



On the Economic Scene



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

May 30, 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 9. The workshop focuses on lean methodology, customer discovery, business model canvas and i-corps. It is targeted toward 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.

ADVANCED TRAINING AT SBDC -- Project Management Essentials training is being offered June 7 - 8 by the Small Business Development Center at Daytona State College. The training will focus on successfully executing projects of all scopes and sizes. Attendees will learn to use Franklin Covey project management tools to maximize communication efficiency, successfully evaluate risk, and exceed expectations for all project stakeholders. To register call [386-506-4723](tel:386-506-4723).

COASTAL POPULATION GROWTH -- The population of the 98 coastline counties from North Carolina to Texas grew 13 percent between 2006 and 2015. These counties grew from nearly 23.9 million (23,892,104) in 2006, to almost 27 million (26,994,043) in 2015--an increase of 3,101,939. The growth in population of coastal areas illustrates the importance of emergency planning and preparedness for areas that are more susceptible to inclement weather conditions. Hurricane season begins June 1. Visit www.volusia.org/emergency to develop your plan.

U.S. INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION --According to commercial real estate services firm Cushman & Wakefield, U.S. industrial markets absorbed 57.8 million square feet of space in the first quarter of 2016, up 9.3 percent from the first quarter a year ago. This marks 24 consecutive quarters of positive net occupancy gains for the sector, placing the current expansion among the longest and strongest on record. Industrial rents also ticked upward 3.8 percent in the first quarter compared to a year ago. Continued growth is expected, attributed in part to the migration of shopping fulfillment channels to e-commerce.

SUN TRAIL -- Shared-Use Non-motorized Trail Network or SUN Trail is a funding source designed to implement a network of recreational trails, specifically the paved component of the Florida Greenways and Trails System plan. It is the responsibility of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The 2014 Florida Legislature approved a \$25 million annual allocation to FDOT to fund a statewide network of paved or other hard surface trails. In March, the Greenways and Trails Council ranked the River-to-Sea Loop Trail first among seven regional trail system projects in Florida recommended for SUN Trail funding. About 150 miles of the trail are in Volusia and Flagler counties.

B2B SALES -- As reported by Reuter's, Amazon.com's business marketplace, which connects businesses with suppliers, has generated \$1 billion in sales in its first year, making it a significant player in a fragmented industry worth more than \$8.2 trillion in the United States. Amazon Business offers U.S. businesses exclusive pricing and discounts for buying in bulk, free two-day shipping for orders of more than \$49, tax exemption, and the option to get products delivered with an Amazon guarantee. The fast-growing online business-to-business sector is likely to account for about 12 percent of business-to-business sales in the United States by 2020, according to 2015 estimates by Forrester Research.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE -- The National Small Business Association will host a Small Business Leadership Conference June 6 - 7 in Washington, D.C. A slight departure from its traditional annual event, this year's conference will focus more on best practices for being a successful advocate. Small-business leaders are invited to attend for two days of networking, problem-solving, knowledge building, and high-level discussions. To learn more, visit www.nsba.biz.

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.