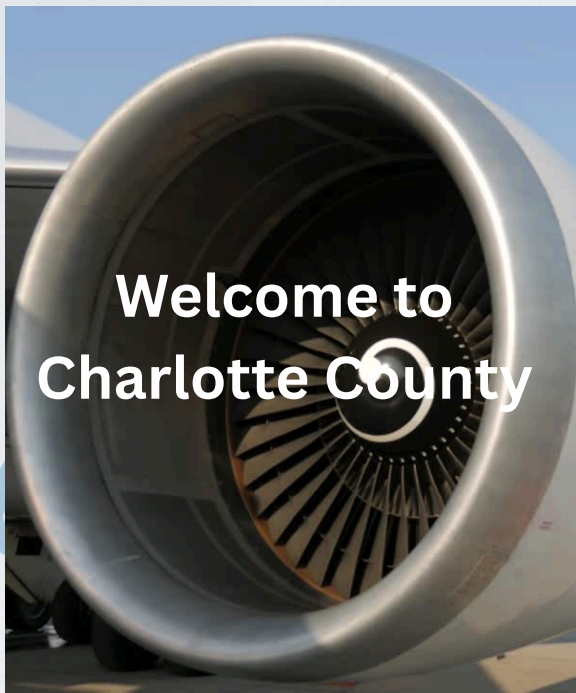


MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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JUNE 2025 CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF

Welcome to the June 2025 edition of the Charlotte County Economic Development newsletter! This month, we're celebrating milestones in workforce training, spotlighting local businesses making waves, and sharing highlights from recent events like SOF Week and the FEDC Conference. From new opportunities on the ground to bold visions taking flight, Charlotte County continues to grow as a hub for innovation, talent, and investment. Let's take a look at what's shaping our future.

Business Highlight

On May 22, Hessler Floor Covering opened its showroom for a dynamic evening of networking, food, and fun during the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce Business Card Exchange.

Mark Odell, our Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) Manager, was on hand to connect with the Hessler team and other community leaders, supporting Charlotte County's ongoing commitment to fostering strong relationships with local employers.



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BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT: **SOUTHERN CRANE & TRACTOR SUPPLY**

As part of Charlotte County's ongoing business retention efforts, Mark Odell, BRE Manager, recently visited Southern Crane & Tractor Supply in Punta Gorda. This locally owned business provides heavy equipment, parts, and service for agricultural, construction, and land maintenance operations across Southwest Florida. Businesses like Southern Crane & Tractor Supply play a vital role in our regional economy—and we're proud to help them stay strong and thrive in Charlotte County.

Featured Property: 28261 Woodlawn Drive

This is a rare opportunity for developers seeking speed-to-market. The property is zoned ECAP, cleared, and has utilities in place—ideal for warehouse, light manufacturing, or flex industrial development. Its strategic location near I-75 and adjacency to the future Charlotte Technical College campus make it a smart investment for companies looking to grow in a talent-rich, infrastructure-ready corridor.



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2025 Economic Development Week May 12-16

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK

Charlotte County joined communities nationwide in celebrating Economic Development Week! From highlighting our business-friendly initiatives to showcasing success stories and workforce wins, the week spotlighted how we're building a stronger, more resilient local economy.

Blue Angels Return to PGD

Charlotte County is once again taking to the skies as the world-famous Blue Angels return for the 2025 Florida International Air Show. On November 1-2 at the Punta Gorda Airport, this high-flying event promises jaw-dropping aerial performances and a weekend full of family-friendly excitement. The show is more than just a spectacle. It's a powerful reminder of the County's aviation heritage and its skyward future. With investments in aviation workforce training, including programs at Charlotte Technical College, and a growing base of aerospace and logistics businesses, the region is primed for takeoff.



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SUNSEEKER'S SUNSUITES™ EARNS AAA FOUR DIAMOND RATING

Sunseeker Resort Sunsuites™ has officially received the AAA Four Diamond designation—a recognition reserved for fewer than 7% of hotels nationwide. This “hotel within a hotel” concept offers sweeping waterfront views, residential-style elegance, and a personalized luxury experience that sets a new standard for Southwest Florida. The achievement is more than just a milestone for Sunseeker—it’s a signal that Charlotte County is becoming a premier destination for high-end travel, workforce growth, and hospitality investment. Congratulations to the entire Sunseeker team!



New Episodes of Elevate Charlotte Are Live!

We're excited to announce the latest episodes of Elevate Charlotte, the official podcast of the Charlotte County Economic Development Office. Each episode brings you behind the scenes of our region's momentum — highlighting the businesses, leaders, and bold ideas shaping Charlotte County's future. In these newest releases, we go beyond the headlines:

- Boots on the Ground
- SOF Week 2025

Listen Here:

<https://tinyurl.com/mrx2bfrj>



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NEW CCSO DISTRICT 5 FACILITY OPENS IN BABCOCK RANCH

Charlotte County marked a major milestone in public safety and smart growth with the grand opening of the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office District 5 facility in Babcock Ranch. This new station enhances law enforcement presence in one of the fastest-growing communities in the region and reflects a proactive approach to infrastructure and planning.

Located in the heart of Babcock Ranch, the District 5 facility strengthens community partnerships and ensures responsive service as the area continues to expand.

Station 9 Now Open in Babcock Ranch

Charlotte County continues its commitment to smart growth and public safety with the grand opening of Fire/EMS Station 9 in Babcock Ranch. This state-of-the-art facility is strategically located to serve one of the county's fastest-growing communities, ensuring rapid response times and enhanced emergency services. Economic Development Office's director, Kay Tracy, joined local leaders at the ribbon cutting to celebrate this important milestone.



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KENNA HUBAI MAY 2025 40 UNDER 40

Congratulations to Kenna Hubai, Business Services Manager for Charlotte County Public Works, on being named to our 40 Under 40 series! Kenna plays a key role in streamlining operations, supporting infrastructure projects, and driving innovation across county services. Her leadership and dedication exemplify the next generation of public sector excellence in Charlotte County.

[Read the full feature](#)

Charlotte County Attends SOF Week 2025

Charlotte County made a strong impression at SOF Week 2025 in Tampa—an elite gathering of U.S. Special Operations Command, industry leaders, and defense innovators. Mark Odell and Kristy Sisler represented Charlotte County Economic Development, highlighting the region's strategic location, growing defense ecosystem, and skilled workforce.



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CHARLOTTE COUNTY ATTENDS FEDC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Charlotte County Chair Commissioner Tiseo welcomed the group, highlighting the county's commitment to economic growth and regional collaboration. Charlotte County Economic Development joined industry leaders, site selectors, and statewide partners at the 2025 FEDC Annual Conference hosted at Sunseeker Resort. The event focused on Florida's evolving economy, innovation in economic development, and strategies for sustainable growth. Our team proudly represented Charlotte County's momentum and shared why our region is primed for investment, talent, and long-term success.



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GOOGLE WORKSHOP EMPOWERS LOCAL BUSINESSES

On May 6, business owners gathered for a hands-on workshop led by Patti Guerzo, a Grow with Google trainer, to learn practical tools for online growth. Hosted by Charlotte County Economic Development, the event provided actionable tips on improving visibility, reaching new customers, and using Google tools effectively.

Our next session with SBDC will focus on using AI in business on June 17th.

[Click for more details.](#)

Aviation Hangar Construction Takes Off at PGD

Construction is underway on the new Charlotte County Public Schools aviation hangar at Punta Gorda Airport. This future-focused facility will support hands-on training for students pursuing careers in aviation, MRO, and aerospace. From concept to construction, the project marks a major step forward in preparing Charlotte County's next-generation workforce for takeoff.



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Entrepreneur Support Organization May 7, 2025



ENTREPRENEUR SUPPORT ORGANIZATION (ESO) MEETING BUILDS MOMENTUM

On May 7, Charlotte County Economic Development hosted its quarterly Entrepreneur Support Organization (ESO) meeting, bringing together local partners committed to supporting small businesses and startups. Attendees shared updates, upcoming events, and strategies to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Collaboration remains key as we continue working together to fuel innovation and business growth across Charlotte County.

"Are You Lender Ready?" Webinar Kicks Off with Practical Insights

On May 13, Charlotte County Economic Development and the SBA launched Part 1 of the "Are You Lender Ready?" webinar series. Local entrepreneurs learned how to build business credit, understand financials, and prepare to pitch to lenders. The session provided valuable tools and resources to help small business owners become loan-ready. Part 2 is on 6/4/25.

"Are you lender ready?"

6/4/25
1 PM

IN-PERSON

18501 Murdock Circle
#203 - Second Floor

BANK





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FIAS Innovator's STEM Pavilion at the Florida International Airshow

 Location: Florida International Airshow

 Dates: November 1–2, 2025

 Demonstrations: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

 Setup: Friday, Oct 31 from 12:00 – 5:00 PM or
Saturday, Nov 1 from 7:30 – 9:00 AM

How to Apply:

- Deadline: September 30, 2025
- Complete the form at FloridaAirshow.com/STEM
- Or email the form to: dbconsulting.cteservices@gmail.com

Attention Businesses: Be a part of a dynamic, hands-on STEM showcase that brings together students, educators, and professionals from across Southwest Florida to inspire the next generation of innovators. Whether you're working with virtual reality, robotics, medical tech, or aerospace, there's a place for you in the Pavilion.



Be among the first to participate in the Innovator's Stem Pavilion at the Florida International AirShow

Education is the foundation of our future! By participating in our Hands-On STEM Pavilion Showcase, you have the unique opportunity to inspire and empower the next generation of innovators and leaders.

Are you passionate about career education and sharing your passion with others? Do you have students in your classroom that wish to showcase a hands-on project? Do you love experimenting, creating, and showcasing your innovative projects? We have just the event for you!

What is the Hands-On STEM Showcase?

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Our interactive STEM Pavilion at the Florida International Airshow is designed to bring together students, educators, parents, and enthusiasts to celebrate and explore the diverse career programs available in Charlotte County and Southwest Florida. This event provides a platform for participants to present projects, share ideas, and inspire others to pursue STEM fields. Examples of STEM events could include: Use of Virtual Reality Goggles to design & build, Drones in Schools program, Entrepreneurship projects, use of medical diagnostic equipment including interactive mannequins, Professional audio/video technology, use of robots for Agriculture, Airplane structures/riveting and many other fascinating projects to arouse those interested in learning more about a career in STEM.

EVENT DETAILS

Dates: November 1st and 2nd, during the Florida International Airshow
Setup: Friday from 12:00 - 5:00pm or Saturday morning from 7:30 - 9:00 am
Demonstrations: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Please submit your participation form by September 30th. Sign up by scanning the QR code or visiting FloridaAirshow.com/STEM to fill out the application or submit this form to dbconsulting.cteservices@gmail.com.

Questions? Please email dbconsulting.cteservices@gmail.com



Complete the form below to register:

SPONSORED BY:



2025 FIAS Innovator's STEM Pavilion Entry Form

Participant Information:

Name of School/Organization: _____

Grade Level: Elementary Middle School High School College

Contact Person: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Project Information:

Title of Project: _____

Description of Project: _____

Number of Participants: _____ ☐ Saturday/Sunday ☐ Saturday Only ☐ Sunday Only

STEM Vendor Benefits and Pricing:

\$250 per STEM Vendor (Fees will increase for submissions after June 30th)

- Includes: 10x10 space under the STEM tent, a table, 2 chairs, electricity, parking, and 4 free tickets per day.
- Additional spaces are \$250 each, and for more than two spaces, please contact Deelynn Bennett at dbconsulting.cteservices@gmail.com

Submission Details:

- Submission Deadline: September 30, 2025
- Submit this form to: dbconsulting.cteservices@gmail.com

Additional Information:

A virtual meeting will be held for all participants to discuss setup and breakdown details. Virtual sessions via Microsoft Teams:

- October 9 – 10 AM
- October 14 – 6:30 PM

Invitations will be sent to the email provided on the application.

Note:
No vehicle movement within the FAA area between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.

Signature: _____



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SimPilot Launches 2025 Summer Aviation Programs

📍 Looking to give students a head start in aviation? SimPilot is now enrolling for its 2025 Summer Programs, offering hands-on, simulator-based training tailored for middle and high school students. These fun and educational sessions cover the fundamentals of flight, navigation, and more—no experience required! Led by real instructors in an inspiring environment, SimPilot's programs are a great way to explore future careers in aviation and aerospace.

📍 Location: 18350 Murdock Cl.

💻 Learn more:

www.simpilot.us

☎ Contact: (305) 934-0117

SimPilot
Flight Training of the Future TODAY

SOAR INTO SUMMER— EXPLORE AVIATION WITH SIMPILOT SUMMER 2025 PROGRAMS

**BOOK A
DISCOVERY
FLIGHT
TODAY!**

Program Highlights :

- Hands-on, simulator-based aviation training
- Tailored programs for middle and high school students
- Learn the fundamentals of flying, navigation & more
- Led by real instructors in a fun, inspiring environment

Thinking about flying one day?
Start with our summer intro courses—
no experience needed!

SUMMER 2025
Programs starting at:
Middle School **\$259** | High School **\$359**

SIMPILOT
18350 Murdock Circle # 103
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

LEARN MORE : WWW.SIMPILOT.US
CONTACT: (305) 934-0117

UPCOMING EVENTS



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Click here for more details: <https://cleared4takeoff.com/category/event/>



Charlotte County Economic Development and SBA's "Are You Lender Ready?" – PART 2 In-Person Event



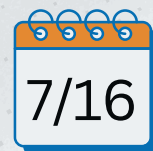
SBDC – Unlock the Power of AI in Your Business



FSW – Open Mic Pitch Practice Event



SBDC – Grow with Google In-Person Event



Grow Your Network at the New Business Card Exchange in Charlotte County



Virginia B. Andes Volunteer Community Clinic – Speakeasy Soiree'



3rd Quarter ESO Meeting