



June 24, 2019

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

**COUNTY PURCHASING PLANS VENDOR WORKSHOPS IN JULY** – Volusia County's Purchasing and Contracts Division will hold two workshops for vendors who want to learn how to do business with the county. The workshops will be in the first-floor training rooms of the Thomas C. Kelly Administration Center, 123 W. Indiana Ave., DeLand, at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 10; and at 9 a.m. Thursday, July 11. 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. They will also explain the information channels available to vendors and answer questions. Reservations are not required. For more information, call the Volusia County Purchasing and Contracts Division at 386-736-5935, ext. 12490.

**ELEVATE DAYTONA BEACH COMING IN JULY** – 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 18, at the News-Journal Center, 221 N. Beach St., Daytona Beach. Visit [www.elevatedaytonabeach.com](http://www.elevatedaytonabeach.com) to learn more.

**FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN THE USA REMAINS UNRIVALED** – A lower corporate tax rate, fewer regulations and renewed confidence in the American market have created the opportunity for further global investment. From a diverse, highly educated and skilled workforce to strong intellectual property protections, millions of global business investors select the United States to grow and succeed. The total stock of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the United States is valued at \$4 trillion, which is the single largest amount in the world for any nation. In 2017 alone, the diverse flow of FDI into the United States was \$277 billion. Some of the world's largest economies and America's closest economic partners account for more than half of the \$4 trillion total. Among them are the United Kingdom (\$614.9 billion), Canada (\$523.8 billion), Japan (\$476.9 billion) and Germany (\$405.6 billion). Further details available at <https://tinyurl.com/y327sv7r>.

**NUMBER OF TRUCKERS AT ALL-TIME HIGH** – The Census Bureau reports that the trucking industry has bounced back from its decline during the recession and the number of truck drivers is at an all-time high. In 2016, the number of employer and self-employed (non-employer) trucking businesses reached 711,000, surpassing the pre-recession high. More than 3.5 million people work as truck drivers, an occupation dominated by men who hold more than 90% of truck driving jobs. In 2018, revenue for trucking firms rose to \$77.0 billion (not seasonally adjusted) in the third quarter before falling 2.7% to \$75.0 billion in the fourth quarter. On average, year-round truck drivers working full time earn about \$43,252 annually, lower than the median for all full-time workers (\$47,016), but exceeding those of other blue-collar jobs. For more on this, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y5tvruno>.

**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 other small aerial vehicles. Studying weather and aerodynamics are examples of the opportunities offered by this exciting academy. Students also have the chance to earn concurrent college credit. For details, contact Academy Director Samantha Harrison at [sharris@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:sharris@volusia.k12.fl.us).

**ANNUAL REPORT SHOWS 11% DECREASE IN WATER USE OVER LAST DECADE** – Agricultural irrigation efficiencies and improved rainfall helped reduce 2018 water use. This according to information released by the St. Johns River Water Management District. Annual water use reporting shows 2018's total water use was 7% lower than 2017 and 11 percent below the 10-year average, even though population continued to increase. Gross per capita water use decreased to 128 gallons per person per day (gpcd), down from 135 gpcd. Agricultural water use was 12% lower in 2018 than the previous year and almost 40% below the 10-year average of 315.99 million gallons per day. Within the St. Johns district, the largest water use is public supply, which represents 58% of the total water use, followed by agricultural irrigation at 19 percent and commercial/industrial/institutional and mining/dewatering uses at 9% of water use. The published report can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/yyjm283z>.

**FLORIDA RANKED NEAR THE TOP FOR ENTERTAINMENT AND FUN** – Florida rides California's coattails as the second most fun in America, according to a 2019 review from Wallethub. All 50 states were compared using weighted averages based on 26 metrics related to entertainment, recreation and nightlife. Florida was in the top percentile for most restaurants per capita, tying both California and New York. It came in third for golf courses. With the constant heat keeping residents in shape, the state is fourth for fitness centers and ranked sixth for arts, entertainment and arts establishments. For additional information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y7v44tow>.

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