

# Economic leader leaving

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The Castle Rock Economic Development Council said goodbye to a longtime leader when president and chief executive officer David Mitchem resigned his post following three years at the helm.

Mitchem announced his resignation to town council Oct. 28, two days before he handled his last board meeting for the economic development council. He leaves Castle Rock to accept a post as the town manager for the town of Pagosa Springs.

"I've considered it a privilege to serve you, Castle Rock is a great community," Mitchem said. "We have enjoyed living here and I wish you all the best. I think you will have great success as you continue to grow. I appreciate the opportunity to serve you."

Mitchem brought his best to Castle Rock three years ago when he came on board as president and CEO of the Castle Rock Economic Development Council.

He came to Castle Rock with a background in higher education and was instrumental in updating the council's Web site and forming alliances to bring college level classes to local high school students, said Judy Woodley, interim director.

Mitchem started the economic gardening program to bring a network of free support for start-up businesses in Castle Rock, with access to information about how to start a business and develop a business plan.

Mitchem was a vocal supporter and member of the downtown advisory committee, which wrote Castle Rock's first downtown master plan and spearheaded the Downtown Development Authority, which was included for voter consideration on Castle Rock's November 2008 ballot.

"[Mitchem] certainly was very good at forming partnerships or alliances to accomplish community good," Woodley said. "A lot of people were very sad

to see him go on a personal and professional level.”

Woodley, serving as interim director, has been with the economic development council since 2002. She is the business development director, focusing on attracting local businesses to and retaining existing businesses in Castle Rock. Woodley maintains the data base on commercial real estate and provides research and analysis services.

She has a bachelor’s degree in business administration in marketing and specialty statistics from the University of Texas.

“The economic development council has a lot of ideas and plans we’ll continue to move forward on,” Woodley said.