



On the Economic Scene



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

April 4, 2016

ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

2016 EARLY STAGE CAPITAL CONFERENCE -- Space Florida is providing cash to one of the state's biggest venture capital pitch sessions, the Florida Early Stage Capital Conference. The conference puts new companies in front of real venture capital firms. The top three winners will get cash if entries are related to space, technology or life sciences: \$100,000 for first place, \$30,000 for second place and \$20,000 for third place. The event will be held May 17 in St. Petersburg. The deadline for applying is April 15. To learn more visit <http://www.flventure.org/events/2016-florida-early-stage-capital-conference/presenters-application.aspx>.

SEMINAR ON HOW TO START YOUR OWN BUSINESS IN FLORIDA -- SCORE will present a free workshop, "How To Start Your Own Business in Florida," from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 7, at Daytona State College, Daytona Beach. Reservations are required and can be made at www.score87.org or by calling [386-255-6889](tel:386-255-6889).

NATIONWIDE HOME PRICES -- The latest CoreLogic data found home prices nationwide in January were up by 6.9 percent on a year-over-year basis and up by 1.3 percent from December 2015. CoreLogic is forecasting home prices nationwide will increase by 5.5 percent on a year-over-year basis from January 2016 to January 2017. On a month-over-month basis home prices are expected to increase 0.5 percent from January to February.

TARGET SECTOR GRANTS -- Enterprise Florida is offering Target Sector Trade Grants to eligible small and medium-sized manufacturers and professional service providers in Florida to help those companies grow export sales through overseas international trade shows. Target Sector Trade Grants are reimbursable grants that will help offset exhibition booth expenses for trade shows that Enterprise Florida participates in, as well as other approved trade shows in one of Florida's identified target sectors. The grant covers 50 percent of basic turn-key booth expenses, up to \$6,000. To learn more contact Leigh Shapleigh or Virgil Kimball at 386-248-8048.

EMV CARDS -- ABI Research reports the payment method migration to EMV (Europay, MasterCard, Visa) chip cards continues to exceed expectations. U.S. EMV payment card shipments are expected to peak in 2016 at approximately 617 million units. In 2017, shipments are forecast to dip to within the 600 to 615 million-unit range. Major vendors remain interested in contactless payment cards that could fuel their growth along with integrating EMV cards to contactless payment options.

FORECLOSURES -- According to research firm CoreLogic, the current foreclosure inventory totals 1.2 percent of homes with a mortgage in the United States, down from 1.5 percent in January 2015. The firm notes that 38,000 U.S. home foreclosures were completed in January 2016, down 16.2 percent from 46,000 in January 2015. The number of U.S. homes currently in some stage of foreclosure is approximately 456,000, compared with 583,000 in January 2015. The five states with the highest number of completed foreclosures in the past 12 months were Florida (74,000), Michigan (49,000), Texas (29,000), California (25,000) and Ohio (24,000).

MICROSOFT PROJECT 2013 -- Daytona State College will offer a Microsoft Project 2013 class from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, April 11, and Wednesday, April 13, at the Daytona Beach campus, 1200 W. International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach, building 110. Basic project management skills are a prerequisite to effectively learn the basic features and components of the Microsoft Project environment. The \$97 course fee includes student workbooks. To register contact Joanne Parker at 386-506-4224 or Joanne.Parker@DaytonaState.edu.

NEWS ITEMS WANTED! -- Please send your business news items to Joanne Magley, Volusia County Information Director, at jmagley@volusia.org. If you wish to be removed from this weekly broadcast, please let us know.