

CONGRATULATIONS!



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 Designation

Charlotte County has received notice from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity officially designating the Charlotte County Enterprise Zone. Businesses and home owners within the Enterprise Zone can begin to qualify for tax advantages and incentives if specific criteria are met. "The Enterprise Zone designation provides an opportunity to assist with a targeted approach to our economic development efforts by focusing additional incentives in areas located within the Enterprise Zone including the airport and our redevelopment areas" according to Commission Chairman Constance. A number of action items were required to be completed prior to receiving the official designation, including the adoption of an Enterprise Zone Strategic Plan and the creation of the Enterprise Zone Development Agency. The Agency, consisting of 11 representatives and one alternate, will be assisting with promoting the Enterprise Zone and implementing the Plan. Julie Mathis, Chair of the Enterprise Zone Development Agency is looking forward to promoting the benefits of the Enterprise Zone to local businesses and residents. "We hope that this new designation will help further business expansion and job creation in the area."

To learn more visit www.FloridasInnovationCoast.com or contact Deborah Forester at 941-764-4943.

SW FL Real Estate Outlook Conference

Kay Tracy, Charlotte County Economic Development Office, Business Development Specialist, was a panelist speaker at the 13th Annual Southwest Florida Real Estate Outlook



In This Issue

[Enterprise Zone Designation](#)

[SW FL Real Estate Outlook Conference](#)

[Cost of Living](#)

[Hands Across the Harbor](#)

[Charlotte Harbor CRA Community Meeting](#)

[ECAP Stakeholder Meeting](#)

[Southwest Regional Manufacturing Association](#)

[Business Tax Receipts](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Charlotte County
New Business Tax
Receipts

January - 137

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 4 - Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory 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

Conference in Fort Myers on January 24th. She, along with other County / City panelist from the region, discussed key areas where realtors should be paying particular attention. Ms. Tracy introduced the newly designated Enterprise Zone and the benefits it will bring to Charlotte County.

At the same conference, Ron Struthers, CCIM Broker of Coldwell Banker Commercial NRT, spoke about Charlotte County's commercial real estate and the upward demand for inventory as well as the new beginning of an upward trend in both lease and purchase prices.

Cost of Living

The ACCRA Cost of Living Index Annual Review Report for 2012 has been released and Charlotte County has the second lowest cost of living in Florida for all the reported areas. Charlotte County consistently has one of the lowest Cost of Living Indexes in the state of Florida and in the country. Our cost of living is lower than that of our neighbors of Sarasota to the north and Fort Myers to the south. One of our best components is the low cost of housing. Our housing index is extremely low compared to that of surrounding areas and larger metropolitan cities.

The ACCRA Cost of Living Index is the most reliable source of city-to-city comparisons of key consumer costs available anywhere. ACCRA COLI data is recognized by the U.S. Census Bureau, US Bureau of Labor Statistics, CNN Money, and the President's Council of Economic Advisors. The data and methodology are described in detail and completely transparent to users. Both data and methodology are reviewed by an Advisory Board composed of academic researchers and government officials. The ACCRA Cost of Living Index is referenced in the US Census Bureau's Statistical Abstract of the US.

To see the results for other Florida areas visit our [web site](#).

Hands Across the Harbor

5th Annual Hands Across the Harbor was a huge success with over 350 registered participants. It was a glorious morning on the harbor. Special thanks to all of our Sponsors and participants for supporting this event.



Race results and

PM

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

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

March 7 - ECEC Meeting
(Call for Information)

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

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

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

April 4 - ECEC Meeting (Call
for Information)

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

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

May 2 - ECEC Meeting (Call
for Information)

May 6 - Charlotte Harbor
CRA Advisory Committee
Meeting 11 AM, Room 119

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

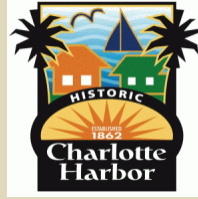
May 21 - Suncoast
Technology Forum
Luncheon, Polo Bar & Grill,
Lakewood Ranch, 11:30 - 1
PM

May 27 - EDO Closed for
Memorial Day

**pictures will be posted next week
at www.handsacrosstheharbor.com**

Mark your calendars for the 6th Annual Hands Across the Harbor - January 25, 2014!

Community Redevelopment Area Charlotte Harbor CRA Community Meeting



**Thursday, March 7, 2013
5:30 to 7:00 PM**

The Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee invites you to attend a Community Meeting regarding the Charlotte Harbor.

Project updates and future plans will be discussed. Your input is requested.

For more information, please contact Debrah Forester at 941-764-4943.

ECAP Stakeholder Meeting

The second meeting of the Enterprise Charlotte Airport Park stakeholders was held on January 29th at the Public Safety Complex. Stakeholders and Economic Development Staff discussed the new Certified Site Program being rolled out in the ECAP and viewed marketing materials that will be used by the Economic Development staff at trade shows and site selector events during the coming year.

For more information regarding the Certified Site Program, contact Lucienne Pears at 941-764-4945.

Is Today's Message Relevant to Tomorrow's Customer?

Southwest Regional Manufacturing Association will be hosting "Is Today's Message (Leadership, Media and Web) Relevant to Tomorrow's Customer?" on February 27, 2013 from 5:30-8:00 PM at the Holiday Inn Airport, 9331 Interstate Commerce Drive in Fort Myers.



Featured Speakers are Andy Bailey, Entrepreneur/Coach and Owner of Align Today, who will discuss alignment and accountability. Mike Huffman, President of ThomasNet, will provide an overview on products and services that can help manufacturers grow and compete in today's

June 6 - ECEC Meeting
(Call for Information)

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

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

July 4 - EDO closed for
Independence Day

July 8 - Murdock Village,
EDO Conference Room 504,
5 PM

July 11 - ECEC Meeting
(Call for Information)

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

marketplace. Kendra Sutton, Marketing Consultant at WINK-TV, will also be a feature speaker.

Please **RSVP** today and pay using PayPal. If you have dietary restrictions, please make note of it when you RSVP.

Members and First Time Guests - \$35, Non-Members and Returning Guests - \$60.

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