

Polk County
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Board of County Commissioners

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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County to Host Workshop & Webinar on Housing Trends and Issues

(April 28, 2010-Bartow, FL) Brian Walsh, Vice President of Purchasing and Production, at Highlands Homes in Lakeland will be the featured speaker at the May 6th Polk Growth Matters Workshop and Webinar. The topic will be *Polk's Housing Trends and Issues*. The meeting is being co-hosted by the Polk County Builders Association and the Polk County Growth Management Department.

Topics to be discussed include:

- **Green Building Trends:** Sustainability principles, materials, and practices including energy effectiveness, justifying the impact of construction on the environment, and reducing waste
- **Workforce Housing:** Single-family homes for sale at prices that workforce families can afford.
- **Building Outlook:** Prices, volume, and first time Home Buyers
- **Construction Technology Trends:** Use of laptop computers in construction, prewired homes vs. wireless and how the use of technology helps keep builder costs down

Residents are encouraged to attend or watch online. The workshop will be at the Jim Miles Training Center 5204 US 98 Hwy South across from the Highland City Town Center, and begin at 6:30 p.m. with complimentary coffee and light refreshments. Speaker presentations will begin at 7:00 p.m. Reservations are appreciated; to RSVP www.polkgrowthmatters.com and click on Housing Trends and Issues or call (863) 534-6005.

The workshop will also be offered as a webinar for residents that would prefer to stay home and watch from their computer. Residents can also email questions to the workshop leaders to be discussed during the workshop. The webinar is free and requires no pre-registration or enrollment. Anyone interested in participating can log on at any of the following host sites: Online visit www.polkgrowthmatters.com then go to the blog page,

www.theledger.com/pgtv, www.newschief.com, www.myfoxtampabay.com, www.wpcv.com, and www.max983fm.com.

Polk Growth Matters is a community forum hosted by the Polk County Growth Management Department. Its purpose is to provide an opportunity for citizen education and constructive discussion on growth management issues. It is intended to further a general and common understanding of current issues in Polk County. Consistent with its focus on community education and dialogue, the forum is not used to advocate a position on issues.