VOLUSIA COUNTY QUARTERLY ECONOMIC BRIEFING -- The next quarterly economic development briefing from the Volusia County Economic Development Division is scheduled for 7:45 a.m. Friday, May 5, in the Dennis R. McGee Room on the second floor of Daytona Beach International Airport. Jeff Boerger, vice president of International Speedway Corporation Corporate Development, will be the featured speaker. For more information, call 386-248-8048.

AIRPORT PLANS COMMUNITY APPRECIATION DAY -- Daytona Beach International Airport will host a Community Appreciation Day from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 22. All guests will have the opportunity to win door prizes, including a hotel stay. Attendees will learn about the many flights out of Daytona Beach on American Airlines, Delta and JetBlue, as well as the amenities and services the airport provides to make travel convenient and stress-free. For more information, contact Pat O’Brien at 386-248-8030, ext. 18318, or pobrien@volusia.org.

ACADEMY OF VETERINARY SCIENCE -- The Academy of Veterinary Science at Pine Ridge High School prepares students for careers in agriscience, horticulture, veterinary assisting, and aquaculture. Through the school farm and area marine environments, students have opportunities to connect with local projects in agricultural sciences. For more information, contact Academy Director Jaime Davis at jmdavis1@volusia.k12.fl.us.

SALES, PRODUCTIVITY AND GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES -- Communication gaps between generations of customers and employees may impact sales and productivity. SCORE will host training to address how to close that gap by understanding generational differences. The workshop will be presented by HR specialist Wendy Sellers, managing partner of BlackRain Partners, from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, May 4, at Deltona City Hall. Register at http://tinyurl.com/kvc29w5. For more information, contact SCORE at 386-255-6889.

TECH INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT GROWTH -- As reported by Florida Trend, Florida's technology industry employment grew by an estimated 3.1 percent in 2016 as employers added nearly 9,600 new jobs, according to Cyberstates 2017. Florida ranks fourth among the 50 states for tech industry employment with an estimated 318,343 workers. Technology occupations across all other industries in Florida – the second component of the tech workforce – reached an estimated 318,000, and the tech sector accounts for an estimated 6.1 percent ($54.2 billion) of the overall Florida economy.

EMPLOYMENT ENGAGEMENT AND RETENTION TRENDS -- The Volusia/Flagler Society for Human Resources Management will meet April 19 at the Daytona Beach International Airport to learn the results of TalentKeepers’ annual Employee Engagement and Retention Trends Survey. In its 13th year, the survey is the largest and longest continually running research study of engagement and employee retention. It represents participation by more than 500 U.S. based organizations from every major industry and all regions of the country. HR professionals can learn more by emailing the local SHRM organization at daytonashrm@gmail.com.

FRANKLIN COVEY PROJECT MANAGEMENT TRAINING -- Franklin Covey Project Management Essentials training will be held April 20. This full-day PMI certified, facilitated training will give the unofficial project manager all the tools necessary to get the job done. Small businesses will increase efficiency and create reliable processes and systems to align their goals. CPU hours through PMI will be awarded toward PMP initial or recertification. To register, call 386-506-4723 or go to www.sbdcdaytona.com.

FLORIDA POPULATION FORECAST UPDATE -- Florida’s Demographic Estimating Conference met Feb. 13 and adopted a new population forecast. Florida’s population is projected to have grown by 326,061 (1.62 percent) between April 1, 2016, and April 1, 2017. The growth represents the second greatest annual population increase since 2006, but is slightly smaller than the change seen in 2016. This is largely due to a slightly lower than expected rate of births over deaths. Population growth through April 1, 2021, is expected to annually average 320,871 net new residents. These increases are comparable to adding a city slightly smaller than Tampa every year.

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.