



December 3, 2018

ONLINE VERSION AT [FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG](http://FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG)

**FIBERGLASS FABRICATION BOOT CAMP** – Daytona State College is offering its inaugural Fiberglass Fabrication Boot Camp to the public beginning Monday, Dec. 10. The 40-hour boot camp is the result of a unique local industry partnership with Boston Whaler, Dougherty Manufacturing, EdgeWater Power Boats and Everglades Boats. The class will meet from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The fee is \$595. Assistance with paying the fee may be available for eligible participants through CareerSource Flagler/Volusia. For more information and registration, contact Joanne Parker at [Joanne.Parker@DaytonaState.edu](mailto:Joanne.Parker@DaytonaState.edu) or 386-506-4224.

**EFI PARTNERS WITH MANUFACTURING ASSOCIATIONS TO HELP LOCAL COMPANIES GROW** – Enterprise Florida Inc. (EFI) recently announced two new partnerships to assist small- and medium-sized Florida manufacturers. EFI signed memorandums of understanding with the Manufacturing Association of Central Florida and the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast Manufacturing Association. These partnerships will provide Florida businesses with additional resources and grant opportunities to help develop their international markets. In Volusia County, contact Virgil Kimball at [vkimball@volusia.org](mailto:vkimball@volusia.org) for business assistance concerning EFI international trade resources. Business owners can also visit <https://tinyurl.com/y92ppwak> for details about EFI trade grant opportunities.

**FLORIDA'S BEST COMPANIES** – Florida Trend's 2019 Best Companies to Work for in Florida program is a great way to find out how your company ranks in career training, leadership, job satisfaction, pay and benefits. Participation is free, but the opportunities for enhancing employee satisfaction and retention are priceless. One hundred winning companies in large, medium and small employer categories will get statewide recognition in Florida Trend's August 2019 issue. Recognized companies will receive a free benchmark summary for participating. The registration deadline is Jan. 25, 2019. Details can be found at [www.bestcompaniesfl.com](http://www.bestcompaniesfl.com).

**VOLUSIA COUNTY SCHOOLS PARTNERS WITH MUNICIPALITIES FOR STEM CONTEST** – Volusia County Schools has partnered with seven municipalities for the third annual STEM Solutions by Students contest. This is a countywide contest where students analyze issues using science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and submit solutions to submitted municipal challenges, including such problems as city flooding, beach erosion and canal silt accumulation. The following municipalities submitted one or more questions with a corresponding award of \$100 for each winner: DeLand, Edgewater, New Smyrna Beach, Ormond Beach, Ponce Inlet, Port Orange and South Daytona. For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y7ncg2p6>.

**TRADE MISSION TO THE AMERICAS SOUTHERN CONE REGION 2019** – This Trade Americas program is sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service and is scheduled for Buenos Aires, Argentina, from March 24 to 29, 2019. It offers American firms the opportunity to explore their choice of five markets in the Southern Cone: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. In 2017, U.S. exports to the trade mission's five target markets totaled \$28 billion. The Trade Americas – Business Opportunities in the Southern Cone Region Conference will focus on regional business opportunities, economic trends and strategies to win business by making industry contacts, identifying the right partners, tackling trade barriers and leveraging financing tools. Participants will meet and consult with American commercial diplomats assembled from ten U.S. embassies in South America (Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay). For further schedule and cost information, go to <https://tinyurl.com/ybs9b8ny>.

**KENNEDY SPACE CENTER VISITOR COMPLEX** – With an aggregate rating of 4.7 out of 5 across several social media platforms, the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) Visitor Complex reports it has surpassed the social media rating for the Orlando Science Center, SeaWorld, Universal, Legoland and Walt Disney World. The rating includes TripAdvisor, Yelp, Google and Facebook. Attendance for the KSC Visitors Complex has surpassed the 1.5 million guests who visited during the 2006 space shuttle program and is trending toward another record breaking year. In 2019, the complex plans on updating exhibits at the Saturn V Center to mark the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing.

**VOLUSIA COUNTY MANATEE WATCH: FREE VOLUNTEER TRAINING** – The Volusia County Manatee Protection program is looking for volunteers interested in participating in Manatee Watch, a program designed to identify the presence of manatees in local waterways. The program is open to individuals 16 or older, families, businesses and civic organizations. Manatee Watchers are trained at no cost to observe manatee behavior, record sighting data, and sketch and photograph this unique marine mammal. Contact Ashley Ambert at [Aambert@volusia.org](mailto:Aambert@volusia.org), visit [www.volusiamanatees.org](http://www.volusiamanatees.org) or call 386-736-5927, ext. 12839.

**APARTMENT RENTER CUSTOMER SERVICES EXPANDING** – As recently reported by REBusinessOnline.com, robust growth in the multifamily sector has apartment management firms refining customer service offerings to boost occupancy, retain existing tenants and increase lease renewals. Approaches include advance parcel arrival notification, storage management systems, and weekly and monthly interactive events that encourage a sense of community. Events can range from yoga sessions to food trucks, wine tastings, ugly sweater Christmas parties and onsite tax advisors during tax season.

**NEWS ITEMS WANTED!** – Please send your business news items to Joanne Magley, Volusia County Community Information director, at [jmagley@volusia.org](mailto:jmagley@volusia.org). If you wish to be removed from this weekly broadcast, please let us know.