



July 2, 2018

ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

WORKSHOP ON DOING BUSINESS WITH VOLUSIA COUNTY – Volusia County's Purchasing and Contracts Division will hold two workshops for business vendors who want to learn how to do business with the county. The workshops will be held in the first-floor training room of the Thomas C. Kelly Administration Center, 123 W. Indiana Ave., DeLand, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 11; and 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday, July 12. County representatives will demonstrate how to register as a vendor; explain how to submit bids, proposals and quotes; and discuss state and local ordinances relevant to working with the county. Staff will explain the information channels available to vendors and answer questions. For more information, call 386-736-5935, ext. 12490.

ENGINEERING ACADEMY – The academy at University High School provides training in engineering and technology-related fields through the national Project Lead the Way Pathways to Engineering program. Students learn how to use industry standard 3D design software that is used by companies like Intel, Lockheed Martin and Pixar. For more information, contact Academy Director Michael Larson at mplarson@volusia.k12.fl.us.

ELEVATE DAYTONA BEACH IS ALMOST HERE – Join our area's creative community for these fast-paced TED-style talks on a variety of topics. Elevate Daytona Beach speakers get 20 slides, which automatically advance every 15 seconds, resulting in quick, exciting five-minute presentations. Expect to be enlightened and entertained by unique presentations fueled by the speakers' passions. The event is from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, July 19, at the News-Journal Center, 221 N. Beach St., Daytona Beach. For more information, visit www.elevatedaytonabeach.com.

GRANT WRITING USA WORKSHOP – Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grant writing workshop at the River to Sea TPO in Daytona Beach on July 16 and 17. Beginning and experienced grant writers from city, county and state agencies as well as nonprofits, K-12, colleges and universities are encouraged to attend. Multi-enrollment discounts and discounts for Grant Writing USA returning alumni are available. Tuition payment is not required at the time of enrollment. Tuition is \$455 and includes everything: two days of instruction, workbook and access to our Alumni Forum tools, discussions and more than 200 sample grant proposals. Seating is limited, and online reservations are necessary. Go to www.grantwritingusa.com for complete event details including learning objectives, class location, graduate testimonials and online registration. Contact Janet Darling at 888-290-6237 or janet@grantwritingusa.com.

BEST CITIES FOR STEM WORKERS – With Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) professions in such high demand, Livability.com recently analyzed data for more than 2,000 cities to determine the 10 best cities in America for STEM workers. The data team considered three categories: share of total jobs that fall into the STEM category, median income for STEM jobs, and median income for STEM jobs in relation to the overall median income for the city. The top ranked cities are Huntsville, Alabama; Longmont, Colorado; and Davis, California. Miami Beach ranked No. 10.

MOODY'S UPGRADES FLORIDA'S CREDIT RATING – Moody's Investors Service has upgraded Florida's general obligation (GO) rating to Aaa from Aa1. As reported, the GO upgrade reflects a sustained trend of improvement in Florida's economy and finances, low state debt and pension ratios, and reduced near-term liability risks via the state-run insurance companies. Florida's economy is performing strongly in terms of job growth, and long-term growth prospects are favorable. State finances are characterized by healthy reserves and historically strong governance practices and policies that are expected to continue. The state has also maintained consistently low debt and pension liabilities that compare well with other Aaa rated states.

CENSUS BUREAU OFFERS THE LATEST RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION DATA – Do you know how many new homes constructed in 2017 had four bedrooms or more? What about the average price of a new home sold in 2017? You can discover the answers by exploring U. S. Census Bureau data from the Survey of Construction. The survey provides annual data on characteristics of new privately owned residential structures, such as square footage, number of bedrooms and bathrooms, and sales prices. To access this information, go to www.census.gov/construction/chars.

FOURTH OF JULY FOOD SPENDING – Americans are expected to spend \$6.9 billion on food for Fourth of July cookouts and picnics, down slightly from last year's record of \$7.1 billion, according to an annual survey by the National Retail Federation. According to the survey, more than 216 million Americans (87 percent) plan to observe Independence Day, down slightly from last year's 219 million (88 percent). Nearly 153 million (62 percent) are planning a cookout or picnic, spending an average of \$75.35 per person, a new record topping last year's \$73.42. The numbers cover only food items and not other holiday-related items.

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.