



By Lisa Mosca, MPA

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SANFORD MAKES A LOT OF CENTS

With a population of 54,000 and growing, Sanford is the place for new and established businesses. As the gateway to Central Florida, our city – with acres of land in place for both commercial and industrially-zoned use – is ripe for future development opportunities. Sanford's proximity to I-4, the GreeneWay (417), SunRail, and the Orlando Sanford International Airport makes it an ideal location for business owners. And with the ability to move freight on the CSX rail spur, renting office space in Sanford's business parks or in the downtown historic district has become very desirable.

It is projected that there will be more than 1,000 new housing starts in 2014/2015, many located near the Orlando Sanford International Airport. With new luxury apartment complexes (including Elan Properties) available for renters, residents are a stone's throw from many of the area's new chain restaurants. The proximity of these units to Seminole Towne Center (Sanford's regional mall), the Central Florida Zoo, and the historic

downtown is a definite plus for these residents.

Since Sanford is the county seat, it provides core services to the community at-large – an added benefit to those seeking development opportunities.

Qualified targeted industries ideal for relocation to Sanford include advanced manufacturing; aviation and aerospace; clean technology and sustainable energy; digital media; financial services and technology; life science and biotechnology; manufacturing; warehousing and distribution; modeling, simulation and training; and optics and photonics.

Currently, there are proposals for a major hotel to be constructed on the lakefront in Sanford. Two major manufacturing facilities and the expansion of another are in progress, and this development is projected to generate 300 new top-tier jobs. Also in the works, in partnership with Seminole County and the State of Florida, are two existing manufacturers who are looking to expand, creating an additional 50 new jobs.

Sanford's partnerships with our community's proven and successful educational system provide opportunity for everyone. Seminole County Public Schools and the Small Business Development Centers at Seminole State College and the University of Central Florida are all helping to produce an exceptionally qualified workforce needed to support not only current companies operating in Sanford, but also businesses that may potentially relocate here. They are doing a great job with helping students keep pace with the fast-changing business environment.

The Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission works in concert with the City's Economic Development Department to fulfill the mission of facilitating business expansion and to attract new industries to our community.



For more information contact Bob Turk, City of Sanford's Economic

Development Director at 407-688-5015 or

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Explore our website at SanfordFl.gov and visit the City of Sanford's Facebook page to see why Sanford has so much to offer.

