

WEEKEND WAVE

9-25-15



Friday Economic Roundup

Punta Gorda business awards

The Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce named The Foot Landing winner of its Small Business of the Year Award.

Other awards handed out among 15 finalists: Large Business of the Year -- Busey Bank; Non-Profit Business of the Year -- the Downtown Merchants' Association's Punta Gorda Farmers' Market; Pinnacle Award -- Animal Welfare League of Charlotte County. Member's Choice Award -- Fawcett Memorial Hospital; Newcomer of the Year -- Simply Sweet Candy Store of Fishermen's Village.

A Special Recognition Award was given to Florida Gulf Coast University's Charlotte Campus. Diplomat of the Year was Nanette Leonard; Volunteer of the Year was Deni Wise of Wise Choice Photography; and the President's Award went to Ron Olsen.

The chamber also recognized retiring Police Chief Butch Arenal with a music video.

Company partners with Chinese firm

By CASEY LOGAN News-Press

Southwest Florida's Algenol will partner with South China's Fujian Zhongyuan New

Energy Company Ltd. (ZYNE) to develop projects throughout southern China, using carbon emissions to create renewable fuels.

The goal is to provide solutions for China's three biggest challenges: access to clean air, clean water and sustainable fuels.

Algenol CEO and founder Paul Woods and Wang Suwei, ZYNE's chairman of the board, signed a memorandum of understanding this week in Seattle that establishes the partnership for this joint exploration project. Representatives from both companies attended the ceremony, along with government leaders from the U.S. and China.

Under the framework of the U.S. - China Climate Change Working Group, there is a global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Based in Lee County, Algenol's patented direct-to-ethanol technology process uses industrial CO₂ emissions directly from power plants as a feedstock for proprietary algae to produce the four most important renewable transportation fuels (ethanol, gas, diesel and jet).

"We all share one atmosphere. Clean air has no borders," Woods said. "We are eager to bring our technology to China because we know that our process can remove health-damaging pollution straight from its source and turn it into renewable fuel and clean water." This partnership unites the economic and environmental benefits of Algenol's technologies with ZYNE's expertise in delivering renewable fuels in China. The companies will identify and evaluate the utilization of CO₂ emissions from industrial sources such as power plants, steel mills, cement and chemical factories in the Fujian province, and other parts of Southern China.

Once the CO₂ sources are identified, the process will begin to incorporate Algenol's technology solution of carbon capture and utilization and renewable fuel production. An added benefit of Algenol's technology is the primary byproduct of clean water, which is valuable to many communities in Southern China.

Early this year, the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Energy invited Algenol to join a presidential trade mission to China. The mission highlighted Algenol's technology as a solution for significant reduction of China's carbon emission pollution.

North Port launches app to track new development

By MADISON HEID Staff Writer Charlotte Sun

NORTH PORT - A new application has been created by the city of North Port to help the public identify what retail and restaurants are being built in the area, and where developments will be located.

When driving around North Port, there are many areas where construction is underway, or land that's being prepared to be built on. The city has created an app for both phone and computer that makes it easy to identify what businesses are moving in.

The site, which has been out for about two weeks, can be accessed directly by visiting <http://gis.cityofnorthport.com/Petitions>, or through the city's mobile app, which can be downloaded for free through the Google Play or iTunes App Store for smartphones.

"We've got amazing staff, and we want to harness that in-house talent," City Planner Michele Norton said. "Let's use the new technology."

Norton and her staff developed the app by modifying one they already had actively on the city's website.

"We had an interactive map (on the website), but it wasn't telling people what they wanted to know - it was civil drawings," Norton said. "People don't want to see that - they want to know who the end user is, so we cut out all the (other) stuff."

In the app, which shows a map of North Port, users can click on areas outlined in purple, which will state what is moving in and what the site plan is. Even if there is not an end-user signed on as of yet, the app will show who the developer is and what type of establishment is slated to move in. Users can zoom in to see more specific streets.

As an example, clicking on the purple-highlighted area at the corner of Toledo Blade Boulevard and Cranberry Boulevard, reveals information regarding the future Suncoast Technical College.

The south campus of STC, along with a second Sarasota County library in North Port, is slated to be built on 24 acres. The project is budgeted at \$15 million.

Chipotle, under construction near Cocoplum Village Shops, and Popeye's Chicken, slated for U.S. 41 near Sumter Boulevard are also on the map. What's not on the map - businesses rumored to come here - Texas Roadhouse, Chuck E. Cheese's, Dave & Buster's and Target. "We hope as they learn about the app, (users) see as we find things, we're going to post it," Norton said. "You can keep coming back to it, and everything I know will be on the map."

According to Norton, once a parcel completes construction, it will be removed from the map to avoid confusion.

"I still see (Facebook) posts of rumors, so hopefully that will help in time as people learn they can look it up - that's part of the point," Norton said.

Enterprise Zone

To encourage economic development in economically distressed areas of the state, in 1982 Florida launched an Enterprise Zone program by providing incentives to induce private investment. At the 2015 legislative session, extension of the Enterprise Zone program was not authorized, and the program will sunset on Dec. 31, 2015.

Incentives include business machinery and equipment sales tax refund, building materials sales tax refund, job tax credit, and property tax credit for Florida corporations. To qualify for the incentives, a business or home must be within the Enterprise Zone, and further specific eligibility criteria must be met. The Charlotte County Enterprise Zone was approved by the state in 2013. The zone includes portions of the Punta Gorda Interstate Airport Park, Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Area (CRA), Parkside CRA, and Punta Gorda, totaling approximately 16 square miles.

Visit http://FloridasInnovationCoast.com/index.php/site_selection/enterprise_zone for more information.

Applications must be approved by the Florida Department of Revenue before the sunset date.

For more information contact Debrah Forester, Redevelopment Manager with the Charlotte County Economic Development Department, at 941-764-4943 or Debrah.Forester@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.

FLORIDA ECONOMIC NEWS

- Florida's recovery looks solid with unemployment rate falling to 5.3 percent ([Tampa Bay Times](#))
- Florida moving forward to diversify economy ([Saint Augustine Record](#))
- Southwest Florida home prices are soaring ([Sarasota Herald-Tribune](#))
- South Florida's growing economy beats US average ([South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#))
- Expedia plans Central Florida development ([Orlando Sentinel](#))
- Sarasota means business (friendliness) ([Business Observer](#))

US ECONOMIC NEWS

- SC Line adds shipping service from Port Everglades to Cuba ([South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#))
- Economy grew faster than previously thought ([AP](#))

ENTREPRENEUR NEWS

- Why 'coaching' your staff gets better results than 'managing' ([Jerry Osteryoung](#))
- Big appetite for small loans ([CFO](#))

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