

August 2012

Issue: 19

**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
to  
Marketing Arm International  
Winner of the 2012  
Florida Companies To Watch Award



## 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](mailto:FloridaEDO@charlottefl.com).

## Suncoast Technology Forum Luncheon

### Save the Date!

We're having a very special event and you're invited!

Please join us, **October 16, 2012** from 11:30 AM to 1 PM at the Captain's Table, Fisherman's Village, Punta Gorda, FL for the Suncoast Technology Forum Luncheon.



The Charlotte County Economic Development Office is hosting the Suncoast Technology Forum monthly meeting with guest speaker Joe Haber, Chief Information Officer of Cheney Brothers.

Joe will be talking about the technology that goes into receiving and moving goods through their warehouses and how technology allows monitoring their fleet of trucks for temperatures, locations and a variety of other essential criteria.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

Charlotte County  
New Business Tax  
Receipts

July - 109

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

September 3 - EDO closed for Labor Day

So mark your calendars and join us for lunch and technology!

The Cost will be:

- \$15.00 for Suncoast Technology Forum Members,
- \$20.00 at the door
- \$25.00 for Guests/Non-members, \$30.00 at the door

### STF MEMBER DISCOUNT PROGRAM

Don't forget, if your company is currently an active member of the local Chamber of Commerce or Economic Development Organization in Sarasota, Manatee or Charlotte Counties, you will receive a 15% discount off the respective annual STF membership fee for your first year!



Visit [STF](#) and select **Join Now > Online Application:**

1. Check the appropriate membership category.
2. Complete the brief online application and information section.

Submit the completed application. Membership fee discount - Select 'Manual' payment method and you will receive an invoice for the reduced member rate.

## Florida Companies to Watch

Florida Companies to Watch is a testament to the commitment of community partners across the state. These groups work with second-stage companies every day and serve as their champions. More than 25 organizations pledged their support to nominate companies based in their communities, resulting in a record 425 nominations submitted. Nearly 140 companies were considered before 50 companies emerged as winners.

"We built Companies to Watch on the belief that an energized entrepreneurial culture must exist for second-stage companies to thrive," says Penny Lewandowski, Director of Entrepreneurship at the Edward Lowe Foundation. "Now in its second year, Florida Companies to Watch enables a wide variety of organizations to champion second-stage companies to participate, most notably by

September 6 - ECEC Meeting (Call for information)

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

September 12-15 - American Planning Association Conference

September 18 - Suncoast Technology Forum Luncheon, Polo Bar & Grill, Lakewood Ranch, 11:30 - 1 PM

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 13 - Bayshore Wine & Beer Fest, 2-6 PM

October 16 - Suncoast Technology Forum Luncheon, 11:30 AM - 1 PM, Captain's Table, Punta Gorda

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

nominating them for the award."

Tom Patton, Charlotte County's Economic Development Director said, "I am very proud and happy to have Marketing Arm International doing business in our county. As a 2012 Florida Companies to Watch winner, they are an excellent example of how a business can start and grow to become a success in Charlotte County."



Marketing Arm International's Made in USA Port Charlotte, FL label

The 2012 Florida Companies to Watch Gala Event is on Friday, October 19, 2012. Visit [www.florida.companiestowatch.org](http://www.florida.companiestowatch.org) to reserve your table now and help celebrate with these 50 great companies from our own back yard!

**2012 Winners:**

COMPANY	COUNTY	COMPANY	COUNTY
AAJ Technologies	Broward	Health Designs, Inc	St. Johns
ActiGraph	Escambia	Hernon Manufacturing	Seminole
ActivEngage, Inc.	Seminole	Life's Abundance	Palm Beach
Advanced IT Concepts	Seminole	Maple Street, Inc.	Seminole
American Bancard	Palm Beach	<b>Marketing Arm International Inc.</b>	<b>Charlotte</b>
AMTIS, Inc.	Orange	MethodFactory, Inc.	Sarasota
ATGI	Martin	Modernizing Medicine	Palm Beach
Avant Healthcare Professionals	Orange	Money Pages	Duval
Bayshore Solutions	Hillsborough	Monster Transmission & Performance	Hernando
Biolife, LLC	Manatee	Moore Communications Group, Inc.	Leon

November 1 - ECEC Meeting (Call for information)

November 5 - Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee Meeting 11 AM, Room 119

November 6 - General Election

November 12 - EDO closed for Veterans Day

November 11-17 - Global Entrepreneur Week

November 13 - Good Morning Charlotte! Wake up with Charly Caldwell, 8-10 AM

November 14 - Life's A Pitch! Luncheon, Charlotte Regional Medical Center, 4th Floor Conference Room, 11:30 AM

November 15 - Get Your Social Media On!, Mid County Library, 4-7 PM

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

November 21 - IDA Meeting Noon at the EDO Conference Room 504

November 22 & 23 - EDO closed for Thanksgiving

December 3 - Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee Meeting 11 AM,

Boca Bearing Company	Palm Beach	MyGreenBuildings	Sarasota
C3 / Cloud Computing Concepts	Palm Beach	Overgroup Consulting, LLC	Escambia
Coastal Steel Inc	Brevard	PHXX, LLC	Seminole
Cosmetic Solutions LLC	Palm Beach	Power Quality International	Pasco
Crane Cams	Volusia	Pragmatic Works	Clay
Cybis Communications	Orange	Prioria Robotics, Inc.	Alachua
e-Builder, Inc.	Broward	R2 Logistics, Inc.	Duval
eMindful Inc.	Indian River	RADISE International, LLC	Palm Beach
Enterprise Resources Technology Group, Inc.	Broward	ReliaQuest, LLC	Hillsborough
FACTS Engineering LLC	Pasco	Schwenn Services	Orange
Florida Institute of Animal Arts	Seminole	Seal Shield	Duval
Florida Supplement	Broward	Talismark	Seminole
GBSI	Escambia	Telovations	Hillsborough
GreenTechnologies, LLC	Alachua	The Launch Pad	Pasco
H2Ocean	Martin	US Metropolitan Telecom, LLC	Lee

## Room 119

December 6 - ECEC Meeting (Call for Information)

December 15 - Chamber Christmas Parade, 12 noon

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

December 24 & 25 - EDO closed for Christmas

January 1 - EDO Closed for New Years

January 3 - ECEC Meeting (Call for Information)

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

January 14 - Murdock Village CRA Advisory Committee 5 PM at the EDO Conference Room 504

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

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

January 21- EDO Closed for Martin Luther King Day

January 26 - Hands Across the Harbor

February 4 - Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory

## National Entrepreneur Week November 11-17

Charlotte County will be hosting a variety of events in honor of National Entrepreneur week, November 11-17, 2012.

The week will start off on Tuesday, November 13th at 8 AM with Good Morning, Charlotte! Wake Up with Charly Caldwell. The cost will be \$10.00. Students with valid Student ID will be free.

Wednesday, November 14th, there's a Lunch and Learn from 11:30 to 1 PM with Brent Britton and Life's a Pitch! at the Charlotte Regional Medical Center's 4th floor conference room. Brent will show how to pitch your business to potential customers and funding sources. A very interesting session! The cost is \$10.00 and lunch is included.

Rounding out the week on Thursday, November 15th, it's Get Your Social Media On! with Tamara Patzer at the Mid-County Library from 4 to 7 PM. This will be a beginners class and Tamara will teach hands on how to setup a Facebook account for your business and create your business Facebook page. The cost will be \$35.00. Seating will be limited to 18 students so watch for the official invitation with

registration information.

Save the dates and look for emails with the registration links to all these events.

## County Broadband Initiative

The Southwest Regional Planning Council recently hosted three county Broadband Initiative meetings. Lee, Collier and Charlotte each had public meetings to discuss and strategize how best to implement a regional plan. Charlotte had a dozen people in attendance on Thursday, August 23rd at the County Municipal Complex where the Council made presentations and the audience, of mostly communications experts, discuss the importance of countywide broadband to schools, hospitals and businesses.

A regional meeting is being planned for sometime in October or November. To learn more about the Broadband Initiative, visit the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council's [web site](#).

Watch the [YouTube](#) video on the Southwest Florida Broadband Initiative.

## IMPAC Proposal Approved

On Tuesday, August, 28th, the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners approved a resolution to allow the county staff to work with the Enterprise Charlotte Economic Council (ECEC) to perform due diligence on the property formally known as IMPAC University. The vote was three-two, with Commissioners Constance, Duffy and Skidmore voting in favor of the resolution, while Commissioners Starr and Deutsch voting against.

The Economic Development Office and the ECEC will now conduct inspections and evaluations of the Punta Gorda property, as well as prepare for the submittal of a federal EDA grant that would be used for improvements to the property to help turn it into a business and technology incubator. The deadline for submittal of the grant is September 14th.

The due diligence findings will be reviewed at the next Commission meeting on September 11th and a final decision

Committee Meeting 11 AM,  
Room 119

February 7 - ECEC Meeting  
(Call for Information)

February 18 - EDO Closed  
for President's Day

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

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



as to whether the county will purchase the property will be made at that meeting.

Follow the news about the IMPAC business and technology incubator proposal on the Economic Development Office's web site under [In the News](#) - Incubator (IMPAC).

## Brazil



Kay Tracy, Charlotte County Business Development Specialist, has been busy touring the county with three different groups from Brazil. The businesses that are visiting the county are varied, but are predominantly in the manufacturing industry and have been focusing their search in the Enterprise Charlotte Airport Park (ECAP) area. All three, and a fourth that will be here in October, are the result of Kay's work while on the Governor's Foreign Trade mission to Brazil last October.

## Enterprise Zone

On August 28, the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners approved the nominating area of the Charlotte County Enterprise Zone and established the Charlotte County Enterprise Zone Development Agency. These approvals are the first in a series of steps necessary to establish the zone which provides incentives to businesses to locate or expand in the zone. The next step is to recruit volunteers to participate in the Enterprise Zone Development Agency.

## Enterprise Zone Development Agency

Charlotte County Enterprise Zone Development Agency is seeking six volunteers to fill positions on the newly created Enterprise Zone Development Agency that will oversee the development and implementation of the Enterprise Zone Strategic Plan. The positions include:

- one representative of the financial or insurance entity located in the Enterprise Zone;
- one representative of a business operating in the Enterprise Zone;
- one resident of the Enterprise Zone;
- a representative of a non-profit community-based

organization operating in or providing services in the Enterprise Zone;

- and two at-large members of the County.

For more information please contact Debrah Forester at 941-764-4943. Visit the [website](#) for an [application form](#) to serve on the committee.

[View Boundaries of the Proposed Zone](#)

## Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Over the past several months the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council has been facilitating the development of the new Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document (2012-2017) for the region. The document will identify regional projects and goals for the next 5 year period that will result in job creation and diversification of the local economy and is required by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Why is the document important? In order to qualify for EDA grant funding a project must be listed in the document. The CEDS Plan outlines the focus areas for regional economic development and strategic projects to enhance the region's economy. It is available for review and public comment at: [www.swfrpc.org](http://www.swfrpc.org). **The 30 day comment period ends September 7, 2012.**

## Freight Mobility & Trade Plan

The Florida Department of Transportation is developing a Freight Mobility and Trade Plan to help identify opportunities and potential solutions to advancing Governor Scott's initiative to transform Florida's economy by becoming a global hub for trade, logistics, and manufacturing activities.

Debrah Forester, Charlotte County's Redevelopment Manager, attended the August 29 meeting held at Southwest Florida Regional Airport. The Office of Freight Logistics and Passenger Operations held the meeting to gather information on current issues affecting Florida's freight community and what does the future hold for freight mobility and trade in Florida.

The final regional meeting will be held in Tampa on September 11. The next steps include seeking further input through a series of business forums and CEO roundtables.

For more information or to participate in the process please visit: [www.freightmovesflorida.com](http://www.freightmovesflorida.com).

Tom Patton, Director  
Charlotte County Economic Development Office  
941-764-4941  
FAX: 941-764-4947  
Email: [FloridaEDO@charlottefl.com](mailto:FloridaEDO@charlottefl.com)  
Web Site: <http://www.FloridasInnovationCoast.com>