



On the Economic Scene Make it Volusia

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

July 31, 2017

ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

VOLUSIA COUNTY QUARTERLY ECONOMIC BRIEFING -- The next quarterly economic development briefing from the Volusia County Economic Development Division will be at 7:45 a.m. Friday, Aug. 4, in the Dennis R. McGee Room at the Daytona Beach International Airport. Sean Snaith, Ph.D., Director of the Institute for Economic Competitiveness, College of Business Administration, University of Central Florida, will be the featured speaker. For more information, call [\(386\) 248-8048](tel:386-248-8048).

ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING -- The Academy of Engineering at New Smyrna Beach High School provides training in the engineering and technology career cluster through the national Project Lead the Way program. Activities are hands-on and project-based with an emphasis on robotics and automation, culminating with the Computer Integrated Manufacturing course. For more information, email Academy Director Dennis Humphrey at dahumphr@volusia.k12.fl.us.

STRATEGIC RESEARCH RESOURCE -- GrowFL's Strategic Research initiative gives growth-oriented companies access to research experts who deliver strategic information to overcome obstacles and identify new opportunities. Strategic Research is not about business plans, financial analysis or workforce development. Instead, researchers assist in five key buckets: core strategy, market dynamics, qualified sales leads, and innovation and temperament. Within these areas, Strategic Research specialists leverage sophisticated corporate databases, geographic information systems, SEO and web marketing tools to help second-stagers. To learn more, contact Virgil Kimball at [386-248-8048](tel:386-248-8048) or Vkimball@volusia.org.

VMA MANUFACTURERS SHOWCASE -- Save the date for VMA's We Make It Here! 11th Annual Manufacturers Showcase from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 13, at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's ICI Center. Be a sponsor, exhibitor or attendee. For more information, visit www.VMAonline.com and click on the showcase icon.

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL TRADE CONFERENCE -- The Florida Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the Florida International Trade and Investment Conference from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 9, at the Hyatt Regency Orlando Airport. TED-style talks will be presented by 16 industry leaders on topics including in-depth investment and trade. Attendees can connect with trade experts, economists, and industry professionals and get the latest news on international market intelligence and opportunities in foreign direct investment. For more details and to register, go to <http://tinyurl.com/yaw89rre> or call the chamber at 850-521-1200.

BACK TO SCHOOL TAX FREE WEEKEND 2017 -- The 2017 Florida Sales Tax Holiday is Friday, Aug. 4, through Sunday, Aug. 6. Items exempt from the tax include most school supplies, clothing, footwear, personal computers and computer related accessories. Shoppers and retailers can find a list of tax-exempt items by visiting the Florida Department of Revenue's website at <http://floridarevenue.com/backtoschool/Pages/default.aspx>.

INCUBATORS HELP SMALL BUSINESSES BLOOM -- For new companies, business incubators can offer economic space and experienced leadership for entrepreneurs in their critical first years. The reality is that without marketing savvy and the expertise to manage certain costs, more than 70 percent of companies will fail, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration. In Florida, there are more than 70 recognized organizations instrumental in incubating small businesses including the Volusia County UCF Business Incubator at Daytona Beach International Airport. For more information, contact Site Manager Connie Bernal at [386-872-3100](tel:386-872-3100) or email connie.bernal@ucf.edu.

FLORIDA GREEN CERTIFICATIONS -- The Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC), the leading certifier of green projects in the state, recently achieved a major milestone with over 15,000 green certified projects in Florida. FGBC has created green building standards allowing it to certify that construction meets and adheres to the industry's best practices, and it's a tool that guides home owners through the process of selecting green features that are cost effective and benefit the environment. To learn more, visit www.floridagreenbuilding.org, call [407-497-8547](tel:407-497-8547) or e-mail C.J. Davila at cdavila@floridagreenbuilding.org.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE -- In a report issued by the National Association of Realtors, for the one-year period ending March 31, 2017, the \$153 billion of residential real estate purchased by foreigners crushed the record set in 2015 of \$103.9 billion-- by 47 percent. Almost half of the purchasing activity occurred in three states -- Florida, California, and Texas, and buyers originate from the top five countries of China, Canada, United Kingdom, Mexico, and India. To learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/ya24q786>.

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.