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ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

ON THE ECONOMIC SCENE BY EMAIL STARTS TODAY! – Beginning with this edition, our On the Economic Scene weekly briefing becomes available to you by email in addition to the usual fax distribution and online accessibility at www.floridabusiness.org/news-and-data-resources/scene. If you would like to receive the Scene by e-mail, please send your email address to doed@volusia.org.

FLORIDA SMALL BUSINESS EMERGENCY BRIDGE LOAN PROGRAM – The Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program is available to provide short-term, interest-free loans to businesses damaged by Hurricane Irma. Administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity in partnership with the Florida SBDC Network, the program helps businesses bridge the gap between the time damage is incurred and when a business secures other financial resources, including payment of insurance claims or longer-term Small Business Administration loans. Eligible small businesses with two to 100 employees may apply for short-term, interest-free loans for \$1,000 to \$25,000 for 90- or 180-day terms. To be eligible, a business must have been established before Sept. 4, 2017, and demonstrate economic injury or physical damage as a result of Hurricane Irma. Applications will be accepted through Oct. 31, 2017, contingent on fund availability. Visit www.floridadisasterloan.org for full details.

SBA BUSINESS PHYSICAL DISASTER LOAN PROGRAM – Business owners in Volusia County are eligible to apply for U.S. Small Business Administration Business Physical Disaster Loans. These low-interest loans are intended to help repair or replace disaster-damaged property. Businesses and nonprofit organizations may apply for up to \$2 million to repair or replace property, including real estate, equipment, inventory, machinery and other business assets. To apply for physical and economic injury loans, businesses must first register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at www.disasterassistance.gov or by calling the toll-free helpline at 800-621-3362. The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is Nov. 9, 2017. For questions, contact the Florida SBDC Network at 850-898-3489 or Disaster@FloridaSBDC.org. The phone line is answered during regular business hours; all voicemails and emails will be responded to within 24 hours.

SBA ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOAN PROGRAM – Federal emergency assistance has been activated due to the impacts of Hurricane Irma. Volusia County businesses can apply to determine if they qualify for SBA Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs). If you have suffered substantial economic injury, regardless of physical damage, and you are a small business, small agricultural cooperative or a private nonprofit organization, you may qualify for an EIDL. EIDLs provide working capital to help businesses survive until normal operations resume after a disaster. SBA can provide up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses. The deadline to return economic injury applications is June 11, 2018. For more information, go to <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/Information/EIDLLoans>.

ACADEMY OF UNIFIED ARTS – This academy at Mainland High School prepares students for careers in the performing and visual arts. The goal is to develop and refine a student's natural talent and/or interest in areas such as 2-D and 3-D art, dance, acting, singing and instrumental performance. In addition, students can learn about the business and supportive aspects of careers in the arts. For more information, visit www.mainlandhighschool.org.

VOLUSIA-FLAGLER FOREIGN TRADE ZONE SPECIAL EVENT – Volusia's Best Program will present a free breakfast seminar on how a Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) program can enhance your business. "Foreign Trade Zones: Ancient Capitalism to Modern Incentive" will be held from 7:30 to 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 9, in the Dennis R. McGee Room at Daytona Beach International Airport, 700 Catalina Drive, Daytona Beach. Parking will be validated. The program encourages investment in participating U.S.-based companies by minimizing costs associated with qualified importing, exporting, manufacturing and distributing activities. Michael C. Michalski, president of MCS Strategies, will bring a national perspective on the opportunities available in FTZ 198, which encompasses Volusia and Flagler counties. RSVP to Joanne Parker at Daytona State College's Center for Business and Industry by calling 386-506-4224 or emailing Joanne.Parker@DaytonaState.edu.

CFDC VETERANS BUSINESS INITIATIVE CONTINUES – The Central Florida Disability Chamber of Commerce Veterans Business Initiative session No. 2 continues at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 3. The initiative is running for eight weeks through September and October. This is a no-cost program for all military veterans, spouses and their families who are seeking employment, entrepreneurial training and continuing education. Employers and partners include Manpower of Central Florida, OUC - The Reliable One, Universal Orlando Resort and SCORE Orlando. To register, visit https://cscfit.formstack.com/forms/vbi_fall_2017.

NEWS ITEMS WANTED! – Please send your business news items to Joanne Magley, Volusia County Community Information director, at jmagley@volusia.org. If you wish to be removed from this weekly broadcast, please let us know.