



September 30, 2017

Photo by Keith Douglas - kd@keithdouglas.com

Top Stories:

- Major Industries experienced positive over the year growth in Broward County
- Florida Panthers Owner Vincent “Vinnie” Viola to Keynote Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Annual Meeting
- Florida businesses impacted by Hurricane Irma may now apply for various state and federal disaster loan programs
- Greater Fort Lauderdale still leads Metropolitan Division Employment Growth
- Registration deadline is October 13th for the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Annual Meeting

Top Stories

Major Industries experienced positive over the year growth in Broward County

Broward County’s job report indicated a 3.9 percent unemployment rate in August 2017. This rate was 0.9% lower than the region’s year ago rate of 4.8%. Nonagricultural employment increased by 26,900 jobs (+3.3%) over the year, with an employment of 845,000 in the Ft. Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MSA (Broward County). The region’s jobless rate was 0.3% lower than the state rate (4.2%). Out of a labor force of 1,036,747 there were 40,799 unemployed Broward County residents. “Florida’s over the year job growth rate has been positive for the past 85 months,” said Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance President and CEO Bob Swindell. “In addition, 10 out of 10 major industries experienced positive over-the-year job growth in Florida for the second consecutive month. In August 2017, 23 out of the 24 metro areas in the state had over-the-year job gains. “ To read more, please [click here](#)

Florida Panthers Owner Vincent “Vinnie” Viola to Keynote Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Annual Meeting

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance announced that Vincent “Vinnie” Viola, Chairman, Owner and Governor of Sunrise Sports & Entertainment, will be the keynote speaker for its Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 19 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Signature Grand in Davie. Sunrise Sports & Entertainment operates the Florida Panthers Hockey Club as well as the Broward County-owned BB&T Center, one of the top ranked venues of its kind in the world. A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., Viola graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1977. He later graduated from the U.S. Army Airborne, Air Assault, Infantry and Ranger Schools and served in the 101st Airborne Division. In 1983, he graduated from the New York University School of Law. To read more, please [click here](#)

Florida businesses impacted by Hurricane Irma may now apply for various state and federal disaster loan programs

As a principal responder in the state’s Emergency Support Function for Business and Industry, the Florida SBDC Network stands ready to assist businesses with disaster loan applications and with other post-disaster challenges. Visit www.floridadisasterloan.org for more information and to apply for the Florida Emergency Bridge Loan program. The deadline to apply is October 31, 2017. To read more, please [click here](#)

Greater Fort Lauderdale still leads Metropolitan Division Employment Growth

Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County is still in the number one position nationally among the 38 Metropolitan Divisions for percent of employment growth. Palm Beach County is now second in the nation, followed by the Dallas Division and then the Fort Worth Division. “The largest over-the year percentage increases occurred in Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach, FL (+3.7 percent), West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach, FL (+3.3 percent), and Dallas-Plano-Irving, TX, and Fort Worth-Arlington, TX (+3.1 percent each).” [Click here](#) to view the latest Bureau of Labor Statistics release that came out August 30 for the July report.

Registration deadline is October 13th for the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Annual Meeting

Please register for the October 19th Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance’s Annual Meeting by October 13th. Cocktails and networking starts at 5:30 p.m. at the Signature Grand in Davie. Current sponsors include Platinum sponsors: JM Family Enterprises, Inc., Signature Grand, *South Florida Business Journal*, and *South Florida Business and Wealth*; Gold Sponsors: Baptist Health South Florida, FXE/City of Fort Lauderdale, JetBlue and Memorial Healthcare System, Silver Sponsors: AutoNation, Becker & Poliakoff, FiberNet Direct, FPL, GUNSTER, Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six, Nova Southeastern University and Starmark. For more information, contact Gail Bulfin at gbulfin@gflalliance.org or visit www.gflalliance.org/annual.

Education, Workforce Development and Educational Excellence Builds Business (E²B²) News



[53 Broward County Public Schools Students Named Semifinalists in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program](#)
[Broward County Public Schools to Host 3rd Annual College Fair](#)
[Broward College Awarding \\$185,000 in MLK Day of Service Grants](#)
[Broward College Emergency Relief Fund](#)
[Broward College to Host 2017 Hackathon - Challenges Young Programmers to Develop IT Skills in Fast-Paced Contest](#)
[Broward College to Host Sea Level Rise and Climate Change Fireside Chat on October 12](#)
[Broward College Announces Schedule for 2017-2018 Village Square Series](#)
[Nova Southeastern University Receives \\$200 Million Commitment from Patel Family Foundation](#)

Business Briefs and Alliance Member News



Alliance Member Companies in **Bold**

AutoNation has created a Houston Help Fund to assist the company's nearly 3,000 associates and their families who have been affected by Hurricane Harvey. 100% of the funds raised by associates will be matched by AutoNation. A special "Support Houston" t-shirt will also be available for purchase for a donation to the fund as of September 1 at www.autonationcompanystore.com.

BankUnited has committed to helping Florida recover from the effects of Hurricane Irma with a \$100,000 donation to organizations which can immediately deploy needed resources to targeted affected areas and populations as well as initiatives aimed at offering relief to customers, employees and other state residents. BankUnited employees will be actively involved in Irma relief efforts as well. Through its footprint of 90 banking centers across Florida, BankUnited will be collecting goods for distribution on behalf of the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund and has also established parameters to provide relief to impacted retail and small business customers. To read more, please [click here](#).

Baptist Health South Florida is offering specially priced mammograms to the members of the community who are uninsured. \$50 for a regular screening mammogram or \$100 for diagnostic mammogram. Please note - A doctor's prescription is required. To read more, please [click here](#).

News provided by Alliance member, **Emirates**: Following the destruction of Hurricane Irma, which brought widespread devastation to the Florida Keys and communities all across the state, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Embassy in Washington, DC announced that the UAE government pledged \$10 million to help with recovery efforts. UAE Ambassador to the United States, Yousef Al Otaiba, spoke with Florida Governor Rick Scott about the gift, which will help the recovery and rebuilding efforts in some of the most hard-hit parts of the state. UAE Embassy officials will coordinate with leaders of the Florida Disaster Fund about specific programs that will be supported by the gift. They will also discuss additional projects involving volunteers or other assistance. Through this coordinated effort, the UAE's gift will have the greatest impact in communities with the most needs. To read more, please [click here](#).

Pat Geraghty, CEO of **Florida Blue**, the leading health insurer in Florida, today announced that the company will donate \$1 million to support relief and recovery efforts across the state in the wake of Hurricane Irma. "The devastation wrought by Hurricane Irma – from the Keys and south Florida, up our beautiful west coast, and on north to Tallahassee and Jacksonville – has been heartbreaking. The staggering power of nature has humbled us, affecting millions and changing lives and circumstances possibly for years to come. While we know that Floridians are incredibly resilient, we also know that our neighbors and communities will need help to recover and rebuild. The entire Florida Blue family, driven by our mission, stands ready to do our part." To read more, [click here](#).

Florida Blue, the leading health insurer in Florida, was named 2017 Employer of the Year for businesses with fewer than 100,000 employees by the U.S. Business Leadership Network (USBLN), a national non-profit that helps business drive performance by leveraging disability inclusion in the workplace, supply chain and marketplace. Florida Blue also earned a perfect score of 100 on the Disability Equality Index (DEI) survey, a joint initiative of the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) and USBLN to track trends in business inclusion policies. To read more, please [click here](#).

Gunster, one of Florida's oldest and largest full-service business law firms, is pleased to announce that 66 of its attorneys have been selected for the Best Lawyers in America list for 2018. In addition, 10 Gunster attorneys in nine different practice areas and three different geographic regions within Florida have been named Lawyers of the Year by Best Lawyers. This sub-list is exclusive: only one lawyer in a particular practice area and geographic region is selected each year. To read more, please [click here](#).

JPMorgan Chase & Co. announced today that it is donating \$1 million to aid the response to Hurricane Irma across affected communities in the U.S. and the Caribbean. The firm's donations will include: \$250,000 to American Red Cross; \$250,000 to International Medical Corps; and \$500,000 to other local nonprofit organizations in communities that need it most. To read more, [click here](#). In addition, they will also waive some consumer and business fees in Hurricane Irma areas. To read more, [click here](#).

Colin Brown, chairman and chief executive officer of **JM Family Enterprises Inc.**, has been named 2017 Business Leader of the Year by the **Florida Atlantic University** College of Business. He will be recognized for his industry acumen, leadership and community outreach at an annual breakfast Jan. 26 at the Boca Raton Resort & Club. "JM Family has been a key business in South Florida for

many years and has established an exceptional reputation with its customers, business partners and community as a whole," said Dr. Daniel Gropper, dean of the business college. "Colin Brown exemplifies the kind of leadership characteristics that FAU celebrates with our Business Leader of the Year Award." To read more, [click here](#).

Broward County's Port Everglades is waiving its tariff charges for ocean shipping lines transporting humanitarian relief supplies to Caribbean counties impacted by hurricanes Irma and Maria. "Our Caribbean neighbors are suffering losses not only to their personal property, but also to their livelihoods which are dependent upon the cruise industry and tourism," said Port Everglades Chief Executive Steven Cernak. "The tariff waiver is a direct incentive to ocean carriers and companies supplying construction supplies, food and medicine to help the people of the Caribbean rebuild." To read more, please [click here](#).

Informa Exhibitions and the **Marine Industries Association of South Florida**, the organizers/owners of the 58th annual Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show (FLIBS) are pleased to announce that world-renowned marine artist, conservationist, scientist and angler Guy Harvey will provide the official 2017 Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show merchandise this year. An exclusive Guy Harvey design for FLIBS 2017 will be unveiled before the show, which is set to take place from November first through fifth. To read more, please [click here](#).

Seafarers' House is pleased to announce that Bob Swindell, President and CEO of the **Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance**, has been selected as 2017 South Florida Business Leader of the Year. Swindell will be honored at the 22nd Annual South Florida Business Leaders' Luncheon hosted by Holland America Line to benefit Seafarers' House. The luncheon will take place Nov. 17 aboard the ms Oosterdam at Port Everglades. For details, please [click here](#).

Past Alliance Chairman Mike Moore has joined **Tower Commercial Real Estate** as the Director of Business Development with the firm's Tenant Representation division. Moore comes to Tower with 22 years of accounting experience with Deloitte Consulting. Moore is a 'trusted advisor' working directly with CEOs and CFOs to increase their profitability and streamline business operations and brings his business acumen, insight and experience to Tower. "We welcome Mike's 20 years of business experience in South Florida and look forward to applying his consultative process to our industry," says Scott Allen, Senior Managing Director of Tower. To read more, [click here](#).

Join **United Way of Broward County** at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center on October 21 for an evening of entertainment, networking and dancing at the annual Mayors' Gala. The event provides a great opportunity for key influencers and charity supporters to come together with the common purpose of building a better community through United Way of Broward County. Broward County Mayor Barbara Sharief will serve as the host of this year's event. Sponsorships and ticket sales are available. To read more, please [click here](#).

The Miami HEAT announced today that **Ultimate Software**, a South-Florida based leader in human capital management (HCM) cloud software, entered into a multi-year partnership with the HEAT that encompasses fan experience, joint community outreach, charitable giving, and the Ultimate Software logo on the Miami HEAT jersey, beginning in the 2017-18 season. Ultimate Software is also the presenting sponsor of the HEAT's 30th Anniversary Season and a sponsor of several of the HEAT's community initiatives. To read more, [click here](#).

Ultimate Software has been cited as a "Leader" in HR Management Suites and Payroll Software with the highest overall satisfaction in recent reports published by G2 Crowd Inc., the world's leading business-software review platform. In the G2 Enterprise GridSM for HR Management Suites Fall 2017 report, and the G2 Enterprise GridSM for Payroll Fall 2017 report, Ultimate Software's UltiPro solution received the highest ranking for customer satisfaction scores. UltiPro earned "Leader" status among a field of 18 solutions for HR Management Suites and 10 solutions for Payroll, with satisfaction rankings generated by reviews from actual users of the software. The HR Management Suites report is based on 1050 software reviews, and the Payroll report is based on 542 software reviews, written by HR and business professionals and posted to G2 Crowd's website. To read more, please [click here](#).

Ultimate Software (Nasdaq: ULTI), a leading provider of human capital management (HCM) solutions in the cloud, announced today that it has been ranked #2 on this year's 100 Best Workplaces for Women list by Fortune and Great Place to Work. Rankings are drawn from surveys of more than 400,000 women at Great Place to Work-Certified organizations throughout the United States. Results also take into account representational data, such as the total percentages of women and number of women in executive and managerial roles at these companies. To read more, please [click here](#).

Featured Property of the Month





[Tower 101 / 101 Centre](#)

101 NE 3rd Avenue, Fort Lauderdale 33301

Type of space: Office

Listed by [Sandra Andersen](#) of JLL.

Additional details at www.GreaterFortLauderdaleProperties.com

Upcoming Events



Alliance Events

Alliance Governor Council Meeting – (Rescheduled) (Members Only)

Tuesday, October 10, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Metropica Sales Gallery, Sunrise

For more information, please contact Peggy Doty at 954-627-0134, pdoty@gfalliance.org

Alliance Partner Council Meeting (Invitation only)

Thursday, October 12, 8:30 a.m.

Location: East Village Apartments Clubhouse, Hollywood

For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131, hkulp@gfalliance.org

Alliance ePermitting Meeting – (Invitation Only)

Tuesday, Oct. 17, 8:30 a.m.

Location: TBD

For more information, please contact Peggy Doty at 954-627-0134, pdoty@gfalliance.org

Alliance Leadership Council Meeting - (Members Only)

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Urban League of Broward County, 560 NW 27th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

For more information, please contact Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133, tvinaixa@gfalliance.org

Alliance Corporate Council Meeting (Invitation only)

Thursday, Sept. 20, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Broward County Main Library, Fort Lauderdale

For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131, hkulp@gfalliance.org

Alliance Annual Meeting and After Party

Keynote Speaker, Vinny Viola, Owner, Florida Panthers

Thursday, Oct. 19, 5:30 p.m.

Location: The Signature Grand

For more information, please contact Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133, tvinaixa@gfalliance.org

Enterprise Florida Events

GITEX Technology Week

Sunday, Oct. 8, 2017 - Thursday, October 12

Location: Dubai World Trade Center, UAE

For more information, please [click here](#).

40th Annual Joint Meeting of the Southeast U.S.-Japan & Japan-U.S. Southeast Associations

Sunday, Oct. 22, - Tuesday, October 24

Location: Hyatt Regency, Greenville, South Carolina

For more information, please [click here](#).

Dubai Airshow 2017

Nov. 12, - Nov. 15

Location: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

For more information, please [click here](#).

Marine Equipment Trade Show (METS) 2017

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2017 – Thu., Nov 16, 2017

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

For more information, please [click here](#).

41st Annual Conference on the Caribbean and Central America

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2017 – Fri., Nov 17, 2017

Hotel Colonnade Coral Gables

For more information, please [click here](#).

Enterprise Florida (EFI) conducts or participates in an extensive schedule of export marketing missions and exhibitions worldwide. These trade events are open to all businesses registered in Florida. For more information and more event listings, please [click here](#).

Member/Partner Events

International Firefighters Night

Monday, Oct. 2, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Embassy Suites by Hilton, Fort Lauderdale

For more information, please [click here](#).

Research Park Annual Awards & Entrepreneurship Celebration

Wednesday, Oct. 4, 6:30 p.m.

Location: The Addison, Boca Raton

For more information, please [click here](#).

5th Annual Block Party for Higher Education

Thursday, Oct. 5, 5:00 p.m.

Location: East Las Olas Blvd. between Andrews and SE Second Ave, Fort Lauderdale

For more information, please [click here](#).

Nova Law Review to host "Entrepreneurship 2.0: Legal, Regulatory and Economic Challenges to the Innovation Economy"

Friday, Oct. 6

Location: Panza Maurer Law Library, Shepard Broad College of Law, NSU's Ft. Lauderdale campus.

For more information, please [click here](#).

Broward Leaders Water & Climate Academy Day 1 Kickoff Session

Friday, Oct. 13, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Broward County Government Center East, Fort Lauderdale

For more information, please [click here](#).

2017 Florida International and Cultural Expo (FITCE)

Tuesday, October 17 -and Wednesday, October 18

Location: Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention Center, Fort Lauderdale

For more information, please [click here](#).

Airline E&M: North America (Aviation Week Network / in Partnership with the Alliance)

Oct. 18 – 19

Location: The Palms Hotel & Spa, Miami Beach

For more information, please [click here](#).

United Way of Broward County Mayors' Gala

Saturday, Oct. 21, 6:30 p.m.

Location: Broward County Convention Center, Fort Lauderdale

For more information, please [click here](#).

Broward College Presents: Disney's Approach to Employee Engagement

Thursday, Oct. 26

Location: Hard Rock Stadium

For more information, please [click here](#).

GFL Chamber of Commerce: Salute to Business

Thursday, Oct. 26, 5:30 p.m.

Location: Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six, Fort Lauderdale

For more information, please [click here](#).

BCPS ED Talk

Saturday, Nov. 4, 9:00 a.m.

Location: Hollywood Hills High School

For more information, please [click here](#).

SFBJ Business Growth EXPO 2017

Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2:30 p.m.

Location: Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six, Fort Lauderdale

For more information, please [click here](#).

Calendar items are subject to change without notice. Please visit www.gfalliance.org for the most current calendar of events and meetings and for more information regarding the Alliance.

Connect and follow the Alliance on Social Media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Also, join our [LinkedIn group](#) (*for members only*).

Looking for commercial properties and demographic information? Visit www.greaterfortlauderdaleproperties.com.

Why have so many companies relocated to Greater Fort Lauderdale? [Click here](#) to find out (90 second video).