

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Cultural Center of Charlotte County is proud to recognize their 2012 Honoree, Thomas J. Rice, as an individual who represents the very best in community leadership and support. Annual recognition of an Honoree was instituted by the Center in 1993 as a way to commend individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the citizens of Charlotte County.

The event will take place on May 20, 2012 starting with a social hour at 5pm. Tickets to this event are \$75. For more information, please call 941-625-4175 ext. 250.



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.

Enterprise Zone

The Governor signed HB7087, which provides Charlotte County the opportunity to apply for an Enterprise Zone. In 1982, the Enterprise Zone program was created to encourage economic development in economically distressed areas of the state by providing incentives to induce private investment. The creation of an Enterprise Zone creates tax advantages and incentives for businesses to locate in the Zone. Now that the bill has been signed into law, an application will be prepared and submitted to the State for final approval. The application will determine the exact location of the zone based on specific criteria outlined in the law which includes determination of areas with high poverty and unemployment rates. Special thanks to Senator Mike Bennett and Representative Ken Roberson for filing and supporting this Bill.

To learn more about Enterprise Zones, visit the [state web site](#).

Kickstarter.com



In This Issue

[Enterprise Zone](#)

[Kickstarter.com](#)

[Florida World Trade Month](#)

[May Entrepreneurial Events](#)

[Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy](#)

[Survey Monkey](#)

[Innovation 2 Industry Contest](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Innovation

2

Industry

Contest

Winners will be announced at the ECEC Award Presentation May 3, 2012

Premier Event Sponsors



If you are looking to fund a business project, then you might want to check out kickstarter.com. Kickstarter is a web site to help people fund creative projects.

Kickstarter is the world's largest funding platform for creative projects. Every week, tens of thousands of amazing people pledge millions of dollars to projects from the worlds of music, film, art, technology, design, food, publishing and other creative fields.

On Kickstarter, a project must reach its funding goal before time runs out or no money changes hands. This way it protects everyone involved. No one is expected to develop a project with an insufficient budget. You set your own funding goal. Projects can always raise more than their goal, and often do.

Florida World Trade Month

The Florida Chamber of Commerce, World Trade Center Miami and Enterprise Florida are pleased to invite your organization to participate in the first annual celebration of Florida World Trade Month 2012, a month-long event that will take place throughout Florida to increase awareness about the importance of international trade as a major contributor to job creation and corporate growth. The Honorary Chair for Florida's World Trade Month is Gray Swoope, Florida Secretary of Commerce.

As a result of major developments occurring at our airports and seaports throughout the State, Florida is at the precipice of becoming THE hub for two-way trade on a global scale.

As an organization that recognizes the importance of international trade in the State of Florida, we invite you to participate in Florida World Trade Month 2012, which is being coordinated by the World Trade Center Miami.

If your organization has already scheduled an international trade event from April 14th through May 31st or wishes to create a new event, we would be delighted to list your event/s on a new web site (www.floridaworldtrademonth.com) to increase the promotion of your event statewide.

To become involved, you will need to complete and submit the [participation event form](#). Your event will then be included in the web site's "Calendar of Events", and your company will be listed as a participating organization. If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to call the World Trade Center Miami at (305) 871-7910 or (305) 665-1878 or [send an email](#).

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Sincerely,

Mark Wilson, President
Florida Chamber of Commerce

Charlotte Gallogly, President
World Trade Center Miami

Manny Mencia, Sr VP
Enterprise Florida

May Entrepreneurial Events

May 20-26, 2012 is National Small Business Week. Enterprise Charlotte and the Charlotte County Economic Development Office have four events scheduled to help new startup business get up and running and help existing businesses more to the next level of success.

May 3rd -
Entrepreneurial Support Session

TIME: 2 PM - 4 PM

LOCATION:

SunTrust Building
18501 Murdock Circle, Suite 601
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

COST: FREE Seating is limited and you must register.

REGISTER: 941-764-4941

Whether you are starting a business or looking to grow your business, come to a very special entrepreneurial support session featuring Port Charlotte SCORE, Small Business Development Center and Gulf Coast Venture Forum. Talk to representatives that can help you find capital and get your business going.

May 21st -

Lunch & Learn - Early Stage Funding and Your Startup Business

PRESENTED BY: Gulf Coast Venture Forum

TIME: 12 PM - 1 PM

LOCATION:

JD's Bistro & Grille
1951 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

COST: \$15.00

REGISTER

Whether you are currently looking for funding or think that you might want to at some time in the future, there are some things you should know. The session will discuss various



MorWeb Designs, Inc.



Paradise Acting
Company



innovation 2 industry

FL

Join Our Mailing List!

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 3 - ECEC Meeting (Call for Information)

stages of business development and funding, as well as answer a few important questions about who does what and what you should consider when looking for funding. Sara Hand, President of the Sarasota Chapter of Gulf Coast Venture Forum, will be the guest speaker.

May 22nd -
QuickBooks Class

PRESENTED BY: PORT CHARLOTTE SCORE

TIME: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

LOCATION:

Charlotte County Administration Complex
18500 Murdock Circle
Room 106 B
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

COST: \$25.00

REGISTER

Just starting your business? Maybe you would like to know more of what QuickBooks can do? Then this course is for you.

Ginny Lewis, former President of Advanetrix, Inc., will take you through the steps in setting up your business' bookkeeping, how to add vendors and clients, how to enter receipts, make payments and other tips and tricks to mastering the software and running the finances of your business.

May 23rd -
Small Business:
Building Communities One Employee at a Time

Presented & Sponsored

By: Southwest Florida Works



TIME: 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

LOCATION:

Southwest Florida Works
1032 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33953

COST: FREE Seating is limited and you must register.

REGISTER: 941-764-4941

Join us to learn where and when to hire, how to develop a job description, good recruitment strategies for Charlotte County, and ways to improve your hiring process. You'll also learn how Southwest Florida Works can help reduce your staff costs. Use the opportunity to network with other business owners and workforce professionals.

May 24th -
Good Morning Charlotte! Wake up with Florida's GrowFL

May 4 - STF Technology Expo and Conference 2012

May 7 - Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee Meeting 11:00 AM, Room 119

May 16 - IDA Meeting Noon at the EDO Conference Room 504

May 21 - Murdock Village CRA Advisory Committee 5 PM at the EDO Conference Room 504

May 28 - EDO closed for Memorial Day

June 4 - Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee Meeting 11 AM, Room 119

June 7 - ECEC Meeting (Call for Information)

June 20 - IDA Meeting Noon at the EDO Conference Room 504

June 28 - ECEC Meeting (Call for Information)

July 2 - Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee Meeting 11 AM, Room 119

July 4 - EDO closed for the Independence Day Holiday

July 9 - Murdock Village CRA Advisory Committee 5 PM at the EDO Conference Room 504

July 18 - IDA Meeting Noon at the EDO Conference Room 504

August 2 - ECEC Meeting (Call for Information)

PRESENTED BY:
Florida's Economic Gardening Institute



SPONSORED BY:
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Financial Group

TIME: 7:30 AM -  A part of BMO Financial Group 8:30 AM

LOCATION:
Charlotte County Cultural Center, Room A
2280 Aaron Street
Port Charlotte, FL

COST: FREE Seating is limited and you must register.
REGISTER: 941-764-4941

Are you interested in growing your business beyond your current service area or region? If yes, RSVP today to hear more about the Florida Economic Gardening program.

Guest Speaker- Tammie Nemecek, Director of Partner Development, Florida Economic Gardening Institute.

Economic Gardening is an innovative, entrepreneur-centered, economic growth strategy focused on providing tools to identify companies with the intent and capacity to grow by providing sophisticated technical assistance through experienced, nationally certified Economic Gardening Team. The Florida Economic Gardening Institute, located at the University of Central Florida and funded by local and statewide resources provides technical assistance to existing businesses interested in expanding beyond their current service area or region. This program will introduce you to the type of assistance offered by the Florida Economic Gardening Institute.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Charlotte County was host to the first of several regional planning workshops in which the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council is gathering information and input from the community to help in the preparation of the 5-year regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs). About 25 people attended this interactive workshop. Projects vital to the local community and the region were discussed and included an incubator, improved intra-state transportation connections and Murdock Village, including both the entertainment district and business technology park.

Attendees were given the opportunity to clicker vote on

August 15 - IDA Meeting
Noon at the EDO
Conference Room 504

September 6 - ECEC
Meeting (Call for
information)

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

September 19 - IDA Meeting
Noon at the EDO
Conference Room 504

October 1 - Charlotte
Harbor CRA Advisory
Committee Meeting 11
AM, Room 119

October 4 - ECEC Meeting
(Call for information)

October 8 - Murdock Village
CRA Advisory Committee 5
PM at the EDO Conference
Room 504

October 17 - IDA Meeting
Noon at the EDO
Conference Room 504

January 26 - 5th Annual
Hands Across the Harbor

issues and see the results of the groups vote immediately in the presentation. Input received at these workshops will be vital for future economic development at the regional and state level. Workshops will also be held in Glades, Lee, Sarasota, Hendry and Collier County, as well as the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Results of all workshops will be discussed at Regional Meeting scheduled for May 19 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council office in Fort Myers, to register please visit: www.swfrpc.org.

Survey Monkey

JUST A REMINDER...

The ECEC is working with Marshall Goodman to review and update its organizational plan to better grow and meet the needs of its investors. We are asking for investor to take a few minutes to participate in a survey which can be found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CQLV8YG>.

Your comments are important and will help the Enterprise Charlotte Economic Council grow and improve. This survey will only be available for input until May 4.

Tom Patton, Director
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Web Site: <http://www.FloridasInnovationCoast.com>