



November 26, 2018

ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

SAVE THE DATE: 2018 VMA AWARDS – Don't miss the 38th Annual VMA Awards Banquet scheduled for 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13. The VMA awards will recognize the best in manufacturing and volunteer work and showcase the individuals and companies that are doing a great job and making a difference. The awards banquet will be held at the Daytona Beach Hilton Hotel, 100 N. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach. For tickets and event information, go to <http://vmaonline.com/>.

13th ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL SHOWCASE – The 13th Annual High School Showcase event will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, in the Tommy Lawrence Arena at the Volusia County Fairgrounds. Seventh and eighth grade middle school students and their parents can learn about the outstanding programs and career academies available to high school students in Volusia County Schools. The Career and Technical Education application (career academies and programs), AICE and IB applications will be available at the event. For further information, please contact Career Academy Facilitator Susan Lovell at slovell@volusia.k12.fl.us or your child's eighth grade counselor.

DARPA LAUNCH CHALLENGE – As reported, the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) has identified eight sites in the United States that it plans to use for a commercial launch competition. The vertical launch sites include the Cape Canaveral Spaceport, Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport in Virginia, Vandenberg AFB in California, Pacific Spaceport Complex-Alaska, and a Navy site on San Nicolas Island off the California coast. The horizontal launch sites include Cecil Spaceport in Florida, the Cape Canaveral Spaceport, Spaceport America in New Mexico, and Mojave Air and Space Port in California. All eight locations already have spaceport licenses from the FAA with the exception of San Nicolas Island, a U.S. Navy facility used for missile testing. The competition requires companies to perform two launches from two separate sites weeks apart, with the specific launch site and payload for each launch provided on short notice. Teams that complete the first launch will each receive \$2 million, with prizes of \$10 million, \$9 million and \$8 million going to the top three teams, which will also complete the second launch. To learn more about this exciting challenge, visit www.darpa.launchchallenge.org.

FREE ONLINE LENDER REFERRAL FOR SMALL BUSINESS – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) continues to innovate and leverage technology to help small business. One new technology platform introduced by SBA is Lender Match, which gives entrepreneurs the ability to complete a quick online form, without registration or cost, and be connected with an SBA-approved lender within 48 hours. If you'd like to learn more about Lender Match, go to www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/lender-match.

DOING BUSINESS IN PANAMA WEBINAR – Plan now to participate in the next U.S. International Trade Administration webinar on Doing Business in Panama at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019. The United States is Panama's most important trading partner, accounting for 30 percent of its imports. The Trade Promotion Agreement between the United States and Panama continues to offer U.S.-made goods a competitive advantage. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/y8ttlvkh> for further details on webinar content and registration.

FDOT CONSTRUCTION PROJECT INFORMATION – An expanding economy requires an efficient major road and highway transportation system to move people and cargo. As a growing state, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) responds to increasing personal and commercial travel demand with roadway improvement projects. One way of quickly accessing active construction project information is through <https://data.fdot.gov/road/projects/>. At this website, FDOT offers an interactive project map that includes corresponding highway mile marker symbols. For details on specific Central Florida construction projects, including those in Volusia County, visit www.cflroads.com to access descriptions, costs and updated lane closure information.

E-COMMERCE GROWTH CONTINUES – E-commerce continues to reshape the global retail industry. Specifically, on- and offline fast-moving consumer goods sales totaled more than \$1.01 trillion in the year that ended Aug. 25, which is 2.6 percent more than a year ago. Notably, e-commerce accounted for 5 percent of sales from all points of origin (omni-channel) but drove 40 percent of its growth. These sales originated from brick and mortar stores, phone sales and online buying. The average consumer spent \$378 online during this same period and it represents an increase of more than 16 percent from a year earlier. For more, go to <https://tinyurl.com/ycm4xywk>.

RECENT INCREASES IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX – The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics recently reported that over the last 12 months, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 2.5 percent before seasonal adjustment. Moreover, even after seasonal adjustment, the October 2018 CPI increased 0.3 percent after rising 0.1 percent in September. Contributing to the October increases were price rises in gasoline, electricity and used cars and trucks. The CPI is the measure of the average change in urban consumer prices over time for a market basket of goods and services. Additional information is available at <http://tinyurl.com/n44gkqz>.

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.