**REGISTER FOR THE SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER PROGRAM** – Volusia County Emergency Management and the Florida Division of Emergency Management are coordinating efforts to provide assistance to individuals with disabilities during a disaster through the Functional/Special Needs Registration Program. The program is designed to assist individuals who may have physical, mental or other functional needs and may need help in evacuating and sheltering. To learn more and to register, [https://tinyurl.com/y9xrt5lo](https://tinyurl.com/y9xrt5lo).

**TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND AERONAUTICS ACADEMY** – The academy at Atlantic High School, in partnership with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, prepares students to fly unmanned vehicles, airplanes and small unmanned aerial vehicles. Studying weather and aerodynamics are examples of the opportunities offered by this exciting new academy. Students also have the chance to earn concurrent college credit. For details, email Academy Director Samantha Harrison at srharris@volusia.k12.fl.us.

**TSA PRECHECK COMING IN JULY** – TSA will host a PreCheck enrollment event from July 16 through 20 at Daytona Beach International Airport (DAB) in the baggage claim area. TSA PreCheck allows participating low-risk travelers to experience a more efficient airport screening process by leaving on shoes, light jackets and belts and leaving laptops and compliant liquids in carry-on bags. Schedule your appointment by pre-enrolling at [https://www.identogo.com/precheck](https://www.identogo.com/precheck).

**TRADE SHOW RESULTS** – Hospitalar 2018 proved to be a successful trade show for the Florida health care businesses that exhibited. Enterprise Florida sponsored nine Florida small businesses to cost-effectively exhibit their products. Florida Pavilion exhibitors reported more than $18 million in actual and projected export sales. The annual trade show – held May 22-25 in Sao Paolo, Brazil – is the third-largest medical trade show in the world. Brazil is the largest economy in South America, and its health care market is an estimated $125 billion with imports accounting for about 25 percent of the market.

**PORT CANAVERAL MODERNIZATION** – As reported by the American Journal of Transportation, Port Canaveral recently completed an eight-month modernization project to renovate its North Cargo Piers 1 and 2. The project is part of an overall infrastructure improvement plan to maximize usability of existing bulkhead space. As Volusia County’s closest seaport, Port Canaveral is important to local businesses that depend upon seagoing cargo. Total investment in the project was just over $4 million, and the Port was awarded a Florida Seaport Transportation Economic Development grant to match 50 percent of the project’s cost.

**TOP UNIVERSITIES GRANTED PATENTS** – The National Academy of Inventors and the Intellectual Property Owners Association have published a list of the Top 100 Worldwide Universities Granted U.S. Utility Patents in 2017. The list is based on 2017 granted patents data obtained from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The University of South Florida and the University of Florida were ranked in the top 15; the University of California was ranked No. 1. To review the complete list, visit [https://tinyurl.com/y839uvdi](https://tinyurl.com/y839uvdi).

**TRADE MISSION TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** – Enterprise Florida will lead a delegation of Florida manufacturers and services providers Nov. 13 – 16. to further trade relations between Florida and the Dominican Republic. Facilitated by the U.S.-Central America Free Trade Agreement, the U.S. has become the chief trading partner for the Dominican Republic. Exporters benefit from reduced tariffs and barriers. Enterprise Florida is collaborating with the U.S. Commercial Service to coordinate the mission to Santo Domingo and facilitate business-to-business meetings for the Florida participants. Small and medium-sized Florida companies may qualify for a Gold Key Grant from Enterprise Florida to offset the Gold Key Service fee. For details, contact Virgil Kimball at 386-248-8048.

**HOMEOWNERS’ EQUITY REACHES A NEW HIGH** – As reported earlier this month by the National Association of Home Builders, the value of owners’ equity in real estate hit a new high over the first quarter of 2018 on a nominal and not seasonally adjusted basis. This according to U.S. Financial Accounts data as published by the Federal Reserve System Board of Governors. Households’ owner-occupied real estate total value increased to $25.1 trillion. Moreover, the value of owners’ equity in real estate— the difference between the value of owner-occupied real estate and home mortgage debt – rose by $1.4 trillion over the past four quarters and reached $15.0 trillion in the first quarter of 2018. For more information, visit [https://tinyurl.com/y9wywlt4](https://tinyurl.com/y9wywlt4).

**DATA NEVER SLEEPS 6.0** – An entrepreneur.com article recently asked this question: With all the tweets, iMessages, streamed songs and Amazon Prime orders, did you ever wonder just how much data is actually being generated every minute? The answer in part, as drawn from domo.com’s Data Never Sleeps 6.0 results, was that more than 470,000 tweets, 2.1 million snaps and 50,000 Instagram photos are posted every 60 seconds. For more results, visit [https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/314672](https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/314672).

**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.