July 13, 2015

ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

QUARTERLY ECONOMIC BRIEFING AUGUST 7 -- Volusia County Economic Development's next quarterly briefing on the local economy is August 7 at 7:45 a.m. in the Volusia Room on the second floor of Daytona Beach International Airport. James Dinneen, Volusia County Manager, will be the guest speaker. For reservations call 386-248-8048.

JETBLUE SERVICE TO BIG APPLE FROM DAYTONA BEACH STARTS JANUARY 7 – New York-based carrier JetBlue last week announced the start of direct service between Daytona Beach and John F. Kennedy international airports beginning January 7. For schedules and to purchase tickets go online to: jetblue.com or flydaytonafirst.com.

GAS PRICES DOWN; TRAVEL UP -- According to AAA, gasoline prices for the July 4th holiday were the lowest since 2009, and more Americans than ever took to the road. Lower prices have helped Americans save about $65 billion on gas (more than $530 for each U.S. household) in the first six months of 2015. U.S. Energy Information predicts that average gasoline prices nationwide will decline for the rest of the year to an average of $2.43 per gallon in the second half of 2015.

ONLINE DISCUSSION TO FOCUS ON BUSINESS DISASTER RISKS -- Agility Recovery and the U.S. Small Business Administration will host a free online discussion on the top five small business disaster risks, and how to protect assets before a crisis. The discussion will be July 14 at 2 p.m. To register go online to: agil.me/sbatop5.

SEMINAR ON FINANCING FOR HOME-BASED BUSINESSES -- The local SCORE chapter will sponsor a workshop for home-based business owners or people thinking about starting a home-based business. Topics covered include understanding credit and lenders. The workshop is July 23 from 6 - 8 p.m. at the business incubator at Daytona Beach International Airport. To register go online to: score87.org or call 386-255-6889.

MILITARY, DEFENSE, VETERANS OPPORTUNITIES SUMMIT PLANNED -- The Florida Chamber Foundation's Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit will include leaders from the military and defense industry, policymakers and business to discuss challenges facing Florida in the next 15-plus years. The summit is August 6 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. For information go online to: flchamber.com/event/2015-military-defense-veterans-opportunities-summit.

CULINARY DESIGN ACADEMY FEEDS HOSPITALITY CAREERS – The Academy of Culinary Design at Seabreeze High School prepares students for careers in hospitality and tourism. The academy uses the Florida Restaurant Association's curriculum to provide industry standard training with restaurant owners and chefs mentoring academy students. Students completing the academy may qualify for Bright Futures scholarships. For information, contact Samantha Crouch, academy director, at spcrouch@volusia.12k.fl.us.

BUSINESS BEAT VIDEOS FEATURE VOLUSIA COMPANIES -- Business Beat segments produced by the county's Community Information Division feature over 25 Volusia manufacturers. They can be viewed online at floridabusiness.org or they can be seen on Volusia Magazine on WDSC-TV15 which airs Sundays at 5 p.m. and Mondays at 7:30 p.m. Volusia Magazine also includes county news, information segments, and actions by the Volusia County Council.

NBIA HAS NEW WEBSITE -- The National Business Incubation Association (NBIA), an international nonprofit and global advocate for entrepreneurs, has a new website. Go online to: nbia.org.

U.S. HOME PRICES CLIMB STEADILY -- Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city home price index rose 4.9 percent in April from 12 months earlier. Strong job growth and low mortgage rates have prompted greater demand for housing, boosting home values.

NEWS ITEMS WANTED – Please send your business news items to Dave Byron, Volusia County Community Services Department Director, at dbyron@volusia.org. If you wish to be removed from this weekly broadcast, please let us know.