

Business

Equity firm buys 3 office complexes

Mass. company pays \$43M for south Lee properties

Laura Layden
Naples Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

A Massachusetts private equity real estate investment firm has purchased three office campuses in south Lee County for more than \$43.1 million.

Described as a “strategic portfolio sale,” it was the first Southwest Florida office acquisition for Brookwood Financial.

Randal Mercer and Brandon Stoneburner, of CRE Consultants, represented the seller in the deal, which involved an office portfolio containing well-

known office projects in Bonita Springs and south Fort Myers, for \$43.15 million.

The Class A office portfolio includes 15 buildings in three locations.

Most of the 421,324 square feet of space is in two projects — the Riverview Corporate Center and Bonita Executive Center — in Bonita Springs.

The third asset is the Renaissance Center near Daniels Parkway and Inter-

state 75.

According to CRE, the portfolio represented “a rare, strategic opportunity for Brookwood Financial to acquire three ‘landmark office assets’ within the Southwest Florida market with a long history of strong tenancy.”

CRE Consultants will continue to work with Brookwood Financial to lease any vacant space.



Arthrex founder Reinhold Schmieding accepted the award for business expansion and was the keynote speaker at the annual Excellence in Industry awards. The honors were presented Wednesday by the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce at the Hilton Naples. LIAM JAMES DOYLE/NAPLES DAILY NEWS

Naples Chamber gives out annual Excellence awards

Arthrex honored for \$47 million expansion

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Businesses big and small shared the spotlight at this year’s Excellence in Industry awards celebration in Collier County.

The awards, presented by the

Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce and its affiliate Opportunity Naples on Wednesday at the Hilton Naples, also went to a nonprofit organization and a young professional.

“Each year, the Naples Chamber and Opportunity Naples recognize the businesses and individuals who exemplify the use of innovation in

business, who take a responsible approach to economic diversification and those businesses who enhance themselves and, in turn, our community,” said Penny Fisher, news director of the Naples Daily News.

Over the past 25 years, more than

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IT’S YOUR BUSINESS

Awards

The Collier County Women’s Bar Association announced that past President **Kathleen Passidomo** was awarded the 2017 Rosemary Barkett Outstanding Achievement Award by the Florida Association of Women Lawyers. Additionally, **Rachael Loukonen** and **Starling Hendriks**, also former presidents of the CCWBA, were both selected as FAWL Leaders in the Law for Collier County.

Philanthropy

Colin Raskin, owner of Clean Ma-

chine Car Wash, donated 100 percent of his daily sales from Oct. 7 to hurricane relief efforts with a check for \$5,507 to a fund established by local Rotary International District 6960.

Symposium

Neighborhood Health Clinic Co-Founder **Nancy Lascheid** and CEO **Leslie Lascheid** attended The National Association of Free & Charitable Health Clinics’ Charitable Health Care Symposium last month in Denver.

Herc Holdings reports revenue rising ‘across all of our regions’

Laura Layden
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Herc Holdings saw a strong third quarter, driven by solid rental revenue growth.

The parent company of Herc Rentals — a diversified equipment rental business based in Bonita Springs — reported a profit of \$12.8 million, up more than 325 percent from \$3 million a year ago.

The company earned 45 cents a share, up from 11 cents a year ago.



Silber

Equipment rental revenue grew 14.7 percent over the year to \$413.1 million, compared with \$360.3 million a year ago.

Total revenue reached \$457.6 million, rising from \$403.6 million last

year. The results exceeded Wall Street’s expectations, sending shares soaring.

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Excellence

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150 businesses and individuals have been honored with the awards.

“Our past winners have made significant contributions to Collier County, generating revenue and tax dollars, adding to our talented workforce and creating leaders who give back to the community,” Fisher said.

Here are this year’s winners:

Business Expansion: Arthrex

The global medical device manufacturer with headquarters in North Naples grows by 15 to 20 percent annually, which has resulted in building expansions and job growth in the community.

In 2016 the company initiated a \$47 million expansion at its manufacturing plant near Ave Maria. The project added 215,00 square feet of manufacturing space and a finishing facility and created 350 manufacturing jobs in Collier County.

The company’s main campus off Creekside Boulevard also has grown over the years. Most recently Arthrex completed a \$6 million expansion and renovation project, which included doubling the size of its medical education center, adding 21,000 square feet of office space and building a second floor.

Arthrex operates out of six buildings at its main campus in the Creekside Commerce Park and plans another major expansion that will include a new administration and education building at 1250 Creekside Parkway. The new building — a \$73.4 million capital investment — will create 560 jobs, including ones in medical research and development.

An economic development study released last year estimated Arthrex’s annual impact will approximately double in Collier County, growing to about \$1.67 billion by 2020.

The company is one of the county’s largest private employers.

Company to Watch: SkyLink Data Centers

This high-tech company provides

services to more than 40,000 users worldwide. Its data center offers leased storage to other companies needing a safe spot to house their data and data equipment (think servers and networking devices).

SkyLink is the only Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act compliant data center between Tampa and Miami. It was named to the list of 20 Most Promising DataCenter Solution Providers in 2016, developed by CIOReview.

The data center sits on a natural ridge and is outside a flood zone. It has back-up power, a generator designed to keep the building and its equipment operating without fail through storms big and small. The generator is capable of producing up to 1 megawatt.

The owners say the center can sustain Category 5 hurricane winds and flooding and still be 100 percent operational.

“It’s the safest place in the county — so safe FPL keeps some of its gear here,” said Jacob Ackerman, chief technology officer.

Heart of the Community: Shelter for Abused Women & Children

Over the past 30 years, this nonprofit organization has operated on the premise that everyone has the right to a life free from violence and abuse. Established in 1986, the shelter has transformed the lives of thousands of domestic violence survivors in Collier County.

From a converted four-plex in East Naples in 1989, the shelter has evolved into a 60-bed state-of-the-art emergency center for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.

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There’s even a kennel at the shelter to house pets.

The nonprofit also offers outreach counseling, training and education. Its seven transitional living cottages allow survivors to rebuild their lives after they leave the emergency shelter.

Some of the group’s more unique offerings include art therapy and a prevention program, Raising Gentle’men, for boys and young men.

The Shelter Options Shoppe, the organization’s resale store in Naples, supports its operations and provides clothing, furniture and other necessities to the women and children it serves.

Pillar Award: Barron Collier Cos.

The family business of the late Barron G. Collier, for which the county is named, has positively affected the growth and development of Collier County for more than 100 years.

With almost 200 employees, the company oversees several divisions, including agriculture, commercial real estate development and services, residential development, mineral management, engineering and environmental services, and tourism and hospitality.

Operating under the parent company are such enterprises as Collier Family Farms, Barron Collier Commercial, Collier Resources, Orange Jeep Tours and Peninsula Engineering.

Residential development has included projects in Ave Maria and at Grey Oaks in East Naples.

The company has supported many charities and nonprofit groups over the years, encouraging its employees to give back. It has worked “strategically with partners and friends to ultimately make

Naples the best city in Florida to live.”

Young Professional of the Year: Jennifer Trammell

NewsBank, a Naples-based company, has amassed the world’s largest collection of news stories by partnering with more than 10,000 news providers around the globe.

As a director of digital marketing at the company, Trammell uses her journalism skills as a former news anchorwoman and reporter to leverage video as a sales, marketing and corporate communication tool for NewsBank.

She oversees NewsBank’s social media strategy, and she is integrating additional marketing channels to seamlessly deliver content on a variety of digital platforms.

A graduate of Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism, Trammell specializes in arranging complex information into easily digestible formats.

Before joining NewsBank, she worked for Waterman Broadcasting. She started as a reporter for NBC-2 and ABC-7 in Collier County and worked her way up to weekend anchor and investigative reporter.

She also worked at local television affiliates in Cleveland; Chicago; Green Bay, Wisconsin; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and Topeka, Kansas. Her work was recognized by the Associated Press and The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

A graduate of the GAIN Class of 2014, Trammell remains involved with the Leadership Collier Foundation. She’s a member of the chamber’s public policy committee and volunteers for the Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida.

Chairman’s Award: Sunshine Ace Hardware

At one of the largest family-owned home improvement and outdoor recreation retailers in Collier County, Michael Wynn, company president, has implemented a number of programs and learning opportunities to keep 300-plus

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