



# On the Economic Scene



A weekly economic development briefing from the Volusia County Department of Economic Development

January 26, 2015

ONLINE VERSION AT [FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG](http://FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG)

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**VOLUSIA COUNTY TO HOST QUARTERLY ECONOMIC BRIEFING** -- Volusia County Economic Development's next quarterly briefing on the local economy is February 6 in the Volusia Room on the second floor of Daytona Beach International Airport. Rick Karl, Volusia County's director of Aviation and Economic Resources, will be the speaker. Seating is limited. For reservations call 386-248-8048.

**SEMINAR ON WELLNESS WORKSITE PROGRAMS** -- VMA's Human Resources Division will host a seminar on worksite wellness programs. The session will cover why employers should care, where to start, resources for getting started, and benchmarks. The event will be February 3 from 7:45 - 9 a.m. at LPGA in Daytona Beach. For reservations call Jayne Fifer at 386-673-0505.

**INTERNATIONAL TOURISM EXPECTED TO RISE** -- International tourism is expected to rise in Florida again this year, according to Visit Florida, the state's tourism organization. This continues an upward trend in recent years as the state's tourism industry rebounds. Canada, Brazil, and United Kingdom are top origination points for international tourists.

**SBA TO HOST SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY FAIRNESS HEARING** -- The Small Business Administration (SBA) will give local businesses a chance to voice concerns about unfair regulatory enforcement, excessive fines, retaliation, burdensome regulations, and other federal regulatory issues. The SBA's ombudsman will host a public hearing February 4 from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in Orlando. For reservations email José Méndez at [jose.mendez@sba.gov](mailto:jose.mendez@sba.gov) or call 202-205-6178.

**WHERE DID GAS SAVINGS GO?** -- Customer Growth Partners, a consulting firm that tracks retail sales, analyzed the Department of Commerce's numbers for last November and December and estimated that the \$13 billion in savings from lower gas prices were used for: \$4.9 billion on more gas; \$1.8 billion for entertainment and services; \$1.3 billion at restaurants, fast food and bars; \$1 billion for tobacco, beer, etc; \$1.5 billion to food and beverage stores; \$1 billion to home improvement; \$1 billion to clothing; and \$500 million to consumer electronics.

**FORECLOSURES DOWN NATIONALLY, FLORIDA AMONG THE LEADERS** -- According to the Associated Press, foreclosures nationwide last year were at an eight-year low. RealtyTrac figures show Florida had a 2.3 percent foreclosure rate last year, the highest in the nation. Four Florida metro areas, Miami, Orlando, Florida's Space Coast and Tampa, were among the top five areas with the nation's highest foreclosure rates.

**WORKSHOP TO PROVIDE PREP ON FEDERAL GRANT APPLICATIONS** -- More than \$2 billion in government grants will be awarded in 2015 for the research and development of new technology. An upcoming workshop will help potential applicants prepare. The workshop will be February 10 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Business Incubator at 601 Innovation Way at Daytona Beach International Airport. For information call Michael Weiss at 407-823-0014.

**CYBER BRIEFING ON TAP** -- The United States Secret Service and the FBI will hold a free quarterly meeting February 5 from 8:30 a.m. - noon at Valencia College Criminal Justice Institute. Leading cyber experts will cover IT security and forensics. The session is suited for law enforcement, business leaders, fraud investigators, IT specialists, and academia. For reservations call Andrew Bazemore at 407-426-5906 or email or [orlectfpartners@USSS.DHS.GOV](mailto:orlectfpartners@USSS.DHS.GOV).

**SNAP TO HOST SEMINAR ON PHILANTHROPY** -- Strategic Nonprofit Alliance Partnership (SNAP) will host a presentation by Mark Brewer, president/CEO of the Central Florida Foundation. His topic is: Philanthropy's changing paradigm; new strategies of funders and individual donors. The presentation will be February 5 from 8:30 - 10 a.m. at the Volusia Teachers Organization in Daytona Beach. For information email [Johanna.Pedersen@jmco.com](mailto:Johanna.Pedersen@jmco.com). To register go to: [tinyurl.com/lktgqa4](http://tinyurl.com/lktgqa4).

**NEWS ITEMS WANTED!** -- Please send your business news items to Dave Byron, Volusia County Community Services Department Director, at [dbyron@volusia.org](mailto:dbyron@volusia.org). If you wish to be removed from this weekly broadcast, please let us know.

Phone: 386-248-8048

Internet: [www.floridabusiness.org](http://www.floridabusiness.org)

Fax: 386-248-8037

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