



On the Economic Scene



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

October 19, 2015

ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

VOLUSIA COUNTY TO HOST QUARTERLY ECONOMIC BRIEFING -- The next Volusia County Economic Development quarterly briefing on the local economy is November 6 at 7:45 a.m. in the Volusia Room on the second floor of Daytona Beach International Airport. Ned Harper, director of Small Business Development Center at Daytona State College, will be the guest speaker. For information and reservations call 386-248-8048.

USDA AWARDS FARM GRANT DOLLARS TO FLORIDA -- Farm.com reports that Florida has been awarded \$4 million in specialty grant funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The grants will be split between 40 projects taking place at universities and other community organizations. These grants are awarded to projects to improve food safety practices, tackle disease and pest management, research new crop possibilities and educate the general public on the important roles of specialty crops.

WORKSHOP ON CREATING A POWERFUL, REVENUE GENERATING WEBSITE -- The local SCORE chapter and the UPS store will present a workshop on developing a powerful, revenue generating website. The workshop will be October 29 from 6 - 8 p.m. at Daytona State College. For information and to register call 386-255-6889.

MANUFACTURING INDEX SHOWS CONTINUED GROWTH -- According to the Institute for Supply Management, the PMI composite index for manufacturing registered 50.2 percent in September. Although a decrease of 0.9 percent from August, a reading above 50 percent is a sign the manufacturing economy generally is expanding. A reading below 50 indicates it's contracting. The September PMI is the lowest reading since May 2013 when the PMI registered 50.1 percent. The September reading indicates growth in manufacturing for the 33rd consecutive month.

ACADEMY FOCUSES ON DESIGN, MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY -- The Academy of Design and Manufacturing Technology at Mainland High School is for students who have career interests in architecture, engineering, manufacturing, computer aided manufacturing, electronics, interior design and construction. Academy classes integrate English, engineering, electronics, drafting and production technology using state-of-the-art technology and authentic problems from business and industry to teach concepts and skills. For information call 386-258-4665.

CONSTRUCTION SPENDING UP -- According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, construction spending in August was \$1.08 billion at a seasonally adjusted annual rate, up .7 percent from the revised July estimate and up 13.7 percent from August 2014. Private construction rose at a slightly higher rate than public. For detailed data and methodologies, go online to: census.gov.

AMERICANS HITTING THE ROADS -- New estimates from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) show that U.S. driving topped 1.82 trillion miles during the first seven months of the year. This exceeds the previous record of 1.77 trillion. FHWA's Traffic Volume Trends report, a monthly estimate of U.S. road travel, shows that 283.7 billion miles were driven in July, the most in July of any year. With the new July estimate, the number of miles driven has increased for 17 consecutive months.

SBA PROVIDES ASSISTANCE ON ASSESSING CYBER THREATS -- It's very important for all business owners to take stock of their firm's cybersecurity health. This includes securing information through the best cybersecurity practices; identifying the risks and types of cyberthreats; and learning the best practices for guarding against cyberthreats. For assistance go online to: sba.gov/cybersecurity.

JETBLUE SELLING SEATS FOR NONSTOP FLIGHTS TO NEW YORK -- Preparations are underway at Daytona Beach International Airport for the start of direct service January 7 to New York's JFK by Jet Blue Airways. The nonstop flights will be roughly two-and-a-half hours each way. Tickets are for sale online by going to: jetblue.com.

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.