



Photo by Keith Douglas - kd@keithdouglas.com

September 30, 2015

Following is a summary of recent and upcoming economic development news, stories and events.

Top Stories:

- **Sponsor and Attend: Alliance Annual Meeting and Dinner**
- Broward County Year over Year Employment Up by 28,000
- Sunera Announces Expansion, Creating 32 New Jobs in Sunrise
- 1st Choice Aerospace Announces Creation of 40 New Jobs in Miramar
- Registration Is Open for Florida International Trade & Cultural Expo – Discount for Alliance
- Jobs Agency Launches Tech Training Initiative

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Top Stories

Sponsor and Attend: Alliance Annual Meeting and Dinner

The Alliance's **Annual Meeting and Dinner** will be held Thursday, October 22 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Signature Grand. Our Keynote Speaker is Peter Kageyama, author of *For the Love of Cities*. The Annual Meeting is a premier, not-to-be-missed business event in Southeast Florida and once again includes a post-dinner reception with gourmet coffees, desserts and live music. Sponsors include: Platinum - Broward College, JM Family Enterprises, Patriot National, Inc., Signature Grand, *South Florida Business Journal* and *South Florida Business & Wealth Magazine*; Gold – Comcast Business and JetBlue; Silver – AutoNation, All Aboard Florida, FPL, FPL FiberNet, GUNSTER and Starmark. Table sponsors include: 110 Tower, ANF Group, Inc., Bank of America, BankUnited, BB&T, BBX Capital, Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development, City of Fort Lauderdale, Greenspoon Marder Law, Kaufman Rossin, iBERIABANK, Macken Companies, Port Everglades, Stiles, SunTrust, TD Bank and Ultimate Software. For more information and to register, please go to www.gflalliance.org/2015Annual. To sponsor the Annual Meeting, please email [Gail Bulfin](mailto:Gail.Bulfin) or call 954-627-0127.

Broward County Year over Year Employment Up by 28,000

Broward County's job report indicated a 5.1 percent unemployment rate in August 2015. This is a decrease of 1.1 percentage points from the year ago rate of 6.2 percent. Nonagricultural employment increased by 3.6 percent over the year, with an employment of 800,700 in the Ft. Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MSA (Broward County). The region's jobless rate was 0.5 percentage point lower than the state rate (5.6 percent). Out of a labor force of 997,293, there were 51,000 unemployed Broward County residents. Nonagricultural employment increased by 28,000 jobs (3.6 percent) over the year in the metro area, higher than the state rate (+3.1 percent). To read more, please [click here](#).

Sunera Announces Expansion, Creating 32 New Jobs in Sunrise

Governor Scott recently announced that Sunera, a leading provider of IT and Data Risk Consulting Services, is expanding and creating 32 new jobs in Sunrise. The company will retain 50 jobs and make a \$270,000 capital investment in the community. Statewide, Sunera has created more than 150 jobs for Florida families. This announcement follows Sunera's expansion of their Tampa location in February. To read more, please [click here](#).

1st Choice Aerospace Announces Creation of 40 New Jobs in Miramar

Governor Rick Scott recently announced 1st Choice Aerospace's creation of 40 new jobs in Miramar. 1st Choice Aerospace chose to expand in Florida instead of at their Kentucky location. The company specializes in repairing pneumatics, crew seats, O2, fuel, cargo, and waste systems for commercial, cargo, and military aircrafts. 1st Choice Aerospace also plans to make a capital investment of more than \$7 million in the local community. To read more, please [click here](#).

Registration Is Open for Florida International Trade & Cultural Expo – Discount Code for Alliance

The Florida International Trade and Cultural Expo (FITCE) has opened its Registration, the event will be held from October 12-16, 2015 at the Greater Fort Lauderdale-Broward County Convention Center and welcomes all business professionals to attend for international business matchmaking, panel discussions, including 11 Steps to Exporting - A Roadmap to Your Success!, Doing Business With the World (with over 25 countries participating), seminars, social media and technology presentations, and more, in an effort to further grow and develop Broward County and South Florida's economy. **Alliance members can register using the discount code FITCE2015 for \$10 tickets (full-price tickets are \$45).** To read more, please [click here](#).

Jobs Agency Launches Tech Training Initiative

CareerSource Broward has launched TechConnect, an initiative to train technology workers with the skills employers say they need. CareerSource Broward is gathering information about needed skills from employers and staffing companies so it can help employers by: Providing candidates from the EmployFlorida database; Working with the company on an On-the-Job Training program where employers are partially reimbursed for training a new hire; Providing state money to cover the cost of upgrading skills of existing workers. To read more, please [click here](#).

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



[Broward College Expands \\$10K Bachelor's Degree Programs](#)

[FAU Professor Receives Grant from Facebook to Study Cyberbullying and Teen Dating Violence](#)

[BCPS Congratulates 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists](#)

[BCPS Invites the Community to Participate in Strategic Plan Survey](#)

[Broward College Ranks Fifth Nationally in Conferring Associate Degrees](#)

[FAU Researchers Discover Sobering Statistics on Physical Inactivity in the U.S.](#)

[Sheridan Technical College announces "Earn While You Learn" Program](#)

[Broward County Public Schools Celebrates its 100th Anniversary](#)

[Broward College Hosts Grand Opening of New Science Building](#)

[Broward College to Host Discussion on Cuba for First Village Square Forum of the Season](#)

[BCPS Celebrates International Literacy Day](#)

[BCPS Head Start/Early Intervention Department Launches Early Learning Messaging Initiative](#)

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Business Briefs and Alliance Member News



Alliance Member Companies in **Bold**

Congratulations to Alliance member companies **Baptist Health South Florida** and **Ultimate Software**. Both were named to Fortune's 100 Best Workplaces for Women. To read more, please [click here](#).

Broward County is abuzz with excitement in anticipation of Broadway director, Neil Goldberg's theatrical extravaganza, "WE," created especially for Broward County's centennial celebration on Saturday, October 3rd at 8 p.m., at the **Broward Center for the Performing Arts**. After months of auditions, workshops, rehearsals and celebrity collaborations, the cast of "WE" has come together. Over 100 of the most talented local artists and performers have been cast to perform in "WE" along with Broadway legend and recording powerhouse, Linda Eder and Grammy award-winning international superstar, Jon Secada. To read more, please [click here](#).

To create buzz and connection, **Broward County** is inviting the community to record and share their Duende experience on FRUIO, an online and mobile video platform. FRUIO, the official app of **Broward 100** and Duende, is both a user-friendly video camera app with advanced editing features and a trusted local video marketplace. It's easy, fast, fun and free! To read more, please [click here](#).

Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-22) has introduced the Metropolitan Planning Enhancement Act, which would bring critically needed transportation dollars to Broward and Palm Beach counties. The legislation awards additional funding from the federal government to local transportation organizations that work together. "Recognizing high-performing MPOs would assist in providing critical infrastructure improvements in South Florida and across the nation," said Greg Stuart, **Broward MPO** Executive Director. "This legislation will provide local communities with greater control over funding for roadway improvements, port expansion projects, bridge renovations, and other necessary transportation infrastructure." To read more, please [click here](#).

CBRE arranged the sale of Cypress Run Marketplace, a 85,247-square-foot, multi-tenant retail center located at 10599-10667 W. Atlantic Boulevard in Coral Springs. Cypress Run LLC hired CBRE to market the asset for sale and negotiate the transaction. The property was purchased for \$13,600,000 by CR Cypress Run LLC, an entity affiliated with Baltimore, Maryland-based Continental Realty Corporation. To read more, please [click here](#).

The **City of Coral Springs** has taken the first step toward creating a special district for improving its corporate park. It has also appointed members to a panel that will advise the city on ways to attract new businesses. City officials approved on first reading an ordinance that creates the Corporate Park Business Improvement District, a taxing authority that will use the money that comes in from the special assessments to improve the facility. The ordinance will be formally adopted by the City commission at its meeting this month, but the creation of the district will take about 18 months. To read more, please [click here](#).

The **City of Sunrise** has been named Chess City of the Year for 2015 by the United States Chess Federation (US Chess). The City was selected for this prestigious honor by the Executive Board of US Chess "in recognition of the positive impact [Sunrise] citizens have made on chess in America." To read more, please [click here](#).

For the third consecutive year, *Site Selection* Magazine named **FPL** one of the Top Ten Utilities in Economic Development. To read more, please [click here](#).

72 **GrayRobinson** attorneys made the 2016 Best Lawyers in America list of outstanding attorneys. In addition, 6 attorneys were named Lawyer of the Year in their respective practice areas. To read more, please [click here](#).

The Pride Center at Equality Park in Wilton Manors will be building a playground, sponsored by **JetBlue**, to accommodate the growing need for a safe play area that provides social support, mentoring and educational and creative development for LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) families in South Florida. To make this vision a reality, The Pride Center has launched a \$75,000 fundraising challenge and is seeking community volunteers to help construct the 2,500-square-foot interactive playground (roughly half of the size of an NBA basketball court) on Friday, October 16. When completed, it will be the first playground of its kind in the United States to be situated on a LGBT campus. To read more, please [click here](#).

Macken Companies has announced that construction is underway at Parallel 1, a new townhome project located at 1307 SE 2nd Ct. located one block from Fort Lauderdale's Las Olas Blvd. VCM Builders, an affiliate of Macken Companies, is constructing Parallel and is currently on the second floor. Completion is scheduled for the second quarter of 2016. To read more, please [click here](#).

Miller Construction Company has launched construction of the 43,264 square-foot third phase of Lake Whitney Medical and Professional Campus in St. Lucie West for owner Willard Development. To read more, please [click here](#).

Miller Construction Company has launched comprehensive renovations for **City Furniture** at showrooms in Pembroke Pines and Wellington for the top-selling South Florida furniture retailer. To read more, please [click here](#).

Broward County's **Port Everglades** received its first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for Cruise Terminal 4, which underwent many energy-efficient improvements when it was expanded and completely renovated over the past year. To read more, please [click here](#).

More than jobs topped the agenda when Gov. Rick Scott visited the new headquarters of Japanese software maker **Sato Global Solutions** in Fort Lauderdale. Sato executives unveiled a community outreach program to provide Broward County's nonprofit Ann Storck Center with an electronic security system for visitors at its main campus. Plus, Broward leaders appealed for Florida's legislature

to provide tens of millions more dollars in incentives this year to keep luring companies like Sato to the state and the local area. To read more, please [click here](#).

Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A. is pleased to announce that five attorneys in the firm's Miami and Fort Lauderdale offices have been promoted to Shareholders. To read more, please [click here](#).

"Hello Sunny," **Starmark's** branding campaign for the **Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau** (GFLCVB), has won the U.S Travel Association's "Destiny Award" for Branding and Integrated Marketing Campaign. To read more, please [click here](#).

Stiles is pleased to announce the promotion of Jeff McDonough to president of Stiles Residential Group (SRG), the company's residential development and investment services division. To read more, please [click here](#).

Transwestern's Fort Lauderdale office has announced That's A Wrap Sandwich Company is now open at **110 Tower**, the award-winning, LEED® Gold certified, Class A office building in downtown. Michael Silverman and Jeffrey Evans of The Comras Company, the retail leasing agent for 110 Tower, represented the ownership and the tenant in this lease transaction. To read more, please [click here](#).

Ultimate Software, a leading provider of human capital management (HCM) solutions in the cloud, announced recently that it has received certification from the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) Affordable Care Act Information Returns (AIR) Program. Completion of this certification program allows Ultimate to electronically file required Affordable Care Act compliance documents with the IRS on behalf of Ultimate's customers. To read more, please [click here](#).

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Featured Property of the Month



Corporate Pointe East

1191 E Newport Center Drive, Deerfield Beach, FL 33442

Listed by Butters Realty

Additional details at GreaterFortLauderdaleProperties.com

[Click Here](#)

Upcoming Events

Alliance Events

Alliance Partner Council Meeting (Invitation Only)

Thursday, Oct. 8, 8:30 a.m.

Location: City of Oakland Park

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

Alliance 2015 Annual Meeting

Thursday, October 22, 5:30 p.m.

Location: The Signature Grand, Davie

Sponsors include: Platinum - Broward College, JM Family Enterprises, Patriot National, Inc., Signature Grand, *South Florida Business Journal* and *South Florida Business & Wealth Magazine*; Gold – Comcast Business and JetBlue; Silver – AutoNation, All Aboard Florida, FPL, FPL FiberNet, GUNSTER and Starmark.

For sponsorship information and additional details please contact Gail Bulfin at gbulfin@gfalliance.org or Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133 or at tvinaixa@gfalliance.org

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Enterprise Florida Events

Hub Camera Santo Domingo (Corporate Commercial Expo)

Oct. 14 - 17

Location: Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

For more information, [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 to see more event listings, please [click here](#).

Member/Partner Events

SFBJ Critical Conversations: Medical Tourism

Thursday, Oct. 1, 9:00 a.m.

Location: South Florida Business Journal Office, Miami

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

Research Park at FAU: 30th Anniversary Celebration

Friday, Oct. 2, 5:30 p.m.

Location: Boca Raton Resort & Hotel

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

FAU Davie Yogathon

Saturday, Oct. 3, 9:00 a.m.

Location: FAU Davie Campus

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

We: The Passion and Rhythm of the People

Saturday, Oct. 3, 8:00 p.m.

Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale

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

Business for the Arts Artist Encounter

Sunday, Oct. 4, 1:00 p.m.

Location: IKEA Sunrise

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

Hispanic Unity of Florida Entrepreneur Summit 2015

Thursday, Oct. 8, 12:45 p.m.

Location: NSU, Davie

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

Center for Hemispheric Policy Program - Argentina's Election

Friday, Oct. 9, 8:00 a.m.

Location: Westin Colonnade Coral Gables

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

3rd Annual Go Solar & Renewable Energy Fest

Oct. 9 - 10

Location: Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention Center, Fort Lauderdale

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

BioFlorida Conference 2015

Oct. 11 - 13

Location: Omni Orlando Resort at Championsgate, Orlando

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

FITCE - The Florida International Trade and Cultural Expo

Oct. 12 - 16

Location: Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention Center, Fort Lauderdale

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

Discount Code: FITCE2015 for \$10 tickets

3rd Annual Block Party for Higher Education

Thursday, Oct. 15, 5:00 p.m.

Location: Las Olas Blvd Between Andrews & NE 2nd Ave, Fort Lauderdale

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

SFBJ 2015 Technology Awards

Thursday, Oct. 15, 5:30 p.m.

Location: Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six, Fort Lauderdale

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

Leadership Broward Foundation Profiles in Leadership Gala

Saturday, Oct. 17, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six, Fort Lauderdale

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

SFBW Apogee Awards

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 5:30 p.m.

Location: NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale

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

Center for Hemispheric Policy: Brazil

Thursday, Oct. 22, 8:00 a.m.

Location: Hyatt Regency Coral Gables

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

SFBJ: The Strengthening of the US Dollar's Impact on Business & Global Trade

Friday, Oct. 23, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Ritz-Carlton Fort Lauderdale

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

United Way of Broward County: Mayors' Gala

Saturday, Oct. 24, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention Center, Fort Lauderdale

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

Salute to Business and Innovation Awards

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 5:30 p.m.

Location: Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six, Fort Lauderdale

For more information, [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).

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