



Updates from the Office of Economic Development

Piedmont Pitch



The City of Charlottesville Office of Economic Development and Albemarle County Economic Development joined forces to support educational programming leading to a pitch competition for local small businesses. Entrepreneurs and small business owners in Charlottesville and Albemarle applied to participate in the 10-week program including 8 training programs (Business Essentials Training) offered by Central Virginia SBDC. The first-

ever Piedmont Pitch occurred on May 11, 2023, at the Wool Factory.

The first-place \$10,000 prize was awarded to Gabriela Romo owner of Refemme. Refemme is an innovative fashion company that upcycles fabrics and provides alterations.

The second-place \$5,000 prize winner was Phillip Rich owner of Black Roses Landscaping. Black Roses is an eco-friendly landscaping company that wants to expand its electric equipment fleet ensuring its clients receive top-of-the-line service with limited noise and disruption.

Additional pitches were heard from Anne Perkins with Konnect Apps – An innovative app used to help connect and streamline information from families to social services departments; Johnny Epps, Odyssey Chocolates- Global Gourmet Chocolate Company; Christina Martin, Baker no Bakery- Latin baked goods company taking over the baking industry and Kristopher Chain, Season Report-Hunting and Gathering app.

Great Outdoor Provision Co Has Bigger Location at Barracks Shopping

A new flagship store opened recently two doors down from their original location at Barracks Road Shopping Center. The new site is double in size and is the largest of its nine stores. President Chuck Millsaps stated, "We have a strong commitment to Charlottesville, getting people outside and giving back, and this expanded space will allow us to do more of that in a community that means so much to us." Stop in at their newly remodeled store at Barracks and check it out for yourself!

Brazos Tacos Opened Second Location

Brazos Tacos opened their much anticipated second location at Barracks Road Shopping Center in April. The Barracks Road location has outdoor seating and bar service.

Green Business Alliance

On May 15th, the Community Climate Collaborative (C3) welcomed ten more businesses to join

the already 16 existing businesses within the Green Business Alliance, which pledges to reduce emissions by at least 35% by 2025. U.S. Rep. Jennifer McClellan came to Charlottesville to celebrate the event, which was held at the Apex Plaza which is the East Coast's tallest timber-frame building. Apex Plaza is home to Apex Clean Energy, a firm with interests in solar, wind and tidal energy systems.

CBIC's 24th Annual Gala Celebration

The Charlottesville Business Innovation Council (CBIC) Awards Gala is the largest celebration of its kind in Charlottesville, recognizing local innovation-based successes from both startups and established tech companies, as well as from inspiring teachers and entrepreneurial students. The 24th Gala will be held at North Fork, a UVA Discovery Park, on June 1st from 5pm – 10:30pm where local businesses, government, and education leaders will mingle together in a newly formatted evening of entertainment and celebration. As CBIC's one and only "People's Choice" category, gala attendees will cast a vote for one of the following fine candidates during the June 1st event. The recipient will be announced during the ceremony. Finalists include:

- CODE Building
- Stephen Davis
- New Hill Development Corporation
- Sigora Home

For more information and to purchase tickets, [click here](#).

YouthRules! Initiative

The YouthRules! Initiative promotes positive and safe work experiences for teens by providing information about protections for young workers to youth, parents, employers, and educators. Through the YouthRules! Initiative, the U.S. Department of Labor and its partners promote positive and safe work experiences that help prepare young workers in the 21st-century workforce. Visit the [YouthRules! Website](#) to access information about federal and state labor laws, as well as a [Young Worker Toolkit](#) that can help parents, educators and employers better understand the rights and responsibilities for young workers. Be informed before your child starts their summer job!

May is Military Appreciation Month

Military Appreciation Month is a time for Americans to come together to honor and recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by United States Armed Forces members. It is a time to show appreciation for the dedication, bravery, and selflessness of those who have served, are currently serving, and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. The month of May is designated as Military Appreciation Month, and its history can be traced back to the 1940s when President Harry S. Truman designated the third Saturday in May as Armed Forces Day. Over time, the scope of observance grew to include several important observances, such as Loyalty Day, which honors the commitment of all Americans to their country and Constitution, and Armed Forces Day, which honors those currently serving the U.S. military. Additionally, Memorial Day, which falls at the end of the month, is a time to remember and honor those who have given their lives in service to their country.



OED Fun Fact

In May 1921, the Charlottesville Public Library opened with 5,000 books and the help of Paul Goodloe McIntire.

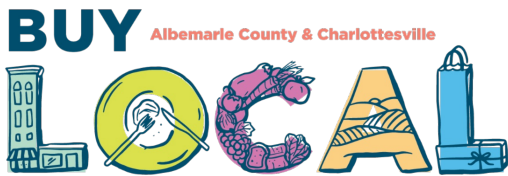
Upcoming Events

City and County to Host Business Pitch Competition



The City of Charlottesville Office of Economic Development and Albemarle County Economic Development have joined forces to offer educational programming leading to a pitch competition for local small businesses. Entrepreneurs and small business owners in Charlottesville and Albemarle can apply to participate in the 10-week program including 8 training programs (Business Essentials Training) offered by Central Virginia SBDC and work with a business advisor to hone their pitch and develop a solid business plan. To learn more about the program or to sign up, please visit the Piedmont Pitch [website](#).

Free Business Resources



The Albemarle County & City of Charlottesville Buy Local campaign highlights small businesses within the Charlottesville-Albemarle area through a multi-channel, multimedia promotional and educational campaign. To learn more about the campaign, click [here](#)!



The Central Virginia Small Business Development Center is a team of business and technical experts available to advise and assist entrepreneurs, confidentially and free of charge. They offer 1:1 assistance, curated research, access to technical experts and professionals, and timely events/training. To see upcoming SBDC events, click [here](#)!

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