



Welcome to Charlotte County Economic Development Office Newsletter

Please enjoy your copy of the Charlotte County Economic Development Office Newsletter. If you need any further information, please feel free to contact our office at 941-764-4941 or at FloridaEDO@charlottefl.com.

Business Expo

Kay Tracy, Business Development Specialist, and Debrah Forester, Redevelopment Manager represented the Charlotte County Economic Development Office at the Third Annual Business Expo and Trade Show on February 6, 2014 held at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center. The gates were opened to the public from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. Local businesses showcased their products and services in the main hall. It was a great day for thousands who walked through the expo to network with area businesses and learn about products and services available throughout the Charlotte County community.



Additionally, small business owners were able to learn more about Charlotte County resources at the Economic Development Booth, such as: The many advantages for companies located in the Charlotte County Enterprise Zones and Redevelopment Areas, and the support organizations available to help Charlotte County companies grow. For more information contact the Economic Development Office at: 941-764-4941 or visit www.FloridasInnovationCoast.com.

The Charlotte County Economic Development Office congratulates Kathy Faria of EZE Air Solutions (Port Charlotte) the recipient of an Office Max gift certificate donated by the Enterprise Charlotte Economic Council in their business card drawing.

Made in Southwest Florida Showcase April 16, 2014 Harborside Event Center

The Southwest Regional Manufacturing Association Trade Show and Awards Ceremony will be combined into one "Not-to-be-Missed" Day.



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April 3 - ECEC Meeting (Call for

If you are a manufacturer, employee, or student, the SRMA Made In SWFL showcase is your best opportunity to connect with local manufacturers.

The Manufacturer of the Year and Manufacturing Employee of the Year

Awards celebrate excellence in Manufacturing by recognizing those individuals and companies that have demonstrated both excellence in the field of Manufacturing and have positively impacted their industry overall in Southwest Florida.

Businesses are invited to nominate their own company or employee or submit an application for another Southwest Florida company or individual to be recognized.

Nominations must be submitted by Saturday, March 1, 2014 to be eligible. For more information or to nominate a business visit: www.MadeInSWFL.com.

Finalists and Winners will be honored at the "Made In SW FL Recognition of Excellence Awards Banquet" that will be held the evening of the "Made in Southwest Florida" Showcase event.

The award winners will be recognized at the awards dinner and through various advertising and public relations efforts locally.

Agenda

- 9am-10am Sponsor/Exhibitor Breakfast
- 9:30am-Noon Activities for Students
- Noon-5pm Open to General Public
(Business Card or \$5 for Admission)
- 5pm-6pm SRMA Reception
- 6pm Awards Dinner
(Separate Registration/Fee to attend Awards Ceremony)

Join us for an exciting line up of interactive displays, speakers and more. Discover the thriving manufacturing community in Southwest Florida and learn about the exciting role manufacturing plays in our economy by supporting this event.

For more information visit www.MadeInSWFL.com or call Dan Allen at (239) 898-1623.

Why Would You Support SRMA & Made in Southwest Florida?

It's official. The National Labor Relations Board's (NLRB) so-called "poster rule" was defeated. This rule would have



Information)

April 7 - Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee Meeting 10:30 AM, Room 119

April 14 - Murdock Village CRA, EDO Conference Room 302, 5 PM

April 15 - Suncoast Technology Forum Luncheon, Polo Bar & Grill, Lakewood Ranch, 11:30 - 1 PM

April 16 - IDA Meeting Noon at the EDO Conference Room 302

April 16 - Made in SWFL Showcase

April 17 - Enterprise Zone Development Agency Meeting, Noon at the EDO Conference Room 302

May 1 - ECEC Meeting (Call for Information)

May 5 - Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee Meeting 10:30 AM, Room 119

May 20 - Suncoast Technology Forum Luncheon, Polo Bar & Grill, Lakewood Ranch, 11:30 - 1 PM

May 21 - IDA Meeting Noon at the EDO Conference Room 302

May 26 - EDO closed for Memorial Day

June 2 - Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee Meeting 10:30 AM, Room 119

June 5 - ECEC Meeting (Call for Information)

June 17 - Suncoast Technology Forum Luncheon, Polo Bar & Grill, Lakewood Ranch, 11:30 - 1 PM

June 18 - IDA Meeting Noon at the EDO Conference Room 302

required manufacturers to post a notice in their workplaces informing employees of their right to organize and strike.

After two federal appeals courts struck down the rule, the NLRB had one final chance to save its mandate. The Board had until a few days ago to ask the Supreme Court to take up the case and potentially overturn the lower court's ruling. It missed that deadline.

This victory was hard-fought. The litigation began in 2011, but thanks to the efforts of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), legal teams and the financial support of manufacturers, National Labor Relations Board's (NLRB) overreach was pushed back, safeguarding manufacturers' First Amendment rights and saving manufacturers from an onerous and unfair mandate.

This victory is a great example of the results that can be produced through strategic and well-funded legal action. NAM is now well-positioned to take on future legal challenges. Moving into 2014, manufacturing associations across America are evaluating challenges to a variety of regulations coming from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, Environmental Protection Agency and Securities and Exchange Commission.

Of course, manufacturers would rather be on their shop floor than in the courtroom, but with an Administration intent on pushing its agenda through aggressive executive action, manufacturers have to be aggressive in response. This win against the NLRB demonstrates that aggressive strategies can get results.

This message from Jay Timmons, President and CEO of National Association of Manufacturers, is a great example of what we can accomplish for our industry when we come together.

Please renew your SRMA Membership this week.
If you are not a SRMA Member, apply on line www.srma.net
Questions about membership? Contact Betsy@srma.net

Support the organization that supports manufacturing!

Also, visit MadelnSWFL.com to spread the word about this event via social media.

Port Charlotte SCORE Ranks First in Nation

Each year, the SCORE Association engages PriceWaterhouse Cooper to conduct a survey of client satisfaction for all 321 SCORE Chapters across the nation. We are pleased to announce that the Port Charlotte Chapter has been ranked **number one** in the nation in terms of serving its clients.

You can be confident that any advice you seek from their Certified Mentors will be given to you with the highest quality knowledge and service.

[Click here to contact a mentor.](#)

July 4 - EDO
closed Independence Day

July 7 - Charlotte Harbor CRA
Advisory Committee Meeting
10:30 AM, Room 119

July 14 - Murdock Village CRA,
EDO Conference Room 302, 5
PM

July 15 - Suncoast Technology
Forum Luncheon, Polo Bar &
Grill, Lakewood Ranch, 11:30 - 1
PM

July 16 - IDA Meeting Noon at
the EDO Conference Room 302

July 17 - Enterprise Zone
Development Agency Meeting,
Noon at the EDO Conference
Room 302

August 7 - ECEC Meeting (Call
for Information)

August 19 - Suncoast
Technology Forum Luncheon,
Polo Bar & Grill, Lakewood
Ranch, 11:30 - 1 PM

August 20 - IDA Meeting Noon at
the EDO Conference Room 302

September 1 - Charlotte Harbor
CRA Advisory Committee
Meeting 10:30 AM, Room 119

September 4- ECEC Meeting
(Call for Information)

September 16 - Suncoast
Technology Forum Luncheon,
Polo Bar & Grill, Lakewood
Ranch, 11:30 - 1 PM

September 17 - IDA Meeting
Noon at the EDO Conference
Room 302

[View More Events](#)
ON OUR
[Web Site](#)

If you have business
related events you would
like listed on our web

Cheney Ground Breaking



Governor Rick Scott kicked off the ground breaking and ribbon cutting of food distribution leader, Cheney Brothers Inc., in Punta Gorda, FL on the sunny morning of March 5th, 2014.

Governor Scott said, "The creation of a Cheney Brothers' distribution center is great news for Charlotte County families. Florida has proven to be the perfect climate for business with the help of companies like Cheney Brothers. We've been working hard to create more jobs for families all over the state and since December 2010, we've created more than 462,000 private-sector jobs. We will continue to work to build an opportunity economy that will create jobs for future generations."

Cheney Brothers, currently a billion dollar food distributor, is expanding their Riviera Beach, Ocala, and Orlando operations to include a fourth facility to be located in Charlotte County which will provide a central facility, closer to its customers from the Tampa Bay region to Southwest Florida.

"The construction of our new West Coast Distribution Center is another major step in the growth of our Florida Company. We envision a wonderful and successful relationship with the communities, the families and businesses of this region," said Byron Russell, CEO and Chairman of Cheney Brothers, Inc.

The ceremony took place at the site of the future distribution center and regional warehouse which will provide a minimum 380 job opportunities and more than \$40 million in capital investment for the area. In addition, Charlotte County held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the recently constructed Cheney Way, which provides improved access to the new distribution center.

President and CEO of Enterprise Florida, Gray Swoope said, "Cheney Brothers' new distribution center in Charlotte County is a great addition to Florida's logistics and distribution industry. With the help of Florida's top-ranked infrastructure, this company was able to choose a great location and will continue its success in our state. The strong workforce in Florida and great tax benefits will help companies like Cheney Brothers to continue growing and I look forward to seeing their future accomplishments."

"This project was made possible with the help of close partnerships between Enterprise Florida, Charlotte County Economic Development Office, Florida Power and Light (FPL) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Cheney Brothers Distribution Center was enticed to locate in Charlotte County by several local businessmen that wanted to see the county grow," says County Commission Chair, Ken Doherty. "It's a fine testament to a healthy business community..."

ICSC West Florida Idea Exchange

Debrah Forester attended the ICSC West Florida Idea Exchange in February. The program brought together approximately 700 attendees

site's Calendar of Events,
please email them to our
[webmaster](#).

from a variety of disciplines including real estate brokers, developers, retailers, and local governments to share ideas and give updates on current trends impacting commercial centers. Several retailers looking at expanding in the Florida market were present. Charlotte Harbor and Parkside Community Redevelopment Areas have a number of commercial centers with vacancies. Ms. Forester will be developing materials and working with local realtors to help market these areas for commercial recruitment. Realtors with space available in the Charlotte Harbor or Parkside CRA are invited to send information on the sites to the EDO for posting on the CRA websites.

SWFL Real Estate Outlook Conference

Debrah Forester and Kay Tracy attended the 14th Annual Southwest Florida Real Estate Outlook Conference presented by the CCIM, Florida Chapter, Southwest District. Presenters shared their views on the future outlook for the region in all sectors - office, industrial, residential, and retail. Charlotte, Lee, and Collier market information was presented. Richard Broome, Executive Vice President from Hertz Corporation, spoke on the site selection process and noted that Florida was selected because of the great business climate and the high volume of tourists.

Hands Across the Harbor

6th Annual Hands Across the Harbor was held on January 25. A chilly start to the morning didn't keep the runners, walkers, bike riders - and new this year - long boarders from attending. It was a great event with over 350 participants. The event, sponsored by the Charlotte Harbor and Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agencies, provides a great way to build community partnerships, promote health and fitness and support Charlotte Harbor. All proceeds benefit Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center's youth educational programs at Alligator Creek. The CRAs are grateful to all the sponsors, businesses, and participants that make this event a success.



Longboard participants and with Title Sponsor Representative - Todd Perez, Waste Management



MicroEnterprise
Institute



WANT TO BE YOUR OWN BOSS?



**Classes Starting in Port Charlotte on
Tuesday, April 22, 2014**

**Tuesday & Thursday evenings from
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**Class runs six weeks, due to a generous grant,
this class will be offered FREE of charge.**

If you qualify you may be eligible to apply for a Microloan after graduation from this class.

Develop a solid plan to guide your start up with the assistance of an experienced business owner who serves as your coach. Hear from subject matter experts in areas of accounting, legal, marketing, insurance and funding.

More information and to register go to: www.goodwillswfl.org/microenterprise
or call (239) 995-2106, Ext. 2219

Program Partners:

Buick Bank
Central Bank
City of Cape Coral
City of Fort Myers
Collier County Dept. of Housing and Human Services
Fifth Third Bank
Florida Community Bank
IBERIA BANK
Lee County Board of Commissioners
Lee County Department of Human Services
Southwest Florida Enterprise Center
SunTrust Bank
UPS
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development



Classes held:
Charlotte Technical Center
18150 Murdock Circle
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Aviation Partners Group

Griff Salmon, Executive Vice President and CEO of Enterprise Florida kicked off the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting held for aviation leader, Aviation Partners Group (APG), in Punta Gorda, FL on March 18th, 2014.



AVIATION PARTNERS GROUP

Tom Patton, Executive Director of the Charlotte County Economic Development Office, said "The APG expansion provides key foundational support for Charlotte County's nascent aerospace cluster, which already includes; Punta Gorda's Arcadia Aerospace, a provider of solutions in aerospace inspection, engineering and process manufacturing; and four Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Aerospace Career Academy co-location campuses in the Charlotte County School System.

APG currently functions as the parent company for the APG family of four subsidiaries, including; APG Avionics, APG Rotables, APG-NEBO Aviation Services and APG Airpark Realty, with international offices in

Russia, Ukraine, Columbia, Indonesia and Kazakhstan. Altogether, APG serves the needs of more than 45,000 clients across the globe, clients ranging from OEMs to governmental and military entities (both foreign and domestic), owners of charter and corporate aircraft, flight schools, air ambulance services, and individual aircraft owners. In addition to creating 10 new jobs (paying a minimum annual wage of \$46,434) APG's Punta Gorda operation already employs 18 additional people.

Boris Nekrasov, owner of APG, says the Punta Gorda location has always been a natural fit. "The location advantages here include; supply chain & labor advantages, as well as a strong and friendly business community, all of which helped to make the choice of expansion in Punta Gorda, Florida an easy one."

"Companies like APG hold the key for further economic development success," says Tom Patton, as he looks ahead to efforts that capitalize on location assets like great weather while Florida's dynamic economic development efforts are currently being marketed under the "Perfect Climate for Business" thematic.

Working in partnership with a leading Italian aeronautic manufacturer, OMA SUD Sky Technologies from Capua, Italy, APG manufactured their first SKYCAR (a twin-engine, five-passenger aircraft) earlier this year. APG will be fulfilling OMA SUD's entire first order of 45 SKYCAR's in about 24 months. After that, with plenty of room to grow at the company's expanded hangar space in the Punta Gorda Interstate Airport Park, it seems that the sky is the limit for APG.

International Economic Development Council



INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL

The Power of Knowledge and Leadership

Lucienne Pears attended a two day training offered by the International Economic Development council as a core prerequisite to attaining the Certified Economic Developer designation. The course, entitled Real Estate Development and Reuse, teaches the fundamentals of market and site analysis, financial feasibility and political considerations in a development project from inception to construction. Lucienne found the sections regarding public and private financing tools, especially the case studies, to be most helpful in complementing the work she does currently for the Charlotte County EDO. Lucienne anticipates completing the core and elective requirements and sitting for the professional exam by the end of 2015.

FEDC Winter Symposium



**TAILORING YOUR COMMUNITY BRAND
TO ENTICE & ENGAGE SITE SELECTORS**

FEDC >>> WINTER SYMPOSIUM

January 9-10, 2014 | Wyatt Regency Orlando International Airport

Lucienne Pears, Business Recruitment Supervisor, attended the first annual FEDC Winter Symposium in Orlando, January 9th, 2014 - 1pm - 5pm - Marketing Strategies That Help You Break Away From the Pack. The two day program was moderated by FEDC with content provided by

Jim Walton, CEO Brand Acceleration, Inc. and Anatalio Ubalde, MCP, FM, CEO GIS Planning, Inc., CEO ZoomProspector.com: CEO SizeUp. The Symposium was a limited attendance in depth event designed to assist Florida's Economic Development partners across the State analyze emerging trends and practices in community marketing and to implement new, fresh and effective ideas into current marketing strategies. Lucienne gained a lot of knowledge and some enhanced relationships on this trip and since her return has been able to sharpen and clarify the "elevator speech" for Charlotte County as well as refine existing marketing strategies to achieve greater saturation and effectiveness.

Jr. Leadership Charlotte Luncheon

Lucienne Pears attended the Junior Leadership Charlotte final luncheon, along with a number of community business leaders to get to know some of the graduating class and to share her business experience with the members. The mission of the program is to develop positive leadership qualities and a sense of community among our youth. It is an interaction between today's community leaders and tomorrow's future leaders. It is designed to heighten the awareness of the needs of our community and to show each person how they can make a difference. It is about the careers and life-style available to everyone who chooses to call Charlotte County their home.



Familiarization Tour

From March 25-27, Lucienne Pears joined marketing partner Enterprise Florida and several other EDO partners in hosting the first annual State of Florida in bound Familiarization tour. The team hosted 8 site consultants from NY, DC, Chicago, Cleveland and Atlanta in a three day, three game baseball scouting experience. Hard hitting firms such as Hickey and Associates, Binswanger, Atlas Insight, LLC, CB Richard Ellis - Atlanta, Partner MCS Strategies, LLC, Ernst & Young, LLP and Biggins Lacy Shapiro & Company, LLC attended the three day event. Guests and partners were transported by bus for the Grapefruit League tour giving partners the opportunity for significant networking in a low pressure environment. Strong networking relationships were formed with all of the consultants whom all left with a renewed interest in SW Florida as a place for business expansion.



Tom Patton, Director
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