

CONGRATULATIONS!

BRUCE LAISHLEY

Winner of FEDC's Southwest Regional Richard McLaughlin Economic Development Volunteer of the Year 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.

Tropical Storm Debby

Charlotte County emergency officials encourage businesses that have encountered losses as a result of Tropical Storm Debby to report to the State Private Sector Hotline at (850)410-1403 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. until further notice. Information can also be reported by email to EOC-ESF18@em.myflorida.com. Businesses can report damage, closings, impediments to reopening, or any other issue of concern.

Hurricane Season

Hurricane season is upon us. Get the latest copy of the [Business Partners Disaster Preparedness & Continuity Guide](#) from the Economic Development website.

Contact the Emergency Management Center at 941-833-4081 to have a free assessment of your business' disaster plan.

FEDC Award Given to Bruce Laishley

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UPCOMING EVENTS

July 4 - EDO closed for the Independence Day Holiday

July 9 - Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee Meeting 11 AM, Room 119

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

July 18 - IDA Meeting Noon at the EDO Conference

Each year the Florida Economic Development Council (FEDC) is proud to recognize the state's most dedicated and successful professionals at the Florida Economic Development Conference. This year, Charlotte County is proud to have one of its own receive the FEDC's Richard McLaughlin Economic Development Volunteer of the Year Award.



Kay Tracy, Ed Schons, Bruce Laishley, Tom Patton, Amy Evancho

The award is named in honor of Richard L. McLaughlin, who firmly believed in the significance of volunteer contributions to the achievement of economic development goals for the state. McLaughlin was the second president of the Florida Economic Development Council in 1965. In honor of his contributions, one outstanding volunteer is recognized annually in each of the eight FEDC Regions. Bruce Laishley, a lifelong resident of Charlotte County, received this year's award for the Southwest region at the conference in Tampa, Florida on June, 28th.

Bruce has been instrumental in bringing Cheney Brothers, Inc. (CBI), a food service distribution company, headquartered in Riviera Beach, Florida to Charlotte County. This "model of recruitment success" came from Bruce's initial attempts to get a Cheney Brothers expansion to SW Florida to better serve his restaurants. The company didn't have enough business in SW Florida to justify an expansion, so Bruce took it upon himself to garner more business for Cheney. Within a year, this effort generated millions of dollars of new business for CBI, thus justifying their need to establish a facility to distribute in the SW region of Florida.

Among his many accomplishments, Bruce has also been a member of the Economic Development Working Group (EDWG) which worked to provide economic development recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners that are currently being woven into a cohesive Economic Development strategy. When he saw a need for suitable industrial properties, Bruce, together with his partner, Rick Treworgy, undertook an ambitious project to develop approximately 400 acres of agricultural property into a commercial/industrial business park called Airport Commerce Center (ACC).

Bruce's current projects include working to attract a large waterpark resort to the County in the Murdock Village area and working with Mote Marine Laboratory to develop a significant visitor oriented aquarium and expand Mote's regional footprint into Charlotte County.

Room 504

August 2 - ECEC Meeting
(Call for Information)

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

August 23 - Regional
Broadband meeting, 4 PM,
B106

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 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 17 - IDA Meeting
Noon at the EDO
Conference Room 504

November 1 - ECEC
Meeting (Call for
information)

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

International Town Hall

Kay Tracy, Business Development Specialist, joined state business leaders and several Government representatives at an International Town Hall Meeting in Tampa on June 7th at the Florida Chamber of Commerce. The meeting took place to discuss the fact that Florida faces a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform its economy by becoming a global hub for trade, logistics, and export oriented manufacturing activities.

Questions were engineered to draw feedback on the following: What does Florida needs to do to be more globally competitive? What are today's barriers? And what needs to be done at the federal level to improved export finance coverage, and the removal of duplicate security regulations at our ports? New issues did surface, and feedback was well received by the Department of Economic Opportunity, Enterprise Florida, State Educators, and other government representatives.

Main Stage

On June 12 the Board of County Commissioners accepted the proposal from Main Stage LLC to acquire 100 acres in Murdock Village for the developing of a music venue. The concept will be to build at least 8 theaters each named after and supported by a headline entertainer. Similar to the Branson, Missouri experience but improved since all the theaters will be within walking distance of each other. In addition to the music venues, the proposal includes retail and hotel uses.

The proposal includes specific milestones that Main Stage LLC must reach every six months over an 18 month period in order for the project to move forward. The next step will be for the Board to approve the Option Contract on August 28. If approved , the 18 month time period will begin. For more information on the project please visit: www.charlottecountyfl.com/murdockvillage. For more information on Main Stage please visit: <http://mainstagedevelopment.net>.

SW Florida Regional Planning Council

Tom Patton and Debrah Forester are members of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council's Working Committee, developing a new 5 year (2012-2017) Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies Plan (CEDS). The CEDS is designed to develop an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen our regional economics.

Based on the community input received at the nine community meetings, the Working Committee is meeting

November 12 - EDO closed for Veterans Day

November 12-18 - Global Entrepreneur Week

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, 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

over the next two months to develop the draft plan. The Plan will be developed consistent with the Florida's 5 year Strategic Plan, which includes the Vision Statement: " Florida will have the nation's top performing economy and be recognized as the world's best place to live, learn, work, and do business. "

Interested in participating in developing the region's plan? You can sign up by visiting the [web site](#). The draft plan is scheduled to be completed by the end of July and the 30-day public comment period is scheduled to begin this August with final approval by the end of September.

American Planning Association

American Planning Association state conference will be held in Southwest Florida this year. Debrah Forester, Charlotte County's Redevelopment Manager, participated in a pre-conference kick-off session on June 15 with a presentation on Economic Development from the Charlotte County perspective. This year's conference will be held September 12-15 in Naples, Florida and will include a variety of topics covering six program tracks including economic development and redevelopment. The Parkside CRA will be discussion in "Medical Districts and Revitalization, Good Medicine for Ailing Economies" scheduled for September 13.

For more information on the conference and to register please visit: www.floridaplanning.org/conference.

Blue Chip Award

The 18th Annual Southwest Florida Blue Chip Community Business Award coordinated and sponsored by BB&T-Oswald Trippe and Company and BB&T Bank recognizes small businesses that have overcome

adversity to achieve success. The luncheon ceremony will take place Thursday, Nov. 1 at Harborside Event Center, located at 1375 Monroe Street in Fort Myers. Registration begins at 11 a.m. The program starts at 11:30 a.m.



Charlotte, Collier and Lee county for-profit businesses that have been in operation for at least three years and employ five to 400 people are eligible for the award. Applications, which must be submitted no later than Sept. 10, can be requested by contacting Stacey Mercado at 239-433-7189 or SMercado@BBandT.com. Independent judges will select the winning entry.

The Southwest Florida Blue Chip Community Business Award is endorsed by the Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce, Cape Coral Chamber of Commerce, Charlotte

County Chamber of Commerce, Charlotte County Economic Development Office, Christian Chamber of Southwest Florida, City of Cape Coral Economic Development Office, Edison State College, Englewood-Cape Haze Area Chamber of Commerce, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida Weekly, Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce, Greater Lehigh Acres Chamber of Commerce, Gulf Coast Business Review, Gulfshore Business, Hodges University, Lee County Economic Development Office/Horizon Council, Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce, Sanibel & Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce, Southwest Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, The Greater Fort Myers Beach Area Chamber of Commerce and The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce.

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EOC Meeting With Big Box Retailers

The first ever meeting between the Charlotte County Emergency Management Office, local big box retailers and our three area chambers of commerce occurred on June 20th at the Public Safety Building in Punta Gorda.

Approximately thirty representatives from the area's Publix, Walmart, Home Depot, Ace, Office Depot and Walgreens were present to view presentations ranging from the National Weather Service in Ruskin to FPL to County department's operations. A discussion on disaster preparedness followed the presentations.

Bayshore Wine & Beer Fest

Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency, in partnership with Charlotte County Community Services, is sponsoring the third annual Bayshore Wine and Beer Fest on Saturday, October 13, 2012. The event is scheduled from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. in the amphitheatre at Bayshore Live Oak Park located at 23157 Bayshore Drive, Charlotte Harbor, 33980. The event needs wine, beer, food, cheese, olive oil, glassware, bar paraphernalia, wine accessories, art and jewelry vendors.



Booth rental is \$30.00 per vendor.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Spicer at 941.627.1628, ext. 101 or email elizabeth.spicer@charlottefl.com.

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