



CHARLOTTE COUNTY
Economic Development

WEEKEND WAVE

06-10-16



Friday Economic Roundup

May, 2016 Passenger Traffic up 32% at Punta Gorda

Punta Gorda, FL - The Charlotte County Airport Authority announced the Punta Gorda Airport passenger count for May, 2016 was 87,352. This is a **32.8 % increase** in passenger traffic for May, 2016 compared with May, 2015 (65,759 passengers).

In May, there were 44,102 boarding passengers and 43,250 arriving passengers. This is the 31th month in a row that the Airport has seen an increase in passenger traffic in year over year monthly traffic. The rolling 12 month passenger total is 952,162.

Commissioner Pam Seay, of the Charlotte County Airport Authority, stated "We are excited about the continued growth. The option of a local airport is beneficial to our residents who want to fly north and it is good for businesses in the area, too. This growth going into summer indicates more people from Charlotte County are using the airline, making Punta Gorda more than a destination but also the origin of flights. That is good news for our local economy."

Allegiant Air has non-stop service to **Thirty cities** including Akron Canton Airport, OH; Allentown, PA; Asheville, NC; Belleville, Il., Cedar Rapids, IA, Cincinnati, OH; Columbus, OH; Des Moines, IA; Ft. Wayne, IN; Grand Rapids, MI; Greenville/ Spartanburg, SC; Harrisburg, Pa., Huntington, WV; Indianapolis, IN; Kansas City, MO.; Knoxville, TN; Lexington, KY; Moline, IL; Niagara Falls, NY; Peoria, IL; Pittsburgh, PA; Plattsburgh, NY; Portsmouth, NH; Raleigh, N.C., Rockford, IL; South Bend, IN; Springfield, IL; Springfield/Branson, MO; Toledo, OH; and Youngstown, OH. Allegiant Air can be reached at www.allegiantair.com or call 702-505-8888. Please check their schedule as some of the cities are seasonal.

The Charlotte County Airport Authority owns and operates the Punta Gorda Airport located at 28000 Airport Road in Punta Gorda, Florida.

22nd Annual Blue Chip Community Business Award

The 22nd annual Southwest Florida Blue Chip Community Business Award, coordinated and sponsored by BB&T- Oswald Trippe and Company and BB&T Bank will take place Thursday, Nov. 3 at Harborside Event Center, located at 1375 Monroe Street in Fort Myers. The annual Blue Chip Award program recognizes successful, small business owners who have overcome adversity to achieve success.

Charlotte, Collier and Lee County for-profit businesses that have been in operation for at least three years under the same ownership and employ five to 400 people are eligible for the Blue Chip Award. Applications must be submitted no later than Sept. 6, 2016 and independent judges will select the winning entry.

The 2016 Southwest Florida Blue Chip Community Business Award is endorsed by the Charlotte County Economic Development Office, Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce, Englewood-Cape Haze Area Chamber of Commerce, Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce, Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce, Business Observer, Cape Coral Chamber of Commerce, Christian Chamber of Southwest Florida, City of Cape Coral Economic Development Office, Estero Chamber of Commerce, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida Southwestern State College, Florida Weekly, Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce, Greater Lehigh Acres Chamber of Commerce, Gulfshore Business, Hodges University, Lee County Economic Development Office/Horizon Council, Sanibel & Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce, Southwest Florida Business Today, Southwest Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, The Greater Fort Myers Beach Area Chamber of Commerce and The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce.

For information on attending the Blue Chip Award program or for submitting an application, please contact Stacey Mercado at 239- 433-7189 or SMercado@BBandT.com.

FLORIDA ECONOMIC NEWS

- South Florida outpaces U.S. in wage increases ([South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#))
- Port Tampa Bay has a \$3 billion vision for the future ([Tampa Bay Times](#))
- Publix, Darden make Fortune 500 ([Orlando Sentinel](#))
- Looking for work? Florida launches app for job-seekers ([South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#))
- Tech company Thales USA has plans to add 173 local jobs ([Orlando Sentinel](#))
- GE announces dozens of new jobs in South Florida ([South Florida Business Journal](#))
- Randrr tech firm to expand to 200 employees in Jacksonville ([Florida Times-Union](#))
- Immokalee among Southwest Florida areas designated as federal Promise Zones for jobs, anti-poverty help ([Naples Daily News](#))
- Manatee County aims to create culinary destination ([Sarasota Herald-Tribune](#))

US ECONOMIC NEWS

- U.S. set to approve first commercial moon mission ([Phys.org](#))

ENTREPRENEUR NEWS

- Do you sell the way your customers buy? ([Ron Stein](#))
- Time to climb out of your personal and professional rut ([Jerry Osteryoung](#))
- Working smarter, not harder, will bump economy ([Miami Herald](#))
- FSU hosts ninth annual entrepreneurship bootcamp for veterans ([FSU News](#))

- FIU to launch three incubator locations ([FIU News](#))

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