

WEEKEND WAVE

7-10-15



Friday Economic Roundup

Enterprise Zone

To encourage economic development in economically distressed areas of the state, in 1982 Florida launched an Enterprise Zone program by providing incentives to induce private investment. At the 2015 legislative session, extension of the Enterprise Zone program was not authorized, and the program will sunset on Dec. 31, 2015.

Incentives include business machinery and equipment sales tax refund, building materials sales tax refund, job tax credit, and property tax credit for Florida corporations. To qualify for the incentives, a business or home must be within the Enterprise Zone, and further specific eligibility criteria must be met. The Charlotte County Enterprise Zone was approved by the state in 2013. The zone includes portions of the Punta Gorda Interstate Airport Park, Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Area (CRA), Parkside CRA, and Punta Gorda, totaling approximately 16 square miles.

Visit http://FloridasInnovationCoast.com/index.php/site_selection/enterprise_zone for more information.

Applications must be approved by the Florida Department of Revenue before the sunset date.

For more information contact Debrah Forester, Redevelopment Manager with the

BLUE CHIP COMMUNITY BUSINESS AWARD NOMINATIONS

The annual Blue Chip Award program recognizes successful, small business owners who have overcome adversity to achieve success. 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. 7, 2015 and independent judges will select the winning entry.

The 21st 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. 5 at Harborside Event Center, located at 1375 Monroe Street in Fort Myers. 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.

FLORIDA ECONOMIC NEWS

- 380 jobs headed to Palm Beach Gardens ([WPTV](#))
- BlueGrace Logistics to hire 100 for Tampa headquarters ([Tampa Bay Times](#))
- Florida ports dig deep to draw bigger ships, create jobs ([South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#))
- FSW offering new degree focuses, local economy in mind ([Naples Herald](#))
- Florida High Tech Corridor universities rival other research hubs in patents ([Orlando Business Journal](#))

US ECONOMIC NEWS

- Growth in US services firms rises in June ([AP](#))
- Wholesale inventories rise more than expected ([Reuters](#))

ENTREPRENEUR NEWS

- Contingency plans are important for every facet of business ([Jerry Osteryoung](#))
- Six common financial pitfalls ([Tribune News Service](#))
- Partnerships ([Florida Small Business](#))
- Small businesses and startups have more in common than you think ([Entrepreneur](#))

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