

# WEEKEND WAVE

07-22-16



## Friday Economic Roundup

### Punta Gorda Airport Receives Top Award from Florida Department of Transportation

Punta Gorda, FL - The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) honored the Charlotte County Airport Authority with the 2016 Outstanding Commercial Service Airport of the Year Award for the Punta Gorda Airport. The award was announced in the annual Florida Airports Council Conference, held this year in the Bonita Springs, Florida.

"We are extremely proud that the Punta Gorda Airport was recognized that Florida Department of Transportation" said Paul Andrews, Chairman of the Charlotte County Airport Authority.

"The team effort of the Airport Authority Board and Staff has resulted in tremendous growth of our airport and its contribution to the community's well-being. I would like to thank our Board and our staff members as well as our tenants who in fact are our business partners".

The Florida Department of Transportation annually awards the Commercial Service Airport of the year to one of twenty Commercial Service Airports in the state of Florida. The award recognizes superior achievement in all aspects of management and customer service including safety and security, financial and overall management.

Punta Gorda Airport is served by Allegiant Airlines with service to thirty cities. It is estimated the airport will serve over 1 million passengers in 2016.

### Punta Gorda Airport Receives Top Award from Federal Aviation Administration

Punta Gorda, FL - The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Southern Region Airports Division Manager Winsome Lenfert, honored Punta Gorda Airport with the 2015 Air Carrier Airport Safety Award for the Southern Region which includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee and the Virgin Islands. The award was announced in the annual Florida Airports Council Conference, held this year in the Bonita Springs, Florida.

"In the past year the Punta Gorda Airport (PGD) has worked hard to enhance safety, while increasing operation effectiveness. They have made 18 safety improvements and enhancements including the installation of STARS radar display, installation of an ILS approach and the reinstatement of the Runway 4 VOR approach. PGD safety remained at the forefront while enduring a 45% increase in air carrier operations." stated Winsome Lenfert, Southern Region Airports Division Manager.

The award came on the heels of the Florida Department of Transportation's award to Punta Gorda Airport as the "Commercial Service Airport of the Year" also at the annual Florida Airports Council Conference.

Punta Gorda Airport is served by Allegiant Airlines with service to thirty cities. It is estimated the airport will serve over 1 million passengers in 2016.

## County pays \$300,000 for land

Charlotte County paid \$300,000 for 1.3 acres of vacant land at 21179 and 21187 Brinson Ave. in Port Charlotte. The county bought the property as part of the widening of Olean Boulevard.

Trigger Properties LLC was the seller. Steve Gant, broker at Riverside Realty Services LLC, handled the transaction.

## Interstate 75 Rest Areas Project Development and Environment Study

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District One is conducting a Project Development and Environment (PO&E) Study to identify sites for the placement of one northbound and one southbound rest area facility along Interstate 75. The study limits extend from the Charlotte/Lee County line north to the interchange of SR681 and 1-75 in Sarasota County. The new rest areas would replace the recently closed Jones Loop Rest Area located at Exit 161 in Charlotte County. Staff is evaluating five build alternative locations, three in the northbound direction of 1-75, and two in the southbound direction of 1-75. Each of the build alternatives will require additional right-of-way adjacent to 1-75. FDOT does not anticipate residential or business relocations for any of the build alternatives. As part of this study, FDOT will consider a "no-build" alternative, which would not include a new rest area in this segment of 1-75. At this time, the FDOT Five-Year Work Program does not include funding for the design, right-of-way acquisition, or construction phases for the rest area project.

FDOT invites you to a public meeting regarding the identification of sites for two new rest areas along Interstate 75 in Southwest Florida. Your participation and feedback about this project are important. FDOT anticipates final plans selection mid-2017. This open house format meeting will not include a formal presentation. The study team will be available throughout the evening to discuss the project and answer questions at the time, date, and location below:

**TIME: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

**DATE: Tuesday, August 2, 2016**

**LOCATION: Charlotte Harbor Event Center  
75 Taylor Street  
Punta Gorda, Florida 33950**

Please contact Steven Andrews, FDOT Project Manager:

1-75 Rest Areas PD&E Study

ATTN: Steven Andrews

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## Home sales total \$100 million in value

By CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE Staff Writer Charlotte Sun

PUNTA GORDA - With the first half of 2016 in the books, real estate professionals in Charlotte County have reason to be celebrating.

Realtors have been reaping the rewards of sales that Punta Gorda-Port Charlotte-North Port Association of Realtors

President Vicky McPhee calls "steady, consistent and even-keeled."

McPhee said Charlotte County home sales last month totaled \$100 million in value.

"We're back and back strong," McPhee said, responding to the latest housing market report released Thursday. "Our Realtors are busy."

The new market information tracking activity in June shows 437 single-family homes sold in the Punta Gorda metropolitan statistical area - which encompasses all of Charlotte County - an increase of almost 4 percent over sales posted a year ago. Just as significant, the median sales price is up to almost \$190,000 - a jump of 11.7 percent over the median sales price at this same time in 2015.

Percentage wise, Sarasota County didn't fare as well, as home sales within the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA dropped almost 4 percent from a year ago to 1,402 closings. However, with a median sales price of \$262,000, Sarasota homes are among the most expensive in all of Florida.

Statewide, the median sales price is at \$225,000.

A statistic that jumps out of the housing market report is sales of 114 townhouses and condos in the Charlotte County area, representing a 32.6 percent spike over sales a year ago. Unlike the median price of single-family homes that are rising at a double-digit rate, the median sales price of condos went up just 1.6 percent and stands at \$137,450.

McPhee, who generally calls townhouses and condos "mostly a snowbird product," said new federal guidelines recently passed by the House and Senate in Washington will make it easier for buyers to get financing for condos.

McPhee added that condos are attractive because their fees include insurance and are usually less than the expenses that owners of single-family homes have to shoulder.

By comparison, the Sarasota area registered 594 sales of condos and townhouses last month - a 1.3 percent drop from a year ago. However, the median sales price of Sarasota condos are up now to almost \$200,000, an increase of 11.7 percent over June 2015.

Linda Formella, president of the Realtor Association of Sarasota-Manatee, is not surprised by the area's surging median sales prices.

"The rise in median prices reflects the continued popularity of the area and the impact of our current low inventory levels," Formella said.

McPhee said the inventory level in Charlotte County is at a four and one-half month supply. She said any time the inventory slips below a supply of five months, the competition among buyers increases for the dwindling number of homes.

"It's definitely a sellers' market," McPhee said.

Looking ahead to the second half of 2016, McPhee sees good times continuing for real estate professionals.

"I think buyers will get off the fence to take advantage of these alltime low interest rates," she said.

## 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

- Longtime skin care maker expanding in Boca Raton ([South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#))
- FSU receives \$10 million for nuclear research center ([FSU News](#))
- Fort Lauderdale's 2015 boat show had \$531.5 million economic impact in South Florida ([South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#))
- Minnesota software firm expands into Tampa, adds 60 jobs ([Tampa Bay Times](#))
- Naples-based Arthrex to add 560 jobs in 'Project Nikita' ([WINK](#))
- Boca Raton energy drink to sell in Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia ([South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#))
- Sarasota, state offer \$450K to reel in headquarters ([Business Observer](#))
- The Best Companies To Work For In Florida ([Florida Trend](#))
- German manufacturing plant to bring 25 jobs to Jacksonville ([Florida Times-Union](#))
- Merger creates the largest independently owned real estate brokerage in Florida ([South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#))

## ENTREPRENEUR NEWS

- Why you need to monitor your 'pipeline' for future sales ([Jerry Osteryoung](#))
- Resources ([Florida Small Business](#))

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