenturyLink will be the exclusive broadband provider in Babcock Ranch, delivering gigabit internet service over its fiber network to every home and business.

"Through our partnership with CenturyLink, we are able to leverage cutting-edge technologies to deliver a whole new way of living that is both environmentally friendly and technologically advanced," said Syd Kitson, chairman and CEO of Kitson & Partners. "With CenturyLink fiber built into the town's infrastructure and available to every home and business, we're able to provide high-quality broadband connectivity to our residents and business owners at a low cost."

Once complete, Babcock Ranch is expected to have more than 19,000 residential units in Southwest Florida.

CenturyLink's data network will provide all residents access to internet speeds up to one gigabit per second, with even higher speeds available for area businesses. In addition, voice services and CenturyLink Prism TV, CenturyLink's interactive television service, will also be available to each residential unit.

"CenturyLink's fiber network provides the most technologically advanced infrastructure available today with the connectivity and flexibility to adapt to future technologies," said Danny Pate, vice president of operations in south Florida for CenturyLink. "We are excited and proud to provide the network for Babcock Ranch's intelligent infrastructure. As the community grows, we will expand with it, ensuring residents, businesses and schools have the advanced technology they want and need."

Fiber provides residents and businesses with one of the most in-demand amenities for a

21st century community - fast internet speeds with the bandwidth to use technology in a way that enhances everyday life. Residents will be able to stream multiple HD movies at the same time, upload huge files in seconds, video chat without interruption, play games in real time and engage in all aspects of social networking. Small businesses can use fiber to increase productivity and efficiency while working in the cloud, sharing multimedia files, streaming video content and backing-up data in real-time.

"We believe that providing a quality broadband network will be a catalyst for attracting premier technology companies to locate to southwest Florida and for encouraging homebased businesses and telecommuting," Kitson said. "Gigabit broadband will be the two-way data conduit for municipal services, the fabric for social networks within the community, and the backbone for the smart grid security system, transportation network, health care network and much more."

Located just 20 minutes northeast of Fort Myers, the master plan encompasses nearly 18,000 acres that span the border between Charlotte and Lee counties. Phase 1 construction in Charlotte County includes 1,100 residential units and the initial commercial district of Founders Square, where the first buildings are nearing completion.

## Florida Economic News

- Publix ranks tops in latest consumer survey ([Harris Poll](#))
- Hispanic small business owners expect to grow revenues, hire more in 2017 ([Miami Herald](#))
- Florida's housing market sees more sales, rising prices ([Florida Trend](#))
- Florida solar industry says it's growing, creating jobs thanks to voters ([WJXT](#))

## Entrepreneur News

- The importance of consensus leadership in accomplishing goals ([Jerry Osteryoung](#))
- Launch Florida initiative lifts off with 54 entrepreneurship and tech organizations ([Miami Herald](#))

[JOIN OUR MAILING LIST](#)

**Charlotte County Economic Development Office**  
18501 Murdock Circle, Suite 302, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Port Charlotte, FL 33948 | 941-764-4941  
[FloridaEDO@CharlotteCountyFL.gov](mailto:FloridaEDO@CharlotteCountyFL.gov)  
<http://www.Cleared4Takeoff.com>