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# BUSINESS

MAY 2008

# what's in our future?

experts share outlook for  
**brevard  
economy**

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# Symetrics Industries Celebration

Photos by Donna Skattum

Employees of Symetrics Industries celebrated a record-breaking year during a March 21 open house and luncheon at the Melbourne defense contractor's headquarters. Dozens of community leaders and elected officials, including U.S. Congressman Dave Weldon, joined Symetrics president/CEO Mitch Garner and the company's 140 employees to celebrate 2007 revenues that exceeded \$43 million. Garner also announced that employee Mary Stone was the recipient of the company's very first "Spirit of Symetrics" Award for professional excellence and outstanding attitude. Before guests enjoyed a catered barbeque luncheon, Garner announced the company had just secured a new contract worth more than \$1 million, then gave his employees the rest of the day off.



# business leaders weigh in...

In this month's installment of the Main Street Survey, we asked area business leaders:

"How do you think your business or industry will be affected by the economic outlook for Brevard?"

Here are some of the replies:



"The outlook shouldn't have too much of an effect on us because of what we do (as a defense contractor). What we build is flying on aircraft every day and is essential and needed, so I don't see any kind of downturn for us."

**-Mitch Garner, President/CEO  
Symetrics Industries**



"Unemployment has already crept up and fewer people are moving to the area. People coming here are what make businesses want to come here as well. Businesses are migrating to places like North and South Carolina, Georgia and Arizona and bypassing Florida. The local issue of taxes, particularly property taxes, is affecting growth. We must do more to welcome new businesses, be more receptive and competitive."

**-Bjornar Hermansen, President,  
Hermansen Family Enterprises**



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1) U.S. Representative Dave Weldon and Symetrics president/CEO Mitch Garner 2) Chris Watt and inaugural "Spirit of Symetrics" Award winner Mary Stone 3) Ann Luke, Josh Field and Mica Wise 4) Mitch Garner, Melbourne vice mayor Kathy Meehan and city councilman Richard Contreras 5) Congressman Dave Weldon, Brevard County commissioner Jackie Colon and Florida Air Academy director of Jr. ROTC, Lt. Col. Ralph Gracia 6) Janice Kershaw and Randy Harris 7) Mitch Garner and Congressman Dave Weldon 8) Paul and Emily Kubica with Mitch Garner

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