

2024

REACHING
NEW
HEIGHTS



2024 HELPING DELIVER ECONOMIC VITALITY for St. Lucie County

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Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County, Inc.

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The Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County is a private 501(c)(6) not-for-profit organization founded in 2000 and dedicated to enriching the economic vitality of our community through the retention, expansion and relocation of businesses to St. Lucie County. The EDC is uniquely positioned to help expanding or relocating businesses take full advantage of our available resources.



Letter from the Chair & President

“Reaching new heights” is certainly a fitting tagline for 2024.

Our year started out strong with the announcement of Costco’s 1.87-million-square-foot depot project at Legacy Park, the openings of Cheney Brothers and Accel International, and groundbreakings for the Treasure Coast Food Bank and APP Jet Center. All that took place in the first six weeks of the year, and it hasn’t slowed down since.

Other 2024 project highlights included:

- BroadRange Logistics leasing the 1-million-square-foot Interstate Crossroads Logistics Center, the largest industrial lease in the state of Florida as of the May announcement date.
- Cruise ship provisioner Apollo Group’s purchase of the 245,000-square-foot facility at South Florida Logistics Center 95 for a dry/cold storage distribution facility that will ultimately employ 300. And a subsidiary of Alex Lee, Inc., one of the country’s largest grocery distributors, announced plans to build a warehouse in the Tradition Center for Commerce and employ 121.
- Treasure Coast International Airport’s improvements and Part 139 Certification which will allow for scheduled commercial flights. Infinity Flight School will be training pilots for American Airlines at TCIA and FPL chose two airport business park sites as Florida First Sites certified properties.
- Manufacturers Marine Digital Integrators and Project Four PSL announced their plans to locate in Port St. Lucie, bringing jobs for 61 and 225 respectively.

There is so much more to tell, and you can read about it all in the pages that follow.

Last year we recognized that the growth of new and expanding businesses in St. Lucie County meant that we needed to focus more than ever on building workforce capacity. We now have a new 501(c)3 organization to assist with this mission. In late 2023, we announced a partnership with Project LIFT that allowed us to add Anita Fischer as our Director of Workforce Readiness. Anita’s efforts during 2024 have been instrumental in kicking off this incredibly important initiative, you can read more on pages 8 and 9.

There is so much more to report on. We hope you’ll take the time to read through our annual report, which is covered by a reproduction of the beautiful painting “Moore’s Creek,” a 25 x 30 inch oil-on-canvas by Fort Pierce’s own A. E. “Bean” Backus. The A. E. Backus Museum & Galley in downtown Fort Pierce gave us permission to reproduce this painting for our report and invites everyone to visit and experience its collection of Backus paintings, Highwaymen paintings and special exhibits. After all, the arts play a key role in our community’s quality of life, which is one of the compelling elements we promote as part of our business attraction outreach. The arts also stand alone as an economic driver, responsible for \$5.8 billion in annual economic activity in Florida.

Looking back at 2024, we want to take this opportunity to thank our investors, our local government partners, our committed board and the hard-working EDC team. None of what we’ve accomplished over the year could be done without all of you!

With best regards,



Azlina Goldstein
Chair



Peter J. Tesch
President

Economic Development Council
of St. Lucie County



In May, the EDC Board of Directors and special guests gathered for a **Strategic Doing™** workshop to map out critical initiatives on workforce readiness, housing affordability and the county’s next jobs corridor. Read more on pages 8-9.



2024

P R O



Alex Lee, Inc.

A subsidiary of Alex Lee, one of the country’s largest grocery retail and food service wholesale and distribution companies, is planning to relocate to Port St. Lucie from South Florida. This location will serve restaurants and food markets throughout the state from a 160,000-square-foot warehouse to be built in the Accel Industrial Park. In addition to its \$30.9 million capital investment in a building and the creation of 121 jobs, the company is planning to spend \$1.8 million over 5 years for equipment and a total of \$14.95 million over 14 years.



Apollo Group

In August, the 245,900-square-foot building at the South Florida Logistics Center 95 was purchased for \$32.6 million on behalf of the Apollo Group, a cruise ship provisioner. Centrally located off Interstate 95 between south and central Florida, the facility is ideally positioned to service ships at both Port Canaveral and Fort Lauderdale/Miami. The Apollo Group is currently building out the interior, including adding cold storage capabilities and ultimately anticipates hiring a staff of approximately 300.



APP Jet Center

APP Jet Center commenced construction in February on the first phase of an expansion and renovation to its fixed-based operation (FBO) at Treasure Coast International Airport. The project includes building 30,000 square feet of hangars and enhancing the existing FBO facility. The new hangar space will consist of five private, high-end 3,600-square-foot hangars as well as six T-hangars. Enhancements to the FBO facility include a remodel of the executive terminal’s interior as well as improvements to the parking lot and landscaping.



BroadRange Logistics

BroadRange Logistics is a fast-growing national third-party logistics warehousing and service provider with more than 7 million square feet of space in Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Texas and Pennsylvania. BroadRange provides warehousing, transloading, distribution, ecommerce fulfillment and more for businesses of all sizes, from Fortune 500 corporations to small enterprises. In May, the million-square-foot Interstate Crossroads Logistics Center, developed by SL Industrial Partners, was leased to BroadRange in a transaction which was the largest industrial lease in Florida to date.



Costco Warehouse Depot

In January, the EDC made its largest single project announcement to date. Costco will be bringing hundreds of jobs to St. Lucie County as the company develops a multi-phased cold and dry storage depot at the Sansone Group’s Legacy Park at Tradition. The global company’s depot will ultimately include two facilities totaling 1.87 million square feet and employing more than 500. The first phase for what had been dubbed “Project Everest” consists of a 622,685-square-foot cold and dry storage facility that will employ 265. The Phase 1 site plan was approved in just 75 days.

J E C T S



Infinity Flight Group

The largest professional flight training provider in the northeast is opening a second location at Treasure Coast International Airport. Beginning in 2025, Infinity Flight Group will start its first cohort in the American Airlines Cadet Academy. The program offers an accelerated commercial pilot pathway that includes customized training, student/pilot mentoring from American Airlines and a conditional job offer with one of the airline's regional carriers.



Lightbridge Academy

Lightbridge Academy broke ground in April 2023 for the national educational childcare center's first Florida location. The more than 11,000-square-foot facility with extensive outdoor play areas in Port St. Lucie near PGA Village was developed by Dragonfly Investments. Currently enrolling infants, toddlers and pre-K children, the academy opened in Spring 2024. The academy also offers a summer camp with a learning-through-play theme. Lightbridge Academy is planning a second center in Tradition for 2026.



Marine Digital Integrators

A division of Dometic; a global company that creates products for outdoor, home, professional, and marine use; Marine Digital Integrators is leasing 38,000 square feet of industrial space at Legacy Park at Tradition to design and assemble electrical systems and controls for marine pleasure craft. They are relocating from Martin County and plan to employ 54 people at 108% of the county's average wage.



P1 Motor Club

Probably the most unique EDC project to date is the P1 Motor Club, the world's ultimate motorsports community. The developers of the Monticello Motor Club in New York are in the permitting stage for a 629-acre motor club in western unincorporated St. Lucie County that will include two performance paved racing circuits, a kart circuit, off-road course, skid pad, events pavilion, large garage condos, clubhouse, residential community, R&D park and large vehicle storage. The facilities will employ more than 125.



Project Four PSL

This global manufacturer and distributor of steel and wood fixtures is planning to construct a 250,000-square-foot state-of-the-art manufacturing and distribution facility in Port St. Lucie. The company plans to create 225 jobs at 107% of the county's average wage and invest more than \$33.5 million in the facility and another \$12.75 million in equipment.



SportLife Distribution

Headquartered in Fort Pierce, SportLife Distribution opened in 2015 and now has four distribution centers throughout the country to service retail stores in all 50 states. This local company is the leading nationwide distributor of sports nutrition and health products, offering a full range of premium brands to brick-and-mortar retailers. With a current local staff of 13, SportLife Distribution is planning to remain in Fort Pierce, build a new 25,000-square-foot facility and hire an additional 30 staff members at 110% of the county's average wage.

MILESTONES & COMPLETED PROJECTS

Openings



◀ Hiring began for 1,000 positions at the **Amazon** warehouse off Midway Road in July and the 1-million-square-foot facility opened for business in August.



◀ **Cheney Brothers'** 367,000-square-foot distribution center and food service warehouse officially opened in January with more than 200 employees already in place and ended 2024 with 310 people working at the Port St. Lucie facility.

Accel International started 2024 with a three-day job fair and opened for operations while continuing to install equipment in its 150,000-square-foot manufacturing facility.



◀ **Total Truck Parts** opened its new 47,000-square-foot showroom, parts and service facility in the spring and celebrated with a vendor and VIP open house in July.

Completed Projects



◀ The **Arcosa Meyer Utility Structures** facility was completed at the end of 2023. The company manufactures utility poles.

The **Sansone Group's** 520,000-square-foot office and cross-dock warehouse at Legacy Park was completed in early 2024.



◀ Two Class A industrial buildings at **Glades Logistics Park** on Midway Road were completed in 2024 and are available for lease.



The two industrial buildings at the **South Florida Logistics Center 95** were completed in 2024. The 245,511-square-foot building was purchased by the **Apollo Group**, a cruise ship provisioning company. The county's largest building at 1.1 million square feet will need to be rebuilt as it was destroyed by a tornado in October.



Under Construction



Construction is nearing completion on **OCULUS Surgical's** advanced manufacturing facility in the Tradition Center for Commerce.

After a February groundbreaking, construction on the **Treasure Coast Food Bank's** 132,000-square-foot multifunctional building at **Orange 95 Commerce Center** is proceeding rapidly.



Florida Coast Surgical Hospital held a topping out ceremony for the 54-bed facility in July.

A tilt wall launch ceremony was held in October for **Dragonfly Commerce Park**. Construction is underway for four multi-tenant Class A industrial buildings designed for small- and mid-sized companies.



Also, under construction are **Lactalogics** renovations, sitework for the first phase of the 1.87-million-square-foot **Costco Wholesale Depot**, **Twin Vee PowerCats' expansion**, **APP Jet Center's** new hangars and renovations of the company's airport facilities. **Lightbridge Academy** completed an 11,000-square-foot early childhood education facility and **Wolfube Equipment** finished its new 30,000-square-foot warehouse.

Initiatives & Ventures



Strategic Doing™

The EDC's 2024 initiatives and ventures were guided by the outcomes of a May **Strategic Doing™** workshop. The EDC Board of Directors and a few special guests envisioned the EDC's future and discussed the most important ways the board's unique assets could grow our effectiveness as the community's thought leader and champion for quality jobs, bolster our advocacy for critical community support systems, and

strengthen our investor appeal. While the end results of this effort will be years in the making, the initiatives outlined over these two pages demonstrate our commitment to "getting things done."

Workforce Readiness

➤ EDC staff, St. Lucie Public Schools (SLPS) leadership, and many EDC board members made trips to Bowling Green, Kentucky, to learn about the regional chamber's highly regarded **SCK Launch** workforce readiness program. From elementary school through high school, the South Central Kentucky schools, strongly supported by the business community, build soft skills, leadership skills and focus on career training for the region's students. The EDC and SLPS are working closely together to create a similar **Classrooms2Careers** career readiness focus in 2025.

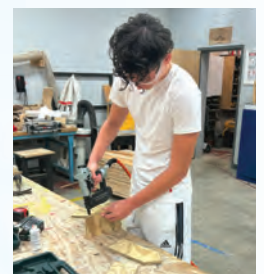


➤ Recognizing that, as a 501(c)6 organization, the EDC was ineligible for most grant funding opportunities, in 2023 we incorporated a 501(c)3 nonprofit – **Treasure Coast Center for Educational and Economic Development, Inc. (TCCEED)**. In 2024, we applied for IRS tax-exempt status, which we received in record time! As we move into 2025, our workforce readiness and related programs and activities will operate under the TCCEED banner. We will be actively pursuing grants and other financial support for our mission of strengthening the skill sets and earnings potential of St. Lucie County residents through partnerships with other action-oriented nonprofits while utilizing our relationships with the business community to ensure those skill sets translate into quality local jobs.

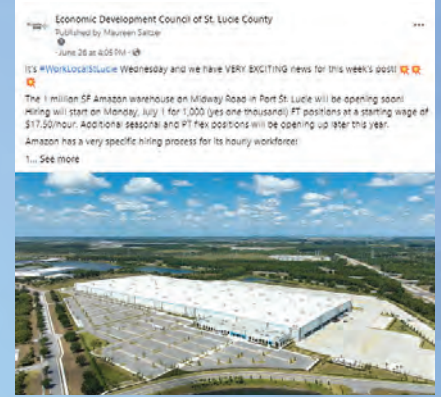


➤ The EDC assisted the school district with two **Career Fairs** in 2024, introducing almost 1,000 junior and seniors to available careers with 85 local employers. Some employers interviewed the students on the spot. One student was so excited by what he learned about positions with the **City of Port St. Lucie** Utility Systems Department that he started work there immediately after graduation.

➤ We flipped the script in 2024 for our **Industry Tours**. Instead of bringing school counselors to local businesses, we brought the businesses in to see the variety and depth of the **Career & Technical Education programs** at the county's high schools. One employer was so impressed he hired a student after meeting him during a tour of the Marine Outboard Training program.



➤ Our social media **#WorkLocalStLucie** campaign continued to feature local jobs on Wednesdays. Up until Summer 2024, we had been very successful with post impressions of up to 8,000. Then **Amazon** opened its warehouse and needed to hire 1,000 full-time employees. Our post explaining how to apply for those jobs was viewed more than 112,000 times, had 3,500 reactions and 1,006 shares! Amazon met its hiring goals but, beyond that, the extraordinary success of this post introduced thousands more people to our #WorkLocal posts, adding this new audience bolstered engagement throughout the remainder of the year.



➤ Before the pandemic forced everyone to shift gears, the EDC had worked with **Derecktor Fort Pierce** on a customized workforce training program for the various trades the shipyard employer would need. Workforce Readiness Director **Anita Fischer** revived that initiative in 2024 by bringing together a group of education and training partners from across the county to collaborate with Derecktor on solutions for the company's highest needs.

Affordable Housing

The May Strategic Doing™ workshop identified the growing lack of affordable workforce housing as a very significant challenge for our county's workforce and employers as well as a risk to the county's economic vitality. The EDC and our partners will explore this complex issue and engage the community in developing a comprehensive action plan with actionable strategies at a half-day Housing Summit on January 30.



Growth & Development

FPL brought their **Florida First Sites** team to St. Lucie County in June to vet not one but two sites at **Treasure Coast International Airport** (TCIA) for the company's Powering Florida page that features a very limited number of select industrial sites ready for development investment.

With almost all available sites in the **Southern Grove Jobs Corridor** in Port St. Lucie developed, under development or spoken for, the EDC, in partnership with the **City of Fort Pierce** and the **Fort Pierce Utilities Authority**, is preparing to launch the **Kings Highway Jobs Corridor** initiative to bring a coordinated and focused approach to attracting quality employers to this growing part of our county.



St. Lucie EDC EXCEL

The **EDC EXCEL** program provides rising young executives with leadership experiences and training, career path development and meaningful business connections.



In January, the group put on another successful **Sporting Clay Tournament** at Quail Creek Sporting Ranch with **Hi-Tide Boat Lifts** as the title sponsor. Proceeds fund the **EXCEL Speaks** leadership development series. **Alyson Van Hooser** will keynote the next presentation in the series on Sept. 11.



In May, EXCEL members toured **Project LIFT's** main facility in Palm City.



In June, the leadership group set sail with **FAU Harbor Branch** for a private wildlife and environmental experience on the Indian River.



AWARDS

The **EDC team** brought home its sixth award since 2021 from the **Florida Economic Development Council**. The 2024 award was for **innovation in marketing**, recognizing the EDC website's redesign, the addition of data visualization tools and enhanced available properties listings. In 2021, the last time the EDC updated its website, we were honored with the same award!



Florida Trend named **Pete Tesch** as one of Florida's 500 most influential business leaders in its 2024 edition.



Anita Fischer was honored with two awards – the new organization she helped found, **HR & Business Leaders Council of Florida**, was recognized by the Treasure Coast Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals with its **Community Impact Award**, and her team took home the **Team Spirit Award** from the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce annual spelling bee.

Kadian promoted, Glexi and Alouna welcomed



EDC Business Manager **Kadian Knight**, who joined the EDC in November 2023, was promoted to the position of Director of Business Development in August 2024. In her new role, she will manage business attraction and retention activities. In addition to training her replacement and learning her new role, Kadian gave birth to a healthy daughter in October.



Glexi Garcia was hired in August to take over the EDC business management responsibilities. Glexi, a Port St. Lucie resident, has an MBA from Florida Atlantic University and a bachelor's degree in marketing. She previously worked as business operations manager for Clarity Health Solutions in Jupiter.



Alouna Alincy joined the EDC as our student intern in September. She is a 17-year-old senior at Centennial High School in Port St. Lucie. Alouna has been helping us update the Quality of Life interactive maps on our website, as well as working on a video for us. She's already been accepted early action to five colleges.

Jenn DuBey Career & Technical Education Scholarship Fund

The EDC established a scholarship fund for students pursuing career and technical education in **Jenn DuBey's** name last year as a way to carry on her passion for preparing students for skilled and technical careers. As of early December, the fund had raised more than \$76,000 in contributions and made \$24,500 in scholarship funds available to help change the lives of 16 local residents.

Eight scholarships went toward CDL training, including a grant to the **Treasure Coast Food Bank** to underwrite the licensing tests for six people in the Food Bank's CDL program. Scholarships for students in the **Chapman School of Seamanship** enabled six students to obtain Yamaha Marine Engine Maintenance Certifications. One scholarship assisted a student wanting to take an HVAC program at **Fortis Institute** and another for a welding program at **Indian River State College**.



Grady Pierce graduated from the Chapman School and is now working full time for a St. Lucie County boat club



The EDC is extremely grateful to everyone who supported the scholarship fund over the last year. We hope you will help keep this much-needed funded going as part of your charitable giving during 2025. Most of the students who received these scholarships would have been unable to pursue these life-changing programs without your assistance.

Business Attraction

The EDC took advantage of multiple opportunities in 2024 to spread the word about all the benefits St. Lucie County has to offer employers and targeted industries. In fact, we covered more ground than ever with our in-person outreach this year.

In May, the EDC was a sponsor of the **Spring Society for Industrial and Office Realtors® (SIOR)** conference in Fernandina Beach. Pete Tesch, Kadian Knight and Rachel Savela were there to promote St. Lucie County's abundant Class A industrial options.



Also in May, Wes McCurry, EDC Board Member Jill Marasa and Port St. Lucie Councilman David Pickett were featured speakers at **NAIOP South Florida's Treasure Coast Update**. Maureen Saltzer and Kadian manned a well-appointed booth for the many commercial real estate professionals who turned out for this now-annual event.



Wes and Kadian took two trips to Coral Gables this year. The first trip was for the **Commercial Industrial Association of South Florida (CIASF)** Industrial Event and Trade Show. The second trip was for the **Area Development Consultants Forum** where they were able to meet and greet top site selectors from across the country.



The East Coast District of **CCIM Florida** hosted a **Commercial Real Estate Symposium** in Port St. Lucie, with Wes and Jill as featured speakers, and then took the attendees on a bus tour through St. Lucie County in May. In September, Wes and Maureen attended the **CCIM Global Summit** in Hollywood as sponsors, with a booth positioned right next to the breakfast/lunch buffets and happy hour bar so they took advantage of the opportunity to meet hundreds of commercial real estate agents and brokers.



In August, the EDC once again participated with **BISNOW's Treasure Coast State of the Market** event. While the sold-out program was held in Martin County, the featured panelists included Wes, plus EDC board members Peter Crane and Richard Tambone.



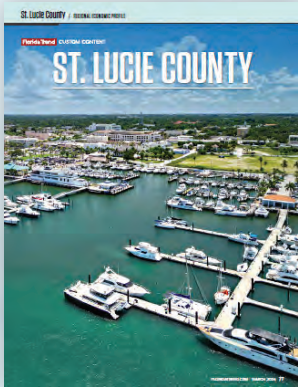
These are just some of the highlights of our 2024 business development outreach. The EDC also participated in the Port St. Lucie's **Citizen's Summit and City University**, a **Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW)** program, and with the **South Florida Manufacturers Association**. EDC representatives presented at service clubs and to local bank boards, the HR and Business Leaders Council, Associated Builders & Contractors and were interviewed by TV, radio and print journalists throughout the year.

Telling the **St. Lucie County** story

The EDC makes strategic advertising choices among multiple site selection media options, in print and online, along with a strong social media outreach program. We negotiate added-value packages and typically choose our timing to coincide with content relating directly to our targeted industries.

Our website, www.youredc.com, was refreshed at the end of last year with updated pages, an enhanced listing of available properties, and exciting tools from **LocalIntel**. The tools provide data visualizations for St. Lucie County's many assets, check them out at https://youredc.com/site_selection/toolbox.

Website stats in 2024 were up about 50% over the previous period, with 25,000 active users and 71,000 page views.



With the support of the EDC, **Florida Trend** published a 26-page profile on St. Lucie County in the statewide business magazine's March edition. The article started out, "Conveniently located between South and Central Florida, St. Lucie County has become a symbol of economic prosperity."

Our three-month digital extension advertising campaign in **Trade & Industry Development** broke the media group's record for click-throughs and served up 117,200 impressions. The ad followed www.TradeandIndustryDev.com website visitors around on Facebook and Google and resulted in 4,100 visits to our website.



The **South Florida Business Journal** published Corridors of Opportunity: A Treasure Trove of Potential in August. The content featured Cleveland Clinic, Accel International, Cheney Brothers, manufacturing and our marine industries.

Business Facilities magazine featured our available industrial space in its January/February edition and our manufacturers in March/April. The EDC welcomed Accel International to town with a half-page ad in March.



St. Lucie County
The gateway to South Florida

- Located on Florida's east coast, midway between Miami and Orlando, St. Lucie County lies at the heart of the beautiful Treasure Coast.
- Home to the 6th largest city in the state
- 2nd fastest growing metro area in the nation
- Access to 70% of the state within a 3-hour drive
- Millions of square feet of Class A industrial available now
- Schools ranked #1 regionally for college & career readiness

Join Amazon, Costco Depot, FedEx Ground, BroadRange Logistics, Cheney Brothers, Contender Boats, TAMCO, Pursuit Boats, OCULUS Surgical, Maverick Boat Company & more!

Population	Regional Workforce	Workforce Commuting Outside the County	High School Graduates & Technical Programs 2024	2024 High School Graduates
373,586	315,000+	78,769	3,579	3,292

772.324.2104
www.youredc.com
St. Lucie EDC

The EDC also promoted all our county has to offer in the annual **Business Florida** magazine and with **Area Development** for its December consultants forum.

The EDC's social media truly reached new heights in 2024 with a **#WorkLocalSt Lucie Facebook** post about positions available at Amazon's warehouse in June that was ultimately shared 1,006 times with a reach of 100,929 and engagement of 17,959! Our reach on Facebook was up 94% for the year. Our **LinkedIn** presence is growing as well - a **#WorkLocal** post for a top management position at OCULUS was seen by 1,194 people.



EDC IN THE NEWS

Newspapers, TV, radio, newsletters, blogs, podcasts, online news ... EDC-related stories appeared in more than 150 headlines during 2024. From the opening of Amazon, the Costco Depot announcement and so much more, St. Lucie County economic development news was everywhere this year, including a 25-page feature section in *Florida Trend* and a four-page report in *South Florida Business Journal*.

Florida Trend
Boating electronics manufacturer moving into Legacy Park at Tradition

MARKET STUDIES
America's Boomtowns: Top Cities for Economic Growth
BY ANDREA L. NOLAN, JULY 2, 2024, 10 MIN READ

Port St. Lucie ranked third nationally for economic growth among small cities

St. Lucie County
By Jeff Dier
Community leaders believe that St. Lucie County has become a hotbed of development projects, with major employers and new businesses moving into the area. The county's economic growth is attributed to its strategic location, quality of life, and business-friendly environment.

Hundreds of jobs coming to Port St. Lucie with development of new Costco facilities
PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. (CBS12) — Two facilities totaling roughly 1.87 million square feet, employing more than 500 people and requiring St. Lucie City Council in early December, were approved by the Port park at Tradition will be its home.

Less than six years in, the Southern Grove 'jobs corridor' in Port St. Lucie is almost full
By Wicker Peris
PORT ST. LUCIE — The Southern Grove jobs corridor, acquired by the city in 2018, was initially planned to be built out over 20-25 years. Now, less than six years after that initial purchase, it is nearly full, with just five vacant lots remaining.

St. Lucie County releases Mid-Year Report
Good news: More projects, more jobs in the local economic pipeline

54-bed Florida Coast Medical Center will open here next year

Silverman Group Secures 1M SF in Major Florida Industrial Lease

Amazon warehouse opens soon in Port St. Lucie, bringing 1,000 jobs
Hiring for the fulfillment center starts July 1

Fort Pierce considering creation of a 'Jobs Corridor' similar to Port St. Lucie

St. Lucie County releases Mid-Year Report
CORRIDORS OF OPPORTUNITY: A Treasure Trove of Potential

New Treasure Coast Food Bank Warehouse Groundbreaking

St. Lucie News Tribune

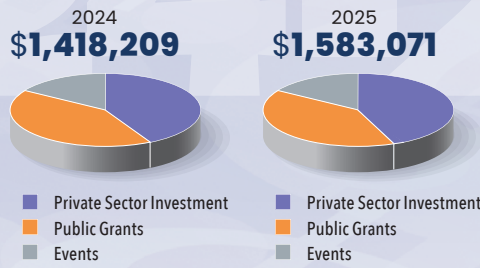
Total Truck Parts to host grand opening for new Florida location

Dragonfly Commerce Park milestone celebrated with old Irish tradition

FINANCES & LEADERSHIP

Focused leadership plus robust public and private sector investment ensure that the financial position of the EDC continues on solid footing.

REVENUE BUDGET



EXPENDITURE BUDGET



SPECIAL THANKS

to our 2024 Board of Directors for their commitment and leadership

- Mike Adams, Adams Ranch
- Michael Ansoerge, OCULUS Surgical
- Nicolas Apfelbaum, Esq., Apfelbaum Law
- Will Armstead, Boys & Girls Club of St. Lucie County
- Terissa Aronson, St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce
- Robert Barfield, Seacoast Bank – Chair-Elect
- Brian Bauer, CareerSource Research Coast
- Chirag Choudhary, MD, MBA, Cleveland Clinic
- Javier Cisneros, PE, Fort Pierce Utilities Authority
- Ian Cotner, AT&T Florida
- Linda Cox, City of Fort Pierce
- Peter Crane, Sansone Group
- Marshall Critchfield, Florida Power & Light Co.
- Lee Dobbins, Esq., Dean, Mead, Minton & Moore/TCMA
- Phil Doumar, Doumar Insurance/EXCEL
- Dusten Estes, Stonemont Financial Group
- Chris Fogal, CPA, Carr, Riggs & Ingram – Past Chair
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- Richard Kolleda, FACHE, Spherion
- Leslie Kristof, MBA, Keiser University
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- Chief Jeff Lee, St. Lucie County Fire District
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- Alex Masmela, MBA, HCA Florida Lawnwood Hospital
- Tammy Matthew, Bank of America
- Jesus Merejo, City of Port St. Lucie
- Neil Morgan, Comcast Business
- Brandon Nobile, Remnant Construction
- Cara Perry, Florida Atlantic University
- Roxanne Peters, SouthState Bank
- Jon Prince, PhD, St. Lucie Public Schools
- Michael Rem, PE, JBL Asset Management
- Staci Storms, Broward, Palm Beaches & St. Lucie Realtors®
- Richard Tambone, Tambone Companies
- Peter Tesch, Economic Development Council
- Andy Treadwell, Indian River State College – Secretary
- Shrita Walker, MIDFLORIDA Credit Union – Treasurer
- Jeremy Wiernasz, PGA Golf Club
- Kara Wood, Hi-Tide Boat Lifts
- Bob Zaccheo, LMHC, SAE, Project L.I.F.T.

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Pete Hegener Leadership Award Goes to Richard Tambone

The recipient of the Pete Hegener Leadership Award exemplifies the qualities of the Tradition developer who passed away in 2012: a visionary, a trusted role model and leader whose inspiration and achievements impact the quality of job creation, economic vitality and business growth.



Tammy Matthew, Lori Bliss Tambone, Richard Tambone and Susan Rabinowitz

The 10th annual award was presented to **Richard Tambone** of the Tambone Companies. Early on, Richard saw the enormous potential of Port St. Lucie and St. Lucie County, inspiring others to invest in our community and playing a pivotal role in moving development forward. From 2016–2022, the Tambone Companies served as master developer for Port St. Lucie, led the efforts to create the Tradition Center for Commerce and played a fundamental part in the development of the 1,200-acre Jobs Corridor. Richard is now making his mark in northern St. Lucie County with the development of the 61-acre Orange 95 Commerce Center.

THANK YOU to title sponsor **Bank of America** and platinum sponsors **Ashley Capital, Dean, Mead, Minton & Moore, Hi-Tide Boat Lifts, PGA Golf Club.**



LEADERS on the LINKS

The EDC's premier networking event, the 10th annual **Leaders on the Links reception and golf tournament**, was held on **October 24 & 25 at the PGA Golf Club**. On Thursday, guests enjoyed great company in a cocktail party atmosphere and friendly competitive bidding on silent auction items and travel packages. On Friday, golfers played the PGA championship Ryder Course featuring five hole-in-one shootout contests with prizes ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000 and tee gifts valued over \$150.

THANK YOU to all our sponsors and volunteers for making this event the highlight of our year!

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Azlina Goldstein, Alex Masmela, Christy & Robert Barfield



Reid Whitaker, Luke Hannon, Genia & Travis Leonard, Dan DiDominici



Derektor Fort Pierce fielded the winning team



May 8 | 2025
Leadership Dinner | 6:00 – 9:30 p.m.
Harbour Ridge Yacht and Country Club

October 30–31 | 2025
Leaders on the Links
PGA Golf Club

- Join the EDC for our **monthly partner luncheons** at the MIDFLORIDA Event Center.
- SPONSOR a lunch and get your message to the right people, contact **Rachel Savela** at rsavela@youredc.com to reserve.



The opening of the playground at the Pioneer Park in Port St. Lucie on June 15

Photo courtesy of the City of Port St. Lucie

The EDC is proud to have earned the designation of Economic Development Organization of the Year



EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AWARD WINNER





contact JS

St. Lucie
EDC



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of St. Lucie County, Inc.**

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The front cover photo

The front cover is a photo reproduction of *Moore's Creek*, painted around 1948-49 by St. Lucie County's own A.E. Backus (1906-1990). The original is oil on canvas, 25 x 30 inches. Courtesy of the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery / www.BackusMuseum.org.