



Photo by Keith Douglas - kd@keithdouglas.com

August 31, 2016

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

Top Stories:

- Broward County's Year over Year Job Growth Remains a Very Strong 4.6%
- Gov. Scott: Florida's Private Sector Grew Faster than All Large States in June; Florida's GDP Growth Beats the Nation's
- Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Welcomes Three Companies to MWBE Fellowship Program
- Sponsor and Register for the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Annual Meeting

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Top Stories

Broward County's Year over Year Job Growth Remains a Very Strong 4.6%

Broward County's job report indicated a 4.7 percent unemployment rate in July 2016. This is a decrease of 0.7 percentage points from the year ago rate of 5.4 percent. Nonagricultural employment increased by 36,000 jobs (+4.6 percent) over the year, with an employment of 822,500 in the Ft. Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MSA (Broward County). The region's jobless rate was 0.4 percentage point lower than the state rate (5.1 percent). Out of a labor force of 1,020,292, there were 47,907 unemployed Broward County residents. "We're very pleased to see that Broward County continues its trend of year over year job growth in every major occupational category," said Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance President and CEO Bob Swindell. "Our employment increase of 4.6% leads all the major urban area in Florida and is a testament to the strength of our economy." To read more, please [click here](#).

Gov. Scott: Florida's Private Sector Grew Faster than All Large States in June; Florida's GDP Growth Beats the Nation's

Governor Rick Scott announced recently that Florida businesses had the fastest annual private-sector job growth rate of the 10 most populous states, tied with Georgia, in June. Florida's private-sector job growth rate of 3.2 percent is significantly higher than the nation's, which is at 1.9 percent. Governor Scott also announced that Florida's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew 2.1 percent annualized in the first quarter of 2016, beating the national GDP growth rate of 1.2 percent. The state's GDP annualized growth rate was second-highest among the 10 largest states, beating both California and Texas. To Read more, please [click here](#).

Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Welcomes Three Companies to MWBE Fellowship Program

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance announced that three companies: Latin2Latin Marketing + Communications, LLC, JGA Marketing, and D. Stephenson Construction, Inc., will join the ranks of its Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) Fellowship Program. As the official public/private partnership for economic development, the Alliance is comprised of member companies that invest yearly in initiatives that strengthen and diversify Broward County's economy. Members range from Fortune 150 corporations to small businesses. The MWBE Fellowship Program is designed to identify minority and women-owned businesses that have already established themselves as companies with staying power and are ready to take a greater role of involvement in the Broward business community as a member of the Alliance at the Entrepreneurship Council level. The program allows a company to gradually phase in its membership investment over four years to the annual commitment of \$2,500. To read more, please [click here](#).

Sponsor and Register for the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Annual Meeting

Sponsors are being sought for the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance's Annual Meeting, set for Thursday, October 20 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Signature Grand in Davie, with keynote speaker Patrick "Pat" Geraghty, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of GuideWell Mutual Holding Corporation, a \$12 billion, not-for-profit health solutions organization headquartered in Jacksonville. Current sponsors include Platinum sponsors: Broward College, JM Family Enterprises, Inc., Signature Grand, South Florida Business Journal and South Florida Business and Wealth; Gold Sponsor: AutoNation; Silver Sponsors: Becker & Poliakoff, City of Fort Lauderdale, Comcast Business, FPL, FPL FiberNet and Gunster. For more information, contact Gail Bulfin at gbulfin@gfalliance.org or visit www.gfalliance.org/annual.

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



[Broward College First in the State for Industry Certifications](#)
[Broward College Unveils Simulation Training Ambulance Unit](#)
[Broward County Public Schools Students Head Back to Class](#)
[What's New in the 2016/17 School Year – Volume 2](#)
[Sheridan Technical College and General Motors Partner to Train Highly Skilled Automotive Technicians](#)
[Study Finds Vision Loss Due to Diabetes is Rising Globally](#)
[Florida Surgeon General to Speak at NSU Commencement](#)
[NSU Researchers Studying Toxic Effects of Oil on Corals](#)
["Bailey Hall Presents" Season Opens with Nia-Ni Chen Dance](#)
[Bailey Hall Launches Film Series in September](#)
[Broward College Recognizes Dr. Floyd F. Koch for Support of Dental Hygiene Program](#)
[The Broward College South Campus Office of Cultural Affairs Announces 2016-2017 Programming](#)

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Business Briefs and Alliance Member News



Alliance Member Companies in **Bold**

Hoffman's Chocolates, owned by **BBX Capital**, is pleased to announce that it has named Randall Vitale as the new Regional Vice President of the company. Vitale will be responsible for overseeing and managing all of Hoffman's Chocolates retail stores, corporate sales, online sales and its new mobile truck, The Sweet Ride. In addition to spearheading the chocolatier's ongoing expansion, Vitale will also oversee the marketing department. To read more, please [click here](#).

India will play two T20I matches against West Indies in Florida later this month, BCCI president Anurag Thakur announced on Tuesday, after the board's working committee meeting in Mumbai. The matches will be played on August 27 and 28 at the Central Broward Regional Park Stadium in the **City of Lauderhill**. Officials from both boards had meetings in Florida. To read more, please [click here](#).

Voting ends today (August 31) at midnight for the **JetBlue** Book Battle. Currently Fort Lauderdale, is in the lead to win a book donation from Random House. Click here to vote: <http://www.soarwithreading.com/>.

Miller Construction Company has added Rich Smolich, Álvaro Mercado and William Jessee to the design/build and construction services firm's project leadership team. "Rich, Álvaro and Bill's determination to provide our clients with great value, by making all decisions in the clients' best interests, is a great fit with our culture," said Miller Senior Vice President Brian Sudduth. To read more, please [click here](#).

Miller Construction Company has completed construction of the upscale, four-story Surfside Residence Inn by Marriott for owner HDP-TLD Partners, LLC of Atlanta. Miller created the 175-suite hotel at 9200 Collins Avenue in the Town of Surfside, with spacious amenity areas and a three-story parking structure. Located four blocks south of the internationally renowned Bal Harbour Shops and just north of Miami Beach, the hotel is strategically positioned for extended or short-term stays. To read more, please [click here](#).

Miller Construction Company has begun construction of a two-story, 51,200-square-foot higher education facility for developer and owner The Graham Companies at 15201 NW 79 Court in Miami Lakes. The \$7.4 million, single-user structure on an 8.5-acre site will be the new Sistema Universitario Ana G. Méndez South Florida Campus, which has signed a 15-year lease with The Graham Companies and is expanding from its current location in Miramar. The Puerto Rico-based university operates 15 university centers throughout the island territory and five in the U.S., including additional Florida locations in Orlando and Tampa. To read more, please [click here](#).

Modernizing Medicine, Aerospace Technologies Group and MobileHelp, all located in the **Research Park at Florida Atlantic University** in Boca Raton, were recently recognized for their growth. "These dynamic companies illustrate the importance of research parks. Having a university connection with young and innovative collaborators, tech companies are able to better develop solutions for

today's challenges," said Andrew Duffell, president and CEO of the Research Park at Florida Atlantic University. To read more, please [click here](#).

South-Florida-based South Florida Community Care Network (SFCCN), is pleased to announce that it has changed its name to Community Care Plan and is in the process of introducing the new brand. Introduced in 2000 as the first safety-net, hospital-owned Provider Service Network (PSN), Community Care Plan: the health plan with a heart, serves members enrolled in Medicaid, Children's Medical Services Network and self-insured employee health plans. Headquartered in Sunrise, Community Care Plan is a partnership owned by **Broward Health** and **Memorial Healthcare System**. Community Care Plan is led by healthcare industry veteran John A. Benz, President & CEO of the company. To read more, please [click here](#).

As a valued member of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, **South Florida Business & Wealth** would like to extend an exclusive complimentary subscription to its monthly publication. SFBW helps you connect with over 30,000 C-Suite executives and business owners in the South Florida area. If you are interested in participating in this opportunity, please click here and subscribe: <http://sfbwmag.com/complimentary-subscription/>.

Stiles Realty announced recently that **Valley National Bank** has signed a 10-year lease deal at Stiles' corporate headquarters located at 301 East Las Olas Blvd. in the heart of the downtown Fort Lauderdale financial district. The financial institution and its more than 30 employees will occupy 3,600 square feet of prime ground floor bank space, which features an ATM directly on Las Olas Blvd., as well as 4,000 square feet of second floor office space for its wealth management and commercial lending operations. To read more, please [click here](#).

Tripp Scott recently announced Wilson Atkinson, a director with the firm, has been recognized by The Best Lawyers in America for his work in Land Use and Zoning Law. Best Lawyers is the oldest and most respected peer-review publication in the legal profession. A listing in Best Lawyers is widely regarded by both clients and legal professionals as a significant honor, conferred on a lawyer by his or her peers. For more than three decades, Best Lawyers lists have earned the respect of the profession, the media, and the public, as the most reliable, unbiased source of legal referrals anywhere. To read more, please [click here](#).

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Featured Property of the Month



Intracoastal Building

3000 NE 30th Place, Fort Lauderdale, FL, 33306

Listed by Mink & Mink, Inc.

Additional details at GreaterFortLauderdaleProperties.com

[Click Here](#)

Upcoming Events

Alliance Events

Alliance Partner Council Meeting (Invitation Only)

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

Location: Broward County Public Schools, Fort Lauderdale

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

Entrepreneurship Council Meeting (Invitation Only)

Tuesday, September 13, 8:30 a.m.

Location: SBDC Fort Lauderdale

For more information, please contact Liza Bongiovi at 954-627-0132, lbongiovi@gflalliance.org

Alliance Leadership Council Meeting (Invitation Only)

Tuesday, September 20, 8:30 a.m.

Cinema Paradiso, Fort Lauderdale

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

Alliance Corporate Council Meeting (Invitation Only)

Wednesday, September 21, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Becker & Poliakoff, Fort Lauderdale

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

Alliance Governor Council Meeting (Invitation Only)

Thursday, September 27, 8:30 a.m.

NSU – Carl DeSantis Building, Davie

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

Alliance Annual Dinner

Thursday, October 20, 5:30 p.m.

Location: Signature Grand, Davie

For more information, please contact Gail Bulfin at 954-627-0127, gbulfin@gflalliance.org.

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Enterprise Florida Events

Medical Fair Asia 2016

August 31 – September 2

Location: Marina Bay Sands, Singapore

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

Business for the Arts Broward - Cultural Tour

Friday, September 16, 8:30 a.m.

Location: ArtServe, Fort Lauderdale

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

How to Create Customer Service Magic: The Disney Way

Thursday, September 22, 2016, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Broward College North Campus, Coconut Creek

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

SFMA Annual Meeting

Thursday, September 22, 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Location: Ft. Lauderdale/Coral Springs Marriott, Coral Springs

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

Fintech Americas

Thursday/Friday, September 22 - 23

Location: Conrad Hotel Brickell, Miami

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

The Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority - Downtown Symposium

Friday, September 23, 9:00 a.m.

Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale

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

Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber: Artopia

Saturday, September 24, 7:00 p.m.

Location: NSU Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale

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

SFBJ - 2016 South Florida Ultimate CEO Awards

Thursday, September 29, 5:30 p.m.

Location: Marriott Harbor Beach, 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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