



BOYNTON BEACH CRA HOSTS SECOND GRADUATING CLASS OF “SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM”



The Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) has developed a portfolio of economic development programs aimed at helping small businesses, and on Friday evening, June 25, proud family members and friends were on hand at the Carolyn Sims Center, as CRA and TED Center officials welcomed the second graduating class of the **Small Business Development Program**.

These students, future entrepreneurs hoping to expand an existing or starting a new business, completed an extensive, three-month course on how to start up a small business or accelerate the growth of an existing enterprise. Some of the subjects covered included business plan writing, obtaining funding and technology for small business.

Vice Mayor/ CRA Vice Chair Marlene Ross was on hand to welcome the graduating class, whose top two students received Office Depot gift cards, a one year membership to the Boynton Beach Chamber of Commerce and free promotion on the Agency’s website.

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Grand Prize Winners

Erica Smith

Health and wellness/Herbal remedies

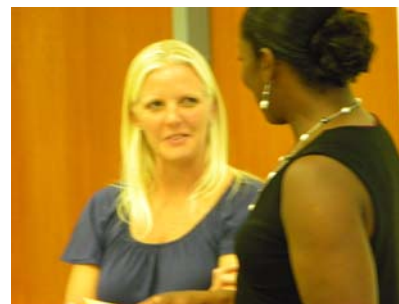
Estranger01@yahoo.com



Runners Up

Kristin Hardy

kristinhardy@bellsouth.net



Lee Ann Howard

Pet sitting service

lzzib16@aol.com



Margaret Johnson

Income taxes & Professional services

mlijnano@aol.com



Other new programs offered by the CRA that compliment existing economic development are:

***Commercial Rent Subsidy** program will assist with rent for the first year for a new or expanding business. It will pay one-half or up to \$600 a month to the landlord for qualifying businesses.

***Commercial Interior Build-out** program will assist new or expanding businesses with the cost of interior build-outs. The CRA will invest up to \$15,000 for qualified businesses depending on the number of jobs created.

***Business Signage Improvement Grant** program provides up to \$1,500 in matching funds to install new signage.

The Small Business Development Program is funded through the CRA and administered by the TED Center and its Florida Women's Business Center.

To register, visit www.flwbc.org, call: 866-353-3790 x113, or email: info@flwbc.org.

The Boynton Beach CRA is committed to serving the community by guiding redevelopment activities and stimulating economic growth within its 1,650-acre district. The organization focuses on creating a vibrant downtown core, providing affordable housing, and revitalizing neighborhoods. For more information about or to apply for a Boynton Beach CRA business development program, call (561) 737-3256, or go to: <http://www.boyntonbeachcra.com/grants.php>.

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