

Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce

BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE

On the web: charlottecountychamber.org

At our office: 2702 Tamiami Trail Port Charlotte, FL 33952

Or Call: 941-627-2222

ST QTR 202

Happy New Year

As we bid farewell to 2023 and welcome the promising dawn of 2024, I wanted to take a moment to extend my warmest wishes to each and every one of you. The past year has been a journey filled with numerous challenges and triumphs, and as we stand on the threshold of a new year, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude for the unwavering support and dedication of our incredible chamber membership family.

Together, we have weathered storms, celebrated victories, and grown stronger as a collective force. As we embrace the opportunities that the new year brings, let us carry forward the spirit of unity, resilience, and compassion that defines our community. Let us continue to uplift and inspire one another, and work hand in hand to create a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

In the coming year, the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce has an exciting array of initiatives, events, and opportunities planned, all of which are tailored to empower and enrich our members. I am eager to witness the remarkable achievements that each of you will undoubtedly accomplish in the days and months ahead.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, I wish you and your loved ones a joyous, prosperous, and fulfilling New Year. May 2024 be a year of boundless possibilities, personal growth, and collective success.

Here's to a spectacular year ahead!



Bob

Bob White Executive Director

Coming Up

Networking at Noon Wednesday, January 10 at Noon IHOP Port Charlotte

1789 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte RESERVATION REQUIRED - Cost is \$20pp.

Third Wednesday Coffee

Wednesday, January 17, 7:45 a.m.–9:00 a.m. Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center 75 Taylor St., Punta Gorda.

Sponsor: CeJay Websites & Photography Program: Cultural Center of Charlotte County

Business Card Exchange

Thursday, January 25, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Lake Michigan Credit Union

2120 Kings Highway, Port Charlotte

Kindly RSVP in the MIC

Decades Music Trivia at The Twisted Fork

Thursday, January 25, 6:30 p.m.-7:30p.m.
Open to the public (in the Green Room).
Cost \$20pp
Register in the Member Portal

13th Annual Business Expo
Thursday, February 8, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
There are only a few booths left
Sign up now for this all day event.

Resources:

cleared4takeoff.com
Charlotte Cnty. Economic Development Office

https://frla.org/covid-19/ Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association

http://www.frf.org/index.php/news/covid-19 Florida Retail Federation

> http://www.floridajobs.org Reemployment Assistance

Contact us by email:

bwhite@charlottecountychamber.org jjoannes@charlottecountychamber.org askus@charlottecountychamber.org president@charlottecountychamber.org

Visit us on the web: charlottecountychamber.org

YOUR 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

Nick Worden, Crews Bank & Trust

President Elect:

Kevin Graham, Suncoast One Title & Closings, Inc.

VP Leadership Charlotte:

Kelsey J. Veitengruber, Farr Law Firm

VP Membership Services:

Cristin Beverley, Realtors of Punta Gorda-Port Charlotte-

North Port-DeSoto, Inc.

Treasurer:

Teresa Da Costa, Ashley, Brown & Smith, CPAs

Secretary:

Jessica Rhea, Florida Gulf Coast University

Directors:

Rosa Benghtt, Granny Nannies Home Health Agency

Jessica Cline, Pool Boy, Inc.

James Coalwell, Crews Bank & Trust

Michael Ehrat, HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital

Hector Flores, Charlotte County Administration

Dave Gammon, Charlotte County Economic Dev. Office

John LeClair, Charlotte County Public Schools

Mike Martin, State Farm Insurance

Angie Matthiessen, United Way of Charlotte County

Jill McCrory, McCrory Law Firm

Kaley Miller, Punta Gorda Airport

Glen Nickerson, The Daily Sun

Kris Proudfoot, Crews Bank & Trust

Melissa Reichert, City of Punta Gorda Administration

2023-2024 SUSTAINING PARTNERS

PI ATTNUM+

Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center ShorePoint Health Port Charlotte & Punta Gorda Suncoast One Title & Closings, Inc.

PLATINUM

Ashley, Brown & Smith, CPAs, PA

Buffalo Graffix*

Chapman Insurance Group

Crews Bank & Trust

GJC Window & Door

Integrity Employee Leasing, Inc.

McCrory Law Firm

The Daily Sun

Waste Management Charlotte County

DIAMOND

Adjuster Groups, LLC

Elite Inspections & Pest Solutions, LLC

Farr Law Firm

Florida Gulf Coast University

Matthew Patterson, Patterson Group Keller Williams

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

Achieva Credit Union

Big Shot Marketing & Design, LLC

Centennial Bank

Charlotte Players, Inc

Four Points by Sheraton Punta Gorda Harborside

Granny Nannies Home Health Agency

Panther Hollow Dental Lodge

Port Charlotte Florist St. Andrews South Golf Club

Sandhill Healing Center, Inc.

State Farm Insurance - Mike Martin Agency
Wotitzky, Wotitzky, Ross & Young PA, Attorneys at Law

*Charter Sustaining Partner (no years missed)



President's Note

Nick Worden

Vision for the Coming Year

Dear valued stakeholders,

As we turn the page from 2023 to 2024, I am thrilled to share our vision for the coming year. This January, we embark on a journey of collaboration and innovation, fostering a network that propels us collectively towards success. Our commitment to connecting businesses together is symbolized by the hashtag #ConnectingBusinessesTogether.

Reflecting on our achievements in 2023, I am confident that the momentum will only intensify. Together, we can overcome challenges, leverage opportunities, and create a thriving ecosystem to foster Business Growth. Let's embrace the spirit of collaboration, turning every challenge into an opportunity and every connection into a catalyst for success.

In anticipation of our upcoming Business Expo in February, where industry leaders will converge to explore new possibilities and forge meaningful partnerships, we extend our gratitude for being an integral part of our journey. As this event promises to bring a surge of visitors and opportunities, we foresee an increase in business potential. The Expo serves as a dynamic platform to not only connect and collaborate but also to elevate our collective success by attracting a diverse range of stakeholders. Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to the shared success that lies ahead.

Sincerely,

Nick Worden

President, Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce

Nick Worden is the 2023/2024 board president of the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce. He is the Vice President, Commercial Banker at Crews Bank & Trust Email: president@charlottecountychamber.org

Charlotte County Chamber Corner



Jami Joannes
Director of Business
Development

Join us at our 13th Annual Charlotte County Chamber Business Expo20 13th Annual Charlotte County Chamber Business Expo202424

- February 8, 2024 at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center
- Promote your products and services to 1,000+ local attendees
- · Provide a memorable experience that leaves a lasting impression on potential clients
- Free Social Media & Chamber Website Marketing for the event
- Not a member of the Chamber? See how you can be part of this special event, call the Chamber today at (941) 627-2222 for more info.

Register Today ~ https://business.charlottecountychamber.org/events/details/13th-annual-expo2024-february-8th-3378?calendarMonth=2024-02-01

Plan now to attend "The Hottest Business Day in Paradise."









Chamber Community Connection



Hector Flores
Charlotte County
Administrator

Strategic Plan and Partnerships

Our Board of County Commissioners' Strategic Plan has four Focus Areas: Public Services, Economic & Community Development, Infrastructure, and Efficient & Effective Government. Within the framework of the plan, the commission set bold goals to encourage fresh ideas, identify ripe opportunities, and forge new partnerships. Our dedicated team at the county will continue to implement action plans to make progress and these various goals in the new year.

Reflecting back on the past year and even the most recent years, I want to touch on the incredible partnerships we have with so many groups in our community. The old saying - "It takes a village.." couldn't be more appropriate in our case as we all navigated through a pandemic, natural disasters, and all the challenges that come with the growth and recovery we have seen and I believe will continue to see.

We all have a common goal to make our community better, especially from the business and quality of life perspectives. The services and programs we provide at the county are a piece of the puzzle. We rely on partnerships with the Charlotte County Chamber and the entire business community; with first responders & the medical providers who provide for a safe, healthy community; with non-profit organizations who provide programs we can't provide and also leverage programs we work together on; with the building construction & real estate industry who are at the forefront of our growth & recovery; and with other intergovernmental agencies such as the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, the Charlotte County School Board, the City of Punta Gorda, the Punta Gorda Airport. I am grateful for the support and collaboration the County has with our current partners, look forward to keeping these ties strong and forging new ones as we move forward together.



Melissa Reichert City of Punta Gorda

The City of Punta Gorda wishes you a joyous New Year! We express our gratitude for the valuable platform the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce provides to disseminate information within the business community. The city, too, offers various resources for information sharing.

For consistent city updates, the City Manager's Office publishes a Weekly Highlights Report every Friday, showcasing significant items or ongoing projects. Sign up for E-notifications at https://bit.ly/3gZnDHB. The Action Register, listing ongoing tasks and projects, is published on the city website every Thursday. Social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram regularly share picturesque glimpses of Punta Gorda and essential information. Explore the comprehensive city website at www.cityofpuntagordfl.com, where you can find details about each city department. The search box at the top of the website ensures easy access to information. The city also distributes a printed guide, "Welcome to Punta Gorda Life," available at local businesses, City Hall, Punta Gorda Airport, and by request at (941) 575-3394.

Punta Gorda Developments is a quarterly e-newsletter that updates commercial and multifamily developments within the city limits. To receive these updates, email the City Manager's Office at mreichert@cityofpuntagorda.com. Emergency notifications are also accessible through Alert Punta Gorda. To register for this free service providing emergency and weather information, visit https://bit.ly/2U9HYOm. If you prefer text communication, utilize the City of Punta Gorda's Text My Gov service. Simply text "hi" to (941) 347-0747 to quickly access links, documents, or information. No app download is required. This service operates 24/7, allowing residents and visitors to report code violations or city infrastructure issues. Answers to common questions are available through website searches and preprogrammed responses, ensuring around-the-clock accessibility. Attach a picture when reporting problems for immediate resolution.

As we enter the New Year, we encourage you to stay informed and engaged with the various communication channels the City of Punta Gorda offers. However, nothing beats direct communication, so if you have questions or need information about the City of Punta Gorda, you can reach me directly at (941) 575-3394.



James Parish Punta Gorda Airport

The Punta Gorda Airport team is closing out 2023 with strong performance, and we're setting the stage for new opportunities in 2024. We are projecting more than 1.9 million passengers will have traveled through PGD in 2023, which equates to another record-breaking year for us.

I am pleased to share that Allegiant announced new service to Washington D.C. that will begin in May 2024, and that its newest year-round route to Bangor, Maine began in mid-November. Sun Country has also returned with twice-weekly seasonal service to Minneapolis through mid-April. We hope that our partnership with Sun Country will continue to grow with this route's success, and that the airline will expand its service to additional destinations. As Sunseeker Resort continues to gain nationwide attention, we believe its notoriety will also help us in recruiting new airlines and routes.

I am also pleased to share that Governor DeSantis appointed a new Commissioner to the Charlotte County Airport Authority Board for the District 5 seat. Many fellow Chamber members know Thomas "T.J." Thornberry as an active leader in our business community with a wealth of experience in the construction industry. Thornberry will be welcomed at the next Authority Board Meeting on Jan. 18, 2024.

We have a big year ahead, as we will tackle design of the Bailey Terminal expansion, and continue to make improvements to hangars and facilities throughout airport property. I invite you to stay engaged by following all the latest news at www.FlyPGD.com.



Sheriff Bill Prummell Charlotte County Sheriff's Department

Happy New Year Charlotte County! As we close out 2023, I reflected on this past year, and I am thankful for the continuous support from our community – both the businesses and our residents. Within the last few months, we had about 5,000 people come to Cops and Goblins, and each of those kids (of all ages) enjoyed the festivities thanks to the donations and support from our community and business partners!

We also celebrated our 20th annual Shop with a Cop event at each of our Walmart locations in Charlotte County. Again, due to the generous donations and support from the community, each of the 132 children were filled with excitement. They received a \$200 shopping spree where they got to shop for their family with a CCSO Deputy. Each child was eager with anticipation to see the surprised look on their family's faces when they opened their gifts on Christmas day. I don't know who was more excited – the kids or the Deputies!

These are examples of how blessed we are to live in Charlotte County. I am thankful for the many donations from our community and businesses that have supported our many programs throughout the year that allowed kids of all ages to have a good time throughout the year all while building positive relationships. And as Santa's appointed PrummELLF, I had nothing but positive reports for Santa because our community made me proud!

As we look forward to 2024, I hope we have another fruitful year. These first few months bring our seasonal residents and lots of visitors to our county. We know Charlotte County is the best place to live, work, and play, and our secret is out (I'm still looking for the culprit who told). Like last year, I see our Sheriff's Office working very well with our local businesses as we all strive to have the lowest crime rate in Florida, and together we will make our county safe!

As always, we are here if you need us. Dial 941-639-2101, or in the case of an emergency – 911. I wish you all a safe and prosperous 2024!

Be strong. Be safe. And never quit!



Dave Gammon
Economic
Development Office

As everyone knows by now, Sunseeker Resort had their Grand Opening on December 15th. The resort is everything, and more, than promised. If you haven't enjoyed a stroll along the promenade or dined at any one of the amazing dining experiences, you should. This transformational project has only begun to provide employment opportunities, entrepreneurial opportunities catering to the thousands of tourists coming to our harbor, and an increased tax base to benefit our community.

Across Tamiami Trail from Sunseeker, Whiskey Joe's Bar & Grill will have their groundbreaking ceremony on January 10th. Whiskey Joe's beach and indoor dining experiences provide islandinspired dishes along with amazing waterfront views.

Lastly, the Punta Gorda Airport Park continues to grow. In the last few months, two national developers, HSA and Capital Partners, have each announced new, speculative industrial developments. HSA is planning a 166,000 square foot building on the northside of the park off Piper and Duncan Road, while Capital Partners announced a 139,000 square foot building on the southside of the park by the new FedEx facility. Drive around the Airport Park, especially the Airport Commerce Center on the southeast quadrant, the activity is astonishing.



Sean Doherty Charlotte County Tourism

Tourism finished Fiscal Year 2023 on a high note with September's Tourist Development Tax (TDT) coming in 28.6% higher than September 2022. As a result, Fiscal 2023 closed only 3.3% down compared to the previous year. This was welcomed news as the local lodging industry is still recovering from Hurricane Ian with several properties having been closed at least a portion of the year. Currently, three key hotels are still not operational which accounts for over 250 rooms of Charlotte County's limited lodging inventory. Of course, the loss of this inventory, some of which we expect to be back online soon, has been significantly boosted by the December 15 opening of the long-awaited Sunseeker Resort, which has infused 785 rooms into the market. We look forward to our continued partnership with Sunseeker as we work hand in hand with them to attract both leisure travelers as well as meetings, conventions and other group business.

Also, with the fiscal year coming to a close, we recently received our annual visitor tracking research report which is developed by Downs & St. Germain Research and based on data collected from our actual visitors throughout the year. Some key highlights include:

- 1.986,100 visitors (+1.4% vs. FY 2022)
- 2.\$1,061,050,000 total economic impact (+1.7%)
- 3.1,138,600 room nights (-4%)
- 4.12,900 jobs supported
- 5. Visitor expenditures saved the average household \$1,026 in taxes
- 6.98% were satisfied or very satisfied with their visit; 93% plan to return

In addition to the resilience of demand shown by leisure travelers, our sports travel business has rebounded as various venues came back online throughout the year. Despite having 15 events cancelled in the aftermath of Ian, we were still able to host and/or support over three dozen sporting events which generated nearly \$40 million in economic impact and over 30,000 room nights. Some of the key events hosted include the APP Pickleball Punta Gorda Open, the annual Snowbird Baseball Classic, Destination Athletes Centennial National Swimming Invitational, USA BMX State Qualifier, US Amateur Basketball State Championships and the Florida Sports Foundation Sunshine State Games, just to name a few. Most recently, November saw our destination play host to both Englewood Beach Waterfest and the Florida International Air Show, each of which generated over \$5 million in total economic impact for our community. We expect to keep the momentum going as 2024 kicks off with a busy January where Charlotte County will serve as the host destination to a half dozen events including the USA BMX Citrus Nationals and the Association of Pickleball Professionals Sunmed Punta Gorda Open, each of which is projected to attract over 800 participants plus family members.

Legislatively, the Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor & Convention Bureau will be keeping an eye on any proposed bills this session that could have a negative effect on tourism. Through our partnerships with Destinations Florida, Visit Florida and the Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association we will make sure to keep our local industry partners apprised of any potential issues such as expanded uses of the Tourist Development Tax, which ultimately would reduce the ROI tourism is able to produce for our community. Preserving the use of TDT for sales, marketing and public relations efforts will allow tourism to continue generating over \$1 billion in economic impact for Charlotte County while saving each household over \$1,000 on their annual tax liability. We feel the outlook is bright for tourism and look forward to a prosperous 2024!



Mark Vianello Superintendent Charlotte County Public Schools

Bridging Education and Industry:

I am honored to share some significant developments from the Charlotte County School District that underscore our commitment to collaboration and the mutual success of our community. Here's a snapshot of recent accomplishments and initiatives that directly impact our valued local business community.

District Success: Ranked 24th in the State of Florida

It is with pride we announce that the Charlotte County School District has achieved a commendable grade of B in the latest Florida Department of Education testing and has climbed from 33 to 24 in state ranking. This accomplishment is a testament to the dedication of our students, families, educators, staff, and the support we receive from the local community. We are building a future-focused academic environment that benefits us all and look forward to the challenge of improving upon this achievement in the future.

Approved Strategic Plan: Forging Partnerships for Success

Our recently approved strategic plan charts a course for the future and is designed to create a high-quality relevant education that prepares students with the skills and abilities to successfully pursue their hopes and dreams. By aligning our goals with the needs of local businesses, we aim to strengthen the ties that bind us and for the school system to be part of the workforce and economic solution of the community. Our partnership will play a crucial role in shaping the success of our students and the economic vitality of Charlotte County.

Reimagined Brand Identity: A Fresh Perspective

Community involvement has been at the heart of this rebranding and Strategic Plan initiative. Through surveys, town hall meetings, and collaborative workshops, we've actively engaged with our community to ensure its values and aspirations are woven into the fabric of our new identity. The unveiling of the five-year Strategic Plan bridges the rich history of Charlotte County Public Schools while using the original 1921 Board of Public Instruction seal as inspiration. It serves as a symbol of our collective resilience, growth, and commitment to providing an educational environment that aligns with the aspirations of our community.

Career Pipeline: Building a Skilled Workforce

We recognize the importance of preparing students for the workforce in Charlotte County and beyond. This initiative aims to create a talent pool that meets the evolving needs of Charlotte County's business community. We extend our sincere gratitude for your continued partnership and support. Together, we will foster a collaborative environment where education and industry converge for the betterment of Charlotte County. Thank you for being vital contributors to the success of our students and the prosperity of our community.



Pamela Davis Chief of Police Punta Gorda

The Punta Gorda Police Department is always receiving reports of scams and we do not expect that change anytime soon. There is little anyone can do to stop these scams from being attempted, but by continuing to discuss and educate people on these issues we hope we can minimize the number of people who fall victim to these awful crimes. Here are just a few of the most common types of scams that we see and ways to avoid them. Please read and share them with your neighbors.

Gift Card Scams

While there are many different back storied used by scammers in gift card scams, the end results is always instructing the victim to go to a store and purchase gift cards and then providing the scammer with the gift card numbers as a form of payment. Often they claim that there is an unpaid debt that must be resolved. Once the scammer has the gift card number they will wipe out the card balance leaving the victim with nothing. This tactic is used so often because online purchases made with gift cards can be made practically anonymously and are therefore nearly impossible to track. To avoid this scam: Remember that legitimate business and organizations will never ask you to purchase gift cards in order to pay a debt. If a caller asks you to purchase gift cards just hang up or contact the police department.

Information Gathering Scams

Many phone and email scams involve the victim being contacted by someone claiming to be from a legitimate organization or business, such as the Social Security Administration, the electric company, a credit card company, or bank. Since phone numbers and email addresses can be faked, it may even appear that the phone call or email is coming from these organizations. The victim is then asked to provide personal information, such as their social security number, date or birth, credit card number, or bank account information. To avoid this scam: Remember that legitimate institutions will never call you and ask for personal information. If you are still unsure, hand up and call them back using a phone number from their website or the phone book. This was you can be sure that you are talking to the right person.

Family Member or Friend Scams

In these scams the victim receives and email or phone call from someone claiming that a family member or friend is in some kind of trouble. The stories vary, but often involve the person being arrested, in a car accident, or have been robbed while traveling. They may claim to be the person themselves or to be someone else involved in the situation, such as an attorney, police officer, or insurance adjuster. They may also have the correct name and information for the person supposedly in trouble and are able to use fake caller ID numbers and email addresses. The victim will be told that their family member or friend is in urgent need for money for bail, vehicle repairs, return travel, attorney fees, etc. To avoid this scam: Never send money to anyone unless you have contacted them yourself. If you believe that your family member or friend is in legitimate need contact them using a phone number or email address that you know is valid. Never send money by purchasing gift cards and providing numbers over the phone or by email.

Sheriff & Police Department Scams

In these scams the victim received a phone call from someone claiming to be a deputy or officer with a local agency. They tell the victim there is a warrant for their arrest and to clear up the warrant they must make payment. This payment may be in the form of gift cards or the victim may be directed to deposit money using a Bitcoin machine. The caller will often use scare tactics like telling the victim that officers are on the way to their house to make an arrest. **To avoid this scam**: Law enforcement agencies will never call to tell you that you have an active warrant. If you receive a suspicious call from someone claiming to work for the police department or sheriff's office, hang up and call the non-emergency number to confirm. The non-emergency number for the Punta Gorda Police Department is 941-639-4111 and for the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office is 941-639-2101.



Jimi Smith Feliciano is the 2024 CDBIA President and President of AJF Construction and can be reached at aifconstruction16@qmail.com

Hiring a contractor

The Charlotte DeSoto Building Industry Association has been getting an uptick of hurricane related rebuilding questions and we want to share some valuable information.

September 28, 2022, there have been over 48,500 hurricane related permits pulled, with over 32,000 permits submitted for residential roofs. There is still an anticipation of a total of 80,000 roofs needing to be reroofed. Many people are still working with their insurance or trying to find ways to financially support repairing their home. One thing to keep in mind is every home is different. This storm hit homes and each damaged home may have different repairs needed than the home next door to you. Some tips to help those who are still dealing with issues:

- Get three estimates. Ask the contractor to itemize the scope of work so you can see why there is a price differential. Some contractors may provide better quality of product and take extra steps to help your home in case of another storm.
- Check licenses. Any structural work will require a Florida contractor license. It is a state statute that all licenses must be written on contractors, business cards and marketing material for work being completed that requires a license. The most important reason to hire a licensed contractor is your insurance company may not reimburse you if you do not have the proper permits completed.
- Track your permit. The following link provides links to each building department. You can type in your address and see updates on your permit. https://cdbia.com/how-to-view-permit-online/
- Have everything in writing. Your contract is the most important piece of paper if there are issues. Any conversations not included in your contract are not part of the work. Change orders should be made available.
- Check with your contractor, and make sure you have a guarantee of work in your contract. If there is any issues with work completed, you will be able to reference your contract.

The Charlotte DeSoto Building Industry Association is here to assist anyone with any construction related questions or concerns. You are welcome to call us at 941-625-0804 or email us at admin@cdbia.com or visit us online at www.cdbia.com.



Annette Bales Sunseeker Resort Charlotte Harbor

The highly anticipated <u>Sunseeker Resort Charlotte Harbor</u> is now open as they welcomed their first guests on December 15, 2023. To commemorate the opening, the resort hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony along with local officials including Charlotte County Commissioner Bill Truex and the Sunseeker Resort executive team including President Micah Richins, Senior Vice President Jason Shkorupa, and their entire executive committee as they welcomed the first guests. The independently flagged property boasts 785 well-appointed guest rooms including 189 top-tier luxury Sunsuites™, and is the first completely new-build resort with more than 750 rooms to open in Southwest Florida in over thirteen years.

The resort features 60,000-square-feet of meeting and conference space, 20 dining options and bars, two expansive pools, and retail outlets situated along a scenic harborside promenade. A state-of-the-art fitness center and spa are located on the third floor of the resort's main tower. In addition to its prime waterfront location, <u>Sunseeker Resort Charlotte Harbor</u> features a world class 18-hole golf course, Aileron Golf Club, exclusive to members and hotel guests.

The new resort is now an activity center in Charlotte Harbor, offering visitors a portal to some of the finest amenities on the gulf coast. These include: A state-of-the-art 7,100-square-foot fitness center and a full-service spa and salon as well as two pools including a 21,000-square-foot adults-only rooftop retreat and 117,000-square-foot ground-level experience (the largest pool in Southwest Florida). The convention area also includes innovative technology and features two waterfront ballrooms fully equipped with best-in-class A/V systems. Accompanying the two clear-span ballrooms are two executive boardrooms, 12 meeting rooms, and an ideation suite with three separate breakout rooms.



Derek P. Rooney Economic Development Partnership

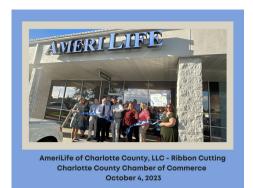
In closing out 2023, the Charlotte County Economic Development Partnership is looking to 2024 with a focus on learning and workforce development. To that end, the EDP has partnered with Charlotte County School Board and other local agencies to support expansion of K-12 and Charlotte Technical College training for the aerospace industry with an emphasis on expanding opportunities at our growing Punta Gorda Airport.

The EDP and its consultants have lobbied for state and federal money to support local initiatives, as well as hosted state officials and corporate leaders in Florida's aerospace and manufacturing industries to showcase what Charlotte County has to offer.

We will continue to update the Chamber membership as these efforts continued and encourage all members to follow the School Board workshop in January 9th for more information on the great work the School Board and its new Superintendent Mark Vianello are doing for our community.

The EDP is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization that partners with community partners to educate, advocate, and promote a healthy environment for Charlotte County. The EDP serves as a think tank and networking resource whose members are drawn from local government and companies representing tens of thousands of employees. Regular meetings with guest speakers and symposia are held throughout the year.

RIBBON CUTTNGS





Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce October 6, 2023







Florida Tree & Ground Maintenance. Inc.

23422 Janice Ave. Punta Gorda, FL 33980 Phone: 941-613-3613

Nick Mayl

floridatree@gmail.com http://pcftree.com

Peaks To Palms Pressure Washing Call or Email for Information

Punta Gorda, FL

Phone: 941-525-2150

Tim Borders

Peakstopalmspressurewashing@gmail.com www.peakstopalmspressurewashing.com

Jersey College School of Nursing

2450 Harbor Blvd. Port Charlotte, FL 33952 Phone: 941-336-3569

Patricia Voelpel

pvoelpel@jerseycollege.edu

www.jerseycollege.edu/campuses/florida

/port-charlotte-fl

Planet Fitness Port Charlotte (West)

1825 Tamiami Trail Port Charlotte, FL 33948 Phone: 941-273-0030

Sandra Galehouse & Mike Paone

Portcharlottewest.fl@planetfirness.com

www.planetfitness.com/gyms/port-

charlotte-west-fl

All Surface Painting Company, LLC

809 Faith Ave. Osprey, FL 34229 Phone: 941-882-4156 Grace Washburn

office.allsurface@gmail.com

http://www.allsurfacepaintingco.com

Krise Commercial Group, LLC

16 Winewod Court Fort Myers, FL 33919 Phone: 239-633-8672

Randy Krise

randy@krisecg.com

http://www.krisecg.com

Gulfcoast Engineering 18099 Bredette Ave. Port Charlotte, FL 33954

Phone: 941-624-6425 Erik Colleen, John Dobson

info@gulfcoastengineering.com

http://www.gulfcoastengineering.com

SimpliFi Home Loans 425 Cross St., Suite 116 Punta Gorda, FL 33950 Phone: 941-258-1408 Halev Pietraniec

haley@simplifi-homeloans.com

http://simplifi-homeloans.com/hpietraniec

Top Clean Pros

Email or Call for Information Port Charlotte, FL 33980 Phone: 239-410-0395

Thomas Linzenmeyer, Invesna Ramirez

topcleanpros@outlook.com

Dvnace Global 16282 Alcira Circle Punta Gorda, FL 33955 Phone: 630-453-1719

Jinky Burns

jybaskesburns@yahoo.com http://www.dynaceglobal.com

The Carpenter Kings, LLC Call or email for Information Port Charlotte, FL 33952 Phone: 941-468-2346 Arthur King, Jr.

thecarpenterkings@gmail.com www.thecarpenterkings.com

Alert 360 Security and Automation

391 Interstate Blvd. Sarasota, FL 34240 Phone: 941-315-1189 **Bruce Stevens**

bruce.stevens@alert360.com

http://Alert360.com

Byrd Haus Market 13425 Mariel Ave. Port Charlotte, FL 33981 Phone: 614-648-1767 Suzanne Byrd

ByrdHausMkt@gmail.com

Premier Stretch & Recovery 4300 Kings Hwy., #100 Port Charlotte, FL 33980 Phone: 954-881-3440 Christian Faldetta Christianf24@icloud.com

https://instagram.com/premierstretchandrec

overy?

igshid=MmVlMjlkMTBhMg%3D%3D&utm_sou

rce=qr

RIBBON CUTTNGS







True Fence - Ribbon Cutting Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce November 15, 2023





HR Butler
Email or Call for Information
Punta Gorda, FL 33955
Phone: 614-923-2900
Bruce Stevens X100
mhickey@hrbutler.com
www.hrbulter.com

Maloney Homes
Email or Call for Information
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Phone: 941-979-2773
Paul Maloney
paul@maloney.homes
http://www.maloney.homes

Brighter Than Every Salon, LLC 425 Cross St.

Punta Gorda, FL 33950 Phone: 941-505-0397 Kimberly & Ronald Cole <u>kimy1842@gmail.com</u>

http://www.brighterthaneversalon2023.com

Paradise Rentals
Call or Email for Information
Port Charlotte, FL 33948
Phone: 941-867-6465
Nick & Joleen Radermacher
nick@rentparadisefl.com
www.rentparadisefl.com

Elite Hurricane Home Protection 3341 Ulman Ave., Unit B North Port, FL 34286 Phone: 941-200-2916 Chris Hege

info@elitehurricanehomeprotection.com

Metropolitan Solution, LLC
Email or Call for Information
Port Charlotte,FL 33953
Phone: 941-291-1486
Ricardo Fermin, Cecile Gremeli
metropolitansolutionllc@gmail.com
https://metropolitansolution.com

Doughbar Restaurant & Pizzeria 520 King St. Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Punta Gorda, FL 33950 Phone: 941-916-9705 Charles Pecoraro

doughbarflorida@gmail.com

Ja Ramen and Curry
24065 Peachland Blvd., Unit 103
Port Charlotte, FL 33954
Phone: 786-307-2418
Khanh Nguyen
Kvbdgroup@gmail.com
http://thejaramen.com

Kathryn Wallace for Charlotte County Judge 323 Hargreaves Ave.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Phone: Please email
Kathryn Wallace
Info@kathrynwallaceforjudge.com
Kathrynwallaceforjudge.com

Hyper Fiber, LLC 28410 S. Tamiami Trail Suite 210 Bonita Springs, FL 34135 Phone: 239-887-5379 Scott Jackson sjackson@hyperfiber.com http://www.hyperfiber.com

Vantage Apartments 3050 Steeple Circle Cape Carol, FL 33909 Phone: 317-619-2065

Ramona Lavo

<u>rlavo@kittleproperties.com</u>

https://www.apartments-capecoral.com/

The Meridian at Punta Gorda Isles 2001 Aqui Esta Dr.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Phone: 941-421-7606
Jennifer Neuman, Meg Wright mpgi.sc@meridiansenior.com
http://www.themeridianatpgi.com

Pier One Yacht Sales, LLC 1200 West Retta Esplanade #49 Punta Gorda, FL 33950 Phone: 941-639-7777 Michael Mullinger mikem@pieroneyachtsales.com http://www.pieroneyachtsales.com

Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Sarasota 6400 Edgelake Dr.
Sarasota, FL 34240
Phone: 641-321-8600
Sam Alexander
samuel.alexander@encompasshealth.com
http://www.encompasshealth.com/sarasotarehab

RIBBON CUTTINGS









NEW MEMBERS

Sarasota Memorial Health Care System 1700 S. Tamiami Trail Sarasota, FL 34239 Phone: 941- 917-6693 Mackenzie Jones mackenzie-jones@smh.com http://www.smh.com

David Sussman Photography 5206 Blackjack Circle Punta Gorda, FL 33982 Phone: 850-866-8566 David Sussman Mat@choicegraphx.com http://www.dwsussman.com

CFS Roofing & Mechanical Services 16100 Lee Road Fort Myers, FL 33912 Phone: 239-561-2600 Tammy Hall t.hall@cfsroofing.com http://www.cfsroofing.com

McAlister's Deli, LLC 19570 Cochran Blvd. Port Charlotte, FL 33948 Phone: 941-548-1003 Michael Schueler portcharlotte@mcalistersdeli.com http://www.mcalistersdeli.com

Cruzin' Dental, P.A. 2200 Kings Hwy. Port Charlotte, FL 33980 Phone: 941-866-8011 Andrea Phipps, Dr. Ray Santa Cruz cruzindentalpc@gmail.com



The parade theme was "Tropical Christmas!"

45th Annual Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade

There were 3,000-plus spectators that lined the sidewalks from Carmelita up to Taylor Street in downtown Punta Gorda to get an amazing front-row view of the 80-plus floats, cars, trucks, boats and performing groups. It was one of the best parades we've had with an ever-larger crowd in attendance.

At our Third Wednesday Coffee in December all the parade winners were announced and presented with their trophy's and plaques.

Best Decorated Float: 3rd Place: Charlotte Preparatory School; 2nd Place: Sallie Jones Elementary School Chorus; 1st Place:

Charlotte Harbor Parrott Head Club.

Best Car/Truck:

3rd Place: GFWC Port Charlotte Women's Club; 2nd Place: Visual Arts Center; 1st Place: Lesley Barton, Coldwell Banker Sunstar Realty.

Best Performing Group:

3rd Place: Silver King Marching Band; 2nd Place: The Calendars Girls; 1st Place: Florida Dance Workshop.

President's Award (presented by Nick Worden, Crews Bank & Trust, Chamber Board President): Charlotte County Soccer Federation.

Grand Marshall Award (presented by Ruth Uzonyi, Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce): Charlotte Preparatory School.

The floats, performing units and decorated vehicles we all outstanding. Our thanks to everyone who behind the scenes and on the day of made this event spectacular!



Includes: 10 Game **Bingo Card & Dauber plus Lunch from** FM Don's

BINGO BLOWOUT

SAVE THE DATE Get Ready to Daub & Win



Chance Auction, 50/50, **Lottery Tree Cash Bar**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2024

38 FREE 18 _б 46

11:00 A.M. - 2:30 P.M. **Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Event Center** 24411 Rampart Blvd, Port Charlotte

> Tickets go on sale Oct 31, 2023 www.volunteercare.org 941-368-8863







DECADES POP TRIVIA

Hosted by The Charlotte County Chamber Social Club

Test your music trivia 50s - 80s knowledge

Open to the Public

Sign Up
Today



Food & Drinks available to purchase





5:30 - 7:30pm \$20pp

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Thursday, February 8, 2024 Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center

PLATINUM TITLE

GOLD PRESENTING

DON'T MISS OUT!

Opportunity to showcase

your business to 1,000+ attendees, all in one day!

Platinum Sponsor Benefits Include:

- . Exclusive Only One Available Per Industry
- · 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

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

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 & WORKSHUP
- · 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

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



Thursday, February 8, 2024 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center 75 Taylor Street • Punta Gorda, FL

PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT

Business Name	
Contact Person	
Mailing Address	
City, State, Zip	
Phone Pho	one Alt.
Email	
Website	
* All participants must be or become Charlotte County Chamber Members	
AGREEMENT SUMMARY	INVOICING INFORMATION
Sponsorship Including Booth(s) \$(See Reversed Side)	☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ DISC ☐ AMEX
Single Booth Exhibitor \$\$	Full Name on Card
Single Non-Member Booth \$	Card Number
Additional Booths @ 25% discount	
	Billing Address
\$	
Total Investment \$	Billing Zip CodeExpiration Date
☐ Electricity Requested	Expiration Date
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.	Three Digit Security Code
All sponsors and exhibitors must be paid in full to receive a booth assignment.	☐ Check Attached ☐ Invoice in Full
#GonnectingBusinessTogether Nicholas Worden, Charlotte State Bank & Trust, part of the Crews Bank Corporation, President Elect, Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce	
I understand detailed EXPO Exhibitor information will be coming soon for the 13th Annual Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce Business EXPO.	
SignedPrint _	Date

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Whether you need to place recurring orders for office forms and marketing collateral or you need to print materials for an upcoming event, we've got you covered. We have the technology and experience necessary to print just about anything your business could possibly need within extremely reasonable timeframes.

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When you wear your logo or brand, people will recognize your business everywhere you go. We have thousands of styles and colors of shirts, hats and other items that can be embroidered or printed. Whether you are looking for just a few or a few thousand, we have the perfect solution for you.

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Pens Drinkware Coozies Mousepads ...and ANYTHING else you can think of!



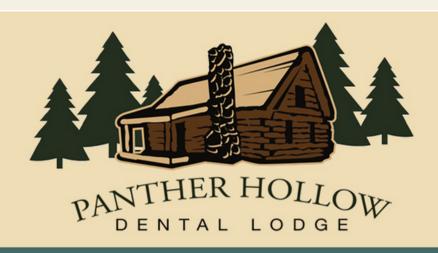
We offer a wide variety of promotional products that are both practical and cool. Get your brand noticed with these useful marketing tools that are guaranteed to find their way into your customers' homes and offices.

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Whether you have a list, need to find a list or just want to get in the most mailboxes possible, we have the perfect solution for you. Let our direct mail experts walk you through the process to get the most mailing bang for your buck.



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