



# On the Economic Scene



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

January 27, 2020

[ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG](http://FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG)

**VOLUSIA COUNTY QUARTERLY ECONOMIC BRIEFING COMING FEB. 7** – Mark your calendars to attend the Volusia County Economic Development Division's quarterly economic development briefing at 7:45 a.m. Friday, Feb. 7, in the Dennis R. McGee Room at Daytona Beach International Airport. These free community briefings present the most recent economic indicators and trends that impact our county. With continued low unemployment rates, businesses want and need trained workers more than ever. To that end, this quarter's briefing will feature Rachel Rutledge, career and technical education coordinator for Volusia County Schools (VCS), who will present a comprehensive update on the VCS program. Don't miss this important briefing. Reservations are not required. For information, call [386-248-8048](tel:386-248-8048).

**DAYTONA STATE COLLEGE SPRING JOB FAIR** – Businesses from a variety of industries will be on hand seeking to fill positions from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5, when Daytona State College's DeLand Campus hosts a spring job fair. The fair will be held at the DeLand Campus, 1155 County Road 4139, Building 6C, Room 135. Representatives from more than 30 businesses are scheduled to be on-site including Boston Whaler, Greystone Health Management, Gary Yeomans Honda, Florida Health Care Plans, and Volusia County Schools. The job fair is free and open to the public. Applicants are encouraged to dress professionally and bring their resumes. [Further details can be found on DSC's job fair web page.](#)

**DAYTONA BEACH HALF MARATHON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** – Volusia County Government and Daytona International Speedway are again partnering to bring this iconic race to the community, and volunteers are needed. Named one of the seven scenic half marathons in America by [Active.com](#), this is one of the most unique courses in the running world. Whether you're a team of one or 20, there are many opportunities to get involved. Volunteers are needed for Saturday Feb. 8, and for race day on Sunday, Feb. 9. In exchange for your time, volunteers will receive a volunteer shirt, breakfast at the event, and a free entry to the Marine Science Center. [To register as a volunteer, go to the marathon web page.](#)

**ASK THE CPA: TAX ADVICE FOR SMALL BUSINESS SEMINAR** – April 15 will be here before you know it. SCORE is providing a live Q-and-A session at no cost with Micah Fraim, a certified CPA and tax expert. The hour will be dedicated to answering your tax-related questions and concerns. Fraim will also offer tax advice you can implement throughout the year. Questions can be submitted during registration and the live session. [This free one-hour webinar will be held at 1 p.m. Feb. 11.](#)

**U.S. SECURITY TRADE MISSION TO EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA AND HONDURAS** – The U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, is organizing a business development Trade Mission for Economic Prosperity to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras from May 17 to 22. The trade mission is focused on opportunities in safety and security and cybersecurity/information and communication technology. The cost is \$3,500 for small and medium-sized companies, \$4,900 for large firms, and \$500 for each additional firm representative. Expenses for travel, lodging, most meals and incidentals are the responsibility of each mission participant. For more information, email [April Redmon](#). Registration deadline is March 20.

**FLORIDA TAXWATCH 2019: HOW FLORIDA COMPARES ON TAXES** – The annual Florida TaxWatch How Florida Compares: Taxes report ranks Florida's state and local taxes against those levied around the nation. The nearly 40 tables, charts and graphs in the report provide comprehensive information on state and local tax rates, tax collections and other government revenues for all 50 states, along with historical information for Florida. Florida continues to be a relatively low tax state, although its rankings have risen slightly. Floridians' per capita state and local own source revenue collections total \$5,733, the 40th highest amount among the 50 states. [Read the full report in detail to see where Florida ranks.](#)

**FINAL OPPORTUNITY ZONE REGULATIONS ISSUED** – The U.S. Treasury Department and the IRS issued final regulations implementing the Opportunity Zones tax incentive. Opportunity Zones, created by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, offer capital gains tax relief for investments in economically distressed areas. The final rules provide clarity for Opportunity Funds and eligible subsidiaries in determining qualification and levels of new investment in Opportunity Zones. [Additional information on Opportunity Zones, including FAQs and regulations, can be found via this webpage.](#)

**LOW INTEREST RATES SPUR REAL ESTATE OPTIMISM** – *Southeast Real Estate Business* magazine recently released its annual survey of real estate brokers, owners, managers and developers to get their views toward 2020. Conducted in the winter of 2019, the reader forecast survey found respondents more bullish heading into a new year than they were a year ago. The prevalence of lower interest rates was one of the main reasons. About 70% of brokers expect to do more deal volume in 2020 than 2019. About 80% of the developer/owner/manager respondents have moderate to high confidence that they will develop more in 2020, a 20% increase over last year's survey. [Further survey details can be found here.](#)

**NEWS ITEMS WANTED!** – Please send your business news items to Joanne Magley at [jmagley@volusia.org](mailto:jmagley@volusia.org). If you wish to be removed from this weekly broadcast, please let us know.