

January 2010

GEDP UPDATE

Happy New Year

*Our best wishes to you
for the new year and our
sincerest hope that 2010
brings you peace,
happiness & prosperity!!*

GEDP Annual Meeting

Thursday

February 4, 2010

4:00 p.m.

Mario's Seawall Italian
Restaurant

Contents:

GEDP - City Collaboration	2
National Business Recovery Retreat	2
Year in Review	3
GEDP - Chamber Collaboration	3
President's Message	4

GEDP Web Site Update

Members of the GEDP are encouraged to explore the recent changes to our gedp.org website.

Members in good standing can use the following password to access the members-only portion of this site:

ecodev

The Galveston Economic Development Partnership is a Private Non-Profit Membership based organization. Utilizing the strength of the public-private partners of the GEDP, the GEDP's mission continues to focus on the expansion of Galveston's employment and tax bases.

GEDP Honored at TEDC Annual Conference

The GEDP was recognized with the Community Economic Development Award for 2009 by the Texas Economic Development Council (TEDC). This represents the second time Galveston has been recognized as Community of the Year (2003 and 2009).

Annually, the TEDC awards this honor to an outstanding community in one of 5 population categories. This year, the GEDP took top honors out of 7 communities that were nominated for this award. Award criteria utilized in this year's selection process included: Innovativeness, Transferability, Measured Objectives, Secondary Benefits, and Community Commitment & Leverage.

Judges for this award included 14 members of the TEDC professional membership.

GEDP President Jeffrey Sjoström and Housing Task Force Chairman Steve Schulz received this honor at the TEDC Annual meeting in San Antonio.

Sjoström recognized the members of the GEDP, the leadership of the GEDP Executive Committee, Galveston's local lenders for the **Hurricane Ike Recovery Loan** program enacted after Ike, and the entire City of Galveston for the resiliency illustrated following Hurricane Ike.

GEDP Web Site Enhancements

The Marketing Task Force of the GEDP, Chaired by Gwen Wagner, continues making improvements to the GEDP Marketing Plan.

Visit the recently renovated GEDP website at www.gedp.org. This reconstruction continues to be an ongoing activity, but with appreciation to the Marketing Task Force and members of the ANICO team, the GEDP website is quickly becoming a new portal for information on Galveston.

Other GEDP Task Forces and their Chair's include:

Maritime	Keith Palmer/Bill McMullen
Housing & Sustainable Development	Steve Schulz
GIS Consortium	Staff
Bio-Galveston/ Technology	Chris Fredrickson
Hurricane Recovery	Craig Marston
Marketing	Gwen Wagner
Real Estate	V.J. Tramonte
Education	Bowen Loftin
Economic Development Incentives & Programs	Shrub Kempner

**TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THESE EFFORTS,
PLEASE CALL THE GEDP OFFICES (409) 770-0216.**

Galveston Business Recovery Fund

Contributions to the Galveston Business Recovery Fund can be directed to the following address:

HGAC Corporation for Regional Excellence
c/o Galveston Business Recovery Fund

P.O. Box 22777
Houston, Texas 77227-2777

Checks should be made out to the following:

HGAC Corporation for Regional Excellence

*(in the **memo line** of the check please identify **Galveston Business Recovery Fund**)*

=====

H-GAC Regional Revolving Loan Fund for Businesses Impacted by Hurricane Ike

Applications are now being accepted by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) for businesses impacted by Hurricane Ike. Application forms are available through the GEDP Office.

To find out more about this program please contact the GEDP at (409) 770-0216 or email Jeffrey Sjostrom at sjostrom@gedp.org.

GEDP - City of Galveston Collaboration

GEDP Tasked to focus on Falstaff and Incinerator Sites

The Galveston City Council recently authorized the GEDP to assist in the creation of re-development strategies for the areas in and around the Falstaff Brewery and the City's Incinerator site near 61st Street.

GEDP staff is working with Council Members Tarris Woods and Linda Colbert on the formation of these plans.

Jeffrey Sjostrom, President of the GEDP is excited about this additional partnering opportunity with the City of Galveston. He stated, "over the years there have been a number of attempts

at looking at these sites and coming up with a viable redevelopment strategy that would benefit not only the specific sites, but also those areas in and around these facilities".

Council Member Woods has made these projects a priority and discussions have already begun in moving these initiatives forward.

GEDP staff will keep you updated as these plans develop.

National Business Recovery Retreat

GEDP participates in National Retreat sponsored by the International Economic Development Council and U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

During the week of December 14th a national panel was convened in Cassopolis Michigan for a discussion on Business Recovery following a disaster.

Jeffrey Sjostrom participated with 18 other economic development/chamber executives during this three-day event at the Edward Lowe Foundation. Sponsored by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, this event focused on experiences that have occurred following the major disasters of this past decade. Representatives from New York, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, Iowa, California and others met with a focus of developing a national blueprint for improving the Economic Recovery of areas impacted by disasters.

Jeff Finkle, IEDC President, will present the findings/recommendations of this effort to a new committee, commissioned by the Obama Administration, concentrating on Disaster Response and Recovery.

Sjostrom commented, "It was an honor to be selected to participate in this national effort focused on improving Business Recovery following a catastrophic event. A bond has been formed amongst the professionals that gathered for this event, one that will continue into the future. Not only was this event dedicated to addressing issues/barriers being experienced by those still in the process of recovery, but also for those communities vulnerable to future events.

When complete, the final report will be posted on the GEDP Website.

2009 Year in Review

Sample listing of GEDP activities over this past year

- **2009 Economic Development Community of the Year**
- GEDP participated in multiple events focused on business recovery with the City of Galveston and other partners. Examples would include the Senate Field Hearings of Louisiana Senator Mary Landrieu; Participation in the first Process Technology Conference held in Galveston; Tours for Agency Representatives from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Texas Rural Development Administration, Economic Development Administration and others.
- GEDP staff assisted city staff in the process of applying for **\$267 Million** of Round 1 CDBG funding for housing, infrastructure and economic development purposes. Staff continues providing assistance to the City of Galveston for Round 2 CDBG allocations.
- GEDP facilitated the creation of the Hurricane Ike Recovery Loans with local lenders. **\$40-\$50 Million** re-lent to Galveston businesses by the local banks of Galveston.
- GEDP created the Galveston Business Recovery Fund for small business loans to the Galveston business community. To date, 6 loans have been funded for approximately **\$250,000**.
- GEDP assisted in the creation of a Regional Revolving Loan Fund for the HGAC, funded with **\$10 Million** from the U.S. Department of Commerce -Economic Development Administration.
- GEDP encouraged the utilization of **\$1 Million** from the first round of CDBG funding allocated to the city specifically for additional small business loans.
- GEDP encouraged the utilization of **\$1.5 Million** from the first round of CDBG funding allocated to the city specifically for the acquisition of a facility for Galveston College's Workforce Training Center.
- GEDP assisted in the requests, grant applications, processing review and approval process for EDA Public Works - Disaster Grants for the Port of Galveston (**\$10 Million**) and UTMB Customs House (**\$10 Million**).
- Rolls Royce Pelican Island Facility Grand Opening
- Port of Galveston \$30 Million Texas Industry Development Loan Approval
- **GEDP Participation in Planning Efforts**
 City of Galveston Long Term Recovery Committee
 City of Galveston Comprehensive Plan Committee
 Downtown Strand Redevelopment Plan
 Oceans of Opportunity Job Fair
 House Select Committee on Disaster Recovery
 ESF #14 Long Range Planning Efforts
 Governor's Commission on Disaster Recovery
 Urban Land Institute Redevelopment Planning Efforts
 City of Galveston/CDM Housing Market Study
 GISD Sports Stadium Committee



GEDP - Chamber Collaboration: Business Recovery Task Force

Under the leadership of Craig Marston, Chairman of the GEDP Hurricane Recovery Task Force, Jerry Mohn, Chairman of the Galveston Chamber Business Development Committee, and Greg Harrington, Chairman of the Galveston Chamber Hurricane Committee, a new initiative is being launched.

During this coming year the GEDP and the Galveston Chamber of Commerce are joining forces to create a unified effort focused on Business Recovery. This effort is meant to address not only those issues still present following Hurricane Ike, but also what actions can be taken for future events that can expedite the response, recovery and rebuilding of Galveston's business base in future years.

For additional information on this exciting new initiative, please contact Jeffrey Sjostrom at the GEDP or Gina Spagnola at the Galveston Chamber of Commerce.



The Year Ahead ...

President's Message



Did you know...

Recently Moody Gardens Golf Course was rated as one of the top Golf Courses in the Country??

In a recent Houston Chronicle article it was noted that **Golf Digest** recently ranked Moody Gardens as **one of the top five best remodeled courses under \$65.**

Over this past year there have been many emotions that have captured our attention. Feelings of stress, frustration, depression, pessimism, and outright despair are just a few that quickly come to mind. Remarkably however are also those feelings of resiliency, hope, perseverance, trust and optimism that a better day lies ahead. The strange reality is how quickly we can exhibit or feel several of these emotions all within the same day.

It is difficult at times to reflect on the progress that has been made, when there is still so much that needs to be done. This could not be any truer for our community as we continue recognizing the pain that remains from 2008.

For me, this came into focus while participating in a national retreat with other economic development leaders from around the country. In an event sponsored by the International Economic Development Council and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, I was afforded the opportunity of spending three intense days of dialogue with peers who also experienced catastrophic events in other parts of the country.

It was energizing and motivational to not only learn what others had been through and the challenges that still lay ahead for them, but more importantly to realize how far Galveston has come and just how well Galveston has responded.

Beginning back with the formation of our Hurricane Recovery Task Force following Hurricane Katrina and flowing through the efforts made in implementing the Hurricane Ike Recovery Loans to the Economic Development Administrations

Grants - Galveston in many ways is a leader for other communities in continuity planning and preparedness.

It took a trip to Michigan to detach far enough away in order to look retrospectively at the progress and positives in spite of the day-to-day reminders of so much left to accomplish.

In the year ahead, we have several opportunities for improving our economic recovery of Galveston Island. Examples would include:

New loan programs to get real dollars into the hands of our local businesses;

Process identified for ensuring local business participation in the rebuilding of Galveston's housing, infrastructure and economic development projects;

Continued expansion and diversification of our Maritime industry;

Re-emergence of our bio- technology companies and resources for continued commercialization and technology transfer;

Redevelopment of several strategic investment areas (Strand - 20th to 12th; Falstaff Brewery; City Incinerator; Jean LaFitte building and others);

And others...

We have a great community and I look forward to working with you during this coming year to continue our efforts at expanding and diversifying Galveston Island's employment and tax bases.

Galveston Economic Development Partnership -- JOIN TODAY

The GEDP is a membership based organization dedicated to the expansion of Galveston's Employment and Tax bases. As a membership based Economic Development organization, the GEDP depends upon the investments of it's' membership. To become a member of the GEDP or to receive more information on the various activities of this exciting organization, please call our offices at (409) 770-0216.