



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.



In This Issue

[Business Expo](#)

[Perfect Climate](#)

[Chamber Coffee](#)

[RILA Retail Supply Chain Trade Show](#)

[EDO Marketing Campaign](#)

[Want to be Your Own Boss?](#)

[Be On the Lookout](#)

[Check Out the Zone](#)

[Business Tax Receipts](#)

[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

Business Expo

The Charlotte County Economic Development Office participated in the Charlotte County Business Expo on February 7. The Economic Development Office presented "Check Out the Zone" information on the new Charlotte County Enterprise Zone that provides incentives for both residential and commercial properties that are located in the "Zone". For more information on the incentives please visit our [website](#) or call the EDO at 764-4941.



Charlotte County
New Business Tax
Receipts

February - 125

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

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

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

Perfect Climate

Gov. Rick Scott unveiled a new "business branding" campaign, the latest initiative in a multipronged effort to cast the state of Florida as an attractive place for commerce.



www.perfectbusinessclimate.com

The branding campaign will feature orange-colored neckties, strategically-placed sand-sculptures and the slogan: "Florida: The perfect climate for business."

The campaign is part of Scott's ongoing mission to create jobs by catering to business interests. The "perfect climate" campaign seeks to build on Florida's tourism brand by highlighting the state's size, diversity and business-friendly policies.

To learn more, visit www.PerfectBusinessClimate.com.

Chamber Coffee

Debrah Forester, Charlotte County Redevelopment manager, presented information on the Enterprise Zone at the February 20 Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce coffee. If your organization would like to hear more about the Zone please contact the EDO to schedule a presentation.

RILA Retail Supply Chain Trade Show

Tom Patton, Economic Development Director, and Lucienne Pears, Business Development Specialist, represented Charlotte County at the RILA Retail Supply Chain Trade Show February 17-20 in Orlando, FL.



Presentations at the conference covered key topics of strategic importance to today's supply chain leaders. Over 700 of those leaders were in attendance at both the conference and trade show. There were several networking opportunities on each day of the event, as well as dedicated trade show floor exhibition times in which staff was able to interact directly with A level executives in the retail industry. Many major retailers such as IKEA, Carhart, Kimberly-Clark Corp., Nestle, Target and Lowe's were in attendance, as well as major service providers in the 3rd party logistics industry.

The office has gotten a complete list of all attendees and exhibitors at the show and is developing a follow up strategy for continuing to reach out to the companies.

EDO Marketing Campaign

The Charlotte County Economic Development Office is in the process of creating a marketing campaign that will be launched this year to encourage business to relocate to our county. Our efforts will be partnered with the State of Florida's new marketing campaign, "The Perfect Climate For Business. "

To view and learn all the details of the new Charlotte County Economic Development Office marketing campaign, please bring a friend and join us at the April Enterprise Charlotte Economic Council meeting on April 4, 2013 at the Blue Lagoon Restaurant in Englewood. To attend, you must RSVP to 941-764-4941 by April 1st.

Want to be Your Own Boss?

Conference Room 504

April 1 - Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee Meeting 11 AM, Room 119

April 4 - ECEC Meeting (Call for Information)

April 8 - Murdock Village CRA, EDO Conference Room 504, 5 PM

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

April 18 - Enterprise Zone Development Agency Meeting, Noon at the EDO Conference Room 504

May 2 - ECEC Meeting (Call for Information)

May 6 - Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee Meeting 11 AM, Room 119

May 15- IDA Meeting Noon at the EDO Conference Room 504

May 21 - Suncoast Technology Forum Luncheon, Polo Bar & Grill, Lakewood Ranch, 11:30 - 1 PM

May 27 - EDO Closed for Memorial Day

June 3 - Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee Meeting 11 AM, Room 119

June 6 - ECEC Meeting (Call for Information)

June 18 - Suncoast Technology Forum Luncheon, Polo Bar & Grill, Lakewood Ranch, 11:30 - 1 PM



WANT TO BE YOUR OWN BOSS?



**Classes Starting in Port Charlotte on
Monday, April 15, 2013**

**Monday and Thursday evenings from
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. for six weeks at**

BUSEY BANK - 1490 TAMIA MI TRAIL - PORT CHARLOTTE, FL 33948

This class will assist you in developing a feasibility plan, that focuses on cash flow the first and most critical step in creating a business plan. Participants will be coached by an experienced entrepreneur in small groups as well as participate in large group discussion. After completion of the class, participants are apply for a microloan collateral guarantee from Goodwill.''

More information and to register go to: www.goodwillswfl.org/microenterprise
or call (339) 995-2106, Ext. 2219

**Apply online or attend a FREE application session for this class at
Goodwill Job-Link located at: 2325 Tamiami Trail - Port Charlotte, FL. held on
March 28th at 6:00 p.m. (Inside the Port Charlotte Goodwill Goodwill Store)**

Program Partners:

Busey Bank
Cape Coral Economic Development Office
City of Cape Coral
Edison State College
Fifth Third Bank
Florida Community Bank
Goodwill Industries of SWFL, Inc.
IBERIABANK
Invest in America Veterans Foundation
Lee County Board of Commissioners
Lee County Department of Human Services
Lee County Sheriff's Office
Lehigh Acres Chamber of Commerce
Southwest Florida Community Foundation
Southwest Florida Enterprise Center

**Classes held:
Busey Bank
1490 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33948**



PM

June 19 - IDA Meeting Noon
at the EDO Conference
Room 504

July 1 - Charlotte Harbor
CRA Advisory Committee
Meeting 11 AM, Room 119

July 4 - EDO closed for
Independence Day

July 8 - Murdock Village
CRA, EDO Conference
Room 504, 5 PM

July 11 - ECEC Meeting
(Call for Information)

July 16- Suncoast
Technology Forum
Luncheon, Polo Bar & Grill,
Lakewood Ranch, 11:30 - 1
PM

July 17 - IDA Meeting Noon
at the EDO Conference
Room 504

July 18 - Enterprise Zone
Development Agency
Meeting, Noon at the EDO
Conference Room 504

August 1 - ECEC Meeting
(Call for Information)

August 20- Suncoast
Technology Forum
Luncheon, Polo Bar & Grill,
Lakewood Ranch, 11:30 - 1
PM

August 21 - IDA Meeting
Noon at the EDO
Conference Room 504

Be On the Lookout for
Harbor Style Magazine's April Issue
Featuring Economic Development



Check out the ZONE

Florida Enterprise Zone 0801

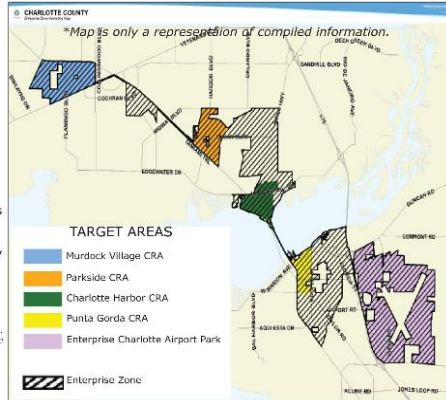
What is an Enterprise Zone?

- An area targeted for economic development
- Designated by the State of Florida
- Provides the foundation for revitalizing distressed communities

Do You Qualify?

- Is your business located within the Enterprise Zone?
- Does your business collect and remit sales and use tax or is the entity a Florida Corporation?
- Are you considering purchasing business equipment or machinery with a value greater than \$5,000?
- Do you own or lease residential property within the Enterprise Zone?
- Are you considering hiring at least one full-time (36+ hours per week) permanent employee?

* Specific eligibility criteria must be met to qualify for the incentives. Please contact the Charlotte County Economic Development Office for details.



Available Incentives

Job Tax Credit

Allows businesses that collect and pay sales and uses tax, a credit against sales tax or corporate income tax due.

- Requires a new job be created
- Employee Eligibility:
 - Employed three consecutive months or more
 - Resident(s) of the Enterprise Zone OR welfare transition program participants (non Enterprise Zone residents)
 - Must be full-time (36 hours + per week)
- Maximum credit is 30% of monthly wage paid to the new employee

NOTE: A new employee cannot be an owner, partner, or stockholder. Employees leased from leasing companies may qualify if specific criteria are met.

Property Tax Credit - Florida Corporations

This corporate income tax credit is equal to 96% of ad valorem taxes paid on new or improved property located in the Enterprise Zone.

- The maximum credit is \$25,000 to \$50,000 based on the number of employees.
- The credit can be carried forward for five years.

Building Materials Sales Tax Refund

Refund on sales tax paid on building materials used on new construction or renovation.

- Residential (except condominiums), commercial and industrial properties located within the Enterprise Zone
- Minimum refund - \$500
- Maximum refund - \$10,000

Business Machinery & Equipment Sales Tax Refund

Available for sales tax paid on the purchase of certain tangible business property.

- May include office, warehouse, and industrial equipment
- Some industrial machinery allowed
- Must be used in the Enterprise Zone for at least three years
- Must cost \$5,000 or more

To determine if your property qualifies for the Enterprise Zone Program, please review the map of the boundaries at www.FloridasInnovationCoast.com or call the Economic Development Office at 941-764-4941 with your parcel identification number.

Charlotte County Economic Development Office

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Phone: 941-764-4941 ~ Fax: 941-764-4947

Email: FloridaEDO@CharlotteFL.com ~ Web Site: www.FloridasInnovationCoast.com
Visit the State's web site at www.FloridaEnterpriseZones.com

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>