



On the Economic Scene Make it Volusia

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

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ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

DAB OFFERS TSA PRE✓[®] EXPEDITED SCREENING PROGRAM JULY 15-19 – Daytona Beach International Airport (DAB) invites passengers to enroll in the popular TSA Pre✓[®] expedited screening program July 15-19. The event will be held in the baggage claim area on the main floor of the DAB terminal. Online pre-enrollment is required to participate in this local event. Visit www.identogo.com/precheck to pre-enroll. The application process will be completed on site. The fee can be paid by credit card, money order, company check or certified/cashier's check. Cash and personal checks will not be accepted.

WEBSITE HELPS BUSINESSES PREPARE FOR NATURAL DISASTERS – The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity website, FloridaDisaster.biz, helps Florida businesses prepare for and recover from hurricanes and other disasters. Like individuals and families, businesses must be prepared with a plan. FloridaDisaster.biz can help guide businesses in stepwise fashion to prepare and quickly recover from an emergency. To learn more, visit www.FloridaDisaster.biz and register your business, access business resources and review the disaster planning tool kit.

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 Volusia County residents 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. For additional information and to register, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y9xrt5lo>. To discuss assistance for sheltering pets, special needs shelter evacuees should contact Volusia County Animal Services at 386-248-1790.

ENTERPRISE FLORIDA EXPORT SALES MISSION TO COLOMBIA COMING IN NOVEMBER – Enterprise Florida (EFI) is recommending Florida companies consider expanding their export sales by joining the trade mission to Bogota, Colombia, Nov. 18-22. Colombia is the fourth-largest economy in Latin America and has the third-largest population in the region with approximately 49 million citizens. With nearly \$4.2 billion of merchandise shipped in 2017 – and growing by nearly 7% in 2018 – Colombia ranked as Florida's second-largest export market. EFI will offer a limited number of Gold Key Service Packages (one-on-one appointments) through the U.S. Commercial Service to qualified Florida companies. Companies who qualify for the Gold Key as a small business based on SBA size standards may qualify for a Gold Key Grant from Enterprise Florida. Interested Volusia County businesses should contact Business Specialist Virgil Kimball at vkimball@volusia.org or 386-248-8048.

CULINARY ARTS ACADEMY – The academy at New Smyrna Beach High School utilizes the industry-standard ProStart curriculum to teach students industry skills in the hospitality and tourism career cluster. Students in the advanced courses are responsible for the operation of Cuda Café, a school-based restaurant that serves 100 to 150 people twice weekly; and for Cuda Catering, a catering service available to community organizations. Contact Academy Director Beth Stone at eastone@volusia.k12.fl.us.

RISE IN SELF-EMPLOYED CHALLENGES THE COMMON WISDOM – According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the rise in the number of self-employed has altered what people understand a business to be. The common wisdom considers a business as a brick-and-mortar place of work with employees and managers who have benefits and paid time off. However, the latest available data indicates that more than three-fourths of U.S. businesses may be run out of someone's home and have zero employees. Last October, the Census Bureau released a new report that combines the data published on employer businesses with data on businesses without paid employees, or "Nonemployers." According to the Nonemployer Statistics program, there were almost 25 million nonemployer businesses in 2016, accounting for more than 76.2% of all businesses. These are businesses with no paid employees and are subject to federal income tax. They are present in nearly every sector of the U.S. economy. For report details, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yyv3klo5>.

AI ADOPTION TRENDS AND CHALLENGES – Earlier this year, O'Reilly Media reported on emerging trends, hurdles and best business practices in artificial intelligence adoption arising from surveys released in 2018 and early 2019. Looking across industry sectors, technology, health care and retail tended to be the leaders in AI adoption, whereas education, manufacturing and the public sector (government) was found to lag behind. The finance sector was found to enjoy first-mover advantages in artificial intelligence adoption, as have the technology and retail sectors. O'Reilly found that 70% of respondents from the health sector used AI for research and development projects. Health care sector survey respondents also had significantly less difficulty identifying appropriate use cases for AI. An overall note of caution was sounded as issues such as overcoming challenges related to company culture or not being able to recognize the business use cases were evident in survey outcomes. For further information, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y4ly644y>.

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.