



TAVARES STATS



America's Seaplane City™

Tavares, *America's Seaplane City*, serves as the county seat of Lake County. It is a thriving business location offering multi-modal transportation opportunities.

After a vigorous community visioning process the city has recently reemerged, branded as *America's Seaplane City* and creating a waterfront gem which incorporates the new

Tavares Seaplane Base & Marina and the scenic Wootton Park. With over 7,000 takeoffs and landings from the Seaplane Base and 16 major community events each year, Tavares has revived its downtown and welcomed many new businesses during the economic downturn.

On the drawing board is a large waterfront pavilion extending over Lake Dora that will host conferences, weddings and other business and community events.

For information about doing business in Tavares, contact Bill Neron, Director of Economic Development, at 352.742.6402 or BNeron@Tavares.org or the Metro Orlando EDC at 407.422.7159 or info@OrlandoEDC.com.

From The Mayor

"Tavares, Florida is situated in the center of Lake County. Its transportation infrastructure of roads, rail, air, water and public transportation makes the Tavares location an ideal spot for any business that desires quick access to the east and west coast of Florida as well as our nation's air transportation system. The City is building a strong and diverse business base that will meet the needs of its growing community. Our professional staff looks forward to working with you and assisting with your business needs. Visit www.Tavares.org."

Robert Wolfe, Mayor



MAJOR EMPLOYERS

- Florida Hospital Waterman
- Lake County Government
- Lake County School Board
- G&T Conveyor Company, Inc.
- Lake County Sheriff's Office

CITY STATS

Established 1882

Population 13,951

Government

Council/Manager

Municipal Boundaries

9.43 square miles

CITY OF TAVARES DEPARTMENTS/CONTACTS

Economic Development

Director
Bill Neron
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Economic Development

Cecilia Smith, Coordinator
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Planning & Zoning

Jacque Skutts
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Building Permits

Flossie DeGrave
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Occupational Licenses

Judy Reid
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City Utilities

Brad Hayes, Director
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City Administrator

John H. Drury, ICMA-CM
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INCENTIVES

City Incentives

- Waiver of City Impact Fees to new and expanding businesses through December 2011.
- Fast Track Permitting
- Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption program that gives the City Council the authority to grant new and expanding businesses a property tax exemption based on specified criteria.
- Economic Gardening Technical Assistance Pilot Program stimulates investment in Florida's economy by providing technical assistance for expanding businesses in the state.

"Lake County has amazing natural resources in its land and its people. Recent improvements in our transportation system, expansion of our local college, and renewed focus of the business community toward creating a strong economy have built upon these natural resources -- resulting in a wonderful place to operate and locate a company."

***Kristen Bartch Knight
Atex Distributing, Inc.***



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOCUS

- Downtown Tavares - With the addition of a new Tavares Seaplane Base & Marina, a children's seaplane themed Splash Park and 16 major community events, the downtown has continued to grow and prosper despite the recent economic downturn. The Seaplane Base experiences a steady increase of visitors with over 7,000 take-offs and landings logged in the first year. Existing storefronts are still available within the downtown CRA.
- Medical Village - Centered around the award winning Florida Hospital Waterman, medical support services and physician specialties have greatly expanded over the last few years and attract new residents for their top quality medical care.

- Freight Village - Centered along the existing rail service to the Orlando Metro area, the Freight Village offers economical transportation options that tie into the City's Multi-Modal Transportation Hub.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The City of Tavares is home to over 16 special events each year that bring in thousands of visitors and result in a significant economic impact to downtown businesses.

Updated 0511

Founded in 1977, the EDC markets Metro Orlando as a top location for business investment and expansion.

Committed to diversification of our region's economic base, the EDC specializes in development of the technology, corporate business, international trade and film/television production industries. For more information about the EDC, visit OrlandoEDC.com or call 407.422.7159.

"Putting imagination to work" is a registered service mark of the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission.