

# WEEKEND WAVE

04-08-16



## Friday Economic Roundup

A graphic for the Charlotte County Economic Development Strategic Plan. It features a teal background with a white box containing the text "Charlotte County Economic Development Strategic Plan" and "Be a part of the Plan - Take the Online SURVEY". To the right is a collage of images showing a coastal road, a beach, and a bridge. The Charlotte County Economic Development logo is in the bottom right corner.

Charlotte County Economic Development Strategic Plan

*Be a part of the Plan - Take the Online SURVEY*

CHARLOTTE COUNTY  
Economic Development

### Economic Development Office Solicits Input on Strategic Plan

The Charlotte County Economic Development Office is conducting a survey on its strategic plan.

The 10-question survey seeks public input on the current state of economic development in Charlotte County and what strategies the county should pursue to create a climate for sustainable economic growth. The survey will be open April 4 through April 18.

"As the plan is developed, we would like your input to create the Charlotte County business community you would like to see in future years," Charlotte County Economic Development Director Lucienne Pears.

To take the survey, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EDOstrategicplan>. The survey is also available on the EDO website, <http://floridasinnovationcoast.com/> or by clicking the survey banner at the top of the Charlotte County website, <https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov>.

For information, call 941.764.4941 or email [FloridaEDO@CharlotteCountyFL.gov](mailto:FloridaEDO@CharlotteCountyFL.gov).

## Celebrate Fun Day Sunday at Promenades at Parkside

Fun Day Sunday will transform Promenades Mall into Main Street USA from noon to 5 p.m., April 10. The "pop-up" main street will be the place to be during this free community event, featuring music, food, beverages, arts, classic cars and youth activities.

Fun Day Sunday is a partnership between the new owners of the Promenades Mall and Team Parkside. Artists and vendors will be morph the vacant units on the east side of the mall with painted store windows, sidewalk chalk art, retail displays, pop-up shops, food trucks and a bandstand.

"This community celebration is the kick-off for the mall's new direction. The property will undergo a metamorphosis, creating Charlotte County's premier adult and family destination for dining, shopping and entertainment," said Jeff Morr, manager of JLJI PC, LLC, the new owner of the Promenades Mall. "A peaceful welcoming atmosphere, featuring walking streets lined with cafes and specialty shops, will form a quality lifestyle experience."

Fun Day Sunday vendors will include Carmelo's, Beef 'O' Brady's, Jamaican Snacks, Bull & Tarpon, Sunny Days Ice Cream, and Evi's Bakery & Deli. Beer, wine and soft drinks will be available for sale. All food and beverages for sale will be \$5 or less. Youngsters can enjoy a Kids Zone with free hot dogs (while supplies last), rock climbing, a shark bouncer, a bungee jumping trampoline and other fun activities.

The live music lineup will include The Suncoast Youth Theatre starting at noon, open mic at 1:30 p.m., Port Charlotte High School Enharmonics at 2:30 p.m., Homegrown Sounds at 3 p.m., and The Perry Street Project at 4 p.m.

Visit each of the 20 participating vendors and complete a Vendor Passport to be eligible to win a Grand Prize valued at \$500. Proceeds from Fun Day Sunday will benefit Team Parkside, Charlotte Harbor Rotary Club and the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition.

## March 2016 Passenger Traffic up 30% at Punta Gorda - New Record

Punta Gorda, FL - The Charlotte County Airport Authority announced the Punta Gorda Airport passenger count for March, 2016 was 121,695. This is the largest monthly count ever and a 30.6 % increase in passenger traffic for March, 2016 compared with March, 2015 (93,171 passengers), the previous record month.

In March, there were 59,807 boarding passengers and 61,888 arriving passengers. This is the 29th month in a row that the Airport has seen an increase in passenger traffic in year over year monthly traffic.

Paul Andrews, Chairman of the Charlotte County Airport Authority, stated "This is a great sign of the community's economic progress."

Allegiant Air has non-stop service to Thirty cities including Akron Canton Airport, OH; Allentown, PA; Asheville, NC; Belleville, IL, Cedar Rapids, IA, Cincinnati, OH; Columbus, OH; Des Moines, IA; Ft. Wayne, IN; Grand Rapids, MI; Greenville/ Spartanburg, SC; Harrisburg, Pa., Huntington, WV; Indianapolis, IN; Kansas City, MO.; Knoxville, TN; Lexington, KY; Moline, IL; Niagara Falls, NY; Peoria, IL; Pittsburgh, PA; Plattsburgh, NY; Portsmouth, NH; Raleigh, N.C., Rockford, IL; South Bend, IN; Springfield, IL; Springfield/Branson, MO; Toledo, OH; and Youngstown, OH. Allegiant Air can be reached at [www.allegiantair.com](http://www.allegiantair.com) or call 702-505-8888. Please check their schedule as some of the cities are seasonal.

The Charlotte County Airport Authority owns and operates the Punta Gorda Airport located at 28000 Airport Road in Punta Gorda, Florida.

For more information contact Mr. Gary Quill at 941-639-1101 ext. 101.

## Gulf Coast 500

Don't miss the opportunity to be included in the Business Observer's annual Gulf Coast 500 ranking. This year's list will rank the largest for-profit companies headquartered in Charlotte, Collier, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk or Sarasota counties by 2015 revenues.

Companies with gross annual revenue of more than \$3 million are encouraged to participate.

Being included in this publication is great exposure for your company - and it's free!

Please contact Jean Gruss by email [GC500@BusinessObserverFL.com](mailto:GC500@BusinessObserverFL.com) for additional information or complete the [online form](#). Deadline is April 29, 2016.

## **FLORIDA ECONOMIC NEWS**

- Alachua-based Florida Biologix merges with Massachusetts company ([Gainesville Sun](#))
- Building a town around baseball ([Sarasota Herald-Tribune](#))
- Home prices maintain double-digit gains ([Inside Real Estate](#))
- Manatee leaders hear plans for Tampa Bay ferry service ([Sarasota Herald-Tribune](#))
- Region's construction workforce holds at 20,400 in February ([Sarasota Herald Tribune](#))
- Sarasota ranks among top U.S. food cities ([Sarasota Herald-Tribune](#))
- South Florida a hotspot for women-owned firms ([Miami Herald](#))

## **US ECONOMIC NEWS**

- Amazon's arrival huge for former mill town ([Sarasota Herald-Tribune](#))
- US hiring reaches 9-year high; job openings slip ([AP](#))
- U.S. jobless claims fall ([Reuters](#))
- Growth at US services firms rebounds in March ([AP](#))

## **ENTREPRENEUR NEWS**

- Texting in social and business situations can be off-putting ([Jerry Osteryoung](#))
- Seeking maturity: Orlando's tech startups need to grow up ([Orlando Sentinel](#))
- Entrepreneur U ([Business Observer](#))



# WANT TO BE YOUR OWN BOSS?



**Classes Starting in Port Charlotte on Monday, April 25, 2016**

Monday & Thursday evenings from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Class runs six weeks for \$80

Develop a solid plan to guide your start up with the assistance of an experienced business owner who serves as your coach. Hear from subject matter experts in areas of accounting, legal, marketing, insurance and funding. After completion of the class, participants can apply for a microloan collateral guarantee from Goodwill.

***This class can be taken for FREE if you meet low to moderate income guidelines.***

More information and to register go to: [www.goodwillswfl.org/microenterprise](http://www.goodwillswfl.org/microenterprise) or call (239) 895-2106, Ext. 2219

Goodwill SWFL MicroEnterprise Institute Program Funders:  
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- Lee County
- MICROGRANTS
- Mutual of Omaha Bank
- Regions Bank
- THIRDFEDERAL Savings & Loan
- UPS Foundation
- United State Department of Housing and Urban Development
- United Way of Lee, Charlotte, and Collier Counties
- Urban Development
- Walmart

**Class location:**

Charlotte Technical Center  
18150 Murdock Circle  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948



**Join Our Mailing List!**

Charlotte County Economic Development Office  
18501 Murdock Circle | Suite 302  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948 | 941-764-4941  
[FloridaEDO@CharlotteCountyFL.com](mailto:FloridaEDO@CharlotteCountyFL.com)  
<http://www.FloridasInnovationCoast.com>