



On the Economic Scene



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

June 15, 2015

ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

RED CROSS OFFERS READY RATING PROGRAM -- The American Red Cross Ready Rating program is a free, self-guided program to help businesses, organizations and schools become better prepared for emergencies. Members complete a 123-point self assessment and have access to tools to improve their level of preparedness. Go online to: readyrating.org/Join.aspx.

FREE DISASTER PLANING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE -- Jean Paul Aliaga, a Florida MEP disaster recovery expert, can provide free assistance with the creation of a business communications and emergency plan to include identification of key personnel, suppliers and processes, access to essential materials, safeguarding assets and important data, and training staff in emergency preparedness. For information call 321-939-4000 or email jpa@floridamep.org.

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS ON IDENTITY THEFT -- Fifth Third Bank and the Volusia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring free financial empowerment presentations for business owners. The next presentations, on identity theft, will be July 2 and July 16 at 11:30 a.m. at 846 Saxon Blvd., Orange City. For information and registration, go online to: lunch.volusia.me/.

BASIC CONSTRUCTION SKILLS COURSE STARTS JUNE 15 -- The Center for Business and Industry at Daytona State College is offering a basic construction skills course for entry level employment in the construction industry. The course is Monday - Thursday from 8 a.m. - noon at DeLand High School. The class starts June 15 and ends July 16. The course fee is \$750, which may qualify for assistance from CareerSource Flagler Volusia at 386-561-9611. For course information and to register call Joanne at 386-506-4224 or email parkerj@daytonastate.edu.

MEDICAL FAIR SET FOR THAILAND -- Medical Fair Thailand 2015 September 10 - 12 in Bangkok is an opportunity to showcase products and services for the region's flourishing medical and health care industry. A limited number of reimbursable grants are available to qualified Florida companies. For information call Leigh Shapleigh at Volusia County Economic Development at 386-248-8048 or email lshapleigh@volusia.org.

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH UP 2.2 PERCENT -- According to SYNEVA Economics, employment in April grew 2.2 percent nationwide, and 3.2 percent in the Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach MSA. Of the 387 metro areas in the country, 330 added jobs with the average growth rate for all metros at 1.7 percent. The fastest growing metro area in April was Lake Charles, Louisiana, up 7.8 percent for the year. Great Falls, Montana, had the largest percentage employment decline in the nation. Go online to: syneva.com/home/metro-employment-index.

NEW COMMITMENTS TO VENTURE CAPITAL REACH \$30 BILLION -- According to the 2015 National Venture Capital Association Yearbook, new commitments to venture capital funds in the United States increased to \$30 billion in 2014 from \$17.7 billion a year earlier. Investment levels in 2014 came from 257 different funds, and were the highest since 2000. For the report go online to: nvca.org/research/stats-studies/ and click on the 2015 Yearbook download icon.

APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR EXPORT COUNCIL -- The U.S. Department of Commerce is soliciting applicants from professionals with expertise in international trade for appointment to the Northern and Central - West Florida District Export Council. District export councils are organizations of business leaders whose knowledge of international business provides a source of professional advice to firms within their communities. The application period closes July 15. For information email Kenneth Mouradian at kenneth.mouradian@trade.gov.

CONSUMERS VOICE CONCERN ON CREDIT REPORTS, SCORES -- According to a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau report, consumers are interested and concerned about their credit information, but confused about how best to access and use the information. For the report go online to: tinyurl.com/npgeq4z.

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.