

CONGRATULATIONS!

Marketing Arm International



2012 Florida Companies to Watch Winner

Marketing Arm International takes pride in being headquartered in Charlotte County by labeling their product with the "Made in Port Charlotte, Florida, USA" label. They are a member of the Enterprise Charlotte Economic Council and support several local organizations and events.



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.

Florida Energy Resiliency Strategy

Join the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council on November 2, 2012 from 10am to 2pm at the Harborside Event Center, 1375 Monroe Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901 for a workshop to discuss strategies appropriate to the region in the following areas:

- Power Alternatives and Resiliency
- Motor Fuel Alternatives and Resiliency
- Energy Conservation and Efficiency
- Investments

Having affordable and reliable energy is critical for Florida's economy. Regional councils in Florida, in association with the U.S. Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Energy and the Florida Office of Energy, are reviewing energy issues in each region and collecting



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UPCOMING EVENTS

November 1 - ECEC Meeting (Call for information)

recommendations for goals, strategies and measures to be assembled into a statewide energy resiliency strategy.

Registration Deadline Date: October 26, 2012. No registration fee. Lunch will be available for \$10 for those who register.

For More Information: Jennifer Pellechio (239) 338-2550 x218 or www.swfrpc.org.

Mosaic Tour

Debrah Forester, Charlotte County Redevelopment Manager, attended a tour of the South Fort Meade Phosphate mined owned and operated by Mosaic. The tour was organized by the local sections of the American Planning Association, Florida Chapter and the Florida Planning and Zoning Association.



The tour provided a first-hand opportunity to see how the soil is dug using the dragline and to observe the water management practices at the site. Two reclamation sites were also visited that showed how the land was restored to provide habitat and recreational opportunities post mining.

The South Fort Meade site employees approximately 250 employees. Mosaic, headquartered in Minnesota is an international company that employees approximately 8,000 employees and is the world's leading producer of phosphate and potash.

Suncoast Technology Luncheon with Cheney Brothers

The Charlotte County Economic Development office was host to the October meeting of the Suncoast Technology Forum on October 16th at the Captain's Table in Punta Gorda.

Approximately 50 people were in attendance to hear guest speaker Joe Haber, Chief Information Officer for Cheney Brothers speak on the technology used to run their warehouses and fleet of trucks. Joe explained their current technology set up and discussed the future implementation of a centralized SAP system that will be live shortly. The presentation was concluded by and a Question and Answer period. View Joe's [PowerPoint](#) presentation.

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

November 6 - General Election

November 12 - EDO closed for Veterans Day

November 12-18 - Global Entrepreneur Week

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

November 14 - Life's A Pitch! Luncheon

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, Room 119

December 6 - ECEC Meeting (Call for Information)

December 15 - Chamber Christmas Parade, 12 noon

December 18 - Suncoast Technology Forum Monthly meeting at the HUB in Sarasota, 6PM

December 19- IDA Meeting

Cheney Brothers is based in Riviera Beach, Florida with locations in Ocala, Orlando and soon to have a distribution center at the Enterprise Charlotte Airport Park (ECAP) in Punta Gorda. Founded in 1925, Cheney Brothers has grown from a distributor of milk and eggs into one of the largest Food Service Distributors in the South. Today, Cheney Brothers inventories over 15,000 items with yearly revenues exceeding one billion dollars. To learn more about Cheney Brothers, visit their [web site](#).

Suncoast Technology Forum's (STF) relentless focus is on accelerating the technology ecosystem in Sarasota, Manatee and Charlotte counties. To foster a vibrant technology industry in the area, STF concentrates its efforts in support of technology professionals and their businesses across multiple business sectors. These efforts will include attracting and retaining top industry talent and deeper collaboration with area schools and universities to develop the highly skilled workforce the area will need to support a growing high tech sector well into the future. To learn more about STF or to become a member, visit their web site at <http://suncoasttechnologyforum.com/>.

Site Consultant Event

Lucienne Pears, Charlotte County Business Development Specialist, participated in a site Consultant Event this month led by Enterprise Florida. Twenty three economic development professionals from around the state traveled to New York City with Enterprise Florida staff to meet with some of the largest and most successful site consultants in the industry. These consulting firms included: Biggins, Lacy, Schapiro & Co., Deloitte and Touche, Jones Lang LaSalle, Ernst & Young and Merrit Advisors, among others.

The purpose of the event is to strengthen existing relationships as well as create new contacts within the firms. Site Consultants work with companies across the US and abroad that are interested in expanding, relocating or consolidating their business endeavors. Solid relationships with these consultants can open the door to business inquiries in our community.

Ms. Pears heavily marketed Murdock Village and the ECAP area as well as the unique incentive opportunities here in Charlotte County. Two consultants in particular expressed high levels of interest in our community and follow up conversations are on-going.

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 AM,
Room 119

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
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

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

Blue Chip Award

ServiceMaster-CCS, based in Punta Gorda, and Bicycle Center in Port Charlotte are two local businesses among five finalists in the 18th annual Southwest Florida Blue Chip Community Business Award competition. The award, sponsored by BB&T-Oswald Trippe and Co. and BB&T Bank, recognizes successful small businesses that have overcome adversity to "teach and inspire others."



WHEN:

November 1st

11 AM Registration
11:30 AM Program

WHERE:

Harborside Event Center
1375 Monroe Street
Fort Myers, FL

NO COST

For information or to register:
Stacey Mercado
239-985-7614
smercado@bbandt.com

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

Global Entrepreneurship Week

The Charlotte County Economic Development Office and the Enterprise Charlotte Foundation will be hosting events to commemorate the week. **There's still time to register for two of the three events.** Sorry, "Get Your Social Media On!" is sold out, so if you didn't register, you'll have to look for the next class.

Attend the Tuesday, November 13th session from 8 AM to 10 AM at the Charlotte Technical Center with **Good Morning, Charlotte! Wake Up with Charly Caldwell, "Success, The Internet and You!"**, presented by SBDC. In this presentation, Charly will review his 7 Fundamentals of Online Success and exactly how they apply to helping you create and maintain a successful online presence. The session is **FREE**. An a la carte breakfast bar is available. Register by calling 941-764-4941.

On Wednesday, November 14th, there's the **Entrepreneur Award Lunch and "Life's a Pitch!"** with Brent Britton from 11:30 to 1 PM at the Charlotte Regional Medical Plaza. Join us for lunch as we present this year's **Charlotte County Entrepreneur of the Year Awards** and enjoy Brent Britton's

interesting and motivating presentation, "Life's A Pitch!" to learn how to pitch your company and yourself to potential customers and funding sources. A very interesting session! The cost is \$10.00 and lunch is included. [Register online.](#)

Barcamp Sarasota UnConference

Debrah Forester, Charlotte County Redevelopment Manager, attended the Barcamp Sarasota 2012 Fall "UnConference" held at the GWIZ Museum in Sarasota. The two-day conference brings together startups and seasoned entrepreneurs to share ideas and advice on launching new businesses and products.

The format of the "UnConference" is unconventional - the agenda is created the day of the event as speakers identify a relevant topic and present. Topics are posted on a large wall and participants find their topic of interest to attend.



The event was held at GWIZ, which is home to the only "Fab Lab" in Southwest Florida that is open to the public under a membership program (\$30 for 30 days plus a one-time \$10 safety class). The Fab Lab provides space and machines to all inventors/entrepreneurs to bring their new product idea and create a prototype such as a 3D



printer that creates plastic samples of products that allow inventors the opportunity to determine if the product is ready for production.

For more information on GWIZ Science Museum and the Fab Lab visit www.gwiz.org.

Hands Across the Harbor

The Annual Hands Across the Harbor event is coming January 26, 2013. Participants can choose a 10 or 20 mile bike ride; an 8K competitive run; or a 5K walk. This event benefits the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC) which is focused on promoting environmental conservation,

protection, and preservation of Charlotte Harbor. You may also visit: www.handsacrosstheharbor.com to register, check out the event details and find out where the fabulous getaway prize will take one lucky winner of the raffle drawing.

Registration begins at 6:45 a.m. with the event starting at 8:00 a.m. at Bayshore Live Oak Park. Early Registration Fee is \$19 (\$14 for Students with valid Student ID) until January 23, 2013. Same day registration is \$24 (\$16 for Students). Runners, Walkers, and Bike Riders are invited to participate in the event.

The route begins at Bayshore Live Oak Park in Charlotte Harbor and takes the participants over the US41 Gilchrist Bridge into downtown Punta Gorda with the finish back at Bayshore Live Oak Park.

Breakfast, awards, door prizes, raffle prize tickets and entertainment are all included. The first 300 Registered Participants will receive a Hands Across the Harbor T-shirt. CareHere will be awarding wellness "healthies" (points) for employees who participate (details will be announced soon)!

Charlotte County Industrial Development Authority

The Charlotte County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) held its annual meeting on October 17, 2012. New officers were elected: Rob Humpel of Florida Premier Contractors is the new Chair; Todd Rebol of Banks Engineering is the Vice Chair; Cathy Sanders of Five Star Realty is Secretary/Treasurer; and Jeff Brown of Ashley & Brown, CPA is the Assistant Secretary/Assistant Treasurer.

The IDA was established in 2006 under Part III of Chapter 159, Florida Statutes, to foster and promote industrial and business development in Charlotte County. The IDA encourages local companies and those companies interested in relocating to Charlotte County to explore the use of Industrial Development Revenue Bonds.

Visit the [IDA web site](#) to learn more.

Fantastic Opportunity

Move your business into this prime industrial building in the Enterprise Charlotte Airport Park. The location has direct access with two interchanges to the Interstate 75 corridor, connecting it to Tampa 96 miles



to the north, and Miami 167 miles to the east. The proximity to this major trucking corridor allows access to the entire southern United States. The Punta Gorda Airport is conveniently located within the Enterprise Charlotte Airport Park.

This property is available with many great incentives to motivate a company to establish or relocate their business to this location, including one year free rent to a qualified leasee.*

*Job creation and time limitation conditions apply.



Total Number of Buildings: 1
Square Feet Heated: 20,400
Road Frontage: County Road
Number of Offices: 3
Number of Bays: 1
Lot Dimensions: 220 x 420
Zoning: ECAP
Number of Restrooms: 2

For more information, contact:

Tom Patton, Director
Charlotte County Economic
Development Office

18501 Murdock Circle
Suite 601
Port Charlotte, Florida 33948
Phone: 941-764-4941
Fax: 941-764-4947



Email: FloridaEDO@CharlotteFL.com

Web: www.FloridasInnovationCoast.com

Seasonal Retail Stockers

If your criminal background is spotless, these are immediate hire positions until filled

**Apply 8:00 AM-5:00 PM at Southwest Florida Works -
Port Charlotte One-Stop
1032Tamiami Trail, Unit 9 Pt. Charlotte
(Orange and blue building by Achieve Fitness in
Murdock)**

Must meet with a staff member

Position offered by no fee agency

- Perform warehouse work related to receipt, shipment, storage, distribution, or delivery of products, parts, and materials.
- Load, unload, move, or store items according to

delivery or routing documents, or instructions.

- Operate a hand truck, forklift, or other heavy equipment.
- Count items received or shipped and check against packing lists, recording any discrepancies.
- Prepare receiving or shipping reports and note any shortages or damages.
- Use picking lists and packing lists to perform order fulfillment operations.
- Prepare materials for shipment.
- Perform repetitive work to stuff or load products, parts, or merchandise into designated packages, boxes, crates, or other receptacles.
- Count items placed into containers.
- Review packing lists to ensure all required items are included.
- Use Styrofoam, paper, plastic, or other materials to pack containers.
- May use any or all of the following equipment: shelving, racks, bins, pallets, carts, labeling equipment, conveyors, computers, barcode scanning equipment, telephone systems, mail sorters and openers, addressing/labeling equipment, and pneumatic tubes.

ECAP Stakeholder Meeting

The Charlotte County Economic Development Office held a marketing meeting with Enterprise Charlotte Airport Park (ECAP) property owners on October 30th at the Public Safety Building in Punta Gorda to discuss proposed plans for branding and marketing the park to businesses and site consultants.

Among the topics discussed was a Certified Sites Program that would be piloted in the ECAP and eventually rolled out to the rest of the County. Certified Site Programs have become a popular concept in other states due in part because they provide prospects with comprehensive site data and ensure that certain minimum information is available on a site. This creates a faster process allowing for a business to get up and running in a new location much more quickly. Areas that currently have a Certified Site Program in place attract the eye of site consultants, which can result in winning businesses to a community.

Property owners were also given a draft of a marketing brochure outlining the benefits of locating to the ECAP. The brochure, which is geared towards site consultants, would showcase the available properties in the singularly branded park. Economic Development staff would then use this brochure as a tool in recruiting new businesses to the county. The next meeting will be held in the beginning of December to review the Certified Site Program criteria and application, marketing brochure and branding.

Harbor Walk Project

The Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners and the Florida Department Of Transportation (FDOT) approved the lease agreement for use of the FDOT right of way located at the base of the north-bound US41 bridge, which is the site of the Harbor Walk Project, the signature project of the Charlotte Harbor CRA. The lease was the final permit needed to complete the permitting phase of the project.

Construction funds have been allocated in the FDOT Fiscal Year 14/15 work plan. The CRA is hopeful, that FDOT will allow the CRA to start construction prior to FY14/15. The Harbor Walk will provide improved public access to the waterfront and complete a pedestrian access from the bridge to Melbourne Street.

For more information on the Harbor Walk or the Charlotte Harbor CRA, visit the [web site](#), [email](#) or contact Debrah Forester at 941-764-4943.

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