



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

2019 NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK AWARDS – Are you SBA's next winner? Are you a small business owner with an amazing success story to tell? If so, submit your nomination today for SBA's National Small Business Week awards. Since 1963, National Small Business Week has served as our nation's salute to small business owners. That's more than 50 years of celebrating small business owners who create two of three new jobs for Americans. Many household names were previous National Small Business Week award winners, including Ben and Jerry's, Callaway Golf, Chobani, Dogfish Head, Stonyfield Farm, Pacifica, Maui Brewing Company, Tom's of Maine and Landmark Pest Management. All nominations must be mailed or hand delivered to the nearest SBA office by 3 p.m. Jan. 9. Winners will be announced during National Small Business Week, May 5 to 11, 2019. For more information, visit <https://www.sba.gov/blogs/2019-national-small-business-week-awards-are-you-sbas-next-winner>.

TRADE MISSION TO INDO-PACIFIC REGION – Discover business opportunities in the Indo-Pacific Region. The 2019 U.S. Commercial Service Trade Winds program includes an Indo-Pacific focused business forum in New Delhi, India, consisting of regional and industry specific conference sessions as well as pre-arranged consultations with U.S. diplomats representing commercial markets throughout the region. Customize an optional business matchmaking schedule based on input from our commercial specialists throughout the region, and grow your international sales through meetings with pre-screened potential buyers, agents, distributors and joint-venture partners in the following Indian cities from May 8 to 10: New Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata. Optional business matchmaking appointments may also be arranged in Bangladesh or Sri Lanka on May 13. Register by Feb. 15 at <https://live.eventtia.com/en/tradewinds19/Home>.

CREATE YOUR OWN BUSINESS PLAN WEBINAR – A key to starting and building a successful business is planning. Sometimes, a business plan is required, but it's not always the answer to creating a successful business. Sometimes, you need to think lean. SCORE Mentor David Terrell will walk you through a lean canvas to help you create a blueprint of your business at 11 a.m. Jan. 8. He will provide practical tips and tools. To register, go to https://readytalk.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1221887&tp_key=b2ee280368&sti=score-eventpage.

VOLUSIA COUNTY SCHOOLS CAREER ACADEMIES – Volusia County Schools (VCS) has 41 career academies in 10 high schools for the 2019-2020 school year. Career academies are small learning communities that combine a college-preparatory curriculum with a career focus. Academies provide unique learning opportunities through extensive business partnerships, integrated instruction, learning, field studies, service learning, career shadowing, co-ops and internships. To learn more, call the VCS Career Connection and Technical Education team at [386-734-7190](tel:386-734-7190).

BEST PLACES TO RETIRE IN 2019 – A new [U.S. News analysis](#) compared the 100 largest metropolitan areas in the United States as potential retirement spots. The study included data about housing affordability, happiness, desirability, retiree taxes, the job market and access to quality health care. The data was weighted based on a U.S. News online survey of people ages 45 and older about their retirement preferences. Over half of the list contains cities from just three states: Florida, Texas and Pennsylvania. Seven cities in Florida made the 25 Best Places to Retire list due largely to affordable homes, low taxes and high ratings for happiness and desirability. The list also contains four places in Texas and three Pennsylvania communities that provide a high quality of life at an affordable price. Here's a look at the Best Places to Retire in 2019: <https://money.usnews.com/money/retirement/slideshows/the-best-places-to-retire>.

FLORIDA DO NOT CALL LIST – Florida residents who do not wish to receive sales calls or sales texts may have their residential, mobile and paging device telephone numbers included on the Florida Do Not Call List. Business numbers are not included on the list. Florida's Do Not Call List has grown to include more than 1 million phone numbers since the Legislature agreed in 2012 to remove the fee to join. You can join the Florida Do Not Call List by going to <https://www.donotcall.gov/default.aspx>.

AAA TRAVEL FORECAST – AAA forecasts that more than one-third of Americans will travel this holiday season. The record-breaking 112.5 million travelers taking to the nation's runways, roads and rails for the year-end holidays represents a 4.4 percent increase over last year and the most since AAA has been tracking holiday travel. The 102.1 million people expected to pack up their cars for road trips is also the most since AAA began tracking holiday travel in 2001. The year-end holiday travel period is defined as Dec. 22 through Jan. 1. The 11-day span is one day longer than last year, due to Christmas and New Year's Day falling on Tuesdays this year.

TRIMMING THE CHRISTMAS TREE – A nine-month total of \$1.1 billion is the value of U.S. imports of Christmas tree ornaments from China between January and September 2016. This is from a recent check of international trade statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau. China led the way with 92 percent of the total tree ornament imports.

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.