



On the Economic Scene



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

May 16, 2016

ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

LEAN METHODOLOGY BOOTCAMP -- The Daytona Beach UCF Incubator is offering an introductory workshop from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 2 and June 9. The workshop focuses on lean methodology, customer discovery, business model canvas and I-Corps and is targeted towards students, researchers and faculty interested in teaming up with entrepreneurial-focused individuals and experienced business mentors. To RSVP, contact Ruth Griggers at ruth.griggers@ucf.edu or 386-872-3100.

ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING -- The Academy at New Smyrna Beach 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 information, contact Academy Director Dennis Humphrey at dahumphr@volusia.k12.fl.us.

HOME AUTOMATION DEVICES RISE -- Interest and excitement is rising for home automation according to the Icontrol Networks 2015 State of the Smart Home Report consumer survey. The five most desired smart home devices are self-adjusting thermostats, remote controlled door locks, a master control for household preferences, home monitoring cameras and automatic adjustable outdoor lighting. Researchers note that some factors driving consumer interest include personal and family security, energy efficiency and home entertainment system control. To access the full report visit <http://tinyurl.com/h8xlv4c>.

SHOPPABLE SERVICES -- As reported by CNNMoney, a recent analysis by the Health Care Cost Institute focused on what consumers paid out-of-pocket, when comparison shopping could have resulted in lower costs. The analysis examined 2011 claims data from three large private insurers, representing an estimated 25 percent of people under the age of 65 who have employer-sponsored coverage. The researchers defined "shoppable" services as those that could be scheduled in advance and were among the most used and/or highest priced. The study found that less than seven percent of total health care spending in 2011 was paid by consumers for these services.

URGENT CARE CENTERS -- Urgent care centers reported an average of nearly 14,000 patient care visits for the 2014 fiscal year according to data used in a 2015 Urgent Care industry benchmarking study. According to the Urgent Care Association of America, these centers handled an average of four visits per hour and 49.8 visits per day; wait times of 30 minutes or less occurred in 90 percent of visits; and total patient throughput of 60 minutes or less occurred in 84 percent of the visits. To learn more, visit <https://ucaoa.site-ym.com/?IndustryNews>.

IRS FILING SEASON STATISTICS -- For the 2015 tax filing season, IRS.gov received [311,499,555](https://www.irs.gov/pressroom/2015041501) visits as of April 15, 2016, a nearly four percent increase over 2014. More than 124.6 million returns have been filed as of April 15, 2016, with nearly 120 million processed. Of those, 47 million were self-prepared e-filings. The IRS has made 88,833,000 refunds totaling \$244.87 billion. The average refund was \$2,757.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING EVENT -- The SBDC at UCF's Government Contracting Services will host 20 government agencies and corporations in a matchmaking session May 25–26. Businesses can discuss procurement opportunities during face-to-face meetings with these government agencies and major corporations to learn about their buying needs and specific contract opportunities. For information, visit www.sbdcorlando.com/matchmaking2016.

BIKE TO WORK DAY -- May 20 is Bike to Work Day. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in cities with a population of 100,000 or more, Gainesville has the 11th highest percentage of people biking to work. Read the news release at <http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2016/cb16-tps96.html>.

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.