

Charlotte County Economic Development

Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board Tours Economic Development in Charlotte County

The Economic Development Office recently had the pleasure of hosting a tour of Charlotte County for members of the Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board. Economic Development Director Dave Gammon sits on the board that serves the workforce development initiatives in the five-county region of Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee. Workforce development boards are tasked with administering state and federal funding designated for employment and training services for individuals and new or expanding businesses. Workforce board members represent a balance among private sector businesses (51%), organized labor, and public institutions, including government, education, and community services.

It was a pleasure to share the growth and opportunity in Charlotte County with our regional partners. The tour took the board on a drive through Charlotte County looking at various development projects and included stops at Charlotte Technical College's Aviation Mechanics Program and the Punta Gorda Airport.



Changes ahead for Port Charlotte Town Center and Promenades Mall

“Bond holders owed \$44.8 million for the bankrupt Port Charlotte Town Center mall now own most of the facility after they ended up the high bid of \$100,100. The Charlotte County clerk’s office held the online auction in February for the 54-acre property within Murdock Circle. This action basically gives the debt holders clear title to the property, Charlotte County Economic Development Director Dave Gammon said. Now, he said, they can try to sell it to a new developer, using the county’s 2020 mixed use zoning category. This category allows residential to mix with commercial and allows higher buildings in some circumstances.” (Calvert, Betsy. “Mall sold to bond holders for \$100K” *Port Charlotte Sun*, 28 February 2022. [Link to article](#))

“The Promenades Mall owner submitted a redevelopment plan with 1,100 apartments, office and retail space all mixed together adjacent to the Charlotte County’s hospital hub. Currently, the 26-acre long-standing mall fronts on U.S. 41. Using the county’s 2020 mixed-use zoning bylaw, the developer and current owner, Jeff Morr of Miami, would work to rebuild what is now mostly a strip mall. Building height could go as high as 150 feet, depending on what the developer offers, Gammon said. Morr cites extensive experience developing large residential and commercial centers in Miami. The county’s Economic Development Office has been working with Morr for months to design what could be called Parkside Village, Gammon said.” (Calvert, Betsy. “Promenades Mall submits high-rise village plan” *Port Charlotte Sun*, 28 February 2022. [Link to article](#))



Port Charlotte Town Center Mall



Rendering of the possibilities for the renovated Promenades Mall