

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

Inquires/Appointments/Successes

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

- ✓ 69 pending prospects.
- ✓ 13 new projects reviewed.
- ✓ 1 Incentive Application.
- ✓ 2 site visits and presentations.
- ✓ 4 internal research requests – LexisNexis; Hoovers; web.
- ✓ 9 appointments with prospects, their representatives or realtors.

Meetings

- ✓ State Level
 - APA Florida State Conference Program Committee
 - ULI Sustainability Committee
 - Enterprise Florida
 - Senator Benequisto
- ✓ Regional Level
 - Suncoast Technology Forum
 - Southwest FL Regional Planning CEDS Working Committee
 - Southwest FL Workforce Development
- ✓ Local Level
 - Directors' Meetings, Staff Meetings
 - Meetings with Commissioners, Administration and the Attorney's Office
 - BCC Board Meetings and PreAgenda Meetings
 - Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee
 - Charlotte County Industrial Development Authority
 - Enterprise Charlotte Economic Council
 - Charlotte County Airport Authority
 - Edison State College
 - Aging in Place
 - Entrepreneurial Support Organization
 - TAC/MPO
 - Charlotte County Chamber
 - Punta Gorda Economic Development Task Force
 - Charlotte County Community Development
 - Charlotte County Public Works

Presentations/Newspapers/Magazines

- ✓ Speaking Engagements: WENG – Emergency Preparedness
- ✓ Press Release: Small Bridge Loan Program; Enterprise Zone Open House

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. Updated social media sites and calendar. Also worked on an FTP site.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Reviewed and updated the Emergency/Disaster Preparedness booklet and documents. CEMP customization.
- ✓ Reviewed and updated Demographic Profile.
- ✓ Participated in COLI Survey.
- ✓ Participated in SWF Regional Planning Council Working Committee to develop the 5 year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Provided comments and completed requested "Homework Assignments" for the completion of the draft document. The 30 day public comment period will open in August.
- ✓ Focused on identifying potential businesses interested in participating in the GrowFL Economic Gardening program, unfortunately local businesses did not meet the strict guidelines authorized by the State.
- ✓ Coordinated the July 11 Entrepreneurial Support Organization (ESO) meeting and began planning events for the Global Entrepreneurship Week – November 2012.
- ✓ Continued to promote the Blue Chip Award to local businesses. Applications are being accepted until September 10, 2012.
- ✓ Followed up with SCORE and Goodwill regarding the management of the Microloan program. SCORE is preparing an analysis of the creation of a CDFI for Charlotte County.
- ✓ Facilitated a lunch meeting with a logistics expert to seek input on developing distribution clusters in Charlotte County and followed up with additional information.
- ✓ Assisted in the CDBG Economic Development Grant application process for infrastructure improvements that are tied to job creation.
- ✓ Working with the Florida/Brazil Chamber of Commerce to strengthen business ties.

Research and Policy Initiatives

- ✓ Continued to work on EDO policies, strategic plan and marketing.
- ✓ Continued working with local commercial land developers regarding land trades.
- ✓ Continued to research Certified Site Programs and how a similar program could be designed for Charlotte County.
- ✓ Finalized the proposed boundary for the Enterprise Zone and scheduled a public open house for August 2 to seek public comment on the boundaries. Secured an expert on business incentives to attend the workshop and provide an overview on the incentives. Presented the proposed boundaries to staff of the Airport Authority; Community Development; and commissioners.

Charlotte Harbor CRA

- ✓ Continued to monitor the final permit and funding for the Harbor Walk Project. Submitted a follow up letter to District One Secretary Billy Hattaway regarding advancing the project. Secretary Hattaway declined our request until more details on the new transportation bill are outlined. The lease with FDOT is the last document needed to finalize the permits on this project. The County Attorney's Office has been requested to contact the FDOT Attorney and finalize the document so that it can be brought before the BCC for consideration.
- ✓ Facilitated the July 9 Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee meeting which included a review of the Architectural Standards and an update on the playground equipment for Bayshore Live Oak Park. The BCC approved the installation of the playground equipment on July 24.
- ✓ Met with several community leaders to discuss options for the reuse/renovation of the Roberts House located at the corner of Sibley Bay and Seneca. The house was built in 1927 and contains several antiques. The family is interested in selling the house to a not for profit to restore.
- ✓ Compiled comments from Community Development staff and submitted them to Walkable and Livable Communities Institute on the draft report that articulates the recommendations developed from "Street Design and Your Community" event that was held in April. The final document should be completed by September.

- ✓ Oversaw the tasks of the Bayshore Live Oak Park Special Events Coordinator and provided input on future development within Bayshore Live Oak Park to the Community Services Department. Coordinated with the development of a map to highlight attractions in the park.
- ✓ Continued to seek information from Engineering on improving pedestrian safety for residents of Villas San Carlos and surrounding residents.
- ✓ Continued to develop marketing opportunities in Charlotte Harbor to attract outside development opportunities. Scheduled to present to the local ReMax Realtors on August 14.
- ✓ Facilitated the Hands Across the Harbor 2013 Steering Committee Meeting on July 26. 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.
- ✓ Continued to work with an interested developer on redeveloping the Sibley Bay property. Activities included a conference call and follow up on grant opportunities and existing and proposed entitlements.
- ✓ Reviewed the Small Cities CDBG opportunity with staff and consultant for Charlotte Harbor CRA to complete several projects. Due to grant guidelines the identified projects do not appear to qualify at this time.

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.
- ✓ Coordinated with the Attorney's Office on the draft of the Main Stage Option Contract scheduled for the August 28 BCC meeting.