



Photo by Keith Douglas - kd@keithdouglas.com

October 31, 2017

Top Stories:

- Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Annual Dinner Features Keynote by Florida Panthers CEO Vinnie Viola, Jobs Announcements, New Initiatives, Leadership and Education Partnership Awards, and Installation of Dr. Jennifer O'Flannery Anderson as new Chair
- Broward continues to experience positive over the year growth and sees drop in unemployment rate to 3.3%
- Gov. Scott: Sixt to Create 300 New Jobs at New North American Headquarters in Fort Lauderdale
- Sixt Rent a car HQ a Platinum Permitting Success Story
- Broward County Public Schools Partnership with the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and South Florida TechGateway Receives National Spotlight

Top Stories

Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Annual Dinner features keynote by Florida Panthers CEO Vinnie Viola, Jobs announcements, New Initiatives, Leadership and Education Partnership Awards, and Installation of Dr. Jennifer O'Flannery Anderson as new Chair

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, Broward County's official public/private partnership for economic development, reported at its 2017 annual meeting on Thursday, October 19 that it assisted businesses in creating 1,978 new high-value jobs, retaining 1,967 jobs and securing \$256 million in new capital investment during its 2016-17 fiscal year that ended September 30.

During the meeting, Bill White, Co-Founder and Principal of Compass Office Solutions, who had served the past year as Chair of the Board of the Alliance, turned the gavel over to Dr. Jennifer O'Flannery Anderson, Vice President for Advancement and Community Relations at Nova Southeastern University, who will be the Alliance's 2017-18 Chair. It was also announced that the Seminole Tribe of Florida had joined the Alliance as a CEO Council member company, committing \$50,000 annually to the Alliance's national business marketing campaign.

AutoNation Chairman, CEO and President Mike Jackson presented George L. Hanbury, II, Ph.D., President of Nova Southeastern University with the Alliance's 2017 Ray Ferrero, Jr. Economic Development Leadership Award. The Alliance also presented its annual economic development leadership awards ([VIDEO](#)) to six other individuals who have gone above and beyond in their work in the community helping to grow jobs and strengthen the economy. Those honored, with the Alliance Council who presented the awards in parenthesis, were: Dr. Penny Shaffer, Florida Blue (CEO Council); Lonnie Maier, Fibernet Direct (Governor Council); Heidi Davis Knapik, Gunster (Leadership Council); Rich Ducharme, Sapoznik Insurance (Corporate Council); Russell Weaver, NAI Rauch Weaver Norfleet Kurtz & Co. (Entrepreneurship Council); and Ric Green, Greater Pompano Beach Chamber of Commerce (Partner Council). Memorial Healthcare System was awarded the Alliance's Educational Partnership Award ([VIDEO](#)) for their ongoing partnership with Broward College. To read more, please [click here](#).

Gov. Scott: Sixt to Create 300 New Jobs at New North American Headquarters in Fort Lauderdale

On October 18, Governor Rick Scott announced that Sixt North America, a global auto rental company, has selected Fort Lauderdale as the location for their new, expanded North American headquarters. The expansion will create 300 new jobs and invest \$10.4 million in the local community. The company chose Fort Lauderdale over other potential sites in Georgia, Texas and California. Sixt Rent-a-Car has more than 2,000 locations in over 100 countries. To read more, please [click here](#).

Sixt Rent a car HQ a Platinum Permitting Success Story

The Alliance's Platinum Permitting program encourages cooperation and business-friendliness through the permitting process for economic development projects, to ensure expanding and relocating companies can get up and running quickly. Recently, a Sixt rent a car representative shared: "I just wanted to reach out and let you know what a pleasure it has been working with the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and the City of Fort Lauderdale. We are excited to open our new HQ, investing in Fort Lauderdale's future, and this wouldn't have been possible without your help." The project team has "done a phenomenal job at explaining the permitting and QTI process and ensuring we do things right to streamline and cut the red tape." To learn more, visit <http://www.gflalliance.org/businessassistance/permitting>.

Broward continues to experience positive over the year growth and sees drop in unemployment rate to 3.3%

Broward County's job report indicated a 3.3 percent unemployment rate in September 2017. This rate was 1.5 percentage point lower than the region's year ago rate of 4.8 percent. Nonagricultural employment increased by 13,000 jobs (+1.6 percent) over the year, with an employment of 833,900 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. To read more, please [click here](#).

Broward County Public Schools Partnership with the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and South Florida TechGateway Receives National Spotlight

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS), the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and South Florida TechGateway are among select school districts and organizations from across the nation featured during the 2017 Computer Science for All (CSforAll) Summit. The event, which was organized by the CSforAll Consortium, took place October 16-17, 2017, and included computer science educators, researchers and industry leaders dedicated to providing inclusive, rigorous and sustainable computer science education for all students. To read more, please [click here](#).

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



[NSU's New M.D. College Receives Preliminary Accreditation; First Class to Start in 2018](#)

['What's This' App Wins Broward College 2017 Hackathon](#)

[BCPS Schools Recognized as Five Star Schools](#)

[All Are Welcome in Broward County Public Schools](#)

[NSU Shepard Broad College of Law celebrates the 40th anniversary of the first graduating class](#)

[Coral Springs High School Teacher Kathleen Pickering Named AGS Geography Teacher Fellow](#)

[25 Art Institutes Locations Are Now Non-Profit](#)

Business Briefs and Alliance Member News



Alliance Member Companies in **Bold**

BankUnited, one of the largest independent depository institutions headquartered in Florida, is ranked the 19th largest SBA 7(a) lender in the United States by lending volume according to recent data released by the Small Business Administration for its fiscal year which ended on September 30, 2017. To read more, please [click here](#).

Bethesda Health, headquartered in Boynton Beach, today became a part of **Baptist Health South Florida**, the largest healthcare organization in the region. After two and a half years of extensive due diligence, the merger of the two organizations is official effective Oct. 1. With the addition of Bethesda Health, including Bethesda Hospital East and Bethesda Hospital West, Baptist Health grows to 10 hospitals, more than 40 physician practices and approximately 50 outpatient facilities as well as internationally-renowned centers of excellence in Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties. To read more, please [click here](#).

The Ghost Light Society will host the 8th Annual Ghost Light Society Soirée, Cirque du Soirée, to benefit the arts-in-education programs at the **Broward Center for the Performing Arts**. Over the last seven years, the Ghost Light Society has established its annual Soirée as one of the most highly anticipated events of the season while also raising more than \$500,000 for the Broward Center's award-winning arts-in-education programs that serve more than 150,000 students each year. To read more, please [click here](#).

Receiving the key to the City of Miami recently to honor his support for U.S. military veterans, **City Furniture** President Keith Koenig kept the spotlight on "the leadership, integrity and passion veterans bring our organization every day." Miami Mayor Tomás Regalado presented the honor, recognizing Koenig's role as a significant donor in the American Red Cross South Florida Region's partnership with **United Way of Broward County's** Mission United program that helps veterans and their families re-acclimate to civilian life. To read more, please [click here](#).

City Furniture is in the business of making people feel at home – a mission that took on special significance in the wake of Hurricane Irma. City Furniture dispatched crews for immediate cleanup at area not-for-profit facilities, reached out to the hard-hit Florida Keys, and launched a fundraising effort to provide furniture donations for those rebuilding. As Irma passed, City Furniture rallied its manpower, trucks and logistics know-how to tackle labor-intensive needs, helping several not-for-profits to get back up and running. Working with 4KIDS, an organization that provides a safe home to children in crisis, crews cleared debris from Broward County foster homes and maternity homes. The company also tackled clean up at the Salvation Army's Fort Lauderdale headquarters, removing fallen trees. To read more, please [click here](#).

Gunster, one of Florida's oldest and largest full-service business law firms, is pleased to announce that Frederick Owens has been appointed to serve as vice president of the Association of Certified E-Discovery Specialists South Florida chapter. ACEDS is a professional education, training and networking association for those who work in the public sector of e-discovery. To read more, please [click here](#). Gunster also announced the addition of J. Michael Marshall as a shareholder in the firm's Fort Lauderdale office, where he will join its environmental and land use law practice. Marshall has extensive experience representing an array of both public

and private sector clients, such as property owners, developers, financial institutions and large organizations, including hospitals, universities and counties in land use, planning, and real estate matters. To read more, please [click here](#).

The Florida Panthers would like to offer a special 50% discount to Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance members to purchase up to four Club Lexus tickets to one of the following games: Columbus on Thursday 11/2, Dallas on Tuesday 11/14, Toronto on Wednesday 11/22 and San Jose on Friday, 12/1. The ticket price is \$100 per ticket and includes access to Club Lexus with complimentary food and beverage throughout the game. The seats are located at center ice between both team benches. [Please click here for ticket information](#).

Guy Harvey Enterprises has partnered with the Islander Resort, a Guy Harvey Outpost, in Islamorada to collect and distribute much-needed supplies to residents of the Florida Keys in the aftermath of hurricane Irma. Donated items included water, non-perishable foods, bug spray, tarps, wet naps and paper towels, generators. To read more, please [click here](#).

Macken Companies' new single-family home development, Beach House, currently under construction in east Fort Lauderdale, has reached the 75 percent sales mark. A three-bedroom, four-bath, 2,796-square-foot model residence located at 2512 NE 32nd Ave. has been sold completely furnished at the full asking price of \$1.499. To read more, please [click here](#).

Miller Construction Company has completed the nation's largest BMW dealership, Holman Automotive's sleek new Lauderdale BMW East, on a high-profile site in the heart of Fort Lauderdale. With its two-story showroom and five-story garage optimizing a 2.65-acre site at 1441 South Federal Highway, the 283,430-square-foot project reflects the BMW brand's high-performance image, according to Miller Senior Vice President Brian Sudduth. To read more, please [click here](#).

Miller Construction Company has launched a \$3.8 million lobby and atrium renovation at Esperanté Corporate Center for owner 222 Lakeview LLC. With a carefully phased plan that keeps the 256,100-square-foot trophy office center fully operational throughout the project, Miller's crews are providing a complete renovation, including lobby walls, ceilings, floors and MEP systems (mechanical, electrical, and plumbing). To read more, please [click here](#).

The **Moss Construction Company** Foundation will continue for a second year as the presenting sponsor of the Florida Panthers Foundation Community Champions Grant Program. A total of 41 grants will be presented throughout the Panthers 2017-18 hockey season. The Moss Foundation's charitable contribution supports the Florida Panthers Foundation's five-year, \$5 million commitment to non-profits organizations throughout South Florida. To read more, please [click here](#).

Cruise ships as long as 1,100 feet can now dock at Broward County's **Port Everglades** Cruise Terminal 4 without extending into the Intracoastal Waterway. The \$18-million Slip 2 construction project, adjacent to the recently renovated Cruise Terminal 4, lengthened the slip by 225 feet from the original 900 feet. The total 1,125-foot slip length meets the needs of most of today's modern cruise ships such as Holland America's Line's Pinnacle-class ships, which were introduced at Port Everglades during the 2017 cruise season with the U.S. debut of the ms Konningsdam or Princess Cruises' Royal-class ships, which also homeport at Port Everglades. To read more, please [click here](#).

Steve Cernak, chief executive and port director for Broward County's **Port Everglades**, a world leader in the cruise industry and ranked among the nation's leading container ports, began his one year term today as the 2017-18 chairman of the board for the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) -- the unified and recognized voice of seaports in the Americas. To read more, please [click here](#).

Two hundred people recently attended the **South Florida Business Journal's** Technology Awards. The event honored CIO Awards winners and finalists, along with the region's fastest-growing technology companies by percentage revenue growth and dollar revenue growth. Steven Douglas was the presenting sponsor, **Comcast Business** and the **Research Park at Florida Atlantic University** were the event's corporate sponsors, and the CIO Council of South Florida and **South Florida TechGateway** were associate sponsors. Among the award winners, **Ultimate Software** accepted the South Florida TechGateway's Innovation Award presented by the Miami-Dade Beacon Council and the **Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance**. To read more, please [click here](#).

Stiles, one of Florida's oldest and most recognized third-party general contractors and a division of full-service real estate services provider Stiles Corporation, has been selected to build a 25-story luxury apartment project in the heart of downtown Fort Lauderdale. The 327-unit high-rise owned and operated by Greystar will be located at 790 East Broward Blvd. at the intersection of SE 8th Ave. The project will consist of nearly 661,000 square feet which includes a 508-space structured parking garage and a recreational deck featuring an array of luxury amenities. The project site is a former Chase Bank location. To read more, please [click here](#).

Ultimate Software, a leading provider of human capital management (HCM) solutions in the cloud, announced the launch of Xander™, Ultimate's people-first artificial intelligence (AI) platform, and UltiPro Connect, Ultimate's all-new centralized integration hub designed to simplify and standardize integrations to UltiPro to meet its customers' evolving business needs. Both technologies were presented at the 2017 HR Technology Conference Show and Exhibition in Las Vegas, Nevada mid-October. To read more, please [click here](#).

Ultimate Software, a leading provider of human capital management (HCM) solutions in the cloud, announced today that Wedbush Securities, a leading investment firm that provides a range of financial services, achieved an annual return of 445% on its investment in UltiPro, according to an ROI study conducted by third-party analyst firm Nucleus Research. The study also found that Wedbush's payback period was two months. To read more, please [click here](#).

Wells Fargo is donating \$1.1 million to support Hurricane Irma relief efforts in Florida and the Caribbean. Hurricane Irma. "Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone in Florida and the Caribbean who has endured Hurricane Irma and its destruction," said Wells Fargo

CEO & President Tim Sloan. "Wells Fargo is committed to working with organizations and agencies to help our communities recover, and we will determine the best way to support any additional efforts in the days and weeks ahead." The donation includes \$500,000 to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, \$500,000 to local nonprofits focused on relief efforts in the affected areas, and \$100,000 to International Medical Corps for relief efforts in the Caribbean. To read more, please [click here](#).

Featured Property of the Month



[Sawgrass Commerce Center A](#)

13800 NW 14th Street, Sunrise 33323

Type of space: Office

Listed by Greg Martin of Avison Young

Additional details at www.GreaterFortLauderdaleProperties.com

Upcoming Events

Alliance Events

Alliance Partner Council Meeting (Invitation only)

Thursday, Nov. 9, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, Fort Lauderdale

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

Entrepreneurship Council Meeting - (Invitation only)

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Pipeline Lauderdale, 100 SE 3rd Avenue, 10th Floor, Fort Lauderdale

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

Alliance Corporate Council Meeting (Invitation only)

Thursday, Nov. 15, 8:30 a.m.

Location: First Citizen Bank, Fort Lauderdale

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

Alliance Governor Council Meeting (Members Only)

Tuesday, Nov. 28 10, 8:30 a.m.

Location: TBA

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

Alliance ePermitting Meeting (Invitation Only)

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

Location: TBA

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

Alliance Post Boat Show Breakfast with Skip Zimbalist and Phil Purcell

Friday, Nov. 17, 7:30 a.m.

Location: Tower Club, Fort Lauderdale

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

Alliance Holiday Council Connect

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Riverside Hotel, Fort Lauderdale

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

Enterprise Florida Events

Dubai Airshow 2017

Sunday, Nov. 12 – Wednesday, Nov. 15

Location: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

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

Medica 2017

Monday, Nov 13 - Thursday, Nov 16, 2017

Düsseldorf, Germany

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

Marine Equipment Trade Show (METS) 2017

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2017 – Thursday, 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 – Friday., 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

BCPS ED Talk

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

Location: Hollywood Hills High School

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

Ghost Light Society 8th Annual Soiree at Parker Playhouse

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017, 7:00 pm

Location: Parker Playhouse, Fort Lauderdale

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](#).

Village Square Take Out Wednesday: Homelessness in Broward County

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Broward College, Fort Lauderdale

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

Breaking Ground with Brian Bandell: The Evolution of Retail

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2:00 p.m.

Location: South Florida Business Journal Offices, Miami

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

3rd Annual BCPS Debate Initiative Luncheon

Thursday, Nov. 16, 11:30 a.m.

Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale

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

Broward Leaders Water & Climate Academy Day 2 - Site Visits

Friday, Nov. 17, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Leaving from Government Center West, 1 N University Dr., Plantation, FL

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

Seafarers' House South Florida Business Leaders' Luncheon honoring Bob Swindell

Friday, Nov. 17, 11:00 a.m.

Location: Holland America ms Oosterdam, Port Everglades

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

Broward Leaders Water & Climate Academy - Day 3 - Site Visits

Friday, Dec. 1, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Leaving from Gov't Center East, 115 S Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale

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

Area Development - Consultants Forum 24

Dec. 4 - 6

Location: Vinoy Renaissance Hotel, St. Petersburg

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

SFTA - ITPalooza South Florida

Thursday, Dec. 7

Location: Broward County/Fort Lauderdale Convention Center.

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).