Top Stories:
- Homelessness Collaborative in Broward is Focused on Housing Individuals and Families from Former Encampment
- Broward County adds 18,800 jobs year over year
- Attend ITPaloosa, South Florida’s Premier Technology Conference - now in its 7th year, on December 13
- Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance to Host IEDC Leadership Summit in January

Homelessness Collaborative in Broward is Focused on Housing Individuals and Families from Former Encampment
Permanent housing is ahead for 80 previously unsheltered homeless

The Homelessness Collaborative in Broward reached a major milestone Thursday when the last individuals and families remaining in the downtown Fort Lauderdale encampment voluntarily moved out along with their pets and belongings, the first step in their journey towards realization of A Home for the Holidays.

- 80 individuals left the encampment.
- All 41 tents were removed with owner approval.
- Every pre-identified resident of the encampment who wanted services was offered services.
- Three individuals were reunited with family members in Illinois, Texas and Oregon.
- 28 households are eligible for Rapid Rehousing units. Rapid rehousing helps people obtain housing quickly, without preconditions such as employment, income or sobriety, and allows them to increase self-sufficiency by providing short-term rental assistance and supportive services to get people back on their feet.
- 26 households are eligible for Permanent Supportive Housing. Permanent supportive housing promotes independent living with ongoing financial assistance and connections to community-based healthcare, treatment and employment services.
- Eight individuals and two families were placed in shelters and will continue to work with case managers on permanent housing solutions.
- Individuals and families will begin to be placed in their new homes on Monday, December 3. Apartments are being furnished through the generosity of City Furniture.

These successes were the result of adopting the nationally recognized best practice “housing first” approach to assisting individuals experiencing homelessness. Months of work and planning by more than 40 public and private partners went into the work of the Collaborative, which was founded by Broward County, the City of Fort Lauderdale, United Way of Broward County, the Broward Business Council on Homelessness and the Broward Homeless Continuum of Care. To read more, please click here.

Broward County adds 18,800 jobs year over year
Broward County’s job report indicated a 2.8 percent unemployment rate in October 2018. This rate was 0.8 percentage point lower than the region's year ago rate of 3.6 percent. Nonagricultural employment increased by 18,800 jobs (+2.2 percent) over the year, with an employment of 857,900 in the Ft. Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MSA (Broward County). The region's jobless rate was 0.2 percentage point lower than the state rate (3.0 percent). The labor force was 1,046,368, up 14,649 (+1.4) over the year. There were 29,495 unemployed residents in the region. To read more, click here.

Attend ITPaloosa, South Florida’s Premier Technology Conference - now in its 7th year, on December 13
ITPaloosa, the preeminent platform to drive business deals and forge valuable connections with local and regional tech professionals, will hold its 7th annual conference on December 13 at the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention Center. The kick-off morning Keynote features Mike Maier, Chief Technology Officer of the City of Fort Lauderdale. Other featured speakers include: Jim McKelvery, Founder of Square/LaunchCode; Jason White, Chief Technologist at Hewlett-Packard Enterprise, Albert Santalo, CEO of 8Base and Jon Antevy, Co-Founder of e-Builder. During the past 6 conferences, there have been 365 speakers, 417 tech exhibitors, $253k toys and cash collected, and over ten thousand attendees. Click here for more information.
Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance to Host IEDC Leadership Summit in January
The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance is hosting the upcoming International Economic Development Council (IEDC’s) Leadership Summit in Fort Lauderdale in January of 2019. To learn more, please click here.

In the News

• Sun Sentinel - Amazon opens Sunrise center to speed up deliveries in region, November 22
• Sun Sentinel - Voters paved way for a new era in Broward County transportation | Opinion, November 18
• Miami Herald - Amazon pursuit leaves Miami poised to attract multinational companies, November 16
• Sun Sentinel - The benefits of South Florida being an Amazon HQ2 finalist: We want to strike while the iron is hot!, November 15
• South Florida Business Journal - Broward sales tax increase will fund several transportation projects. Here's how small businesses can get in on the action., November 13
• South Florida Business Journal: Broward business leaders tackle homelessness, November 9
• South Florida Business Journal - MIASF's 5th Annual Global Luncheon marked start of FLIBS, November 1
• Sun Sentinel - Delta Private Jets opens at Port Lauderdale-Hollywood airport, November 1

Education and Workforce Development News

Broward College Gives Back to the Community with $200,000 in Grants to Support MLK Day of Service Events
Broward County School Board Elects Heather P. Brinkworth as Chair and Donna P. Korn as Vice Chair
Broward College Hosts Substitute Teacher Orientation to Help Meet Demand as Schools Face Shortage
BCPS Counts Down to the Hour of Code
Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day - BCPS - January 28, 2019
Harvest Drive Celebrates 26th Year of “Children Helping Children” in Broward County Public Schools
2019 Catch and Release Scholarship Fishing Tournament Fast Approaching
NSU Names Leonard Pounds Vice President of Clinical Operations
Nova Southeastern University Eliminating the Use of Plastic Straws
Woof Takes Top Honors at BC Hackathon

Business Briefs and Alliance Member News

Alliance Member Companies in Bold

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts recently held its 28th annual volunteer recognition event, presented by Florida Blue, which paid tribute to the nearly 900 volunteers who donated 123,000 hours of community service during the past season to the Broward Center and its affiliate venues. To read more, click here.

The Ghost Light Society, the young professionals’ group of the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, raised $120,000 at the 9th Annual Ghost Light Society Soirée, Secret Garden Soirée, making it the group’s most successful fundraiser to date to support the Broward Center’s arts-in-education programs. The sold-out event, which was held November 3 on the stage of the iconic Parker Playhouse, also helped kick off the Ghost Light Society’s 10th anniversary season and brought its total amount raised to nearly $1 million. Co-chaired by Ashley Boxer of Memorial Healthcare System and Whitney Dutton of Dutton Real Estate Services, the 9th annual Soirée was made possible through the support of Platinum Sponsors Greenstreet Partners, Memorial Healthcare System, Nelson Mullins Broad & Cassel, Publix and Ultimate Software. To read more, click here.

Broward County’s Port Everglades and Celebrity Cruises enjoyed a double celebration with the arrival of the line’s first new ship class in a decade, Celebrity Edge, at her new home, the revolutionary Cruise Terminal 25 (T25). “The investment in this innovative terminal is going to allow us to grow,” said Port Everglades Chief Executive & Port Director Steven Cernak. “Historically, Port Everglades welcomed on average approximately 335,000 Celebrity guests annually, representing about 9 percent of overall passenger traffic. With the completion of this terminal, we anticipate that Celebrity will generate approximately 500,000 guests – representing 14 percent of the port's projected passenger traffic.” To read more, click here.

Broward County’s Port Everglades reached a record high in containerized cargo this past fiscal year with 1,108,465 TEUs (20-foot equivalent units, the industry’s standard container measurement) moving through the Port. Though the numbers are preliminary, this is a 3 percent year-over-year increase and the fifth year that Port Everglades exceeded one-million TEUs. (Note: fiscal years run from October 1 through September 30.) “We’ve enjoyed a robust growth period and are moving forward with significant investments to maximize the use of our land, cranes and berth space,” said Port Everglades Chief Executive & Port Director Steve Cernak. To read more, click here.
Broward Education Foundation Inducts Exemplary Broward County Public Schools Alumni into 2018 Hall of Fame - Six community luminaries and champions in education, who are graduates of Broward County Public Schools including Alliance president & CEO Bob Swindell – graduate of Boyd Anderson High School, class of 1979, were recently inducted into Broward Education Foundation’s Hall of Fame during the Publix Super Markets Charities 2018 “Hall of Fame Breakfast” presented by Memorial Healthcare System. To read more, click here.

Broward League of Cities President Oakland Park Mayor Tim Lonergan announced the appointment of the 2018-19 Chairs of League Committees/Task Forces: Workforce Housing Task Force - Dania Beach Vice Mayor Bill Harris, Solid Waste Task Force - Weston Mayor Daniel J. Stermer, Legislative & Advocacy Committee - Former Wilton Manors Mayor Gary Resnick and Youth Leadership Committee - Shelley Eichner, Calvin Giordano. To read more, click here.

Brightline, America’s first new major private intercity passenger railroad in over a century, announced a new strategic partnership and trademark licensing agreement with the Virgin Group, one of the world’s most recognizable brands in travel and hospitality. The partnership will allow Brightline to leverage Virgin's industry-leading expertise and customer experience to establish a powerful new brand, “Virgin Trains USA.” To read more, please click here.

Business for the Arts of Broward has named three new board members, including Alliance Executive Committee member Jennifer Bales Drake of Becker and Tali Karp of Stiles. To read more, please click here.

City Furniture donated $1 million to Covenant House Florida, which provides shelter and programs to at-risk youth, the company announced Tuesday. It is the largest single donation to Covenant House and kicks off the nonprofit organization’s statewide $10 million fundraising campaign, “Our Great Promise: Florida’s Future.” The money will help expand its shelter capacity and programming to meet the growing need of children and youth who face homelessness in the state. Covenant House plans to relocate to a centrally located building in Broward County, which will be named after Kevin Koenig, the late brother of City Furniture CEO Keith Koenig. To read more, click here.

Encompass Onsite announced the company has successfully completed the acquisition of two of the region’s leading providers of building maintenance solutions and related services, CSI and Mirage Building Services. The purchase will enhance Encompass’ robust service delivery platform and further its commitment toward providing an unparalleled customer experience for institutions in the owner-occupied healthcare, education, public venue and retail sectors. “This investment extends our key strategic capabilities in the region allowing the company to provide unparalleled service agility, drive down costs and drive up quality for each customer leveraging the Encompass platform. This provides a substantial advantage to current and future Encompass customers.” said Marcell Haywood, Chief Executive Officer of Encompass Onsite. To read more, click here.

Seven GrayRobinson offices and 45 practice groups have been named to the U.S. News & World Report - Best Lawyers 2019 “Best Law Firms” list. The practice groups, spread across seven different GrayRobinson offices throughout Florida, were recognized on both a national and municipal level. To read more, click here.

Joint venture partners Fort Lauderdale-based Stiles and San Francisco-based Shorenstein Properties LLC announced today that Publix Super Markets has signed a lease for a GreenWise Market at The Main Las Olas. The mixed-use project currently under construction is composed of a 25-story office tower, 341-unit residential tower and ground floor retail spanning a full city block between 201 East Las Olas and SE 3rd Avenue in downtown Fort Lauderdale. The project is set for completion in Fall 2020. “We are excited to welcome GreenWise to The Main Las Olas, a distinguished mixed-use project that will offer Publix an exceptional location in the heart of downtown,” said Stiles Chief Executive Officer Ken Stiles. To read more, click here.

Tripp Scott recently announced that Jeffrey S. Wood, a director with the law firm, has been named the winner of a 2018 Florida Charter Schools Champions Award at the recent Florida Charter School Conference in Orlando. To read more, please click here.

Ultimate Software, a leading provider of human capital management (HCM) solutions in the cloud, announced today that it is ranked #4 on this year’s 50 Best Workplaces for Parents list by Fortune and Great Place to Work (GPTW). To read story, click here. Ultimate also announced the following who have selected UltiPro for their HCM solutions: the Miami Dolphins (to read more, click here) and Acadia Healthcare, a leader in behavioral health and addiction disorders with a network of almost 300 behavioral health facilities in 39 states and Puerto Rico (to read more, click here).
Marina Mile Business Park  
3081 E. Commercial Blvd., Suite 105, Fort Lauderdale  
Type of space: Office Condo Building  
Listed by Debra (D.K.) Mink at Mink and Mink, Inc.  
Additional details at www.GreaterFortLauderdaleProperties.com

Upcoming Events

Alliance Events

Alliance Holiday Council Connect - Riverside Hotel (By Invitation Only)  
Tuesday, December 4, 2018, 6:00 p.m.  
Location: Riverside Hotel, Fort Lauderdale  
For more information, please contact Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133, or tvinaixa@gflalliance.org or click here.

Joint Alliance Partner Council and Permitting Action Team Meeting - (Invitation Only)  
Wednesday, December 13, 2018, 8:30 a.m.  
Location: Jim Moran Institute, Fort Lauderdale  
For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131, or hkulp@gflalliance.org

Alliance Partner Council Meeting - January 10, 2019 (Invitation Only)  
Tuesday, January 10, 2019, 8:30 a.m.  
Location: TBD  
For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131, or hkulp@gflalliance.org

Alliance Corporate Council Meeting - January 16, 2019 (Members Only)  
Wednesday, January 16, 2019, 8:30 a.m.  
Location: TBD  
For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131, or hkulp@gflalliance.org

Member/Partner Events

BCPS: Ed Talk 2018/2019  
Saturday, December 1, 2018, 8:00 a.m.  
Location: Charles W. Flanagan High School, Pembroke Pines  
For more information, click here

Area Development Consultants Forum  
December 3 – 5, 2018  
Location: Eden Roc Hotel, Miami Beach  
For more information, click here

International Operators Association Blow-Fill-Seal (BFS) Meeting  
December 5 - 6, 2018  
Location: Diplomat Resort & Spa, Hollywood
For more information, click here.

7th Annual ITPalooza South Florida presented by the South Florida Technology Alliance
Thursday, December 13, 2018
Location: Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention Center
For more information, click here.

2019 NSU Catch and Release Scholarship Fishing Tournament
Saturday, January 12, 2019, 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location: Atlantic Ocean - weigh-in at Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale
For more information, click here.

BCPA - SFSO’s Porgy & Bess Gala
Wednesday, January 23, 2019, 5:00 p.m.
Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts
For more information, click here.

2019 IEDC Leadership Summit
Sunday, January 27 – Tuesday, January 29, 2019
Location: Pier Sixty-Six Hotel and Marina
For more information, click here.

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

Enterprise Florida Events

Doing Business with the Millennium Challenge Corporation
Monday, December, 3, 2018, 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Location: Enterprise Florida, Inc., Orlando FL
Categorized in: Seminars/Workshops
For information, click here.

Arab Health 2019
Monday, January 28, 2019 - Thursday, January 31, 2019
Location: Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Categorized in: International Trade Show
For information, click here.

Dubai International Boat Show
Tuesday, February 26, 2019 - Saturday, March 2, 2019
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Categorized in: International Trade Show
For information, click here.

MRO Americas 2019
Tue, April 9, 2019 - 9:00 a.m. - Thursday, April 11, 2019 - 5:00 p.m.
Location: Georgia World Congress Center
Categorized in: Trade Conferences
For information, click here.

Export Sales Mission to Morocco
Sunday, April 14, 2019 - Thursday, April 18, 2019
Location: Casablanca, Morocco
Categorized in: Export Sales/Trade Mission
For 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 more event listings, please click here.

Connect and follow the Alliance on Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and LinkedIn.


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