

THINGS TO DO

Summer Crush fall car shows to help charities

Gary Roberts
Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

FORT PIERCE — Car shows are unique and special at Summer Crush Winery.

The grassy festival area abutting the 10-acre vineyard is filled with cars next to the 6,500-square-foot covered pavilion, and there is always great music and food and more!

It all starts Oct. 20 with the CarFest Fall Kickoff Cruise In Car Show, with music by the Doo Wop Guys Band singing those classic harmonic and hot rod tunes of the 50s and 60s.

Food is by Reds Kitchen and Bobz Dogz.

Car registration is \$10 the day of, with \$2 going to the featured charity, SLC Habitat for Humanity.

Trophies will be awarded for the top five vote getters.

The show is open to all collectibles and classics, and is co-hosted by the No Name Car Club.

Nov. 10 is the inaugural All Florida Mazda Miata Cruise into the Vineyard, with Miata clubs, individuals and enthusiasts from all over Florida converging for probably the largest gathering ever of Miatas on the Treasure Coast.

Enjoy great 60s and 70s music by the Dockstreet Band and food by Mi Cabana Taco Truck.



All classic and collectibles are invited to car shows Oct. 20 and Nov. 11. CONTRIBUTED BY GARY ROBERTS



Come to the All Florida Mazda Miata Cruise In to the Vineyard on Nov. 10. CONTRIBUTED BY GARY ROBERTS/SUMMER CRUSH WINERY

Featured charity is Raining Cats Rescue.

There's no car registration fee for this inaugural event.

So if you have a Miata or just love them, come out and join the fun.

Prizes will be awarded for the top three vote getters.

Then join Summer Crush for a very special Veterans Day, Nov. 11, with a car show, art show and special tribute and dedication honoring veterans and all

those who gave some and especially those who gave all.

Music is by Sha-Boom and includes an all service branches musical tribute followed by a dedication of a room in the pavilion that honors the US Navy, the US Navy Seals, and WWII Navy Veteran Roy J. Roberts.

The charity for the day is the Trident House for Navy Seals; \$2 of the \$10 day of car registration fee goes to the charity. Food is by Taco Trap Food Trailer and

Bobz Dogz.

The show is open to all collectibles and classics, and is co-hosted by the No Name Car Club.

All shows are noon to 4 p.m., rain or shine, with cars being staged between 10:30 and 11:45 a.m. and free to the spectating public. Popular voting will select the days' winners.

Summer Crush Vineyard and Winery is a certified Florida Farm Winery hand-crafting award winning wines at 4200 Johnston Rd., Fort Pierce, since 2012. Hours are Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; and every Sunday music and food events are held from noon-5 p.m. Call 772 460 0500, visit www.summcrushwinery.com or email info@summercrush-wine.com

BUSINESS

EDC's EXCEL: A focus on the future of business

Candy Marlowe
Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

PORT ST. LUCIE — While impressive gains have been made in recent years, building a better economic quality of life for St. Lucie County isn't a mission that can be accomplished in a year or two.

The leadership of the Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County recently expanded their planning horizons from half-decade increments to a full generation.

Next generation of leaders

"The foundations for better-paying jobs and a more diverse tax base are being built brick-by-brick today. That's important, but it isn't enough," said EDC President Pete Tesch. "We also need to ensure that the next generation



of business leaders is prepared to build on that foundation and that's why the EDC started the EXCEL program."

EXCEL is shorthand for a young professional group that kicked off last month. Open to current and aspiring C-level executives in St. Lucie County, the organization will offer leadership training, talent development and networking opportunities.

Millennials in the workplace

"In June, the EDC presented a workshop on understanding Millennials in the workplace. It was an eye-opening program and we wanted more," said Dayna Izzo, business development executive for GFA International, an EDC

member company. "We are looking for the opportunity to grow as leaders in our community and to network with other executives who are in much the same place in our personal and professional lives."

"EXCEL will ultimately boost our partnership with the EDC through bringing together engaged, local, younger professionals with similar interests and experiences," said Phil Doumar, a licensed agent for Doumar Insurance and Financial Services. "The partnership with the EDC will allow us the opportunity to, for example, learn about how a local CEO built his or her company and, at the same time, network with other engaged up-and-coming executives who share our interests."

"There is no cost to join EXCEL, although we will obviously encourage the participants' companies to become EDC members, if they aren't already," said Tesch. The next EXCEL event will

be on October 18 for a panel discussion with the EDC Board of Directors. For more information, contact Candy Marlowe at 772-336-6250 or email cmarlow@youredec.com.

About the Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County

The EDC is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting economic vitality in St. Lucie County through the attraction, retention and expansion of businesses in the community.

The EDC works in partnership with local governments and the private sector to advance its goals of creating more and better-paying jobs for residents, broadening the tax base and improving St. Lucie County's economic quality of life.

Contact the EDC at 772-336-6250 or <http://www.youredec.com>.

PAT ON THE BACK

Chris Craft office gets accolades for excellence

Carin Campbell Smith
Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

FORT PIERCE — Chris Craft's mission as the tax collector for St. Lucie County is to provide the highest level of customer service through innovative technology and highly trained professionals, while maintaining the public trust.

His office's dedication to that mission has once again earned him accolades for excellence in the field of finan-

cial operations from the Florida Tax Collectors Association (FTCA).

The process involved for consideration of the Legacy Award, one of the most significant honors given by the FTCA, is rigorous and includes a comprehensive review of the financial functions of the tax collector's office.

The process includes a meticulous analysis of financial records, practices and use of technology. A five-person judging panel made up of government financial executives from throughout Florida examines the tax collector's

processes as related to the following four areas of competency:

- Innovation & Automation;
- Perfect Annual Audit Report;
- Customer Focus
- Budgeting

Craft has consistently earned the Excellence in Financial Operations award after exhibiting proficiency in these four areas of expertise.

However, in 2018, Craft demonstrated that his office had even further enhanced its financial operations.

"Chris Craft has continually proven

that he operates his office in an exemplary and award-winning manner," said Ben Anderson, FTCA president. "The panelists' review of his office far exceeded simply reviewing his perfect audit report. Chris's methods for delivering service to the people he serves and consideration of the technological innovations he has developed and put into place were also analyzed."

Tax collectors carry out State of Florida work at the local level on behalf of Florida's citizens.

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