March 31, 2020

The team at the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance is doing everything we can to help you through the coming weeks and assist you in making the best decisions for your companies and employees in regard to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are available, remotely and in office practicing social distancing, and are working to assist our local businesses and residents. Please know we care about your health and the health of your businesses during this unprecedented time.

Bob Swindell and the Alliance Team

TOP STORIES

- Register for the Broward Business Leaders COVID-19 Informational Call #3 - Thursday, April 2
- Alliance COVID-19 Pandemic Resource Information
- April 1 is 2020 Census Day
- Alliance Mid-Year Meeting Cancelled – Save the Date for Annual Meeting
- Six Pillars Broward Hires First Executive Director

Register for the Broward Business Leaders COVID-19 Informational Call #3 – Thursday, April 2
To help keep the business community informed, the Alliance has hosted a series of calls for the Broward Business community with federal, state, local, business and healthcare experts.

Please join us for the next call on Thursday, April 2 at 2:00 p.m. Speakers include: Juliet Roulhac - FPL - Alliance Chair, U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Shane Strum – Chief of Staff, Executive Office of Governor Ron DeSantis, State Representative Chip LaMarca, Sheriff Gregory Tony, Dr. Thomas Macaluso - Chief Quality and Patient Safety Officer - Memorial Healthcare System and Bob Swindell – CEO - Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance. You will receive a call at the number you register at the time of the call. Advance registration is required – please click here.

Alliance COVID-19 Pandemic Resource Information
The Alliance is continuously updating a COVID-19 Business Resource page, www.gflalliance.org/COVID-19. Information includes details on assistance programs, helpful webinars and other news, links and good news from Alliance members. Please visit and share. Two additional pages our team is curating are the Prosperity Broward resource page and the GFLEDU.org resource page for learning at home.

April 1 is Census Day
By April 1, every home should have received an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census online, by phone or by mail. When completing the census, please include everyone who lives in your home as of that date. Please help spread the word, as an accurate Census is important for future resource and funding allocation driven by population. For more information, visit https://2020census.gov/

Alliance Mid-Year Meeting Cancelled – Save the Date for the Annual Meeting
The Alliance’s Mid-Year Meeting, slated for May 21 at the new Seminole Hard Rock Guitar Hotel has been cancelled as we continue to navigate circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to hosting the 2021 Mid-Year Meeting at the Hard Rock. Please save the date and plan to attend the Alliance Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 22 at the Signature Grand. We look forward to seeing you again in person as soon as it is safe to do so.
Six Pillars Broward Hires First Executive Director
Six Pillars Broward, Broward County’s community-wide strategic visioning initiative for economic development, announced the hiring of its first full-time Executive Director, providing leadership, permanency and resources to sustain community-based economic planning efforts. Taking on this key role is Joseph E. Hovancak, a longtime economic development executive previously leading Miami-Dade County’s One Community One Goal strategic initiative at the Beacon Council. Six Pillars Broward is managed by the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and is based on a framework developed by the Florida Chamber Foundation. Joseph can be reached at jhovancak@gflalliance.org.

In the News

SFBJ - Money Roundup: Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance performance by the numbers

Education and Workforce Development News

A Florida TaxWatch Study Highlights Value of a Broward College Education
Broward County Public Schools Distributes 82,000 Computer Devices to Students

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) Superintendent Robert W. Runcie announced today (3/31) that District school campuses will remain closed through Friday, May 1, due to the coronavirus pandemic. While BCPS campuses will remain closed, learning continues via online distance learning.

Business Briefs and Alliance Member News

We are glad to share positive news from Alliance members, including response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for your leadership. We are #StrongerTogether.

Alliance Member Companies in Bold

Bank of America has established the Supplier Diversity Small & Diverse Business Scholarship Program and is funded through the generosity of Bank of America’s vendors. The program provides targeted training and development support to qualified certified diverse business owners or to an employee that holds a key position in the diverse business owner’s company and has been designated on the application by the diverse business owner. To read more, please click here.

Baptist Health South Florida has teamed up with FIU to create 3D-printed facemasks. To read more, please click here.

Guests were rocking and rolling at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts Annual Celebration starring rock superstar John Fogerty in February. The event netted $350,000 for the transformational education and enrichment programs at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. To read more, click here.

Capital Analytics, publisher of Invest GFL, has made its publication available for no fee for a limited time. To sign up, visit https://www.capitalanalyticsassociates.com/registration.

Dale Carnegie South Florida is offering bundled subscription programs for businesses adapting to the “new normal” including Leading Remote Teams, Navigating Change and Stress & Worry. For pricing and more details on these programs, please contact Manoli Houvardas at manoli.houvardas@dalecarnegie.com.

As a response to COVID-19, Florida Blue, the state’s leading health insurer, recently announced that it is adding a free-to-member virtual care partner, Teladoc, for seniors and others on its Medicare Advantage plans, and waiving the virtual care copay for many commercial and Affordable Care Act members to encourage use of Teladoc. To read more, please click here. Florida Blue also announced it will waive cost-sharing through June 1 for its members who must undergo treatment for COVID-19, including in-patient hospital admissions. To read more, please click here.

The Florida Panthers team has committed to paying staff through the entirety of coronavirus pandemic. To read more, please click here.

FPL has responded to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic by lowering customer bills for the second time this year. To read more, please click here.

Through a partnership between the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau and local hotels, numerous hotel properties have signed up to provide rooms for essential workers. To learn more, please click here.

Hoffman’s Chocolates stores, a BBX Capital company, is open for takeout from 2-7 p.m. daily and available on Uber Eats. To learn more, please click here.
ICON International is providing a free subscription to Curiosity Stream documentaries and educational streaming content. To sign up, visit: https://curiositystream.com/access/icon-intl

Publix is waiving two months of rent for tenants in shopping centers it owns. To read more, please click here.

Ultimate Software, a leading global provider of human capital management (HCM) and employee experience solutions in the cloud, recently announced that Ultimate is ranked #1 on the Best Workplaces in Technology 2020 list by Fortune and Great Place to Work. This marks the fifth consecutive year Ultimate has been named the top large company (1,000 or more employees) on the prestigious list, after having ranked #2 on Fortune’s 100 Best Companies to Work For 2020 list in February. Rankings for the list considered survey feedback from thousands of employees working at technology companies across the United States. To read more, click here.

United Way of Broward County has launched a COVID-19 Response Fund. All donated dollars will go directly to serve individuals with zero administrative fees.

Valley Bank continues to grow its South Florida operations with the addition of Barbara Gilbert as Business Development Officer of retail banking. Gilbert brings 20 years of banking and wealth management experience to the role, with deep knowledge in investments and lending, as well as corporate and personal banking services. To read more, please click here.

Featured Property

Presidental Circle
4000 Hollywood Blvd, Hollywood 33312
Type of space: Office
Listed by Sandra Andersen and Elizabeth Jimenez, JLL
Additional details at www.GreaterFortLauderdaleProperties.com

Upcoming Events

Please note that all in-person events are on hold, postponed or have been cancelled during the COVID-19 pandemic due to CDC guidelines on gatherings and social distancing.

For a list of continuously updated current webinar and virtual event offerings, please visit www.qflalliance.org/COVID-19 and scroll down to “webinars.”
Connect and follow the Alliance on Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and LinkedIn.
Why are so many companies locating to Greater Fort Lauderdale? Click here to find out!
A one-stop resource for educational assets and news in Greater Fort Lauderdale – www.GFLedu.org