

CONGRATULATIONS!

to Tom King of SUPERTRAK
on his appointment to the
Charlotte County Industrial Development Authority



Welcome to Charlotte County Economic Development Office Newsletter

Please enjoy they our 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.

Quimatec

A Brazilian chemical company called Quimatec toured Charlotte County in a search to find a good place to expand foreign operations and form connections with Florida chemical companies.

Quimatec has been in businesses for 30 years. It imports raw chemicals and processes them into compounds used in such industries as sugar refining, ethanol distilling and paper milling.

The executives of Quimatec were escorted on a tour of the airport and other economic assets by Kay Tracy, a business development specialist for Charlotte County Economic Development, and Jefferson Michaelis, president of the Brazil-Florida Chamber of Commerce.

The visit comes as a follow-up to Gov. Rick Scott's trade mission to Brazil in October 2011, and to a visit by 27 Brazilian businesses to Charlotte County in November.

"Quimatec is just one more Brazilian business who likes what they've heard about our Business Friendly Community, and is now looking to size-up the County to see if their organization would prosper in our area," Tracy said.

CFO Jeff Atwater Launches "On Guard for Seniors"

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Innovation

2

Industry

Contest

Winners will be
announced at the

ECEC

Award Presentation

Luncheon Meeting

May 3, 2012

Call 941-764-4941 to
make your reservation

Premier Event
Sponsors



By Jeff Atwater
Florida's Chief Financial Officer

Any of us can fall victim to financial fraud. As Florida's CFO, it is my responsibility to protect Floridians' hard-earned dollars. Through my years in the financial services community and as an elected representative, I've learned that more often than not it is our seniors who are most vulnerable to financial fraud. Every day seniors are inundated with investment offers and requests for charitable contributions and are thereby being exposed to targeted fraud opportunities. As a result, financial decisions can be overwhelming.

That is why my Department of Financial Services has launched **On Guard for Seniors**, a website dedicated to help seniors, family members or caregivers identify the right questions to ask to avoid becoming a victim of fraud or misleading sales tactics.

The **On Guard for Seniors** website, www.MyFloridaCFO.com/OnGuard, includes information about annuities, reverse mortgages, long-term care insurance and identity theft as well as success stories about seniors who sought help from my office on these topics. Last year, the Department's Division of Consumer Services helped recover more than \$22 million for Florida consumers. It is my goal through this initiative to help recover more for Floridians and protect our seniors from falling victim to fraud.

As president of the Florida Senate in 2010, I helped pass legislation which increased penalties for those who victimize Florida's seniors. As a result, complaints and enforcement actions related to annuity sales have declined by 35 percent over the past year. Florida is now among the leaders in the country for holding those who commit annuities fraud against our seniors accountable for their actions.

Florida currently ranks first in the nation in the percentage of residents age 60 or older and has more than 1.7 million citizens who are 75 and older. Seniors age 85 and older are currently the state's fastest-growing age group, according to the Department of Elder Affairs.

As this segment of Florida's population continues to grow, we



must do all we can to protect them and arm them with the tools needed to prosper. Together we can all help ensure our seniors have the resources to make informed financial decisions that best suit their needs today and for the future.

For additional information, please visit the www.MyFloridaCFO.com web site or 1-877-My-FL-CFO.

Boy Scout Attends Charlotte Harbor CRA



Picture: (Left to right) Charlotte Ventola, Grace Amodeo, Jim Herston, Garland Wilson, and Bobby Lucchetti).

On March 5, 2012, the Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee had a special guest at its meeting - Bobby Lucchetti. Bobby is a member of Boy Scout Troop 338 and he is working on his Merit Badge for Citizenship in the Community. One of the requirements for this Merit Badge is to attend a governmental meeting and then discuss one of the issues with his counselor.

Bobby had the opportunity to hear discussions on Charlotte Harbor's Architectural Standards, activities in Bayshore Live Oak Park and updates on area projects. The Committee Members, Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch and County staff thanked Bobby for his interest in the Charlotte Harbor community and congratulated him on his Boy Scout achievements.

Tom King Appointed to Charlotte County Industrial Development Authority



innovation 2 industry

FL



Join Our Mailing List!

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2 - Charlotte Harbor
CRA Advisory Committee
Meeting 11:00 AM, Room
119

April 5 - ECEC
Meeting (Call for
Information)

April 9 - Murdock Village
CRA Advisory Committee
5 PM at the

Tom King, is the newest member of the Industrial Development Authority. Tom was sworn in March 21st by IDA Counsel, Jim Humphrey at the organization's monthly meeting.

The Charlotte County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) was established in 2006 under Part III of Chapter 159, Florida Statutes, to foster and encourage industrial and business development in Charlotte County, Florida. The IDA is a seven-member board appointed by the Board of County Commissioners of Charlotte County. Members represent various business sectors: banking, accounting, engineering, real estate and manufacturing. By statute each IDA board member is appointed to a four-year term. The Charlotte County Economic Development Office serves as staff to the IDA, and the IDA has a representative in the Enterprise Charlotte Economic Council, a public-private partnership that advises the Charlotte County Commissioners on economic development issues. The IDA encourages companies interested in locating to Charlotte County as well as companies presently located in Charlotte County to explore the use of Industrial Development Revenue Bonds (IDRBs) to finance projects.

Current Board Members include: Todd Rebol, Chair; Rob Humpel, Vice Chair; Jeff Brown, Secretary; Cathy Sanders, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer; Michael Grant; Lane Diedrick and Tom King.

Tom represents the manufacturing sector and is the President and Sales Manager of SUPERTRAK, Inc. located in Punta Gorda. [SUPERTRAK, Inc.](#) was founded in 1986 by Tom. In addition to Manufacturing Custom Vegetation Management and Forestry Machines, SUPERTRAK, Inc. is a Dealer and Distributor for Machinery in the Mulching, Vegetation Management, and Biomass Industries. King is also the Vice-President of Marden Industries, another Florida Corporation that focuses on fabrication and the manufacturing of Forestry Implements suited for heavy machinery. King is currently working developing Biomass Harvesting and Handling Systems.

Entertainment District

At the March 19th Special Meeting, the Murdock Village CRA Advisory Committee reviewed the Main Stage proposal of acquiring 100 acres in Murdock Village CRA to develop an Entertainment District. The Committee voted 4-0, with one member abstaining, recommending the Board of County Commissioners publish the 30 day notice to move this project forward.

On March 27, the Board of County Commissioners approved

EDO Conference Room
504

April 18 - IDA Meeting Noon
at the EDO Conference
Room 504

April 20 - Southwest Florida
College Job Fair

May 3 - ECEC Meeting
i2iFL Awards Ceremony

May 4 - STF Technology
Expo and Conference 2012

May 7 - Charlotte Harbor
CRA Advisory Committee
Meeting 11:00 AM, Room
119

May 16 - IDA Meeting Noon
at the EDO Conference
Room 504

May 28 - EDO closed for
Memorial Day

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

June 7 - ECEC Meeting
(Call for Information)

June 20 - IDA Meeting Noon
at the EDO Conference
Room 504

July 2 - Charlotte
Harbor CRA Advisory
Committee Meeting 11 AM,
Room 119

July 4 - EDO closed for the
Independence Day Holiday

July 5 - ECEC Meeting (Call
for Information)

July 9 - Murdock Village
CRA Advisory Committee 5
PM at the EDO Conference
Room 504

publishing a 30-day notice, required by the Florida Redevelopment Act, to consider the Main Stage LLC proposal to acquire approximately 100 acres to develop a theater and entertainment district in the Murdock Village Community Redevelopment Area. The proposal includes a conceptual plan and a term sheet that lays out specific milestones that both Main Street and the County are required to meet at 6-month, 12-month, and 18-month intervals from the date the Board enters into an option contract. If all milestones are met, Main Stage LLC will purchase the property or, in lieu of purchase, adopt a binding construction and development timeline as consideration of the property.

Melbourne Street Bridge Dedication

The new bridge on Melbourne Street in the Charlotte Harbor CRA is complete and open to traffic. There will be a Bridge Dedication Ceremony on May 1 at 9 a.m. at the vacant lot on the southeast corner of US41 and Melbourne Street. The bridge is being dedicated to former Commissioner, Dick Loftus for his many years of community service. The community is invited to attend.

Harbor Walk

On March 27, the Board of County Commissioners approved sending a letter to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to request authorization to advance the construction of Phase I of the Harbor Walk project in the Charlotte Harbor CRA. If FDOT approves the request, the CRA will be able to move forward on the construction of the project earlier than July 2014, which is the year the project is funded by FDOT. The County will provide a loan to the Charlotte Harbor CRA to allow construction to begin with reimbursement on the loan coming from FDOT when funds are available. Components included in Phase I include: replacement of the seawall; construction of a bathroom; pedestrian plaza and parking area; small boat launch; pedestrian promenade and a sidewalk linking the bridge to Melbourne Street.

Florida's Unemployment Rate

Florida's unemployment fell again in February, dropping to 9.4 percent, a three-year low, the state said Friday. January's rate was 9.6 percent. Job creation also picked up steam, after jobs were lost in January, with 10,100 jobs gained in February. The latest jobless numbers also represent a 1.4-percentage point drop from the year before. Florida's unemployment remains above the national rate of 8.7 percent. [Source: [South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#)]

February 2012 Unemployment Rates

July 18 - IDA Meeting Noon
at the EDO Conference
Room 504

August 2 - ECEC Meeting
(Call for Information)

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

September 6 - ECEC
Meeting (Call for
Information)

September 10 - Charlotte
Harbor CRA Advisory
Committee Meeting 10:30
AM, Room 119

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

October 3 - 4th Annual
Energy Options Conference

January 26 - 5th Annual
Hands Across the Harbor

Charlotte County	9.3%
Florida	9.1%
United States	8.7%

* not seasonally adjusted

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