



Photo by Keith Douglas - kd@keithdouglas.com

December 31, 2015

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

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- Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance to Embark on Austin Leadership Trip
- Recent National and Local Media Coverage of Greater Fort Lauderdale
- Broward County Adds 27,000 Jobs Year over Year
- Gov. Scott: Florida's GDP Grows Faster Than All Large States
- Alliance and the Gold Coast Venture Capital Association Partner on SUP-X™: The Startup Expo

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Top Stories

[Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance to Embark on Austin Leadership Trip](#)



The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, Broward County's official public/private partnership for economic development, is kicking off 2016 with a leadership study trip to Austin, Texas, January 10 - 13 to gather best practices as well as compare and contrast Greater Austin with Broward County. Alliance leaders will study the mid-sized community, known internationally for its annual South by Southwest festivals and conferences focused on technology, film, interactive media and music, as well as its motto, "Keep Austin Weird," which pays tribute to the city's emphasis on creativity. To read more, please [click here](#).

To read an article about the Austin Leadership Trip in the *Sun Sentinel* by Ron Hurtibise, please [click here](#).

[More Media Coverage of the Alliance & Greater Fort Lauderdale in December:](#)

[Azure Skies Ahead: Microsoft Powers its Latin American Business from Florida's Shores](#) – *Fortune Magazine Cover Wrap*
Spread in partnership with Enterprise Florida

[South Florida cast as hub of marine research](#) – Doreen Hemlock, *Sun Sentinel*

[Greater Fort Lauderdale is enjoying a building boom](#) – John Caulfield, *Building Design & Construction*

[Broward County Adds 27,000 Jobs Year Over Year](#)

Broward County's job report indicated a 4.5 percent unemployment rate in November 2015. This is a decrease of .9 percentage points from the year ago rate of 5.4 percent. Nonagricultural employment increased by 27,000 jobs (+3.4 percent) over the year, with an employment of 821,800 in the Ft. Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MSA (Broward County). The region's jobless rate was

0.3 percentage point lower than the state rate (4.8 percent). Out of a labor force of 998,989, there were 44,497 unemployed Broward County residents. "We're very pleased to continue to see strong year over year job growth in Broward County," said Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance President and CEO Bob Swindell. "We are leaders in job creation with 27,000 jobs, an increase of 3.4 percent over November 2014." To read more, please [click here](#).

Gov. Scott: Florida's GDP Grows Faster Than All Large States

Governor Scott recently announced that Florida's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew faster than all other large states at 5.1 percent in the second quarter of 2015, according to data released this week. Florida's GDP was also higher than the national average of 3.8 percent. To read more, please [click here](#).

Alliance and the Gold Coast Venture Capital Association Partner on SUP-X™: The Startup Expo

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and the Gold Coast Venture Capital Association have announced SUP-X™: The Startup Expo, a two day international startup conference and expo that will be held at the Broward Convention Center in Ft. Lauderdale on February 16-17, 2016. The event is expected to draw 1500+ startup and early-stage entrepreneurs, angel and VC investors and related service providers from throughout North America. SUP-X features nearly 50,000 SF of exhibit space, intensive workshops for entrepreneurs led by distinguished subject matter experts, a special half-day of workshops specifically for women entrepreneurs and women investors, and unique and exclusive opportunities for investors to meet fellow investors from throughout North America to develop deal flow and partnership opportunities. To read more, please [click here](#).

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



[BCPS Superintendent Robert W. Runcie Named Florida's 2016 Superintendent of the Year](#)

[Two Broward High Schools Named Best in State by U.S. News & World Report](#)

[Broward College Gives Back to the Community with MLK Day of Service Awards, Providing \\$190,986 to Local Organizations](#)

[Students at Cypress Bay High School, Fort Lauderdale High School and South Broward High School Achieve Top Results in Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards Program](#)

[Broward College Celebrates Fall 2015 Commencement](#)

[Broward County Public Schools Hosts First National Summit for Principal Supervisors Fort Lauderdale, May 11-13, 2016](#)

[Tobacco Free Partnership of Broward County Set to Showcase Winning Art at First Tobacco Free Art Exhibit](#)

[Linda Gancitano and Jennifer Hoover of Driftwood Middle School Academy Honored by American Heart Association](#)

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Business Briefs and Alliance Member News



Alliance Member Companies in **Bold**

The **Alliance** is hiring a Marketing & Communications / Research Intern. [Click here](#) to download the job description. To apply, contact Carla Maldonado, Director of Business Intelligence, at cmaldonado@gflalliance.org.

Beginning in mid-December, **Broward County's Port Everglades** will become one of only four seaports nationwide to participate in U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) new AQUA Lane (Advanced Qualified Unloading Approval) program to expedite cargo movement which saves time, money and increases supply chain velocity. To read more, please [click here](#).

Costa Cruises returned to **Broward County's Port Everglades** recently with a first call by the 2,260-passenger Costa Deliziosa. An Italian cruise line owned by Carnival Corporation, Costa Cruises has sailed from Port Everglades since the 1960s and is returning for the winter season following a four-year hiatus. To read more, please [click here](#).

Celebrating its 10th anniversary at **Broward County's Port Everglades**, Florida International Terminal LLC (FIT) has renewed its long-term marine terminal lease, which is estimated to generate 75,000 container lifts (about 128,000 TEUs) and \$57 million over the next 10 years of the agreement. The agreement also includes two five-year renewal options. To read more, please [click here](#).

Officials at **Broward County's Port Everglades** knew Sunday, December 20, 2015, was a busy cruise day, but they didn't realize how busy. Port Everglades actually broke its own world record for the most cruise passengers to embark and disembark in a single day - 53,485 guests. To read more, please [click here](#).

CBRE arranged the sale of Commercial Place I and II, a suburban office community with a total of 175,433 rentable sq. ft. on 10.69 acres in Fort Lauderdale. The asset at 3230-3250 W. Commercial Boulevard was acquired by New England based, Brookwood Financial Partners. To read more, please [click here](#).

CBRE Capital Markets' Debt & Structured Finance team arranged \$18.3 million in acquisition financing for Commercial Place I & II, a suburban office campus spanning a total of 175,088 square feet in Fort Lauderdale. In a transaction arranged by CBRE, the asset at 3230-3250 W. Commercial Boulevard was acquired by Brookwood Financial Partners for \$23.5 million. To read more, please [click here](#).

As **City Furniture** prepares to launch an aggressive, multi-year expansion in the Orlando, Tampa Bay and Miami markets, the company is seeing its \$4.5 million investment in creating and running a "green" delivery fleet pay big dividends. One of just a handful of furniture firms nationwide to build its own compressed natural gas (CNG) station and convert most of its 100-truck fleet to run on the environmentally friendly fuel, South Florida's top-selling furniture retailer sees the strategy as essential to its statewide growth plans. The firm plans to have its entire fleet converted to CNG-powered vehicles by year-end 2016. To read more, please [click here](#).

District 2 Commissioner Gloria J. Battle is pleased to announce that a 4-40 Insurance License training course will be offered free of charge to **City of Deerfield Beach** residents. This three day course is required to sell insurance in the State of Florida and is being provided to up to 40 participants free of charge by People's Trust Insurance Company. People's Trust Insurance is located at 18 People's Trust Way in Deerfield Beach and serves over 150,000 homeowner policyholders in the State of Florida. People's Trust Insurance strives to save homeowners money on their homeowner premiums and speed recovery after a loss. To read more, please [click here](#).

Herbert G. Fung, a commercial construction professional with 16 years of industry experience, has joined **Miller Construction Company** as project manager. As the Fort Lauderdale-based design/build and construction services firm expands operations throughout South and Central Florida, Fung will be responsible for overseeing wide-ranging commercial construction projects. He brings experience managing mixed-use, multifamily, education and marine-related construction projects throughout South Florida and the San Francisco Bay markets. To read more, please [click here](#).

Mink & Mink, Inc., the Fort Lauderdale-based commercial real estate services company, recently negotiated a new lease agreement for 2,211 square feet of space at Marina Mile Business Park, Dania Beach. To read more, please [click here](#).

Stearns Weaver Miller announced that the 2016 edition of Benchmark Litigation recognized the firm as "Highly Recommended" in Florida, the publication's highest ranking. Additionally, eight Stearns Weaver Miller Litigation shareholders were recognized as "Florida Litigation Stars." To read more, please [click here](#).

Stearns Weaver Miller announced that Real Estate Shareholder Gisela M. Munoz was elected a Fellow of the American College of Mortgage Attorneys (ACMA). To read more, please [click here](#).

Stiles Realty, the commercial brokerage division of Fort Lauderdale-based real estate development firm Stiles, has welcomed a new veteran brokerage team to fortify the company's focus in Miami-Dade and Palm Beach County markets. Joining Stiles from Miami-based Adler Realty Services, this team of five brokerage professionals are responsible for more than one billion in transaction value over the past ten years. To read more, please [click here](#).

Ultimate Software, a leading provider of human capital management (HCM) solutions in the cloud, announced recently that the company has been ranked #2 on the inaugural list of the 50 Best Workplaces for Camaraderie. The list is a "best of the best" ranking, created by FORTUNE and Great Place to Work, determined entirely by employee feedback. To read more, please [click here](#).

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Featured Property of the Month



Upcoming Events



Alliance Events

Alliance Partner Council Meeting (Invitation Only)

Thursday, Jan 14, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Broward MPO

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

Alliance Corporate Council Meeting (Invitation Only)

Wednesday, Jan 20, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Junior Achievement of South Florida

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

Alliance Entrepreneurship Council Meeting (Invitation Only)

Wednesday, Jan 27, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Steven F. Greenwald Design, Fort Lauderdale

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

Alliance Mid-Year Meeting

Thursday, May 19, 11:15 a.m.

Location: Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six, Fort Lauderdale

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

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Enterprise Florida Events

Export Sales Mission to Korea & Taiwan

Apr. 15-23

Location: Seoul, Korea and Taipei, Taiwan

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

Artist Encounter at IKEA with Jacklyn Laflamme

Sunday, Jan. 3, 1:00 p.m.

Location: IKEA Sunrise

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

Broward College Speaker Series - Mo Rocca

Wednesday, Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale

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

Broward County Public Schools EdTalk

Saturday, Jan. 23, 9:00 a.m.

Location: Signature Grand, Davie

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

IoT Evolution Expo

January 24 - 28

Location: Greater Fort Lauderdale-Broward County Convention Center

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

Save 20% on admission with Code: GFLA

SFBJ - 2016 CFO Awards

Thursday, Jan. 28, 5:30 p.m.

Location: Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six, Fort Lauderdale

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

Safe Streets Summit 2016

Friday, Jan. 29, 8:00 a.m.

Location: Doubletree by Hilton, Deerfield Beach

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

Breakfast with the Business Journal in Fort Lauderdale

Thursday, Feb. 4, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Goldstein Schechter Koch, Fort Lauderdale

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

Easing Gridlock: Addressing Transportation Woes in the Workplace

Thursday, Feb. 11, 9:00 a.m.

Location: The Conrad Hotel Miami

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

SUP-X: The StartUp Expo

Feb. 16 - 17

Location: Greater Fort Lauderdale-Broward County Convention Center

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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