

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF
May, 2012**

Inquires/Appointments/Successes

The EDO's efforts to recruit and maintain existing businesses continue with:

- ✓ 55 pending prospects.
- ✓ 2 new projects reviewed.
- ✓ 3 site visits and presentations.
- ✓ 6 internal research requests; 2 external.
- ✓ 1 company background search.
- ✓ 10 appointments with prospects, their representatives or realtors.

Meetings

- ✓ International Level
 - Enterprise Florida – Canada, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa
 - Visitors from Brazil
 - Visitors from Korea
- ✓ State Level
 - APA Florida State Conference Program Committee
 - Florida Brownfield Association/Florida Redevelopment Association
- ✓ Regional Level
 - Suncoast Technology Forum
 - Southwest Florida Works
 - Startup Chicks
 - Edison College – President Interviews
 - FGCU
 - Southwest Florida Workforce Development
- ✓ Local Level
 - Directors' Meetings, Staff Meetings
 - Meetings with Commissioners, Administration and the Attorney's Office
 - BCC Board Meetings and PreAgenda Meetings
 - Budget Meeting & Workshop
 - Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee
 - Charlotte County Industrial Development Authority
 - Enterprise Charlotte Economic Council
 - Charlotte County Chamber
 - Punta Gorda Chamber
 - Punta Gorda Economic Development Task Force
 - Charlotte County Community Development
 - Charlotte County Community Services
 - Charlotte County Building Services
 - Charlotte County Public Works
 - Post Legislative Luncheon

Presentations/Newspapers/Magazines

- ✓ Speaking Engagements: WENG Radio; Leadership Charlotte
- ✓ Press Release: 18th Annual SW Florida Blue Chip Community Business Award; Charlotte Harbor CRA Father & Child Fishing Tournament

Office Activities

- ✓ Website updates: Data collection included monthly housing trend chart, vacancy rates, sales tax, lease information, median home prices, unemployment stats, residential and commercial building permits, added/deleted economic development events, reworked home page Flash. Updated social media sites and calendar.
- ✓ Prepared and circulated monthly department newsletter.
- ✓ Prepared Agenda, Minutes and coordinated meetings for the Charlotte Harbor CRA, and Charlotte County Industrial Development Authority.
- ✓ Reviewed and updated Charlotte County property listing profiles for on-line commercial property database.
- ✓ Facilitated the 4 events for National Small Business Week which included various topics/programs for local small businesses – Lunch & Learn Early Stage Funding; QuickBooks; Growing Your Business. Initiated the BCC Proclamation recognizing the week of May 20-26 as Small Business Week.
- ✓ Participated in the recruitment of local companies to apply for the “2012 Florida Companies to Watch” program and facilitated the completion of Marketing Arm International’s application.
- ✓ Recruiting businesses to participate in the Grow FL Economic Gardening program and coordinating with the SWF Regional Planning Council to submit a response to a RFP for Economic Gardening services in the region.
- ✓ Facilitated the May 3 Entrepreneurial Support Organization meeting which included finalizing the events for National Small Business Week.
- ✓ Continued to research additional resources for entrepreneurs including attending the May 9 Gulf Coast Venture Forum Annual Meeting and discussed the possibility of an “Associate Membership” with the organization and reaching out to the director of “Startup Chicks”. Both organizations would provide additional resources to local companies seeking venture capital.
- ✓ Participated in the May 1 Charlotte County Sustainability Team Meeting and attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Human Services Building which will seek LEED certification.
- ✓ Planned Emergency Preparedness meeting with big box stores for June.
- ✓ Updated Disaster Preparedness Guide.
- ✓ Prepared marketing brochures for Charlotte Harbor and Assisted Living.

Research and Policy Initiatives

- ✓ Continued to work on EDO policies and strategic plan.
- ✓ Continued working with local commercial land developers regarding land trades.
- ✓ Analyzed the appropriate data to provide options for the creation of an Enterprise Zone in Charlotte County. Presented first draft to City Manager to seek City support. Coordinating the analysis with the Department of Economic Opportunity and the County’s Community Development/Mapping Department. Developing a list of tasks and a timeline to meet all requirements prior to the December 31 deadline.
- ✓ Researched and reviewed Business Tax.
- ✓ Prepared a Lost Client Survey.
- ✓ Analyzed LexisNexis vs. Hoovers/D&B.

Charlotte Harbor CRA

- ✓ Continued to manage the final permitting of Harbor Walk Phase I. Lease documentation received from FDOT, working with FDOT and County Attorney to finalize the document and will schedule for BCC review and approval following legal sign off. Monitoring US Transportation bill to identify additional opportunities to seek advancement approval by FDOT to start the project before 2014.
- ✓ Coordinated the May 7 Regular Meeting of the Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee which included a presentation by the Community Services Director and the Zoning Official.
- ✓ Continued to seek information from Public Works on improving pedestrian safety for residents of Villas San Carlos and surrounding neighborhood.

- ✓ Coordinated the May 1 dedication of the Dick Loftus Bridge which had over 30 people attending. Also coordinated the installation of the Logo Banner on the bridge as an example of a new banner type for the CRA.
- ✓ Attended the Charlotte County Historical Advisory Committee to discuss a partnership with the Charlotte Harbor CRA. Concerns were raised regarding the date the Charlotte Harbor historic town was established. The HAC will continue to investigate and provide feedback to the CRA.
- ✓ Facilitated the 2013 Hands Across the Harbor 2013 Kick Off Meeting. Waste Management will continue to be the event sponsor and Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center will continue to be the non-profit beneficiary. Save the Date: January 26, 2013.
- ✓ Attended the May 16 meeting of the Affordable Housing Committee to seek additional resources for Charlotte Harbor CRA to assist with foreclosed residential units. Continued to facilitate efforts to redevelop Sibley Bay property.
- ✓ Met with Code Enforcement Officer Rick Towne to tour Charlotte Harbor and followed-up with the Environmental Code Enforcement Officer to facilitate the cleanup of two properties that are overgrown and have illegal dumping issues.

Murdock Village CRA

- ✓ Continued to participate in the master planning of Murdock Village with the Community Development Department on future land use provisions including master infrastructure plan and entitlements.
- ✓ Processed the June 12 BCC agenda item for the Board to consider the Main Stage proposal and scheduled a meeting with the interested party for June 7.