



HENDRY COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hendry County: Poised for Growth

Op-Ed by: Commissioner Michael Swindle

(February 22, 2017) – LaBelle, Fla. – Since 2014 I have had the honor to be involved with Hendry County Government. While we still face challenges in recovering from the throes of the recession, today we are financially strengthening and all indicators show a positive environment for economic growth. Hendry County Government operations have undergone some changes and we are blessed with great staff that keeps our county working the best it can be every day. Do we have room for improvement, absolutely! But the men and women in your county government work hard to serve us daily.

No doubt you have heard of the premier projects involving our County. Very few people are strangers to the Airglades International Airport (AIA) project and the various Florida Power and Light (FPL) developments soon to be underway. While important, what has gone understated is the many changes we are making to improve the land development code and comprehensive plan. These changes are strategically being undertaken to ensure that Hendry County is poised for great and smart growth as we get closer to closing the AIA and FPL projects.

While these large projects will have a big impact in terms of added jobs and tax base, we cannot ignore and neglect the cultivation of our own small businesses. Our staff is investing enormous amounts of time and energy into crafting the policy language and improving the regulatory environment to spark small business growth. Hendry County will see the benefits for many years to come. I believe this is only the start and we must all prepare and be focused and engaged on growing smart in order to preserve the rural county atmosphere and charm that we all know and love.

It is exciting to see leadership from multiple agencies of county government, non-profits, and businesses coming together and collaborating on the path Hendry County will forge as we move forward. Traditional silos where agencies would not talk to each other, let alone enter into partnerships, are being broken down. Mr. Paul Puletti, Superintendent of Schools, Brent Kettler with Hendry County Economic Development Council and County Administrator Charles Chapman along with our municipal partners in Clewiston and LaBelle, multiple businesses and other regional agencies are working together better than ever to ensure our county grows in the proper sectors. As we grow it will be even more important that we have a trained and prepared workforce to meet the needs of our current and future businesses. These partnerships are laser focused on vocational and secondary education achievement.

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This should be an exciting era for everyone who calls Hendry County home. But we need you to take an interest and help. Become aware of the issues that we are releasing via local media and our Facebook page. Let us know what is working and what is not. Add your voice to the growing calls to our legislators in Tallahassee and Washington to help us protect our home. There are so many incredible people in Hendry County and I am proud to be involved with all of you who work hard every day to make Hendry County a great place to live, work and play! Together we can make Hendry County the premier destination in South Florida....all it takes is a little teamwork and effort.

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(Please feel free to contact us for an interview, discussion or questions.)