

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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OCTOBER 2025 CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF



Welcome to October!

Charlotte County Economic Development is closing out the year with momentum that's hard to miss. From national recognition in healthcare and higher education to new business partnerships and workforce innovations, our community continues to shine. This month's highlights showcase local leadership, collaboration, and investment—all driving growth, opportunity, and quality of life in Charlotte County.

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Business & Site Development News

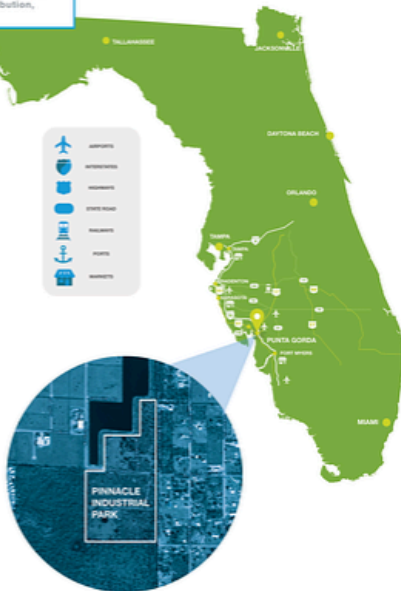
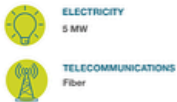
Pinnacle Industrial Park 27550 Jones Loop Road Punta Gorda, FL 33982

60 acres of industrial-zoned parcels with 864,700 square feet of planned building area by 2026.

Pinnacle Industrial Park boasts carefully designed sites, ranging in size up to 55 acres, for business ventures in aerospace and aviation, manufacturing, distribution, and logistics.



Kay Tracy
kay.tracy@charlottecountyfl.gov



PINNACLE INDUSTRIAL PARK – FLORIDA FIRST SITE

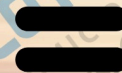
Located off Jones Loop Road in Punta Gorda, Pinnacle Industrial Park is a 60-acre certified Florida First Site offering over 864,000 square feet of planned industrial space by 2026. With immediate access to I-75, PGD Airport, and major logistics routes, the site is ideal for advanced manufacturing, aerospace, and distribution operations. This property is an opportunity for fast-track development.

[View Property Details](#)

Buffalo Graffix & Monarch Direct Partnership

Two Charlotte County industry leaders—Buffalo Graffix and Monarch Direct—have joined forces in a new partnership that combines printing, apparel, signage, and design expertise under one collaborative vision. By aligning their specialties, the companies are enhancing service quality, retaining jobs, and reinforcing Charlotte County's reputation as a hub for creativity and community growth.

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FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT VISITS CHARLOTTE COUNTY

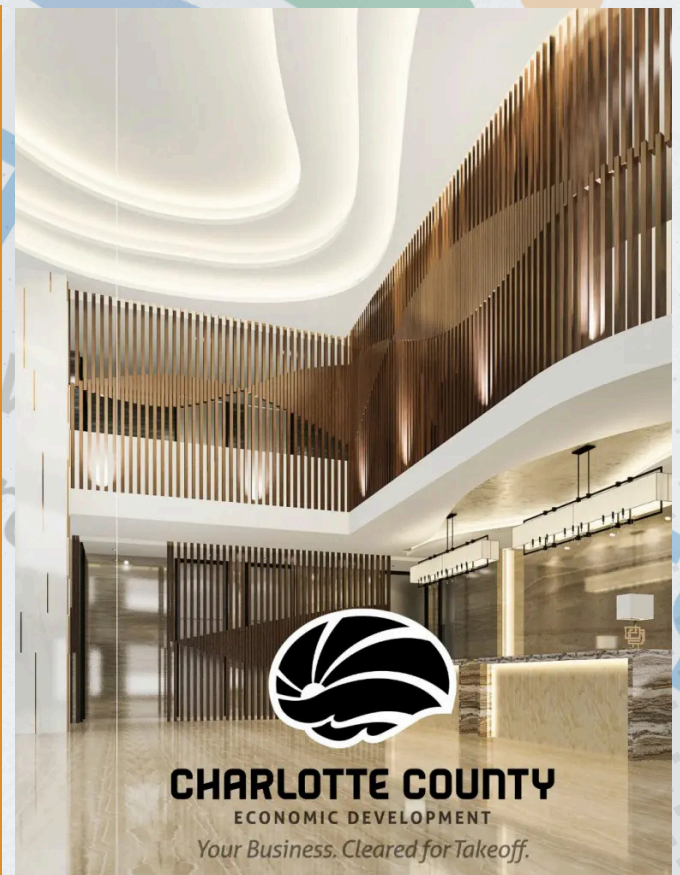
Charlotte County Economic Development welcomed the FPL Economic Development team for a site visit highlighting key industrial properties and growth opportunities. The tour strengthened statewide partnerships and showcased why Charlotte County continues to be a top destination for business expansion.

[Read More](#)

CURIO COLLECTION HILTON PUNTA GORDA REBRAND MARKS MAJOR MILESTONE

Charlotte County's tourism industry just reached new heights with the rebrand of Sunseeker Resort as Curio Collection Hilton Punta Gorda. This transition places the region on Hilton's global map—expanding visibility, attracting international travelers, and opening doors for conferences, events, and luxury tourism. Backed by Hilton's worldwide network, the resort strengthens Charlotte County's reputation for high-quality hospitality and balanced economic growth.

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CHARLOTTE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Your Business. Cleared for Takeoff.

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Business & Site Development News



LET'S EAT! ENGLEWOOD WRAPS UP ANOTHER DELICIOUS YEAR

The Englewood Chamber's 11th Annual "Let's Eat! Englewood" wrapped up on September 25th, after two flavorful weeks of celebrating local cuisine. Residents and visitors supporting Englewood's vibrant dining scene. Thanks to the partnership between the Chamber and the PG/EBV, the event once again delivered a boost to local restaurants.

[Read more](#)

FEATURED PROPERTY: 175 KINGS HIGHWAY 195 ACRES OF PLANNED DEVELOPMENT

This 195-acre mixed-use site offers a rare opportunity for large-scale growth. The property includes 482,635 sq. ft. of vested industrial space and approvals for up to 500 multifamily units, all within the Sandhill Development of Regional Impact.

[View Property Details](#)

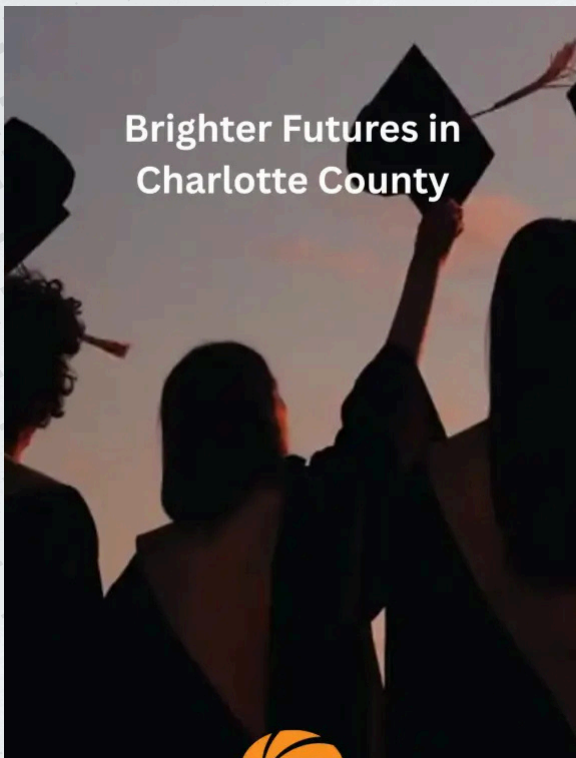


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Workforce Development and Education



Brighter Futures in
Charlotte County

FLORIDA HIGHER EDUCATION SHINES

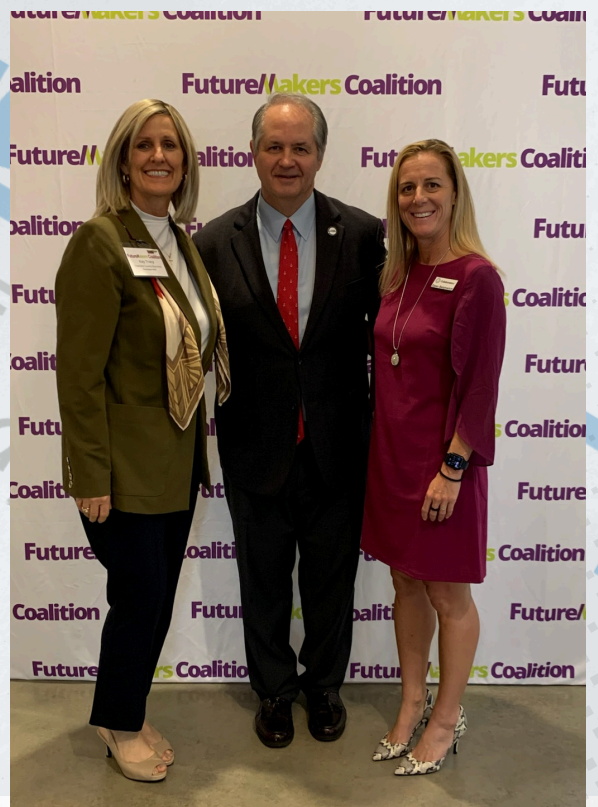
Florida has once again been named the #1 state for higher education—for the 10th consecutive year, according to U.S. News & World Report. This achievement highlights Florida's unmatched affordability, graduation rates, and student success. The impact is being felt in Charlotte County. Local schools like FSW and CTC give students affordable pathways into high-demand fields like healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and aviation, while partnerships with FGCU and USF expand access to degrees, research, and innovation.

[Read more](#)

KAY TRACY ATTENDED THE FUTUREMAKERS COALITION BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

Kay Tracy attended the FutureMakers Coalition Breakfast of Champions, connecting with statewide leaders including Dr. Dawn Belamarich of Collaboratory and Mark Wilson of the Florida Chamber of Commerce. The event highlighted partnerships that drive workforce innovation, business growth, and community success—values Charlotte Cty proudly champions.

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Workforce Development & Education



Workforce Attraction Internship:
A Powerful Strategy for Building the Future Workforce

WORKFORCE ATTRACTION INTERNSHIPS

Charlotte County is turning workforce development into a long-term growth engine. From middle school aviation programs to high school students earning industry certifications before graduation, the talent pipeline is strong and expanding. By aligning education, industry, and economic development, we're preparing graduates for high-demand careers.

[Read more](#)

SBA LAUNCHES MARC LOAN PROGRAM FOR SMALL MANUFACTURERS

The U.S. SBA has introduced the Manufacturer's Access to Revolving Credit (MARC) Loan Program, its first loan program designed specifically for small manufacturers. With flexible financing options, MARC Loans help businesses manage cash flow, expand operations, and create jobs. It's a key step in strengthening America's industrial base.

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Business Support and Networking



CHARLOTTE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF BUSINESS LEADERSHIP

The Charlotte County Economic Development Office was honored to join more than 400 community and business leaders at the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce's 100th Annual Awards Gala—a celebration of a century of advocacy, connection, and growth.

Hosted at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center, the evening marked a milestone in the Chamber's legacy of service to local businesses. Attendees applauded the 2025–2026 Board of Directors, honored this year's Business and Nonprofit of the Year winners, and celebrated community members whose leadership continues to drive Charlotte County forward.

For a hundred years, the Chamber has been a cornerstone of Charlotte County's economic and civic life—championing small businesses, supporting innovation, and building the partnerships that fuel prosperity. The event was a powerful reminder that Charlotte County's business community doesn't just grow—it endures, adapts, and thrives together.

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Business Support and Networking



CHARLOTTE COUNTY EDP GENERAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: SHAPING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

The Charlotte County EDP and Chamber of Commerce co-hosted the “Referendum 2026 – Shaping Our Future Together” meeting at the Isles Yacht Club. Speakers Emily Lewis, Deputy County Administrator, Lucienne Pears, VP Economic & Business Development, Babcock Ranch, and John LeClair, Chair of the Charlotte County School Board, discussed key initiatives impacting local growth, education, and infrastructure—highlighting how collaboration drives Charlotte County’s continued success.

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SBDC COMMUNITY POWER WORKSHOP

Local entrepreneurs gathered at the Murdock Administration Building on Sept. 23 for “Community Power – Strategies to Elevate Your Brand,” a hands-on workshop led by Patti Guerzo of the Florida SBDC at FGCU. The session focused on practical branding strategies to help Charlotte County businesses boost visibility, build stronger customer connections, and grow with confidence.

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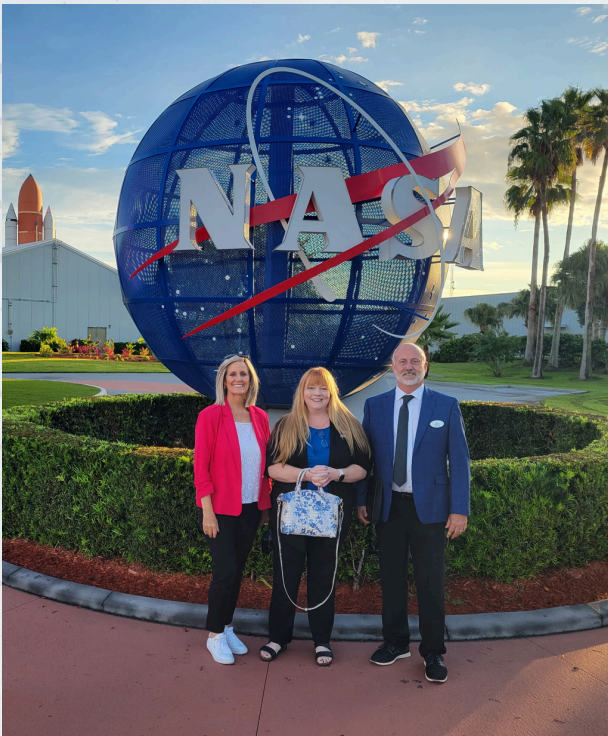


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Business Support and Networking



CHARLOTTE COUNTY EDO VISITS NASA FOR OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD INSIGHTS

Kay Tracy, Kristy Sisler, and  #MarkOnTheMove (Mark Odell) took Charlotte County's innovation mission to new heights during a visit to NASA. The team explored aerospace technology, met industry leaders, and gained inspiration for expanding local opportunities in aviation and advanced manufacturing.  The visit highlighted how partnerships in space innovation can fuel growth and strengthen Charlotte County's position in Florida's high-tech economy.

NEW PODCAST LAUNCH: ELEVATE CHARLOTTE – BEHIND THE BUSINESS

Charlotte County's newest podcast, Elevate Charlotte – Behind the Business, spotlights the people and stories driving our local economy. In the debut episode, host Mark Odell sits down with Jordan Aquila of Buffalo Graffix and the Charlotte County Jazz Society to explore how art, business, and community come together to create lasting impact. Tune in to hear how local leaders are shaping Charlotte County's future—one story at a time.

[Listen Now](#) 



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Recognition and Community Highlights



CHARLOTTE
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

WOMEN WHO LEAD: HOW SHELLEY STRICKLAND AND THE CHARLOTTE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION INSPIRE CHANGE

Charlotte County's business community shines brightest when leadership and heart align—and few embody that better than Dr. Shelley Strickland, recently named Port Charlotte's Businesswoman 2025 by The Sun. As CEO of the Charlotte Community Foundation (CCF), she blends economic growth with community care, proving that philanthropy fuels progress.

Under her leadership, CCF has awarded more than \$260,000 in scholarships this year, investing directly in Charlotte County's workforce and future talent. By making philanthropy accessible, Strickland is inspiring a new generation of community investors.

Her story reflects a larger truth about women in business—that success in Charlotte County is defined by both purpose and impact.

Learn more at charlottecf.org

Read Shelley's Story [HERE](#)

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Recognition and Community Highlights

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

 *Earned* 
PEDREADY
Gold Tier
RECOGNITION



CHARLOTTE COUNTY EARNS GOLD FOR PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY CARE

Charlotte County Fire & EMS has achieved Florida PEDReady Gold Tier status for pediatric emergency care—an honor that highlights exceptional training and readiness to care for children in any situation. For families and future residents, it's another reason Charlotte County stands out as a safe, family-focused community where quality of life comes first.

[Learn more](#)

ADVENTHEALTH EXPANDS TO PUNTA GORDA — A MILESTONE FOR CHARLOTTE COUNTY HEALTHCARE

Charlotte County's healthcare network is growing—The Daily Sun reports that AdventHealth will expand care in Punta Gorda, bringing advanced services like cardiology, oncology, and orthopedics closer to home. This investment means shorter drives, faster treatment, and stronger local access for families and employers alike.

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Recognition and Community Highlights



CHARLOTTE COUNTY HEALTHCARE INNOVATION: A BREAKTHROUGH FOR MEN'S HEALTH

Charlotte County is leading the way in medical innovation — HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital has become the first in Southwest Florida to introduce an AI-powered robotic system for prostate treatment, according to Florida Weekly. This milestone marks a major leap forward in men's health, offering greater precision, faster recovery, and improved quality of life.

[Learn more](#)

CHARLOTTE COUNTY QUALITY OF LIFE SHINES ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

Charlotte County's vibrant spirit is taking center stage thanks to local singer Toni Deeds, who won the women's country category at the Talent Quest Karaoke Competition and will represent Florida in the international finals this fall. Known for her powerful renditions of the national anthem at End Zone Sports Grille in Englewood, Deeds embodies what makes life here so special—music, friendship, and community pride. Her story reflects Charlotte County's unmatched quality of life.

[READ MORE](#)

Toni Deeds WON THE WOMEN'S *Country Music* CATEGORY AT



*Talent Quest Karaoke
in Florida*

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Recognition and Community Highlights

ROTARY STRENGTHENS CHARLOTTE COUNTY'S QUALITY OF LIFE

In Charlotte County, quality of life means more than sunshine and waterfront views, it's about connection, service, and community. The Southwest Florida Rotary Club, co-founded by Priya Ahluwalia, embodies that spirit. Through events like the Pastry Social at Babcock Ranch and the launch of the SWFL Interact Club for student leaders, Rotary members are proving that service and fellowship go hand in hand.

From mentoring young entrepreneurs to supporting local businesses, Rotary helps Charlotte County residents live, work, and play with purpose—building a stronger, more connected community for all.

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Recognition and Community Highlights



PRIYA AHLUWALIA: A CHARLOTTE COUNTY SUCCESS STORY

When leadership meets service, global impact follows—and Priya Ahluwalia is living proof. As Public Image Chair of the Southwest Florida Rotary Club, Priya helped lead a project that brought Charlotte County values all the way to Times Square, where Rotary and Chef Vikas Khanna launched the children's book *Festivals at the Bungalow* on the NASDAQ Tower—a first in Rotary history.

Through her leadership, the club raised \$20,000 to print and distribute 2,000 free books promoting literacy worldwide. Priya's journey—from Rotary meetings in Charlotte County to a global stage—highlights how our community nurtures leaders who create real change.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



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Upcoming Events

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



**Charlotte County Workforce
Roundtable 6 - 7:30 PM**



**Florida International Airshow and
STEM Pavilion**



**New Business Networking Event
5-7 PM**



**Entrepreneur Support Organization
2-4 PM**