

## February 2, 2007 EDC Meeting Director's Report

### Internal

- Staffing changes
  - David Bennett has resigned – I will be transitioning into his position
  - Thus, we will be advertising within the next 2 weeks for the Manager of Business Investment position
  - We are also in the interview process for the Research Analyst position on Tricia Simons' team
  - Great News! Warren Howell has recently been promoted to the newly re-configured former Lou Nichols position – Manager of Innovative Economic Development – Congratulations to Warren – we look for great things from his team... which will be focusing on the rural economy, towns and communities (the Main Street Program) and county-wide entrepreneurial attraction & development
    - So – we will soon be recruiting for Warren's position – Rural Marketing Manager
      - If you know of any good candidates – let us know – being in the 15<sup>th</sup> straight month with unemployment below 2 % (we are currently at 1.6%) – we can use all the help we can get to recruit great candidates to join our team to continue to make Loudoun a great place!

### External

- 1.6 % unemployment is a nice segue to a mention of the recent articles on jobs growth. You have heard Larry say many times, we are lucky that we do not have a jobs problem (we have a different problem set – but job creation is not a part of it). We've made copies of two recently articles which discuss jobs growth in our region.
  - A January 29<sup>th</sup> Wash Post article cited that NOVA leads the region (and is a leader in the nation) for jobs growth. Loudoun's 50% population growth is cited as a contributing factor to this employment growth.
  - A January 30<sup>th</sup> Wash Post article shines the light on Fairfax County's tremendous job growth over the past 15 years – specifically highlighting the professional & business services sector. The article also cites the unique “dual core” the region has developed – a job center in both DC and Fairfax. Jerry Gordon, president of the Fairfax EDA cited Fairfax's unwavering commitment to Economic Development as one of the reasons behind their success.
- Loudoun Business Prototype Productions was recently name the Virginia Successful Small Business of the Year for NoVa by Virginia Business Magazine
- Wayfinding? Winter Farmer's Markets?