



On the Economic Scene



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

August 31, 2015

ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

WORKSHOPS ON GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING -- The government procurement process will be the topic of two free workshops that will feature presentations by Volusia County Government's director of purchasing and contracts and the assistant director and PTAC program manager for the Florida Small Business Development Center. The workshops will be September 18 at 9 a.m. at the Volusia County Historic Courthouse in DeLand and September 25 at Daytona Beach International Airport. For information contact Leigh Shapleigh at lshapleigh@volusia.org or 386-248-8048.

HURRICANE PREPARATION INCLUDES PETS -- Volusia Animal Preparedness (VAP) is a cooperative effort in Volusia County to provide emergency assistance during disasters for people who own animals. For information go online to: volusia.org/services/public-protection/emergency-management/before-a-disaster/pet-planning.shtml.

INTERMODAL EXPO SEPTEMBER 20 - 22 -- Enterprise Florida Inc. (EFI), in partnership with the Florida Ports Council, Florida Chamber, Florida Department of Transportation, and Port Everglades, is promoting Florida businesses at the Intermodal Association of North America's (IANA) Intermodal Expo at the Broward County Convention Center/Port Everglades September 20 - 22. The expo is the largest conference/expo for intermodal transportation in North America and is attended by more than 2,000 company representatives. For information, email Luis Perez-Codina lperez-codina@enterprise-florida.com or Ilona Vega ivega@enterprise-florida.com.

COMMUNICATIONS, MULTIMEDIA ACADEMY FOCUSES ON VISUAL ARTS, DESIGN -- Mainland High School's Academy of Communications and Multimedia prepares students for careers in the arts, audio/visual communication, and technology. The curriculum is hands-on and project based in graphic design, television production, web design, and networking support and systems. For information contact Becky Railsback at rarailsb@volusia.k12.fl.us.

TOURISM SETS RECORDS -- A record number of tourists came to Florida during the first half of the year, according to Governor Scott's office. The number of travel-related jobs is also at a record high. During the second quarter of 2015, more than 1.2 million Florida residents were employed in tourism, up 4.9 percent over the same quarter last year.

HALF THE GLOBE HAS GONE MOBILE -- According to the mobile communication industry trade group GSMA, there were 3.6 billion mobile subscribers at the end of 2014. Half of the world's population now has a mobile subscription, up from one in five 10 years ago. There were 7.1 billion global SIM connections, and 243 million machine-to-machine connections. Smartphones account for 60 percent of connections.

NUMBER OF U.S. FIRMS UP 2 PERCENT -- According to the Wall Street Journal, the number of U.S. firms increased 2 percent to 27.6 million between 2007 - 2012. The number of women-owned firms grew faster, rising 27 percent during that time, but the number of firms with paid employees fell 5 percent to 5.4 million.

CERTIFIED BUSINESS CONSULTANTS OFFER FREE HELP -- The Florida Small Business Development Center at Daytona State College offers free business consulting. Certified professionals at the center can provide business consulting, training and information. For information go on line to: sbdcdaytona.com or call 386-506-4723.

EMPLOYEES BUYING BUSINESSES -- More employees are becoming owners as sales of small businesses are up 60 percent since 2012 with retiring Baby Boomers driving the momentum, according to BizBuySell.com.

FLORIDA SIMULATION SUMMIT SET FOR ORLANDO -- Simulation is a key business tool in a multitude of industries beyond defense, including entertainment, education, healthcare, energy, transportation, manufacturing, and cyber. A simulation summit will be September 16 from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Orange County Convention Center. For more information and registration go online to: simulationinformation.com/events/florida-simulation-summit.

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.