

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Maureen Saltzer
(772) 219-1719 office
(772) 359-5011 mobile

Top beverage distributor to bring 70 jobs and new distribution facility to Fort Pierce

St. Lucie County, FL, January 6, 2009 – J. J. Taylor Companies, the second largest beer distributor in Florida and one of the country's top ten distributors, will open their newest warehouse and beverage distribution operation in Fort Pierce, announced Larry Pelton, president of the Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County. The company will employ 70 people in a 25,000 square-foot facility in the Crossroads Park of Commerce.

“J. J. Taylor Companies have been a leader in beverage distribution since 1958 and we are excited to welcome them to our community,” said Pelton. “Adding seventy jobs in this challenging economy is truly a testament to teamwork, dedication and to the foresight of J. J. Taylor’s executive team,” he added.

“Everyone pulled together to make this happen,” said Pelton. “The City of Fort Pierce provided important and timely assistance with the permitting process and Rick Bonvie of Crossroads Park of Commerce was instrumental in bringing the company to St. Lucie County,” he said.

Jose Rivera, vice president of operations for J. J. Taylor Companies, estimates that the facility will be completed by October or November. Until that time, the company is renting space on Glades Cut-off Road in Fort Pierce to serve their customers in St. Lucie, Martin and Indian River Counties. “We are looking forward to being part of the growth of Fort Pierce and building great relationships here with our customers, local government and the community,” said Rivera.

The Crossroads Park of Commerce, located off Okeechobee Road between I-95 and Florida’s Turnpike, is owned by the Bonvie family. Rick Bonvie has been working with the J. J. Taylor Companies since spring 2008 on their move to St. Lucie County. “Even in these

times, the pulse of the commercial and industrial market in Fort Pierce is still vital. We are still making things happen here in Fort Pierce,” said Bonvie. “The commitment to bringing jobs to Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County is evident. Fort Pierce City Manager Dave Recor and his staff did a great job with permitting, St. Lucie County’s incentives and abatements made a real difference, and Larry Pelton’s efforts pulled the deal together,” added Bonvie.

J. J. Taylor Companies’ corporate office is located in Jupiter; they operate distribution facilities in Minneapolis, Fort Myers and Tampa Bay. Major suppliers include Miller, Coors, Heineken, Guinness, Boston Beer, Sierra Nevada and Yuengling.

###