Happy New Year!

On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, we wish everyone a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year! We are a very blessed and strong organization due to you…our valued membership. Your continued support, engagement, and involvement is what builds our family-like atmosphere! I consistently receive feedback from our members (new and existing) how comfortable and welcomed they feel based on their experience. This is just another aspect of what sets us apart as the premier chamber in the region, as we celebrate our 97th year representing the business community of Charlotte County and beyond.

Our focus this coming year is to become more innovative, strategic, and ultimately providing the utmost value to you, our member. We are coming out of the gates full speed ahead and January has something for everyone. We’d like to see you as much as possible, as your schedule allows.

Right around the corner, we will be hosting our 12th Annual Business Expo on Thursday, February 2, 2023 at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center…commonly known as “The Hottest Business Day in Paradise”. This event is free and open to the public. The Expo will be from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. If you haven’t reserved your booth and/or sponsorship yet, now is the time to put an even brighter spotlight to market and promote your business to 800-1000 attendees. To register, visit charlottecountychamber.org or call the chamber office.

All attendees will have the opportunity to meet and greet over 90 local businesses and get a first-hand experience to see all the exhibitors’ products and services. Each attendee will be given a passport to be signed by the exhibitors to enter for a Grand Prize drawing! This is going to be a fun and productive free community event. Please put this on your calendar and bring all your family and friends to see Charlotte County’s best.


Happy New Year!

Bob White
Executive Director
YOUR 2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:
Steve Lineberry, Premier Photographic Events

President Elect:
Nicholas Worden, Charlotte State Bank & Trust

VP Leadership Charlotte:
Kelsey J. Veitengruber, Farr Law Firm

VP Membership Services:
Edie Long, Integrity Employee Leasing

Treasurer:
Toby Lynn, The Mortgage Firm

Directors:
Rosa Benghtt, Granny Nannies Home Health Agency
Melissa Bergey, Gator Wilderness Camp School
Cristin Beverly, Realtors of Punta Gorda, Port Charlotte, North Port, DeSoto, Inc.
Hector Flores, Charlotte County Administration
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Kevin Graham, Suncoast One Title & Closings
John LeClair, Charlotte County Public Schools
Mike Martin, State Farm Insurance
Kaley Miller, Charlotte County Airport Authority-Punta Gorda Airport
Glen Nickerson, The Daily Sun
David Oliver, Oliver Law Firm
Lucienne Pear, Kitson & Partners Babcock Ranch
Melissa Reichert, City of Punta Gorda Administration

2022-2023 SUSTAINING PARTNERS

PLATINUM
Adjuster Groups
Lesley Barton Coldwell Banker Sunstar Realty
Buffalo Graffix*
Chapman Insurance Group
Charlotte County Ford
Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center
GJC Window & Door
Integrity Employee Leasing, Inc.
The Daily Sun
Suncoast One Title & Closings, Inc.
Waste Management Charlotte County

DIAMOND
Ashley, Brown & Smith, CPAs
Charlotte State Bank & Trust
Decker Plumbing & Drains, LLC
Elite Inspections & Pest Solutions
Farr Law Firm
The Nix Team at Coldwell Banker Sunstar Realty
The Purple House Salon by Shawn Gilstad
Tommy’s Express Car Wash
WhitCo Insurance - Alexia Martin Agency

EMERALD
Centennial Bank
Friendly Floors
Granny Nannies Home Health Agency
Nolan Family Insurance Agency
Panther Hollow Dental Lodge
Port Charlotte Florist
Sandhill Healing Center, Inc.
South Port Square
St. Andrews South Golf Club
State Farm Insurance - Mike Martin Agency
Wotitzky, Wotitzky, Ross & Young PA, Attorneys at Law

*Charter Sustaining Partner (no years missed)

President's Note

Steve Lineberry

Joining the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce Adds Value

This past year has been a year of transition for the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce. New staff, new board members, and leadership have added great success to our Chamber in terms of record new membership and programs. We are looking to continue this growth as a Chamber; and we plan to help our member’s businesses grow, with new programs, and new ideas while keeping our “tried and true” networking events.

Each year the President of the Chamber Board selects a theme for the year. Last Year’s theme was #OurFutureIsNow. From the year of the Covid Pandemic to the transition in staff and leadership, we felt that if the Chamber was going to succeed, it must act quickly. It worked. We achieved a record number of new members and increased the retention rate of our current members.

The new theme for the 2023 year is “Membership Adds Value.” When a business joins the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce, it is joining a group of successful business owners and leaders who understand that a Charlotte County Chamber membership adds value to its business. Where else can a business owner spend so little, in membership fees, and receive so much value? What three values can you, a business owner, expect when becoming a Charlotte County Chamber member?

Value with Networking Opportunities; Attending as many networking events as possible will add value. At a Ribbon Cutting, a 3rd Wednesday Coffee, or a Business Card Exchange, you will meet a fellow Chamber member and solidify a business relationship that can mean continued business for years to come!

Value with Marketing Opportunities. Our Chamber provides advertising opportunities on our website. We publish weekly and monthly newsletters sent to over 4,000 businesses. We maintain social media pages and distribute publications, such as our Community Guide, filled with Charlotte County information and an alphabetical listing of each Chamber member's contact information. Thousands are distributed yearly.

Value with Directories: Access to the chamber's membership directory helps our Chamber member's business owners locate other businesses that offer the product or service they need. Members can also get access to email lists to broaden their customer base, whether B2B or B2C.

For more information on how a Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce membership can add value to your business, contact Bob White, Executive Director, or Jami Joannes, Business Development Director at 941.627.2222 or www.charlottecountychamber.org.

Stephen Lineberry is the 2022/2023 board president of the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce. He is the owner of Premier Photographic Events, LLC.
Email: president@charlottecountychamber.org
Leadership Charlotte Class of 2023 will be working diligently in 4 different ways to raise money to help our Charlotte County Community. Some of our top leaders in our area are working in unison to give a helping hand to those who need it. We are kicking off the campaign by raffling a Yeti Tundra Cooler filled with top shelf liquor. Patron, Grey Goose, Dewars, Balvenie, 1800, Flora de Cana, Veuve just to name a few. Tickets go on Sale January 5th Contact Jami Joannes at the Charlotte County Chamber to purchase your tickets (941) 627-2222 or email me at JJoannes@CharlotteCountyChamber.org. The leadership class will be hosting many different events in 2023 including a large gala in early summer.

Watch for our upcoming events on social media, email and on the Charlotte County Chamber website. Please join us in helping Charlotte County regain its strength once again.

It’s a privilege to announce the Leadership Charlotte Class of 2023:
Rae Ann Antonucci, Gulfshore Medical Services; Lisa Baird, self-employed; Tonya Blair, The Nix Team Coldwell Banker Sunstar; Tiernan Cole, Charlotte County Assistant County Attorney; Morgan Cook, Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners; Derrick DeHays, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management; Michelle DiBerardino, Charlotte County Clerk of Circuit Court & County Comptroller; Kerri Duffey, Peace River Team at Morgan Stanley; Derick Duston, Charlotte Behavioral Health Care; Melissa Dunston, Panther Hollow Dental Lodge; Jennifer Huber, Florida Power & Light Company; Amy Huddleston, Charlotte Community Foundation; Warren Jarvis, The Daily Sun; Jami Joannes, Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce; Michelle Maldonado, Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center; Cindy Marsh-Tichy, Coldwell Banker Sunstar; Tanya Marshall, American Imaging of SWFL; Forrest Miller, Kuhns Law Firm; Kris Proudfoot, Centennial Bank; Beth Sargent, Premier Sotheby’s International Realty; Gemma Schafer, Gemma Schafer Photography; Ashley Turner, Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners; Stephen VerVaeecke, Morris-Depew Associates; Caitlyn Waksler, Oliver Law. The class will be under the leadership of Cheyenne Young, Wotitzky, Wotitzky, Ross & Young (Class Chair) and Wendy Atkinson, Nolan Family Insurance (Class Vice-Chair).

The Leadership Charlotte Class of 2023 will gain an amazing one-of-a-kind education on how Charlotte County operates and meet the incredible people who make that happen. Additionally, lifelong friendship and business connection will be made. Congratulations to all!
Junior Leadership Charlotte Class of 2022-2023 Announced


After the initial orientation and team building day, Melissa Bergey, chair of JLC said "this is a great group of students, I look forward to working with them through the next several months of the program."

In January the class will take part in "Government/Justice Day."

Chamber Community Connection

Happy New Year! We are thankful for the opportunity the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce provides to share information with the business community. The city also publishes several resources to provide information as well. The city website is a comprehensive resource with information regarding every city department. Access this robust tool at www.cityofpuntagordfl.com. The search box at the top of the website allows for easy information accessibility. The city also publishes a local printed guide to City of Punta Gorda services entitled Welcome to Punta Gorda Life. Residents can find the brochure at local businesses, City Hall, the Punta Gorda Airport, and by request by calling (941) 575-3394. Finally, Punta Gorda Developments is a quarterly newsletter update of commercial and multifamily developments. If you would like to receive these updates, call the City Manager's Office and provide your email to one of our staff members.

As a consistent source of information about the city, the City Manager's Office each Friday creates and publishes a Weekly Highlights Report. This report conveys significant interest items or projects underway by the city departments and items of interest throughout the preceding week. To receive the information, sign up for Enotifications at https://bit.ly/3gZnDHB. In addition, the Action Register lists ongoing tasks or projects, with target dates for completion and comments that provide a progress report. It is published on the city website every Thursday. Additionally, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram frequently share information and pictures that capture the beauty of Punta Gorda.

If you prefer to communicate via text, the City of Punta Gorda also has this capability. The service is called Text My Gov, and it uses a mobile phone's regular text messaging service to quickly find links, documents, or text that answer their questions. No app download is needed. It allows our residents and visitors to report code violations or report issues with city infrastructure twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. A picture can also be submitted when reporting a problem or violation, and the service sends the information immediately to city staff to resolve the issue. To use the service, text "hi" to (941) 347-0747. In addition, answers to common questions are available 24/7 through website searches and preprogrammed responses. Don't have an immediate answer? The question will go to a designated mailbox to ensure you get a timely response.

Finally, don't forget that emergency notifications are also available. If you haven't signed up already for emergency notifications, I encourage you to take advantage of this free service, Alert Punta Gorda. The service provides emergency and weather information to those who have registered. To sign up, visit https://bit.ly/2U9HYOm.
Happy New Year from our entire Charlotte County team! I’m incredibly proud of all of our county staff, and the dedication to public service & resiliency they displayed in 2022. We’re looking ahead to 2023 as a year of challenges. Our approach will be to strategically turn those challenges into opportunities.

The County Commission will begin 2023 with a review of its Strategic Focus Areas — infrastructure, economic and community development, public service and efficient and effective Government. We have departments and focus groups working on how our action plans will be impacted by various scenarios such as accelerated population growth, extended period of inflation, a recession and recovery from Hurricane Ian. The commissioners will then develop goals and provide direction to Administration & staff to develop specific initiatives aimed at meeting those goals.

Ongoing recovery from Hurricane Ian will be among the county’s biggest challenges. The county suffered significant damage to numerous facilities, some of which may need to be torn down and replaced, others that will require extensive repairs and be out of service for many months. The county will continue to work with state and federal agencies and local and regional non-profit partners to address the housing, nutrition and recovery needs of thousands of residents, especially the hundreds who have been displaced by Hurricane Ian.

We will continue to make progress on sales tax projects, including the completion of design development on the Placida West Boat Ramp expansion, which will add approximately 158 boat trailer parking spaces and six launch lanes to the county’s most popular boat ramp. Design work is ongoing on the Edgewater Corridor that will ultimately create an alternative route from South County to West County to relieve congestion on U.S. 41, while also serving the transportation needs of the neighborhoods along the corridor. We will build on the county’s water quality monitoring program through our One Charlotte, One Water plan. The plan will identify water quality issues, expand testing, analyze results and develop programs to remediate impacted waterways.

Recovery and re-building stronger, continuing to deliver exceptional services, and improving the overall quality of life for our residents, businesses, and visitors are the challenges and opportunities we are ready to take on.

We are extremely lucky to have dedicated leaders and community members like you. A significant amount of the work we do wouldn’t be possible without the cooperation and support from our area businesses and we truly never take that for granted. Continuing to develop and nurture stronger community partnerships is one of the many goals I have as we embrace the new year.

Another goal for this year is to focus on our recruiting efforts. The agency is always seeking highly qualified individuals to elevate the service we provide to the community. Whether it’s Road Patrol conducting business checks, crime prevention efforts, or our Economic Crimes Unit investigating reports of fraud, these members, civilian or certified, directly impact you and your business.

My hope is that 2023 will be nothing short of prosperous. I pledge to you that every interaction with CCSO will be infused with integrity and professionalism to earn your trust. I look forward to continuing our collaboration to keep Charlotte County safe and the best place to live, work, and play.

Stay safe, Stay Strong, and Never Quit.
Sheriff Bill Prummell
Tourism finished up Fiscal Year 2022 (which ended on September 30) on a high note with Tourist Development Tax (TDT) collections exceeding $7 million for the first time ever. FY 2022 TDT, which came in just over $7.7 million for the fiscal year represents a 27.8% increase from last year. In addition, our visitor tracking research also revealed positive results in the following key performance indicators:

- # of visitors: 972,100 (12.6% increase)
- Total economic impact: $1,043,865,100 (23.6% increase)
- Jobs supported: 13,226
- Wages & salaries generated: $330,617,700
- Annual tax savings per average household: $1,083
- Visitors average length of stay: 7.5 nights

97% of visitors were satisfied or very satisfied with their stay with 91% definitely planning to return.

In the wake of Hurricane Ian, our local tourism industry has proven to be extremely resilient. According to data obtained through its outreach the Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor & Convention Bureau (VCB) has determined at last count that approximately 85% of restaurants are re-opened and 80% of attractions/things to do are back up and running. The lodging sector has had more significant challenges with at least 10 hotels, which represent about a half of Charlotte County’s hotel/motel inventory, and an undetermined number of vacation home rentals still out of commission. The good news is that repairs and renovations are in the works and most properties expect to be operational again by early 2023. Similarly, construction on Sunseeker Resort is back on track and it’s expected that both the resort and golf course will be open and available to guests by Fall of 2023.

While it was appropriate to halt all marketing and sales efforts immediately following the hurricane, due to the industry's resilience, the VCB was able to jump back into the marketplace, first with social media in late October and followed that in mid-November by resuming our paid advertising plan as well as our leisure, sports and meetings sales efforts. The VCB was even able to welcome a golf travel journalist in late November who had originally planned his trip here for early October. The golf writer not only had the opportunity to play three of Charlotte County’s best courses, but also had the chance to experience our culinary scene as well as overnight lodging at one of our top hotels. We look forward to the positive coverage expected to be generated from hosting this journalist and are excited to get back on track to welcoming many more travel media to the destination in the coming months.

Superintendent Dionisio Announces Retirement

After over 25 years working at Charlotte County Public Schools, Superintendent Dionisio has announced that he will retire at the end of this school year. The Charlotte County School Board has signed a contract with the Florida School Board Association to assist with the search. The first meeting to discuss the qualifications for the next Superintendent and a timeline for the search will take place on January 10. The search process will include opportunities for community input.

Please read below for a message from Superintendent Dionisio.

I never thought when I arrived in Charlotte County in 1979 as a 6th grader at Neil Armstrong Elementary School that I would spend the majority of my life connected to Charlotte County Public Schools. Seven years as a student. Nine years as a teacher. 16 years as a school-based leader. And now, eight years as the Superintendent. 40 of my 55 years alive have been connected to Charlotte County Schools. It is all I know, and I am so grateful to this community for entrusting me with their children.
Nevertheless, all things come to an end. I am officially announcing I will be retiring this school year from Charlotte County Schools. I have informed the School Board I will stay on as long as they need me to this school year in order to find my replacement.

We have accomplished so many things in Charlotte County Schools, none of which would have been possible without the incredible team I have been fortunate enough to work with. We have battled budget crises, referendums, standards changing, pandemics and hurricanes together. I have said many times, there is no community I would choose to go through difficult times with other than Charlotte County.

There are so many things I will miss from my time at CCPS but I will list a few. The moment I knew as a teacher that the student understood, standing on the sideline of a Friday night football game, holiday band concerts, going into every teacher’s classroom in the district and most importantly, graduations. The memories created during those moments will be with me for the rest of my life, thank you.

There are so many people to thank for any success I have had during my time in Charlotte County. First, and most importantly, my wife Tina who has had to endure all of the early mornings and the late-night, weekend and vacation time calls as well as being my rock through many stressful times. Also, my children, Nick and Haley who had to share me with many other kids during my time at Port Charlotte High as well as my time as Superintendent. In addition, my extended family who have always been supportive. I could not have done this for so many years without my entire family, thank you.

To the two teachers that inspired me to become a teacher, Debbie Morrow and Mary Jo Holleran, thank you, I will be forever grateful to you both.

To the mentors that believed in me enough to give me my first chance, Lou Long Sr., Rene Desjardins, Dave Gayler and Doug Whittaker, thank you.

To all of the assistants that have kept me out of trouble and focused through my time as a leader, Marcia Doeble, Lori Revelas, Rosanne Davis, Debbie Capo, Cindy Weant, Ellie Serra, Laura McCarthy, and Theresa Dow, thank you.

To all of the coworkers I have been fortunate enough to work with including but not limited to leaders like Gary Bernardo, Lou Long, Dan Jeffers and Barney Duffy; teachers like Jose Lopez, Lisa Branno, and Barb Vida; and support staff members like Dennis Neff, Cheryl Slattery, and Pete Tuttle, thank you.

To all of the current and past principals, assistant principals and district leadership team members I was fortunate enough to work with, thank you.

To all of the members of my Superintendent Staff including April Prestipino, Chris Bress, Jerry Olivo, Chuck Breiner, Patrick Keegan, Cheryl Edwards, Mike Desjardins, Greg Griner, Carl Hendrick, Jeff Harvey, and Mike Riley, thank you for everything you did to help make us great.

To the school board that hired me, Alleen Miller, Barbara Rendell, Bob Segur, Lee Swift and Ian Vincent and the school board that currently serves, Wendy Atkinson, Kim Amontree, John Leclair, Cara Reynolds, and Bob Segur, thank you for your support.

To all of the students, including the 10,740 hands of graduates I had the privilege of shaking at graduations either as the principal of Port Charlotte High or as Superintendent, and all of the current students enrolled in our schools, thank you, you are the reason I come back every day.

And finally, to the entire Charlotte County community for always having faith in me to take care of your children, thank you. Please know it has been an incredible honor to serve as a Teacher, Dean of Students, Assistant Principal, Principal, Assistant Superintendent, and finally your Superintendent in Charlotte County.

Charlotte County will always be in my heart and will always be my home. I will miss you all.

Sincerely,

Steve
We wrapped up another exciting year at Punta Gorda Airport, with our passenger count surpassing 1.8 million and more good news about the airport’s economic impact. The Florida Department of Transportation’s (FDOT) new Statewide Aviation Economic Impact Study valued Punta Gorda Airport’s (PGD) total economic impact (output) at $1.7 billion, up from $1.275 billion in its 2019 report.

In the past year, the Charlotte County Airport Authority (CCAA) opened the PGD Air Center, its new 13,500-square-foot general aviation facility on Challenger Boulevard, just east of the 600-series T-Hangars in the PGD AviEx development area. The PGD Air Center houses FBO operations, aircraft fueling, meeting and event space, pilot lounge and amenities, office suites and aircraft parking on a 510,000-square-foot ramp. We can all look forward to the opening of Rosati’s Pizza at this location (planned for mid-2023).

In partnership with Charlotte Technical College, CCAA received a $3 million Department of Economic Opportunity grant to build a larger Aviation Maintenance Technician School to meet the growing demand for FAA-certified A&P mechanics. This project entered the design phase at the end of 2022.

Driven by the continued growth, we designed new T-Hangars and commercial hangars that will be constructed in 2023. CCAA also completed a Terminal Planning Study in anticipation of expanding the Bailey Terminal.

We also recently completed the FAA-funded rehabilitation of Runway 4-22, which is set to reopen as the primary commercial runway in mid-January 2023. In an effort to help local residents understand the routes of airliners taking off and landing on each runway, we ask you to check out www.FlyPGD.com/buzz for more info and flight corridor maps.

What a difference a Category 4 hurricane can have on Economic Development. Always known for our chamber of commerce qualities like charm, weather, beautiful beaches, low crime and an outstanding quality of life, now most of the country sees Charlotte County as that place devastated by Ian. Well some of that is true, but we are coming back stronger than ever as commercial and industrial properties are at a premium as existing, relocating and new businesses scramble to find available space.

With the help of CareerSource Florida and the Chamber, we have established an outreach center to contact our area businesses and provide vital information on where help is available. The center has contacted well over 2,500 businesses that have reported an estimated $250 million in damages with almost 700 laid off employees and over 80 businesses unable to reopen. Information about business recovery webinars, business recovery guides, disaster loans and FEMA assistance can be found on our website, www.cleared4takeoff.com.

As devastating as Ian was, opportunity abounds. Our office is working with the Charlotte Community Foundation to pursue Federal (and State) grants created to help areas hit with a disaster recover. We have a number of big ideas to create jobs and economic revival that are being incorporated into various grant requests for consideration. Keep your fingers crossed; we may have some interesting news to share as our applications move forward.

Finally, congratulations to Charlotte Technical College for obtaining their Powerplant certification to complete the training requirement for the students enrolled in the Aviation Airframe and Powerplant Mechanics Certification School. With the continued success of this program, CTC is working with the Punta Gorda Airport Authority on expanding their campus.
Chamber Community Connection

Babcock Ranch is celebrating a year of record growth, expansion and innovation. With 2022 sales surpassing 900, the solar-powered town starts off the new year at number 10 on the RCLCO Real Estate Advisors listing of the country’s top-selling master planned communities.

Construction activity continues to accelerate to meet demand with new homes, neighborhoods, amenities and roads introducing the next phase of the town’s development known as Midtown. The new year will also bring new commercial and public service facilities in the central business district and with Crescent B Commons, the Publix-anchored shopping center at Babcock Ranch, already fully leased, work on a second commercial development across Cypress Parkway will soon be underway.

The new Babcock High School and neighboring Field House that opened last fall provide space for numerous sports and community functions, as well as gathering space for the rapidly growing business community. In addition to BIZ@BR programs, a collaboration between BIZ@BR and SCORE will bring “speed mentoring” opportunities for small business owners. The first small business help desk program is set for January 21. A new date for the inaugural tech-startup challenge weekend has also been set. “Techxpedition” – postponed by Hurricane Ian – will be held at Babcock High School April 14-16. Find out how you can get involved at www.babcockranchforbusiness.com/techxpedition.

The Punta Gorda Police Department is a full service police department serving the City of Punta Gorda. The police department is responsible for providing law enforcement services within the 32 square miles making up the city limits and serving the approximately 20,400 residents of Punta Gorda. The police department is made up of 41 sworn personnel, 19 professional staff members, 2 reserve officers, and more than 70 volunteers.

The police department is divided into two divisions. The Operations Division encompasses all sections directly responsible for police operations including the Uniformed Patrol Section, Criminal Investigations Section, and the Community Services Section. The Support Services Division encompasses all support related sections including the Communications Section, Administrative Services Section, and the Evidence, Property, and Crime Scene Section.

The Punta Gorda Police Department is thankful to share a collaborative partnership with our community. We strive to earn and keep the trust of our community by practicing procedural justice with fair and impartial policing. We recognize the ever-changing role of law enforcement in our community and work hard to meet the needs of those we serve. We firmly believe in our organizational values: Integrity, Excellence, Fairness and Impartiality, Respect, and Teamwork. It is these values which guide us in our service to our community.
Building Firm Foundations

I was about 8 years old when my father started taking me to jobsites, where he owns a site work/concrete company. I will always remember the smell of his truck, the big powerful machines and the dream of wanting to be in the building industry. I left college after receiving a degree in residential construction to build water/wastewater treatment plants for 6 years until an invite from a friend prompted me to follow my true calling. I moved to Southwest Florida in 2015 and started to build my passion while marrying my wife Araya and becoming a father to my daughter Leyna Grace.

Attending my first Charlotte DeSoto Building Industry meeting helped me lay the groundwork for my business and my path to becoming the 2023 CDBIA President. And our focus this year will be on building firm foundations.

In December the leaders of the CDBIA got together to find our goals for 2023.

Focus on Family
The building industry has been going through some of its roughest times. Building supplies at a premium and the demand for new construction and remodeling is at its peak, compiled with a need for workers. Natural disasters such as tornadoses and hurricanes hitting our paradise has made it harder to take care of each customer as fast as we all would like. It’s frustrating but we must learn to focus on what matters most- our families and our CDBIA family. We will be looking into having more family outings and share the message of working within normal business hours. We will support our members; our industry and we will continue to be stronger as we protect our community.

Rebuild
Hurricane Ian has taken a toll on our community, and we will continue to work hard fighting solutions to additional housing, while fixing damage to commercial and residential clients. It took years when Hurricane Charley hit in 2004 to repair homes. The number one priority will be to ensure homeowners hire licensed contractors, so they don’t have to go through a second disaster.

Education
Hiring a contractor can be tricky. Making sure they have the proper licenses can be overwhelming for any homeowner. We will hope to find more ways to help educate the community and know we are here to help them through this tough time.

Workforce
Through partnerships with Charlotte County Public Schools, we have been able to build our workforce and we will continue to do so. We will find more partnerships to find more people willing to work hard for a lucrative career in construction.

Membership
This ties in with our #1 focus of building our family. The CDBIA has grown to be the fourth largest builders association in the state of Florida. Our strength gives us a stronger voice and we will not stop until we are able to help build the American dream of homeownership for every person who wants a home.

We hope you will learn more about the CDBIA. You are welcome to visit www.cdbia.com or give us a call at 941-625-0804.

Adam Riley is the President of the Charlotte DeSoto Building Industry Association and President of LTD Contracting and can be reached at 239-400-3318 or email adam@ltdcontracting.com
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http://www.charlottecountyimaginationlibrary.org

Cruisin’ Tikis Charlotte Harbor
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http://www.cruisintikischarlotteharbor.com

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Carla Benefield
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Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Phone: 941-563-9070
William Nieland
cochranups@gmail.com

Florida Senior Consulting
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Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202
Phone: 941-626-6762
Stephen Hill
shill@floridaseniorconsulting.com
http://floridaseniorconsulting.com

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Pinellas Park, FL 33781
Phone: 727-531-1477
Joseph Henschen
branch1477@tampabay.rr.com

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Punta Gorda, FL 33983
Phone: 941-208-0007
Matthew LaPlume
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http://suncoastdronepix.com

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Steven Qualls
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http://tntautorepairportcharlotte.com

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Trey & Sydney Friddle
AmericaFirstHomeWash@gmail.com

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Barbara Rodriguez
barbara@stellaradjusting.com
http://www.stellaradjusting.com
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Venice, FL 34285
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Beth Sargent – Premier Sotheby’s International Realty
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Gibran Khan
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http://mathnasium.com/portcharlotte

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https://business.comcast.com/

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Katie Koher
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http://GJCWindows.com

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Port Charlotte, FL 33953
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Richard Lees
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http://www.cmmroofing.com

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http://www.hodges.edu
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Jonathan Alden
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http://www.succentrix.com

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Captain Greg Schiegner
Charterdestinations@yahoo.com

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**Jessica Coffee**
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Jessica Coffee
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Port Charlotte, FL 33948
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http://www.alz.org

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Roberta Cote
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www.mysalonsuite.com/portcharlotte/

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http://www.industrialsafetyllc.net

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Placida, FL 33946
Phone: 941-777-3247
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http://www.InvestigatorOnCall.com
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Phone: 888-830-2772
Michael Vitale
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http://www.hunterdavisgroup.com

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http://gulfcoastdream.com
2023 12TH ANNUAL BUSINESS EXPO

Thursday, February 2, 2023
Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center

PLATINUM TITLE
EXCLUSIVE - ONLY ONE AVAILABLE PER INDUSTRY

Platinum Sponsor Benefits Include:
- TWO Booths in a prominent location
- Discounts on Supporting Sponsorship Opportunities and additional Booths
- Special Lanyard
- All Exhibitor Benefits
- Ad on the Event Map (size TBD)
- 10 Complimentary After-Hours Party Tickets
- 4 Entries to the Pre-Event KICK-OFF & WORKSHOP
- Spreadsheet of contact information of Event participants
- 3’ x 8’ Event Sponsor Banner
- Logo or company name prominently Event Marketing Materials including but not limited to:
  - Event Website, Chamber Blog, Social Media, Posters, Banners, Handouts, Chamber and Event Publications, Newspaper Ads & Radio Promotions

Three Available $2,700

SILVER ASSOCIATE

Silver Sponsor Benefits Include:
- One Booth in a prominent location
- Discounts on Supporting Sponsorship Opportunities and additional Booths
- All Exhibitor Benefits
- Ad on the Event Map (size TBD)
- 6 Complimentary After-Hours Party Tickets
- 2 Entries to the Pre-Event KICK-OFF & WORKSHOP
- Spreadsheet of contact information of Event participants
- 2’ x 6’ Event Sponsor Banner
- Logo or company name prominently Event Marketing Materials including but not limited to:
  - Event Website, Chamber Blog, Social Media, Posters, Banners, Handouts, Chamber and Event Publications, Newspaper Ads & Radio Promotions

Five Available $1,100

GOLD PRESENTING

Gold Sponsor Benefits Include:
- One Booth in a prominent location
- Discounts on Supporting Sponsorship Opportunities and additional Booths
- All Exhibitor Benefits
- Ad on the Event Map (size TBD)
- 8 Complimentary After-Hours Party Tickets
- 2 Entries to the Pre-Event KICK-OFF & WORKSHOP
- Spreadsheet of contact information of Event participants
- 3’ x 6’ Event Sponsor Banner
- Logo or company name prominently Event Marketing Materials including but not limited to:
  - Event Website, Chamber Blog, Social Media, Posters, Banners, Handouts, Chamber and Event Publications, Newspaper Ads & Radio Promotions

Five Available $1,700

BRONZE PARTICIPATING

Bronze Sponsor Benefits Include:
- One Booth in a prominent location
- Discounts on Supporting Sponsorship Opportunities and additional Booths
- All Exhibitor Benefits
- 4 Complimentary After-Hours Party Tickets
- 2’ x 4’ Event Sponsor Banner
- Logo or company name prominently Event Marketing Materials including but not limited to:
  - Event Website, Chamber Blog, Social Media, Posters, Banners, Handouts, Chamber and Event Publications, Newspaper Ads & Radio Promotions

Ten Available $700

Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce Business Expo 2023
For more information visit CharlotteCountyChamber.org

All Recommended Health and Safety Guidelines WILL be Followed.
**PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT**

**Business Name**

Contact Person

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip

Phone __________ Phone Alt. __________

Email

Website

*All participants must be or become Charlotte County Chamber Members*

**AGREEMENT SUMMARY**

☐ Sponsorship Including Booth(s) $______________
   (See Reversed Side)

☐ Single Booth Exhibitor $______________
   $395

☐ Single Non-Member Booth $______________
   $745 (Includes New One-Year Chamber Membership)

☐ Additional Booths @ 25% discount
   $______________

Total Investment $______________

**INVOICING INFORMATION**

☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ DISC ☐ AMEX

Full Name on Card __________________________

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Billing Address __________________________

Billing Zip Code __________ Expiration Date __________

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☐ Check Attached ☐ Invoice in Full

**NOTE:** Booth Placements for exhibitors are assigned on a first come, first served basis. They however, are not assigned until Sponsor Booth placements have been finalized. All sponsors and exhibitors must be paid in full to receive a booth assignment.

---

**Steve Lineberry, Premier Photographic Events, Board President, Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce**

I understand detailed EXPO Exhibitor information will be coming soon for the 12th Annual Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce Business EXPO.

Signed __________________________ Print __________________________ Date __________
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