

DES NEWS

Spring 2015

Department of Economic Sustainability



Palm Beach County's Department of Economic Sustainability is authorized by the Board of County Commissioners to administer programs for business development, housing, and community initiatives.

Fiberglass Manufacturer to Open New Plant in Palm Beach County

Fibex, LLC, a composite materials supplier, plans to bring its manufacturing operations to Palm Beach County.

Earlier this month, the Board of County Commissioners approved the issuance of \$3 million in industrial development revenue bonds in connection with the acquisition, renovation and equipping of an existing building on the West 13th Street industrial corridor in Riviera Beach.

Activities at the new plant will include the manufacture of technical fiber products for the composite material industry by converting fiberglass, carbon and other heat-resistant and strong synthetic fibers, resulting in woven and knitted tapes that are used to restore, protect and reinforce pipelines and civil structures. The products are marketed to numerous industries, including aerospace, automotive, construction, defense, energy, marine, transportation, and sports and recreation. Their products are sold both domestically and internationally.

The company is also working with DES on additional financial leveraging sources for working capital. The project is expected to create at least 25 new full-time jobs within the first five years and to generate an estimated economic impact of \$16.9 million.



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With more than 7,000 hits since January, PBC Interactive provides nationwide access to economic development data critical to a company's decision to relocate or expand. Our real-time research tool will help you locate future and existing land uses, zoning districts, North American Industry Classification Systems (NAICS) codes, census data, enterprise zones, ownership and property tax information, and more. Visit www.pbcgov.com/des and click on this icon.

Did you Know?

According to figures published by Enterprise Florida, the State's principal economic development organization, Palm Beach County maintains the highest average annual wage in Florida, at \$47,440.



County Shares Economic Development Strategies at National Conference

DES Deputy Director Sherry Howard shared examples of Palm Beach County-assisted business expansion projects in a presentation at the annual conference of the National Forum of Black Public Administrators (NFBPA), held in Tampa in April. The presentation included a panel discussion of non-traditional financing for projects and how local governments can market those resources.

The conference drew attendees from around the country and offered a variety of workshops and sessions on leadership, public policy, and community and economic development.

The National Forum for Black Public Administrators is a progressive organization dedicated to the advancement of black public leadership in local and state governments. Palm Beach County's own deputy county administrator, Verdenia Baker currently serves as the organization's national president.

CDBG Projects Featured at National Planning Conference

At its annual conference this month in Seattle, the American Planning Association featured several economic development, affordable housing, and infrastructure projects completed by Palm Beach County using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

The projects, which include Oxygen Development in Palm Springs, McClure Village in Pahokee, and road improvements in Lake Worth, among others, will help illustrate how federal dollars can help transform communities from blight to beautiful, and encourage reinvestment by the private sector.

The APA is an independent nonprofit educational organization committed to providing leadership in developing vital communities.



Baron Sign Manufacturing Celebrates 32 Years

Since 1983, Baron Sign Manufacturing has been designing and building custom interior, exterior and wayfinding signage for a variety of industries and usages in Palm Beach County and throughout the Southeast. Owners Sandy and Jerry Foland were proud to recently celebrate 32 years in the industry.

Originally located in Lake Park, in 2005, the company expanded to a new 40,000 square-foot plant in the Riviera Beach Enterprise Zone, and now has more than 50 employees.

Baron Signs was the first company to work with the County’s HUD Section 108 Loan Program. “We appreciate the County for working with us to help make our dream become a reality,” said CEO Sandy Foland. A former Chairman of the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County, Sandy also makes time to mentor other small businesses. Her facility’s success on West 13th Street has served as a catalyst for further economic development along that industrial



Disaster Recovery Dollars Fix Hurricane Damage

The County recently completed improvements at two affordable housing communities in West Palm Beach, thanks to the State’s Disaster Recovery Initiative, a program created to help areas repair damage caused by hurricanes.

Housing units at Newton Woods were assisted with nearly \$1 million to provide new exterior stucco surfacing and paint, hurricane strapping of all framing, and impact-resistant windows and doors. At the Southridge Apartments for seniors, more than \$450,000 funded repairs which included improved stormwater drainage, new parking lot surfacing, striping and signage, and new sidewalks and ramps.



Newton Woods



Southridge Apartments



PALM BEACH COUNTY

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Mayor

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Steven L. Abrams

Melissa McKinlay

Priscilla A. Taylor



Department of Economic Sustainability

100 Australian Avenue
Suite 500

West Palm Beach, FL
33406

(561) 233-3600

FAX: (561) 233-3651

Edward Lowery

Director

elowery@pbcgov.org

Sherry Howard

Deputy Director

showard@pbcgov.org

We're on the web!
www.pbcgov.com/des

Partnership with Lake Worth Creates Greenway, Road Improvements

Palm Beach County, through an investment of more than \$300,000 of CDBG funds helped the City of Lake Worth complete new road improvements at South E Street and 9th Avenue South and 10th Avenue South. Features now include a new greenway, sidewalks with ADA ramps, curb and gutter, pavement, landscaping, irrigation, signage, trash receptacles and benches, greatly enhancing the area for pedestrian traffic.



DES utilizes the nationally recognized Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI) program to conduct accurate and timely studies to determine a project's potential economic impact on a community. Since FY 2012, economic impact analyses performed on DES-administered projects indicate a five-year economic impact of \$16.4 Billion, and the creation of more than 49,000 direct and indirect jobs.

Palm Beach County appreciates its community business partners:

Business Development Board of Palm Beach County, Inc.

CareerSource Palm Beach County

Center for Enterprise Opportunity

Enterprise Development Corporation

Office of Small Business Assistance

PBC Black Business Investment Corporation

The TED Center