

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

Inquires/Appointments/Successes

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

- ✓ 13 pending prospects.
- ✓ 3 new projects reviewed.
- ✓ 2 site visits and presentations.
- ✓ 6 research requests – LexisNexis; CoStar; web.
- ✓ 4 appointments with prospects, their representatives or realtors.

Meetings

- ✓ State Level
 - DEP Brownfield Symposium
- ✓ Regional Level
 - Suncoast Technology Forum Meeting
 - Gulf Coast Venture Forum Company Presentation Meeting
 - Southwest Manufacturing Association Board Meeting
 - FGCU Small Business Development Center Meeting
- ✓ 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
 - Enterprise Charlotte Economic Council
 - Industrial Development Authority
 - Charlotte County Airport Authority
 - Entrepreneurial Support Organization
 - TAC/MPO
 - Charlotte County Chamber
 - Punta Gorda Economic Development Task Force
 - Charlotte County Community Development
 - Charlotte County Community Services
 - Charlotte County Public Works
 - Historical Advisory Committee
 - Affordable Housing Service Committee
 - Broadband Advisory Committee Meeting
 - Health Insurance Focus Group
 - Leadership Charlotte
 - Charlotte Harbor Hands Across the Harbor Committee
 - County SWOT Analysis meetings

Presentations/Newspapers/Magazines

- ✓ Newspaper/Magazine/TV Interviews: Fox 4 Morning Blend Show – Hands Across the Harbor; Charlotte County Video
- ✓ Press Releases/E-Mail Blasts:

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. Changed background on all pages.
- ✓ Prepared and circulated monthly department newsletter.
- ✓ Prepared Agenda, Minutes and coordinated meetings for the Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee, Enterprise Zone Development Agency and the Industrial Development Authority.
- ✓ Reviewed and updated Charlotte County property listing profiles for on-line commercial property database.
- ✓ Reviewed and updated Demographic Profile.
- ✓ Reviewed newspaper and posted articles relevant to the EDO on its website.
- ✓ Reviewed paper and electronic files for Records Retention.
- ✓ Reviewed relevant company notices in LexisNexis.
- ✓ Continued to work with the Florida/Brazil Chamber of Commerce to strengthen business ties.
- ✓ Completed the Enterprise Zone Strategic Development Plan and support documentation. Presented the Plan to the following organizations: Charlotte County Airport Authority on November 15; Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee on November 19; and the Punta Gorda Planning Commission on November 26. Prepared the Novus Agenda items to schedule the public hearing and adoption of the plan scheduled for December 11.
- ✓ Trade show and airport marketing tools being researched and created. Met with videographer.

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 and draft materials for a Certified Site Programs in Charlotte County.
- ✓ Presented the Enterprise Zone Strategic Development Plan at the following public meetings: Charlotte County Planning and Zoning Board on December 10 and the BCC Public Hearing December 11. The Plan was adopted by the BCC on December 11.
- ✓ Completed the Enterprise Zone application and submitted it to the Department of Economic Opportunity. Processed the agenda item for the Interlocal Agreement between the County and the City which is scheduled for review and approval in January.
- ✓ Continued to review options for the Microloan program by working with a volunteer who has researched the feasibility of establishing a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) in Charlotte County.
- ✓ Research and verify vacant properties in Enterprise Zone and Charlotte Harbor CRA.

Charlotte Harbor CRA

- ✓ Harbor Walk Project – Tentative FDOT Work Plan (2014-2018) released. Project funding remains intact. FDOT staff reluctant to advance project due to the limitations on the new Transportation Bill (MAP-21). MAP-21 is only a two-year bill. Staff will continue to monitor and discuss other strategies to move the project forward.
- ✓ Attended the FDOT/ MPO Coordination meeting and provided an update on the Harborwalk Project.
- ✓ Prepared a funding request for all Charlotte Harbor CRA projects with cost estimates and a PowerPoint overview and provided the information to Administration.
- ✓ Bayshore Live Oak Park – Oversaw the tasks of the Bayshore Live Oak Park Special Events Coordinator. Bayshore Park Map is available at the Charlotte County Historical Center.
- ✓ Advisory Committee – Facilitated the December 3 Charlotte Harbor CRA Advisory Committee meeting which included an update on Bayshore Park construction projects.
- ✓ Hands Across the Harbor - Continued to chair the Hands Across the Harbor 2013 Steering Committee. Continued to develop marketing materials. Save the Date: January 26, 2013.

- ✓ Attended the December 19 Greater Port Charlotte MSBU meeting to fund the design and construction of three additional drainage projects and to secure funding for a survey of Parmely Street. Funding for drainage projects were approved but survey work was denied.

Murdock Village CRA

- ✓ BCC Workshop scheduled for January 29 to discuss the future direction of Murdock Village.
- ✓ Reappointment of one Murdock Village CRA Advisory Committee member was approved by the BCC in December and the two remaining members are scheduled for reappointment in January.

Professional Development

- ✓ Debrah Forester received the 2012 Roland Eastwood Planner of the Year award from the Promised Lands Section of the American Planning Association, Florida Chapter in recognition of her contributions to the planning profession in Southwest Florida.