



BusinessScene

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Focus on Business Startups in Camarillo

Most entrepreneurial business growth in the U.S. is not organic; to accelerate startup activity, platforms for growth are very important. Startup businesses don't just benefit a few people who organize a venture in a garage. In mid-level U.S. cities, entrepreneurial businesses have generated over 16,000 jobs annually. Business startup support is also happening in Camarillo.

Startups Ventura County (VC) is taking place April 20-22, at Camarillo Library and ACE Charter High School. The event, formerly called Startup Weekend VC, gives entrepreneurs the opportunity to be coached by industry experts while formulating their ideas, and to compete for a first place award of \$20,000. A panel of prominent CEOs will judge the entrepreneurs in three categories: Internet of Things, Agriculture, and Healthcare. \$5,000 will be awarded for second place, along with terrific in-kind prizes for all award recipients. For registration and more information, please go to <http://StartupsVenturaCounty.com>.



The Chamber of Commerce **Coworking Space** is another venue for entrepreneurial activity. The Coworking Space was established after last year's Startups VC event, in 3,900 sf at Camarillo Airport. Rent in the Coworking Space is free, and there are currently three entrepreneur groups using the facility. Work areas are available for up to nine more startup businesses. For more details, please contact Chamber CEO Gary Cushing at CEO@camarillochamber.org.

Another exciting development is the new **Pharos Center for Innovation**, a resource hub for entrepreneurs and existing businesses. Located in the VCCF Building on Mission Oaks Blvd, the Pharos Center is a collaborative of several entrepreneur, education, economic, and nonprofit organizations.

The Pharos Center comprises some 18,000 sf for business counseling, coworking, events, and offices. The staff assists all types of businesses with mentoring, training, website design, access to strategic partnerships, and launching new products. Some of the current projects include the creation of an improved intravenous surgical pump, and addressing the opioid epidemic.

The Pharos Center is an innovative environment in Camarillo for businesses and startup concepts. More information is available at www.PharosCenter.com. To sign up for a time to visit the Center, please go to <https://calendly.com/visitpharos>.

