

Lantana complex starting to draw business

By [Lady Hereford](#)

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LANTANA - Moorings Drive was a pretty lonely place when Dave LaLonde and his wife Suzanne moved their marine electronics business there in December.

Lamplighter Marine Inc. was the first business to open in The Moorings at Lantana, a new commercial and residential development on Lantana's waterfront. Six months later, several other businesses, including a sandwich shop, a spa, a real estate office and an accounting office, have joined them.

"It's a beautiful location," said LaLonde, who decided to move the business after Hurricane Wilma battered his former building in Dania Beach.

The LaLondes live in Boynton Beach and also were looking for a shorter commute.

They said they have noticed more residents moving into the development's townhouses and condominiums, and they are pleased other businesses are moving in as well.

"You just drive in and it's pretty," Suzanne said. "I think it'll be kind of a neat community. It's got a small-town kind of feeling almost."

That was one of the goals the town hoped to achieve when The Moorings became Lantana's first development to come under new mixed-use zoning guidelines. Other developments have since followed suit.

The Moorings was built on an 11-acre former boatyard. The development features 378 condos and townhouses, shops and boat slips.

The commercial space is scattered among three main buildings. The building nearest to Dixie Highway has nine commercial units, and five are occupied, said Mark Owens, property manager for The Moorings.

One of the units is under construction by Boat Fleet, a membership-based boating service. One of the empty spaces might become an Italian restaurant, but the unit owner hasn't started construction, Owens said.

Accountant Jennifer Marchal moved in next door to Lamplighter Marine in January and became the second business to open in the area. Before then, she was working from her home in Lake Worth.

Marchal said she liked the location and the upscale environment. "It's nice to be part of Lantana's redevelopment," she said. "It's up and coming. It's nice to be part of a community."

Other businesses in The Moorings community include Quiznos and Ruby Salon, which recently held its grand opening.

The Moorings also is the headquarters of Loggerhead Club and Marina - South Lantana, which offers boat slips and other services.

The club is part of Seven Kings Holdings, which owns nine marinas between Melbourne and Miami.

Although Loggerhead has owned the marina since the first of the year, the staff wasn't able to move into the new office until about three weeks ago, employees said.

Also near the water are empty lots where a waterfront restaurant and a smaller, tiki-bar type restaurant could be built, Owens said.

There has been some interest in the property, but so far no takers, he said.