

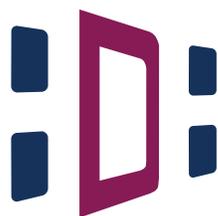
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024

**MARTIN** **2024** **COUNTY**  
**BUSINESS**  
**AWARDS**

CELEBRATING ECONOMIC EXCELLENCE

Presented by

**BANK OF AMERICA** 



**BUSINESS**  
**DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
MARTIN COUNTY | FLORIDA





# Congratulations

Bank of America is the proud presenting sponsor of the 2024 Martin County Business Awards.

Congratulations to the recipients for their remarkable talents, character and commitment to their community!

Community leaders like you are a vital resource and inspiration to us all.

Thanks to you, progress is being made and our community is becoming a better place to live and work.

Visit us at [bankofamerica.com/TreasureCoast](https://bankofamerica.com/TreasureCoast)



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Susan Rabinowitz, *President, Bank of America*  
Eric Kiehn, *Past President,\* C&W Technologies*  
*(Appointed by the Economic Council of Martin County)*  
Dan Romence, *President-Elect,\* Indiantown Marine Center*  
*(Appointed by the Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast)*  
Lauren Abbott, *Treasurer, Oceanwide Electronics*  
David Rosendahl, *Secretary, Edward Jones*

## DIRECTORS

Brian Bauer,\* *CareerSource Research Coast*  
Angela Browning, PhD,\* *Indian River State College*  
Marshall Critchfield, *Florida Power & Light*  
Carmine Dipaolo,\* *Village of Indiantown*  
Patrick Gleason, *State Insurance Agency*  
Ransom "Reed" Hartman,\* *Hartman Real Estate*  
*(Appointed by Martin County REALTORS Association of the Treasure Coast)*  
Sean Read,\* *City of Stuart*  
Ron Rose,\* *Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce*  
*(Appointed by the Council of Chambers)*  
William "David" Snyder, *Evergreen Private Care*  
Tyson Waters, *Fox, McClusky, Bush, Robison, PLLC*  
Ed Weinberg,\* *EW Consultants*  
*(Appointed by the Martin County Board of County Commissioners)*

## MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS LIAISON

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Trisha Hawthorne, *TD Bank*

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Shannon Armstrong, *Co-chairperson, Strong Consulting Group*  
Mike England, *Co-chairperson, Express Employment Professionals*

## MANUFACTURING ROUNDTABLE

Ted Astolfi, *Economic Council of Martin County*  
Alberto Delgado, *Manpower South Florida*  
Trisha Hawthorne, *TD Bank*  
Jill Marasa, *Ashley Capital*  
Bill West, *West Advisory*

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Ted Astolfi, *Economic Council of Martin County*  
Alberto Delgado, *Manpower South Florida*  
Trisha Hawthorne, *TD Bank*  
William "David" Snyder, *Evergreen Private Care*  
Bill West, *West Advisory*

## PROFESSIONAL TEAM

William T. Corbin, *Executive Director*  
Inez van Ravenzwaaij, *Director, Programs & Partnerships*  
Brittany Truong, *Office Administrator*

## CONSULTING TEAM

Dan Hudson  
BusinessFlare  
Upstairs Communications



As we honor this year's Martin County Business Awards winners, we look forward to even more announcements and celebrations in 2025.

Most notably, Martin County will commemorate its centennial.

Next year, the Business Development Board of Martin County will also reach a milestone: 34 years as the county's official economic development partner. For more than three decades, Martin County leadership has consistently fulfilled its role of providing the backdrop for local businesses to invest, expand, hire, and succeed on the merit of their work, and with the support of a thriving ecosystem of economic development and business partners.

The BDBMC, with our chamber, industry association, utility, community, and economic partners, play a critical role in this essential effort.

The county benefits from the insights and recommendations by the BDBMC—drawn from Pulse visits with local businesses—to help develop programs and inform policy, generating opportunities to ignite innovation, and job creation.

From pinpointing where to direct Phase 3 power to targeting essential infrastructure upgrades to identifying areas ideal for cultivating targeted industries and much more, Martin County is responsive and responsible for protecting our quality of life while we attract top-notch companies, potential headquarters, and advanced manufacturers, all of which leads to exciting opportunities for everyone.

An excellent sample of such creativity, ingenuity, and diversity is on display among the 2024 award winners and their predecessors.

Congratulations to each of them, and "Happy Centennial" to Martin County. We appreciate how far you've come and eagerly await the adventures ahead on our journey together.

William T. Corbin  
Executive Director



\*Appointed positions

# PROGRAM

20  
24

# AGENDA

## WELCOME

- Tania Rogers, *Emcee, WPTV, Anchor*
- Susan Rabinowitz, *BDBMC Board President*
- William T. Corbin, *BDBMC Executive Director*

## Award Presentations

- Company to Watch
- Newcomer of the Year
- Youth Entrepreneur of the Year
- Entrepreneur of the Year

## LUNCH

### Award Presentations cont.

- Manufacturer of the Year
- Headquarters of the Year
- Business Excellence

### Charlene Hoag Leadership Award

### Closing Remarks

- William T. Corbin, *BDBMC Executive Director*

20  
24

# NOMINEES

The Business Development Board of Martin County Business Awards presented by Bank of America celebrate Martin's best and companies that contribute to the local economy. From varying sectors, small or large, the BDBMC honors those companies that have paved the way for others through innovation, leadership, and outstanding economic achievements.

## The BDBMC would like to congratulate all the 2024 nominees for their accomplishments.

- Adult & Pediatric Institute
- Air Burners
- Bay State Milling
- Chittum Skiffs
- CIS Security Solutions
- Carr, Riggs & Ingram
- CryoTechnics US
- Ebersold Boatworks
- Grind Hard Ammo
- Hurricane Boat Lifts
- IM Group
- TC Homecare
- Kyle G's Restaurants
- Live Hearty
- Mate Series
- Palm City Millwork
- Paradise Air Fresh
- Smith Marine Services
- Printera
- Pursuit Aerospace
- South East Machine & Tool
- South Florida Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine
- Tami Karol Insurance
- TrenchBadger
- Waste Management
- Value Tool & Engineering
- Z Metal Works

**SELECTION COMMITTEE:**



Selection committee (L-R) Bill West, William “David” Snyder, Eric Kiehn, Susan Rabinowitz, Tammy Matthew, William T. Corbin, Lauren Abbott and Ted Astolfi.

The Business Development Board of Martin County greatly appreciates the time and talent of the 2024 Selection.

- Lauren Abbott, *Oceanwide Electronics*
- Ted Astolfi, *Economic Council of Martin County*
- Eric Kiehn, *C&W Technologies*
- Tammy Matthew, *Bank of America*
- Susan Rabinowitz, *Bank of America*
- William “David” Snyder, *Evergreen Private Care*
- Bill West, *West Advisory*

**HOST COMMITTEE:**

Host committee members are BDBMC annual investors dedicated to ensuring each of the honorees had a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

- Maygan Johnson, *Indian River State College*
- Robert Tweeddale, *Merrill Lynch*
- Sarah Lynch, *Seacoast Bank*
- Lauren Abbott, *representing the Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast*
- Tera Krueger, *C&W Technologies*
- Corey Waleski, *Colliers*
- Shrita Walker, *MIDFLORIDA Credit Union*
- Alberto Delgado, *Manpower South Florida*



**Congratulations to All Winners in the Community and Beyond**

Over the past year, Martin County leaders and businesses have been making their mark across the region, and the BDBMC would like to take a moment to acknowledge them for representing Martin County with excellence.



- **Hog Technologies** - South Florida Manufacturers Association, Manufacturer of the Year
- **International Training** - GrowFL, Company to Watch, Finalist
- **Kyle G’s Prime Seafood & Steaks** - GrowFL, Company to Watch, Finalist
- **Tami Karol**, Tami Karol Insurance, **Jill Marasa**, Ashley Capital, & **Evie Klaassen**, Colorado Pawn & Jewelry - weVENTURE & Palm City Chamber of Commerce as Women Who Rock
- **Jenny Fields**, **Vicki Davis**, **Carolyn Timmann**, **Ruth Pietruszewski** - weVENTURE & Palm City Chamber of Commerce as Women Who Rock, and for their leadership of Martin County’s Constitutional Offices
- **Owens Insurance** - Stuart/Martin Chamber of Commerce annual award winner
- **Colorado Pawn & Jewelry** - Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce annual award winner
- **Van’s Art Gallery & Boutique** - Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce annual award winner
- **Cruise Planners** - Palm City Chamber of Commerce annual award winner
- **PRP Construction** - Indiantown Chamber of Commerce, annual award winner

# PARTNERSHIPS IN ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP

Strong relationships, partnerships, and intentional collaborations are the only way to ensure Martin County's long-term economic success and resilience through uncertain and unexpected times and challenging situations like hurricanes, tornados, and other calamities.

United in Economic Leadership is the BDBMC's ethos, and the approach is to work closely with these strategic partners; together, we're leading the way and creating a strong and resilient economy for Martin County and future generations.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

### Martin County\*

- Board of County Commissioners
- Administration & Staff
- Emergency Operations
- Growth Management Department
- Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Office of Community Development
- Office of Tourism & Marketing
- Tax Appraisers Office
- Veterans Service Office
- Witham Field

### City of Stuart\*

### Village of Indiantown\*

## FEDERAL, STATE & REGIONAL PARTNERS

- CareerSource Research Coast
- Employ Florida
- FloridaCommerce
- FloridaMakes
- GrowFL

### Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast\*

- Small Business Administration
- Small Business Development Center at IRSC SelectFlorida
- South Florida District Export Council

### South Florida Manufactures Association\*

- Treasure Coast Manufacturers Association
- Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
- Veterans Florida
- weVENTURE, Women's Small Business Center at FIT

## ECONOMIC & CHAMBER PARTNERS

- Council of Chambers
- Economic Council of Martin County
- Florida Power & Light\*
- Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce
- Indiantown Chamber of Commerce\*
- Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce\*
- Palm City of Chamber of Commerce
- St. Lucie Economic Development Council
- Stuart/Martin Chamber of Commerce\*
- Stuart Main Street

## DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE PARTNERS

- Ashley Capital\*
- Colliers\*
- Hartman Real Estate
- Indiantown Realty Corporation
- Martin County REALTORS of the Treasure Coast\*

### Mattamy Homes, USA\*

### SLC Commercial\*

- Sands Commerce Center
- South Florida Gateway Distribution Center
- NAI Southcoast\*

## CAPITAL & FINANCE PARTNERS

### Bank of America\*

- Black Business Investment Corp. & Pathways Capital Funding Inc.
- Florida Opportunity Fund
- Florida Development Finance Corp.
- Martin County Industrial Development Authority\*
- TD Bank\*
- Seacoast Bank\*
- SouthState Bank\*
- MIDFLORIDA Credit Union\*
- West Advisory

## EDUCATION & WORKFORCE PARTNERS

### Martin County School District

### Indian River State College\*

- The Eastman Advanced Workforce Training Complex
- Clark Advanced Learning Center
- Indiantown High School

### ARC of the Treasure Coast

- Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County
- Career Connect Martin
- Chapman School of Seamanship
- Community Foundation of Martin/St. Lucie County
- Helping People Succeed
- House of Hope Martin County
- Project LIFT
- The REACH Center
- Reverse the Door
- Treasure Coast Builders Association

### Express Employment Professionals\*

### Manpower South Florida\*

## COMMUNITY & HUMAN SERVICES PARTNERS

- MartinArts
- Children's Services Council of Martin County
- Cleveland Clinic\*
- Coral Shores Behavioral Health Center
- Young Professionals of Martin County
- United Way of Martin County

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*Thank you for making today's event possible.*

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**Jensen Beach Chamber of Commerce** • **Manpower South Florida\***  
**Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast\*** • **MIDFLORIDA Credit Union\***  
**Project LIFT** • **Recovery Insurance Adjusters** • **South Florida Manufacturers Association**  
**SouthState Bank\***

*\*Annual Investors*



*Congratulations*  
**BUSINESS**  
DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
MARTIN COUNTY | FLORIDA

**2024 MARTIN COUNTY BUSINESS AWARD WINNERS**

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE YEAR

*Paradise Air Fresh*

COMPANY TO WATCH

*Grind Hard Ammo*

YOUTH ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

*Parker Smith, Smith Marine Services*

BUSINESS EXCELLENCE

*Pursuit Aviation*

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

*TrenchBadger, Inc.*

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

*Peter Morello Sr., CIS Security Solutions*

MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR

*Value Tool & Engineering*

***AshleyCapital***

# PARKER SMITH

# YOUTH ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

## WHAT THEY SAY:

“Parker Smith is such an impressive young man, he really understands the value of putting your mind to something and doing it—meeting the needs of your community and multiplying your skills to succeed.”



From working waterfront marinas to yacht sales companies to luxury boat builders, Treasure Coast’s multibillion-dollar marine industry is filled with legacy businesses, rich traditions, and ample opportunities. But, unknown to many, a

local marine business whose founder and CEO is only 16 years old.

That is, until Parker Smith splashed on the scene and introduced his company, Smith Marine Services.

Not only does he welcome work opportunities others might disdain or avoid, such as washing and detailing boats, but Smith also regularly updates his skillset and expands his services. In addition to providing mate and captain services, he’s taking

courses to earn his Yamaha mechanic certification while also finishing high school.

A graduate of Project LIFT, Smith has built a reputation for tenaciously seeking out opportunities, creating solutions, and outworking peers in pursuit of his goals. Moreover, he excels at enlisting and motivating others to bring out their best. He’s looking forward to growing his business, investing in more equipment, and creating jobs for others.

Withstanding the winds of business means navigating rough seas more often than savoring smooth sailing. In either case, it’s clear that Smith has what it takes to helm his future endeavors to success.

**2023 Youth Entrepreneur of the Year**  
Jaxon McIntyre & Matthew Elder

**2022 Youth Entrepreneur of the Year**  
Keegan Nunes, K SOAP



“Tackling workforce concerns takes strategy and teamwork,” says Shannon Armstrong, BDBMC’s Talent Advancement Team chairperson. “We are incredibly proud to partner with local workforce partners like Project LIFT, Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County, Chapman School of Seamanship, CareerSource Research Coast, Career Connect Martin, Indian River State College, Martin County School District, and many others in helping Martin employers find solutions and skill-ready talent. Our 2024 digital education and workforce guide is a comprehensive, one-stop, user-friendly resource for employers, job seekers, and local workforce partners.”



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- Great Places in Florida - 2020
- Best Places to Retire - 2018
- 15 Best Places to Visit in Florida - 2017
- Happiest Seaside Town in America - 2016
- Most Beautiful City - 2008

[www.cityofstuart.us](http://www.cityofstuart.us)

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# PETER MORELLO, SR



## ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

### WHAT THEY SAY:

“From clothing to home and sporting goods to high-end sunglasses to watches and jewelry, Pete Morello, Sr., and CIS Security Solutions have an answer to protect it – revolutionizing an entire industry.”



Blessed with boundless enthusiasm, Peter Morello, Sr. applies his entrepreneurial abilities to solving a pervasive problem that practically requires a crimefighting superhero to prevent it, that being retail theft.

For more than 30 years, CIS Security Solutions has provided loss-prevention products and services to the retail industry. From counterfeit currency to refund fraud to fraudulent receipts, Morello’s company equips retailers with ways to fight back, deter thieves, and dissuade fraudsters. It all started in 1989 when he began inventing and patenting new products to help prevent return fraud, internal theft, and external theft of cash and merchandise. Morello’s first patent, in 1989, was for the multi-colored ribbon to ensure the receipts were genuine. Since then, his innovations have included detection devices that identify counterfeit bills, a flashlight whose UV beam registers security images on credit cards, point-of-sale receipt rolls to prevent tampering, and all kinds of electronic alarm tethers.

The Martin County company serves both domestic and international markets, with its two manufacturing facilities, one in Serbia and the other in China. Making it necessary to think out of the box once again and bring the first Foreign Trade Zone designation to Martin County, thereby increasing its competitive edge globally and continuing to provide exceptional service to its portfolio of international customers.

With more than 12 patents and several prototypes under development, the innovative company’s diverse and sophisticated product line requires regular employee updates. A dynamic and empathetic leader who loves collaboration and leading by example, Morello’s staff creates training videos that are replete with his signature personality and humor to inform, inspire, and entertain his staff.

[www.ciissinc.com](http://www.ciissinc.com)

**2023 Entrepreneur of the Year**  
Eddie Kolos, H2Ocean

**2022 Entrepreneur of the Year**  
John Justak, ATGI



**VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN, ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**MAYOR**



**CARMINE  
DIPAULO**

**VICE MAYOR**



**ANGELINA  
PEREZ**

**COUNCIL MEMBER**



**VERNESTINE  
WILLIAMS-PALMER**

**COUNCIL MEMBER**



**PHYLLIS  
WATERS BROWN**

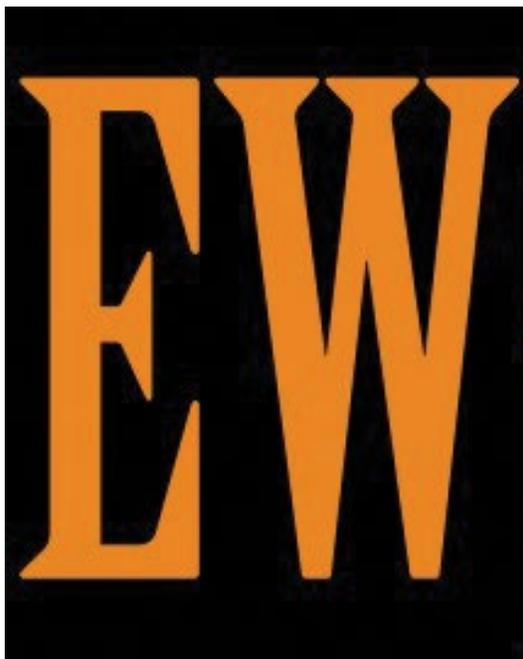
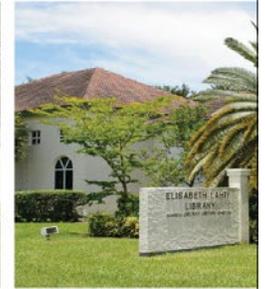
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# NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

## WHAT THEY SAY:

“Dale Ballenger is committed not only to creating a successful business but also to making a positive impact on their customers, the community, and anyone that does business with TrenchBadger.”



When faced with a difficult job, sometimes the only path forward is just to dig in. Unless the difficult job in question involves actual digging—tough, exhausting work made even worse

because when it comes to smaller trenches, there are no available shortcuts. After all, the primary tool for the task hasn't evolved in eons—right?

Not anymore. Or at least, not since Dale Ballenger said, *“Hold My Shovel”*.

Starting in his garage in Palm Beach County, the founder of TrenchBadger relocated to Stuart when things started taking off. An engineer and innovator, Ballenger, along with his business partner Giuseppe Burgos, have revolutionized how the highly essential but universally dreaded job of digging trenches is performed, specifically targeting specific industries and smaller businesses. Thanks to its unique design, the TrenchBadger—handheld, gas-powered, and outfitted with either single or dual blades—slices

through the turf, soil, or clay, like a Samurai sword through sushi.

Ideal for digging smaller trenches, the product is growing in popularity as the preferred tool of installers doing the vital groundwork of modern society—adding irrigation systems, low-voltage writing and fiber optics. Best of all, TrenchBadger is light and easy to operate.

Recently, learning of the seasonality of equipment sales, Ballenger and Burgos are embarking on two new service-lines, laser cleaning and powder coating. Keeping their customers serviced no matter the need or season.

[www.trenchbadger.com](http://www.trenchbadger.com)

**2023 Newcomer of the Year**  
Containing Luxury

**2022 Newcomer of the Year**  
Daher

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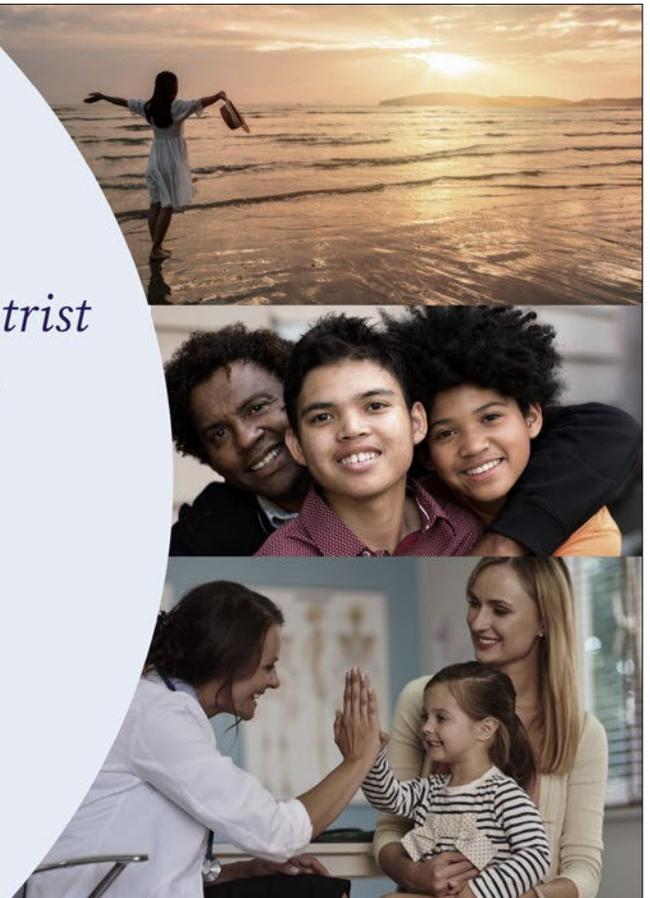
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# COMPANY TO WATCH

## WHAT THEY SAY:

“Barry Skolnick and his entire Grind Hard Ammo team operate one of the most unique and pristine manufacturing centers in Martin County, making manufacturing a true art form.”



If savvy entrepreneurs find and fill openings in the marketplace, then Barry Skolnick deserves an especially sharp salute. His company, Grind Hard Ammo, provides a vital solution to a national security challenge too few even

knew existed—that most U.S. ammunition has long been manufactured overseas.

Eager to re-shore the production of this essential resource to help equip law enforcement, military, and private citizens, Skolnick completely transformed all 30,000 square feet of the former YMCA skate rink into an advanced manufacturing operation that produces the copper casings and other components of ammunition. The facility is more striking thanks to its artwork—massive patriotic murals hand-painted by artist Juan Travieso—blanketing the walls.

Earlier this year, Skolnick, knowing that the arms industry valued and needed more U.S.-made

products, looked west to Indiantown and embarked on a massive expansion, a second facility, just to manufacture the primers. When this state-of-the-art facility is complete, in early 2025, Grind Hard Ammo will have created nearly 100 new jobs employing almost 200 people, many with specialized skills, and implement a robust on-the-job training program while also coordinating with Indian River State College to solidify additional workforce instructional opportunities. A proud employer of U.S. veterans, Grind Hard Ammo excels operationally, earning ratings for its ammunition that outperforms competitors many times over in quality.

Representing a more than \$90 million capital investment in our community, Grind Hard Ammo not only hit the target, but also hit the bull’s eye in delivering big for Martin County’s workforce and economy.

[www.grindhardammo.com](http://www.grindhardammo.com)

**2023 Newcomer of the Year**  
Containing Luxury

**2022 Newcomer of the Year**  
Willis Custom Yachts

INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE PROMISE PROGRAM



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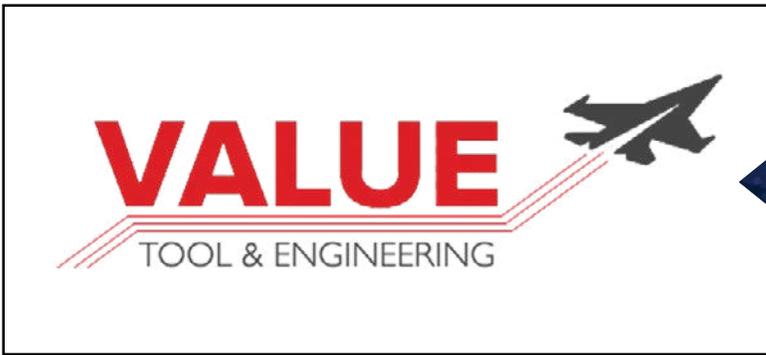
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**Rehmann**



# MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR

## WHAT THEY SAY:

“Thanks to innovation and lean processes throughout his business, Steve Hartz has created a niche in the Department of Defense aerospace manufacturing industry that sets Value Tool & Engineering apart from its competitors when it comes to delivering quality.”



There's just no “winging it” at Value Tool & Engineering. Precision is both the expectation and responsibility when you're manufacturing parts for aircraft of nearly every U.S. military or NATO fighter that takes flight.

a 100 percent contributory business, VTE delivers outside revenue into our local economy.

A U.S. Air Force veteran, Steve Hartz founded Value Tool & Engineering in Indiana and then expanded to Martin County in 2017 with its Palm City location; proudly, the company derives the lion's share of its business from the Department of Defense. Manufacturing precision machined parts, tools, and fixtures in compliance with International Traffic in Arms Regulations, VTE is renowned for living up to the first word in its name and exceptionally high standards of quality.

A subject-matter expert in developing and implementing secondary instructional materials, Hartz opened and operated a skilled-trades charter school in South Bend, Ind. Recognizing our area as rich with opportunities for ready professionals, he's currently working with the BDBMC's numerous partners in workforce development, including the R.E.A.C.H. Center, on solutions to equipping the local workforce for success in the field of manufacturing. His commitment to developing a culture of skill-ready students ready for jobs in manufacturing after graduation has made him a valued, pun intended, mentor to the BDBMC and Talent Advancement Team.

A professional and dynamic leader who cultivates a collaborative approach, Hartz ensures high-level quality control through every step of the manufacturing process. VTE's products consistently achieve top performance metrics. As

[www.valuetooleng.com](http://www.valuetooleng.com)

**2023 Manufacturer of the Year**

Pace Machine & Tool

**2022 Manufacturer of the Year**

WMC Competition Performance & Nihilo Concepts



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# HEADQUARTERS OF THE YEAR

## WHAT THEY SAY:

“The tight-knit leadership team is focused on becoming global industry leaders through innovation and running their business smart. But what they are most proud of is their team. Like an extended family, they care and nurture everyone; as such, their employee retention rate is bar none one of the best in Martin County.”



As a fragrance manufacturer that creates various scents for automotive, home, and commercial use, Paradise Air Fresh offers original aromas such as bubblegum, new car, Blue Lava, Bikini Breeze, and more. The company is also enjoying the sweet smell of success.

Since its founding in 2017, the company—led by brothers Ryan and Bradley Simons, the third generation of their family to work in the fragrance business—has expanded to serve multiple markets worldwide. More than 90 percent of their client base is international, with customers on almost every continent and strong support throughout Latin America. As much as 25 percent of its business consists of private-label customers. Increasing revenue year after year, they’re on pace to surpass \$10 million in 2025.

Excelling in international marketing, Paradise Air Fresh sources more than 90 percent of its materials in North America and uses that claim

to appeal to international buyers.

Exponential growth has prompted the company to expand, nearly tripling its square footage, to Sands Commerce in Palm City, occupying more than 80,000 square feet of warehouse space. Grateful for its employees, Paradise Air Fresh offers competitive wages and benefits and compelling enrichment programs—explaining why so many staff members have remained with the company since its founding.

We look forward to Paradise Air Fresh further taking the fragrance industry by storm and conquering more global markets from its home in Martin County, a paradise for manufacturing.

[www.paradisefresh.com](http://www.paradisefresh.com)

**2023 Headquarters of the Year**  
Awareness Technologies

**2022 Headquarters of the Year**  
TEAM IP



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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024

**MARTIN 2024 COUNTY BUSINESS AWARDS**  
 CELEBRATING ECONOMIC EXCELLENCE

Presented by

**BANK OF AMERICA**

View, share & download today's event program.



**DISTINCTIVE. BY DESIGN.**  
 MARTIN COUNTY | FL

The BDBMC would like to recognize the following organizations who have been exceptional partners in helping staff plan the 2024 awards.

Positioning Martin County as a creative and collaborative place to do business, their partnerships led to innovative solutions and the Made in Martin approach to the event.

ADDiTEC  
 Ashley Capital  
 Colliers  
 Don MacIntosh  
 Indiantown Realty  
 Mattamy Homes USA  
 Paradise Air Fresh  
 Printera  
 South Florida Gateway  
 TD Bank  
 &  
 Sue & Tom Whittington for hosting the Charlene Hoag Leadership Award reception.

*Thank You!*

Learn more about the Made in Martin approach to the event on our website. [www.bdbmc.org](http://www.bdbmc.org)

# Pursuit

AEROSPACE

# BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARD

## WHAT THEY SAY:

“Even when its industry slowed down during the pandemic, Pursuit Aerospace grew their customer base, reinvesting those earnings into retrofitting both warehouse spaces and large capital projects, equipment, and automation, enabling increased production efficiencies and impressive innovations.”



One of the largest and longest-operating aerospace manufacturers in Martin County with 57 years in business, Pursuit Aerospace consistently gains altitude in the high marks it achieves for

excellence in producing complex aircraft engine components.

Serving a global market, the company specializes in conventional and precision forgings—a metalworking technique the industry employs to create aircraft components. Pursuit Aerospace transformed traditional production methods with a modernized approach resulting in greater efficiencies and exactitudes. Its more than 300 employees operate in multiple workshops totaling 200,000 square feet, and even more expansion and more jobs are on its horizon.

One of the more significant contributory businesses in our local economy, Pursuit Aerospace, prioritizes expanding the experience and knowledge base of its employees. Its extensive training program is

anchored with on-the-job exposure and a robust mentorship chain of command where veteran team members account for preparing their newer counterparts. And U.S. Veterans make up a large share of the workforce, another pride point for the company and the community.

The company partnered with Indian River State College on welding training while remaining actively in search of additional workforce development programs. Kudos to the company’s leadership style for embracing guidance, support, direction, and encouragement so employees can progress, adjust, and achieve in their ongoing pursuit of excellence in aerospace manufacturing. Little wonder they’ve soared so high and for so long.

[www.pursuitaero.com](http://www.pursuitaero.com)

**2023 Business of the Year**  
International Training

**2022 Business of the Year**  
Bluestream Fiber

# WHY MARTIN COUNTY?



Photo provided by MIATC

## LOCATION, LOGISTICS, & MUCH MORE!

Less than two hours away from the world's gateway to space and a part of the Strategic Intermodal System—Florida's priority network of transportation facilities for interregional, interstate, and international travel—Martin County's legacy and emerging industries include elite providers in aviation, aerospace, marine, and technology.

Ready for investment, Martin County offers more than 1 million square feet of light industrial/mixed-use commercial space—for lease or build-to-suit—and miles of redundant fiber-optic infrastructure ideal for advanced manufacturing, AI systems, and innovative technologies.



## Making Martin County the best choice

### BDB SERVICES

- Confidential site selection, property search & business assistance
- Demographic & workforce information
- Local, regional and state liaison
- Permitting & development assistance
- Business assistance & incentives programs
- Collaboration with state partners on exporting goods and services
- Talent placement & workforce incentives

## DISTINCTIVE BY DESIGN. MARTIN COUNTY | FL

**Strategic Location:** Midway between Miami, Orlando and close to the Space Coast

**Access:** I-95, Florida Turnpike, concierge-style business jet service, general aviation, the only cross-state waterway, cargo rail, and passenger rail coming soon

**Technology:** Redundant fiber-optic infrastructure

**Availability:** Shovel-ready sites and wide-ranging land opportunities

**Readiness:** Office, industrial, flex space for lease

**Business Climate:** Strong support from local and elected leadership

**Distinctive Quality of Life:** Family-focused, casual coastal lifestyle with award-winning schools, world-class healthcare, and a philanthropic and collaborative community

1002 SE Monterey Commons Blvd. | Ste. 207 | Stuart, FL 34996

772.221.1380 | bdbmc.org



# CHARLENE HOAG

## LEADERSHIP AWARD



*Sue and Tom Whittington, 2023 Charlene Hoag Leadership Award honorees.*



### *In memory of Charlene Hoag, 1945-2002*

Charlene Hoag resided in Martin County for twenty-one years and had an extensive knowledge of Martin County, its diverse communities, and an excellent understanding of the major economic issues that face Martin County.

A former Martin County Commissioner with a long history of community leadership and also graduate of LEADERShip Martin County, Hoag served as a board member of the Stuart/Martin County Chamber of Commerce, the Martin County Taxpayers Association, and the Crane Creek Property Owners Association. She worked with the St. Lucie River Initiative, the Palm City Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Council of Martin County, the Treasure Coast Builders Association, and the Republican Party in Martin County. She also served on numerous boards, including as Vice-Chairman of the District Board of Trustees for Indian River Community College.

Charlene didn't just talk about issues; she actively worked to address them. Her resume tells the story

### PAST HONOREES:

- Sue & Tom Whittington (2023)
- Kelly Johnson (2022)
- Janice Norman (2021)
- Debra Duvall (2020)
- Carolyn Davi (2019)
- Bill West (2018)
- Ted Astolfi (2017)
- Mark Robitaille (2016)
- The Mader Family (2015)
- Donna Carman (2014)
- Dr. Edwin R. Massey (2013)
- Taryn Kryzda (2012)
- David, Brian, Kevin Powers (2011)
- Nick Blount (2010)
- Joseph Catrambone (2009)
- Evans Crary (2008)
- Larry Buchanan (2007)
- Ken Norman (2006)
- Elmira Gainey (2005)
- Senator Ken Pruitt (2004)
- Barbara Essenwine (2003)

of her involvement, but her actions speak volumes about her commitment to her community and her leadership.

**The Charlene Hoag Award recognizes** an individual whose characteristics include devotion to family, vocation, and servant leadership to the community. They advocate for the local economy's continuous improvement, ensuring it is thriving, sustainable, and resilient for everyone and many generations. Nominees for the Charlene Hoag Award should demonstrate these leadership characteristics and share Charlene's commitment to involvement in the community.



# Celebrating

# 100 YEARS!

1925 - 2025



Incorporated on August 5, 1925, and formed from parts of northern Palm Beach County and southern St. Lucie County, proudly Martin County was named after John Wellborn Martin, the 24th Governor of Florida.

Today, Martin County celebrates the 2024 Martin County Business Award recipients and those who led the way before them. Next year, the Board of Commissioners, together with all the residents and businesses of Martin County, will celebrate the historic milestone of our centennial.

## *Congratulations!*

**Business Excellence** - Pursuit Aerospace

**Headquarters of the Year** – Paradise Air Fresh

**Manufacturer of the Year** – Value Tool & Engineering

**Company to Watch** – Grind Hard Ammo

**Newcomer of the Year** – TrenchBadger

**Entrepreneur of the Year** – Peter Morello, Sr. CIS Security Solutions

**Youth Entrepreneur of the Year** – Parker Smith, Smith Marine Services



Martin County invites you to share your personal connections to Martin County and participate in the centennial celebration!

Join in by posting photos on Instagram using the hashtag #MartinCounty100. For more information about the Centennial, [www.martincounty100.com](http://www.martincounty100.com) or email [info@martincounty100.com](mailto:info@martincounty100.com)



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