



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Forbes.com Ranks Cape MSA No. 1

City offers ample commercial space, waterfront lifestyle, educated workforce

CAPE CORAL, Fla. (Feb. 29, 2008) – In its most recent annual survey, Forbes.com ranks the Cape Coral-Fort Myers Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) the top community in the nation for job growth in 2007. Among the factors contributing to the No. 1 ranking were the cost of labor, energy, taxes and the education level of the local workforce, according to the report.

“Cape Coral – the largest city in Southwest Florida – is continuing its business growth momentum,” said Cape Coral Economic Development Director Mike Jackson. “Because of unprecedented private investment, the city now boasts tens of thousands of square feet of office and industrial buildings that are now available or in the pipeline, not to mention the tropical waterfront lifestyle afforded by the city’s 400 miles of waterways.”

The city recently launched a nationwide advertising campaign to lure companies with the slogan “Work. Play. Repeat.” The ads emphasize Cape Coral’s size and rapid growth, availability of developed commercial space, broadband connectivity, proximity to the new Southwest Florida International Airport, and its reputation for value in waterfront residential property.

To facilitate online searches for commercial locations, the Cape Coral Economic Development Office produced CapeCoralProspector (www.bizcapecoralgis.com), which provides site information, business and workforce data maps and demographics. The city is one of only about 130 local governments nationwide to provide this innovative service.

Cape Coral is the fourth fastest growing city in the United States and the third largest geographically in Florida at 115 square miles. Previously, Inc. Magazine ranked the Cape Coral-Fort Myers MSA No. 1 in its 2007 list of the best mid-sized cities for doing business. The Cape Coral Economic Development Office is available to assist in business locations and expansions. For more information, call (239) 574-0444 or toll-free (866) 573-3089.

Contacts:

Mike Jackson, Cape Coral Economic Development Office, mjackson@capecoral.net, (239) 574-0444
Christy Vogt, Cape Coral Economic Development Office, cvogt@capecoral.net, (239) 574-0444
Karen Baxter, Priority Marketing, karen@prioritymarketing.com, (239) 267-2638

-END-