



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY**  
Economic Development

# WEEKEND WAVE

07-15-16



## Friday Economic Roundup

### June, 2016 Passenger Traffic up 25% at Punta Gorda

Punta Gorda, FL - The Charlotte County Airport Authority announced the Punta Gorda Airport passenger count for June, 2016 was 98,430. This is a **25.7 % increase** in passenger traffic for June, 2016 compared with June, 2015 (78,276 passengers).

In June, there were 49,317 boarding passengers and 49,113 arriving passengers. This is the 32nd month in a row that the Airport has seen an increase in passenger traffic in year over year monthly traffic. The rolling 12 month passenger total is 972,316.

Commissioner Rob Hancik, of the Charlotte County Airport Authority, stated "The continuing double digit passenger growth is evidence of the unique markets that Allegiant has developed to and from Southwest, Florida."

Allegiant Air has non-stop service to **Thirty cities** including Akron Canton Airport, OH; Allentown, PA; Asheville, NC; Belleville, IL; Cedar Rapids, IA; Concord, NC; 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; and Toledo, 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.

## Port Charlotte industrial properties sold

By John Hielscher , Herald-Tribune

The industrial building now occupied by SCP Distributors in Port Charlotte has sold for \$675,000. TCCH-1 LLC bought the 10,264-square-foot building, 1207 Enterprise Drive, from Rickert Holdings LLC. The new owner plans on occupying the building after the current tenant lease expires. Steve Gant of Riverside Realty Services LLC was the broker.

Separately, two multi-tenant industrial buildings in the Whidden Industrial Park in Port Charlotte sold for \$600,000.

Moonstone Holdings LLC bought the 14,000-square-foot buildings, 4280 and 4290 James St., as an investment from Thomas S. and Teri B. Provencal.

Gant represented the seller, and Doreen Gentz with GNK Sky Realty Inc. represented the buyer.

## 22nd Annual Blue Chip Community Business Award

The 22nd annual Southwest Florida Blue Chip Community Business Award, coordinated and sponsored by BB&T- Oswald Trippe and Company and BB&T Bank will take place Thursday, Nov. 3 at Harborside Event Center, located at 1375 Monroe Street in Fort Myers. The annual Blue Chip Award program recognizes successful, small business owners who have overcome adversity to achieve success.

Larry Brudnicki, legendary U.S. Coast Guard Captain, has been selected as the keynote speaker for the 22nd Annual Southwest Florida Blue Chip Community Award luncheon.

Captain Brudnicki was the Commanding Officer of the USCGC TAMAROA in New Castle, NH where he performed two dramatic rescues during the worst weather in more than 100 years. This event became known as "The Perfect Storm" and inspired The New York Times best-selling book and the blockbuster movie starring George Clooney and Mark Wahlberg.

Captain Brudnicki retired from the Coast Guard in March 2002 after 30 years of active duty. During his career he supervised more than 15,000 search and rescue cases, which saved property valued at \$135 million and more than 1,600 lives. He also supervised the search for survivors of the Alaska Air Flight #261 tragedy.

Brudnicki holds a Merchant Marine Master's license and has won numerous awards for his accomplishments including, the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (two time winner), the Coast Guard Commendation Medal (four time winner), the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal (two time winner).

Now that he has retired, Brudnicki uses the experience he gained from leading successful high-risk missions with international visibility to deliver his message of leadership, teamwork and risk management. Brudnicki speaks to corporations, associations and organizations so that they can implement the steps necessary for success while avoiding pitfalls.

Charlotte, Collier and Lee County for-profit businesses that have been in operation for at least three years under the same ownership and employ five to 400 people are eligible for the Blue Chip Award. Applications must be submitted no later than Sept. 6, 2016 and independent judges will select the winning entry.

For information on attending the Blue Chip Award program or for submitting an application, please contact Stacey Mercado at 239- 433-7189 or [SMercado@BBandT.com](mailto:SMercado@BBandT.com).

## FLORIDA ECONOMIC NEWS

- Lakewood Ranch big target for medical businesses ([Sarasota Herald-Tribune](#))
- Gov. Scott to pitch Florida at British air show ([WJXT](#))
- PortMiami joins big-ship era ([Miami Herald](#))
- HAECO Americas expanding in Lake City, adding 400 new jobs ([Florida Trend](#))
- Publix tops the list of Florida's most valuable brands ([Tampa Bay Times](#))
- Key economic indicators show Florida's economy is strong ([Florida Trend](#))
- Indiana firm moves headquarters to Tampa ([Business Observer](#))
- Thales expansion takes off: 500 new jobs in Central Florida ([Orlando Sentinel](#))
- Florida jumps to No. 10 best state for business ([Orlando Business Journal](#))
- Foreign investment pouring into Florida's commercial real estate market ([CBRE](#))
- Retail call centers plan hiring 3,200 workers in Brevard ([Orlando Sentinel](#))
- Famous yacht brand Bertram sets up shop in South Tampa ([Tampa Bay Times](#))
- Are Atlanta Braves the only team considering Sarasota County? ([Sarasota Herald-Tribune](#))
- Florida ranks second in attracting aerospace manufacturing ([WMFE](#))

- Wawa CEO plans to open 100 stores in South Florida ([South Florida Business Journal](#))
- Publix purchases 10 Martin's Food Markets in Virginia ([Tampa Bay Times](#))

## US ECONOMIC NEWS

- US business inventories rose slightly in May ([AP](#))
- US consumer prices, retail sales rose in June ([AP](#))
- US industrial production up 0.6 percent in June ([Sarasota Herald-Tribune](#))

## ENTREPRENEUR NEWS

- Your business needs a positioning strategy for success ([Ron Stein](#))
- Treasure your existing customers - they are your gold mine ([Jerry Osteryoung](#))

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