

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

May 2025 Cleared For Takeoff



## FOCUS SYMPOSIUM 2025

Charlotte County Economic Development's very own Kristy Sisler, Business Recruitment Manager, was in the fast lane this week at the FPL FOCUS Southwest Florida Symposium. From connecting with regional change makers to hearing from Syd Kitson, TIME's "Dreamer of the Year", the day was all about sustainability, resilience, and visionary leadership in economic development. Events like this remind us why Southwest Florida is a hub for forward-thinking innovation—and why Charlotte County is cleared for takeoff.

Kristy Sisler & Syd Kitson in photo)

## Business Highlight

This month, our Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) Manager, Mark Odell, touched down at ABC Supplies in Punta Gorda. His time at ABC Supply Co Inc., one of the nation's largest wholesale distributors of roofing, siding & more, was very impressive. We love seeing how Charlotte County businesses are building strong foundations and growing from the ground up.





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## BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT: BABY BARRIER POOL FENCE CO.

Baby Barrier Pool Fence Company is a leader in pool safety solutions. Manufacturing right here in Charlotte County, they're dedicated to protecting families while fueling our local economy with high-quality products and skilled jobs.

- ✓ Global Brand
- ✓ Local Manufacturing Excellence
- ✓ Committed to Quality & Safety

Learn more about Baby Barrier:  
<https://hubs.la/Q03jPRpT0>

## April's 40 Under 40 Honoree: Erin Natoli

The purpose of 40 Under 40 is to recognize and celebrate young professionals who are making significant contributions to Charlotte County's growth, innovation, and community leadership. Our April 40 Under 40 honoree is Erin Natoli of Integrity Employee Leasing. She has been making waves in Charlotte County's business community, and now we're sharing her story.

👤 Leadership.

💡 Hard work.

❤️ Community impact.

Read her full feature now:  
<https://tinyurl.com/t7kzv3r3>



## ARE YOU LENDER READY?

Mark Odell made his acting debut to hilariously demonstrate what **NOT** to do when applying for a business loan—kicking off a new four-part series co-hosted by the SBA and Charlotte County Economic Development. Part one of the series is a virtual workshop on May 13, 2025, at 1 PM, and part two will take place in person on June 4, 2025, from 1 to 3:30 PM at the EDO.





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## BERT'S BLACK WIDOW HARLEY-DAVIDSON AWARDED THE "BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARD"



Congratulations to Bert King of Bert's Black Widow Harley-Davidson! More than just a motorcycle dealership, Black Widow Harley-Davidson has become a hub of connection, entertainment, philanthropy, and economic vitality under the leadership of Bert King. We're proud to recognize Bert with the "Excellence in Business Award". With over \$2.5 million donated through the Salute to America Foundation, Bert's leadership is a true example of business done right—for community and for country. We celebrated their unwavering commitment to excellence, their significant charitable contributions, and their role in making Charlotte County a premier destination for riders and non-riders alike.

Thank you, Bert and the entire Black Widow team, for making Charlotte County a destination like no other.





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## **Featured Property:   Villages at Kings**

### **PGD INDUSTRIAL PARK FOR LEASE**

INDUSTRIAL/FLEX SPACE WITH INCENTIVES/BUILT-TO-SUIT

28261-28271-28281-28291 WOODLAWN, PUNTA GORDA, FL 33982



**PHASE II CONSTRUCTION FINISHED  
INTERIOR SPACES READY FOR CUSTOMIZATION**



**PORTABLE RAMPS AVAILABLE FOR PHASE II ONLY**

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### **Industrial/Flex Space in ECAP**

Phase I has been fully leased. Phase 2 is now leasing. Phase 3 and 4 are pre-leasing. Each phase will be a gray shell building that can be divided into up to eight 5,000± SF spaces measuring 50' x 100' each. Each unit has two roll-up doors – either dock high access with 8' x 10' roll-up loading doors or 12' x 14' grade level roll-up loading doors. In addition, each unit has a front and rear entry door and two restrooms.



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## **13TH ANNUAL REVERSE TRADE SHOW HOSTED BY GCAGPO**

Mark Odell took the SWFL Regional Procurement Reverse Trade Show by storm on April 3rd! From great conversations to new connections, Economic Development is all about opening doors for growth in Charlotte County. And of course, catching up with Charlotte County's business owners, like Christopher Bergljung from Vestas Air Coil. Mark led an insightful session on Government Contracting. The class is a valuable tool to help expand your business. Missed the class? Don't worry! It's now available on our website under the News Section.

## **Business Highlight: CED – Consolidated Electrical Distributors**

In April, Mark Odell, BRE Manager, visited CED Port Charlotte. Mark dropped by Consolidated Electrical Distributors (CED), City of Industry in Port Charlotte—an award-winning branch lighting the way with exceptional service, top-tier products, and years of national recognition. From the 100 ROI Club honors to multiple Gold Medals, CED Port Charlotte is a shining example of business done right in Charlotte County. Economic Development is proud to spotlight a company that's wired for success!

🔗 <https://hubs.la/Q03fRFFT0>





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## **LEADERSHIP ENGLEWOOD VISITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Leadership Englewood stopped by the Charlotte County Economic Development Office to learn what is going on in the business world. Kay Tracy, Director of Economic Development, and Mark Odell were there to educate the class! They were treated to a lesson on what exactly Economic Development is and does. It is always a pleasure sharing how Charlotte County is ready for takeoff.

## **Lane Valente Industries: Ribbon Cutting & Tenant Open House**

Lane Valente Industries opened their brand-new facility in Charlotte County! Located in Punta Gorda, this industrial hub is already home to national tenants and marks a step forward in our region's growth as a logistics and manufacturing destination. With companies already operating inside, jobs being created, and goods moving — this isn't a vision. It's happening. Right now. Tenants include Lane Valente Industries, Herc Rentals, Prestige Aluminum Fabrication LLC, Iron City Hot Rods and Customs, Commercial Appliance Parts and Service LLC and On-Site Boat Repair. Big thanks to Lane Valente for choosing Charlotte County and investing in our future. Catch highlights from the ribbon cutting ceremony and see why more businesses are landing here:

<https://lnkd.in/e7WYkyGu>





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## **CHILDCARE CONVERSATION CONTINUES**

Featured speaker Makayla Buchanan, Florida Chamber Foundation, delivered a detailed overview of Florida's Childcare Tax Credit, walking participants through its advantages and implementation strategies.

Key highlights included:

- Eligibility requirements for businesses seeking to claim the credit.
- Flexible options for how businesses can support childcare—from direct subsidies to collaborative partnerships with providers.
- Real-world examples showcasing businesses across Florida successfully using the credit to strengthen their workforce.

Makayla emphasized that businesses of all sizes have an opportunity to make a difference, even through small, incremental efforts.

## **EDO Attends MRO Americas 2025**

Kristy Sisler attended MRO Americas 2025 representing Charlotte County, highlighting why our region is the next hub for aerospace growth. With a pro-business climate and unbeatable quality of life, Charlotte County is cleared for takeoff. [NAS MRO](#) announced their intent to open in Enterprise Charlotte Air Park during the show. This major announcement underscores the county's growing reputation as a destination for high-impact industries. From workforce readiness to strategic location, Charlotte County continues to attract top-tier investment in aviation and beyond.





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## EDO ATTENDS ENGLEWOOD CHAMBER BREAKFAST

Kristy Sisler, Business Recruitment Manager, attended the Englewood Chamber of Commerce's "Business before Business" Brew Crew hosted by Freedom Boat Club! Always smooth sailing when you're networking in Charlotte County! Events like these strengthen connections between local leaders and highlight the region's collaborative business spirit. Kristy shared insights on growth opportunities and how the EDO can support local businesses. We're proud to be part of a thriving community where partnerships fuel progress.

## Charlotte Community Foundation Open House

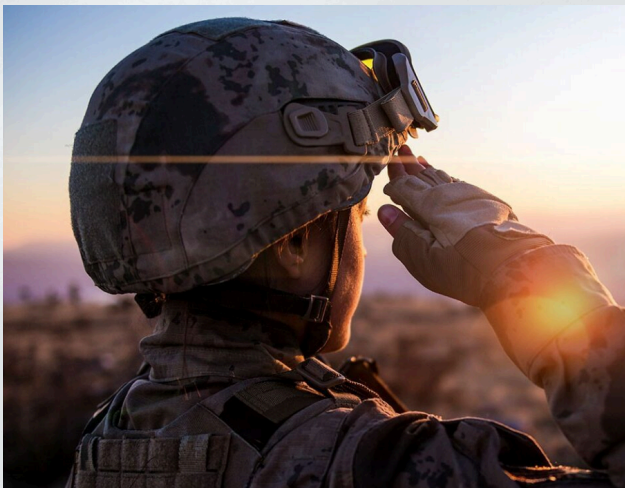
Mark Odell attended the Charlotte Community Foundation Open House on April 24, 2025, where he had the opportunity to connect with other board members, staff, and community leaders. Held at their location on Sullivan Street, the event offered light refreshments and a welcoming atmosphere to learn more about the Foundation's vital work in Charlotte County. Mark enjoyed meaningful conversations about philanthropy, local initiatives, and ways the Economic Development Office can collaborate to support a stronger, more resilient community.



## FUN FACT

### Did you know?

Charlotte County, FL is where veterans thrive—both in life and in their careers. With 20,413 veterans, nearly **double the national average** for a community our size, we're proud to be recognized as a Purple Heart Community. ❤️





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## MOST POPULAR POST OF THE MONTH

In case you're wondering, this is the most clicked on article on [Economic Development's LinkedIn Profile](#).

✍ Florida's Manufacturing Sector Just Added 1,900 Jobs – Again. For the fifth month in a row, Florida is growing its manufacturing base – and Charlotte County is ready to help you grow with it. 🏭

- ✓ Shovel-ready industrial sites
  - ✓ Veteran-strong workforce
  - ✓ Easy access to I-75 and PGD
  - ✓ Lower operating costs
  - ✓ Powerful talent pipeline supported by CCPS
- Looking for the next location to scale your operations? Now's the time to relocate your manufacturing business to Charlotte County.

🔗 Read the full story: <https://lnkd.in/etu-ud8y>

## Virginia B Andes Mobile Clinic Volunteer Community Clinic

Mark Odell stopped by to celebrate ONE YEAR of impact with the [Virginia B. Andes Volunteer Community Clinic Mobile Medical Unit](#)! This mobile clinic has delivered vital healthcare directly to the people who need it most – all across Charlotte County. We're proud to support partners making wellness mobile and accessible.



## New Business Mixer

On April 23rd, the EDO hosted a vibrant Business Mixer, bringing together local entrepreneurs, new business owners, and community leaders for an evening of networking and collaboration. The event fostered meaningful connections and showcased the strong spirit of innovation and growth in Charlotte County. The next new business mixer will be on 7/16/25 from 5 to 7.





# UPCOMING EVENTS. MAY

+ BEYOND

May

6

## *Grow with Google*

9 am to 10:30 Am - In-Person Workshop  
18501 Murdock Circle - #203

May

7

## *Entrepreneur Support Organization*

2- 4 PM held in the Charlotte County EDO at 18501 Murdock Circle #302

May

13

## *"Are you lender ready?"*

SBA Webinar - Part 1 of a 4 part series exploring business funding readiness

May

14-16

## *FEDC Annual Conference*

FEDC Annual Conference will be held at Sunseeker Resort in Punta Gorda.

June

4

## *"Are you lender ready?"*

SBA Event. An in person event. Part 2 of a 4-part series exploring business funding readiness