

Local developer keeps idle staff busy with property maintenance

Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Sunday, July 05, 2009

DELRAY BEACH — With the housing boom a thing of the past and idle real estate developers having plenty of free time on their hands, J.P. DiMisa and his partners at New Century Companies are still keeping busy.

To keep jobs for its employees during the building slump, New Century expanded its real estate development services last fall to create Total Property Care, a landscape and maintenance branch that cares for commercial and private properties.

Since then, it has been hired by developers including Ram Real Estate in Palm Beach Gardens and Floranda Marathon Mobile Home Park in Delray Beach.

DiMisa said in a time when even vacant lots need maintenance to prepare for potential buyers, his company's appeal is that properties can get landscaping work from people who are also in the construction business.

"People will always have to cut the grass and always have to take care of their properties," DiMisa said. "As things slow down, it's our way of keeping our employees intact and keeping the lights on."

- Tracey McManus