VOLUSIA COUNTY’S FTZ REORGANIZATION APPLICATION APPROVED! – Volusia County Government is the grantee of Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) No. 198. The ASF framework gives grantees a greater flexibility to use a much simpler, faster procedure to designate any current location where eligible companies are located as an FTZ facility. FTZ site designation gives companies the ability to utilize the benefits of the FTZ program in their operation and to be more competitive in the market. As a result of the approved reorganization, any appropriately zoned location within the geographic area of Volusia County is eligible to apply for FTZ status. To learn more about the benefits of the FTZ program, contact Virgil Kimball of the Volusia County Division of Economic Development at 386-248-8048 or vkimball@volusia.org.

CAREERSOURCE “PAYCHECKS FOR PATRIOTS” JOB FAIR – CareerSource Flagler Volusia’s sixth annual “Paychecks for Patriots” Job Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16, at the CareerSource Orange City Center, 846 Saxon Blvd., Orange City. Paychecks for Patriots is a special hiring fair dedicated to local veterans. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Florida National Guard and Florida Department of Veteran Affairs are partnering with CareerSource Florida to connect veterans with career opportunities. This event will be open to the public starting at noon. For more information, contact our local veterans employment representative, Kenneth Torres, FCWP, at 386-561-9571.

THOMPSON PUMP FULL-DAY WORKSHOP – Thompson Pump, in partnership with Daytona State College, will present a one-day workshop titled Introduction to Pumps and Pump Systems from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 15, at Daytona State College, 1200 W. International Speedway Blvd., Building 150, Room 305, Daytona Beach. The workshop combines six courses approved by the Florida Board of Professional Engineers, the Construction Industry Licensing Board, the Florida Rural Water Association and the Florida Well Water Association. Tuition is $225. For details, contact Joanne Parker at 386-506-4424 or Joanne.Parker@DaytonaState.edu.

DAYTONA BEACH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPDATE – Passenger traffic at Daytona Beach International Airport (DAB) increased 21.3 percent for September in comparison with the same month last year. During the month, 57,355 passengers flew in or out of the county-operated airport, compared to 47,272 passengers last September. For the 12 months ending Sept. 30, total passenger traffic at DAB increased 5.1 percent with 711,952 passengers traveling through the facility last year compared to 748,003 passengers this year. Contact Business Development Director Jay Cassens at 386-248-8030, ext. 18309, for further information.

AMAZON FUTURE ENGINEER PROGRAM – Amazon Future Engineer is a comprehensive childhood-to-career program to inspire, educate and train children and young adults from underserved and low-income communities to pursue careers in computer science. Amazon aims to inspire more than 10 million kids each year to explore computer science, fund courses for over 100,000 underprivileged young people in 2,000 low-income high schools across the United States, and award 100 students from underserved communities pursuing degrees in computer science with four-year $10,000 annual scholarships and internships at Amazon to gain work experience. To learn more, visit www.amazonfutureengineer.com.

AVAILABLE EXPORTING EXPERTISE – Exporting is complicated, and there's a lot of information to sort through. The U.S. Commercial Service understands the issues and is available to provide exporting expertise to firms that are seeking to grow their current level of exports and to firms that want to begin exporting as a way of growing top-line revenue. The organization provides weekly updates on industry knowledge, market information, export basics, success stories, upcoming events and webinars via LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram. Local businesses are encouraged to connect with the U.S. Commercial Service on these channels for quick insights, success stories and upcoming opportunities. To learn more, visit www.export.gov/welcome.

FLORIDA NO. 1 IN ECONOMIC FREEDOM INDEX – In its 2018 Economic Freedom Index, Canada’s Fraser Institute ranks Florida No. 1 in the U.S. subnational index and No. 2 in the North American all-government index. The index ranks states, provinces and nations on the degree to which their policies do not place “undue restrictions” on economic freedom. Florida consistently ranks at the top of the index and this year overtook New Hampshire for the top spot in the subnational index. For additional information on the economic freedom index, read the full Fraser Institute report at https://tinyurl.com/ybljl876.

CONSTRUCTION JOB GROWTH – Seven of the 10 fastest-growing construction job markets in the country are located in Florida, according to a new analysis of federal employment data released by the Associated General Contractors of America. As reported by the West Volusia Beacon, the Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach metro area tied with nine other areas with the 18th fastest rate of construction employment growth at 13 percent. You can view the ranking table at https://tinyurl.com/ydactmr9.

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.