



Pompano Forum

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NEWS

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Local officials trumpet new marina's economic potential

A new marina recently opened in Pompano Beach, and officials hope the boat storage facility will play a big role in the city's vital marine industry.

Construction began on the 6.7-acre marina, Aquamarina Hidden Harbour, in April 2008 and cost developer Aqua Marine Partners \$8 million to build. Now that it is complete, marine industry experts expect it to fill a major void in the market.

"This is the first new facility in a decade," said Frank Herhold, executive director of the Marine Industries Association of South Florida. "It's just what the doctor ordered."

Citing a lack of dry storage space for boaters, Herhold said South Florida's \$10.8 billion marine industry needs similar facilities to make up for disappearing dock space.

"It will pump big money into the economy," he said. "We have a slip shortage, and this will increase that by over 10 percent."

Aquamarina Hidden

Harbour, 2315 NE 15th St., has 384 dry-stack boat slips that can hold boats up to 43 feet in length. It will also provide protection from hurricanes.

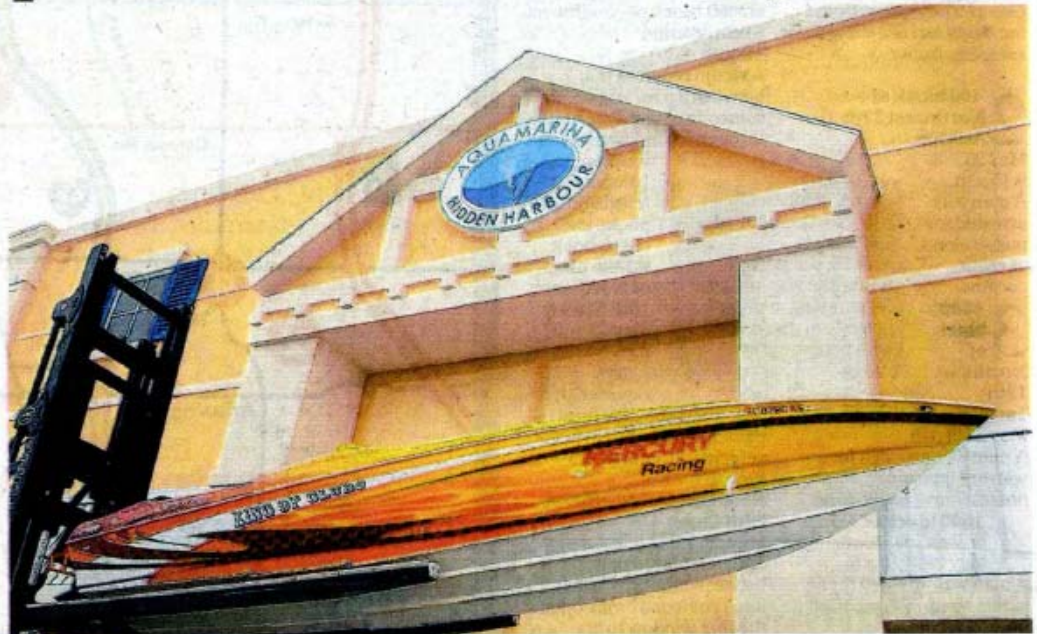
"Pompano's extremely fortunate to have this development in the community," Mayor Lamar Fisher said.

Andrew Sturner, CEO of Aqua Marine Partners, said the opening of the facility will create 250 to 300 jobs and that the company will continue to look at developing the land surrounding the area that was once an eyesore.

"It's nice to see a blighted sight become what it is today," Fisher said.

With dock space becoming harder to find due to condominium development, Lighthouse Point resident Dwight Hikel said the marina comes at just the right time with hurricane season beginning.

"I think it's phenomenal and will help the industry," Hikel said. "A lot of people have boats with no place to put them."



MONEY FLOW Aquamarina Hidden Harbour, a boat storage facility, recently opened in Pompano Beach. Officials hope the new facility will help pump money back into the city's marine industry. SUBMITTED PHOTO

While the marina will primarily serve local boaters, Fisher said he believes

the impact will be felt throughout the city.

"I think it will be a nice

economic engine for the city," he said.

Call the Marina at

954-376-5771 or visit www.aquamarinepartners.com.

