

# North Brevard Business Review



*A quarterly review of business news in Mims, Port St. John, Scottsmeer, and Titusville  
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## **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENTS**

**Eckler's Industries, Inc.**, a manufacturer and provider of restoration parts and accessories for automobiles, announced plans in late June to build a new \$9.5 million headquarters and parts distribution facility in Titusville. The company, which has been in operation in Titusville for more than 40 years, is known world-wide as the source for automotive parts on vintage cars and older vehicles. The project, which will also feature a new call center operation, is expected to create 65 jobs, while retaining approximately 150 positions. The company was assisted by several entities, including the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast and the City of Titusville.

For more information on Eckler's, visit [www.ecklersautomotive.com](http://www.ecklersautomotive.com).

The Eckler's project is part of a Brazilian investment group's concept to create new business park space on Grissom Parkway, under the marketing label "**Grissom CentroPlex**." That development is expected to consist of more than 100 acres, and feature pad-ready sites for office and industrial use.

Information on the planned development is available at [www.grissomcentroplex.com](http://www.grissomcentroplex.com).

**Ballistic Recovery Systems (BRS) Aerospace**, a Miami-based company, has announced plans to open a research and development operation in an idled facility at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) on Merritt Island in North Brevard, investing more than \$7 million over three years in renovations and equipment. The primary purpose of the site location at KSC will be product development activities for parachute deployment, including commercial space applications, as well as production prototyping to allow optimization of manufacturing techniques. The North Brevard operation will result in the creation of 34 jobs, with an average annual salary of \$62,100. The company was assisted in its site search by Space Florida and the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast.

Additional information on the firm can be found at [www.brsparachutes.com](http://www.brsparachutes.com).

**Barn Light Electric** recently completed an expansion of its manufacturing and warehousing operations with the renovation of a vacant 40,000 sq. ft. warehouse on Knox McRae Drive in the Indian River City Business District of Titusville. The company, which manufactures and distributes reproductions of rustic light fixtures for both commercial and residential use, employs more than 80 people in Titusville.

Founded by Bryan and Donna Scott, the company began with the restoration of vintage lights that the couple discovered in travels to antique stores, flea markets, and abandoned buildings. Today, Barn Light Electric manufactures new fixtures utilizing both state-of-the-art machining and hand-made craftsmanship. Over the years, the company has expanded several times, first in 2010 – and during the height of the Great Recession – with the construction of a larger retail facility and warehouse operation. In 2012, the company launched a separate enamel production facility in Mims, which re-introduced a manufacturing process that had been absent in the American industrial sector for more than 50 years.

For more information on the company, visit [www.barnlightelectric.com](http://www.barnlightelectric.com).

### ***SPOTLIGHT ON: Aero Electronics***

Located within Titusville’s Small Business Administration “HUB Zone,” **Aero Electronics** is a manufacturer of military and aerospace cables, harnesses, and electronic assemblies. The company is AS 9100 Rev C and ISO 9001:2008 certified. Started more than 20 years ago by President/CEO Joanne Griffin, the company prides itself on designing and creating complex harness and electromechanical assemblies. It currently has a workforce of more than 20 employees, each of whom has experience in machining, metal work, and electronics – reflecting the unique labor pool that exists in Titusville and the northern part of the county.

For more information on the company, visit [www.aeroelectronics.net](http://www.aeroelectronics.net).

The Small Business Administration’s Historically Underutilized Business (or “HUB”) Zone program assists businesses located within a certain geographic area gain preferential access to Federal procurement opportunities. The SBA maintains a directory listing of all HUB Zone small businesses to help Federal agencies locate qualified vendors, thereby providing sole source contracting. Currently, the SBA has a goal of awarding 3% of all dollars for Federal prime contracts to HUB Zone-certified firms.

A map of the City of Titusville’s HUB Zone – which lies essentially east of Park Avenue in downtown Titusville – is available for viewing at the offices of the Zone. For more information on the HUB Zone program itself, visit [www.sba.gov/hubzone](http://www.sba.gov/hubzone).

## **ZONE MARKETS TRADE AREA AT ICSC EVENT**

To promote the retail market potential of the Titusville area, and support efforts for the redevelopment of the former Miracle City Mall site on U.S. 1, the Zone exhibited at the 2013 International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) Florida Conference in Orlando. The event, attended by over 2,500 retailers, real estate brokers and retail developers, has grown in recent years to become one of the largest events staged by ICSC – a testament to the retail vitality of the state. At the conference, the Zone assisted **A.G. Development Group** (the current option holder for the purchase of the former mall site) in meetings with prospective retail clients. A. G. Development Group’s plans call for the demolition of the current structure and the construction of a new 300,000 sq. ft. open-air lifestyle center, aligned along a main avenue with a theatre complex anchored at one end.

At the conference, the Zone also distributed collateral material touting key characteristics of the Titusville Trade Area (defined as a rectangular corridor extending from the Scottsmeer community to the northern portion of Cocoa). Among the statistics revealed in that analysis: a population of 145,253 living within the trade area, with an average household income of \$61,110, an average family income of \$70,489, and a median household income of \$47,762. The median home value range within the trade area was \$175,000 to \$199,999. All data material referenced was obtained from ESRI and Applied Geographic Services.

## **AVAILABLE PROPERTIES IN NORTH BREVARD COUNTY**

**45,000 sq. ft.** manufacturing/high tech facility located in Spaceport Commerce Park in Titusville. Features 5 secure computer rooms, T-6 high-speed cabling fiber optics. 121 parking spaces; employee kitchens on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors. Available for lease/purchase. Listing Agent: Michael Gaich of Michael Gaich Company; 321-453-4200.

**20,000 sq. ft.** manufacturing/office facility located on U.S. 1 near SR 405 (NASA Causeway) in Titusville. Features one truck well, one overhead door, employee cafeteria, and 140 parking spaces. Largest manufacturing space: 3,000 sq. ft. Available for lease/purchase. Listing Agent: Pat Padrick of Perone Realty; 321-452-9838.

**55,000 sq. ft.** warehousing facility located on Harrison Street in Titusville. Situated on 4.3 acres, with 14+ ceiling heights and two truck docks. Parking area can accommodate 100 vehicles. Built in 1988, previous use was retail. Available for lease/purchase. Listing Agent: Jimmy Walker of CSC Properties; 727-446-3444.

All information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.

## ABOUT NORTH BREVARD COUNTY AND THE ZONE

Located in coastal, east central Florida, North Brevard is an approximately 300-square mile area of Brevard County that includes the communities of Mims, Port St. John, Scottsmeer, and the City of Titusville. Bordered by the St. John River to the west and the Indian River Lagoon and Atlantic Ocean to the east, the region has a population of more than 145,000.

With an economy based upon a diverse mixture of aerospace, manufacturing, healthcare, boating, and tourism, the region is the home to **NASA's Kennedy Space Center** and world-class firms such as **Boeing, Lockheed-Martin, VectorWorks, and Gold Tones Musical Instruments**. More information about the North Brevard region can be found at the website for the Greater Titusville Renaissance, at [www.greatertitusville.com](http://www.greatertitusville.com).

The **North Brevard Economic Development Zone**, created in July 2011 by the Brevard County (Florida) Board of County Commissioners, is a Special Dependent District under Florida Statute, Chapter 200. The Zone was formed with the goal of facilitating job growth and economic development in the northern part of Brevard County following the end of NASA's Space Shuttle program. In that regard, the Zone seeks to provide financial assistance to businesses prepared to make a substantial capital investment in the area and create a significant number of new jobs. To view the Zone's written [Economic Development Plan](#), containing the eligibility criteria for program participation, visit [www.NBEDZ.com](http://www.NBEDZ.com). Statistical information on the area, including a database of available industrial property, is available at [www.northbrevard.org](http://www.northbrevard.org).

**THE NORTH BREVARD BUSINESS REVIEW** is published quarterly by the North Brevard Economic Development Zone. All information provided is deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Please address any comments or questions to Troy Post, CECD, at 321-960-1458, or electronically via [troy.post@brevardcounty.us](mailto:troy.post@brevardcounty.us). And for those about to rock, we salute you.



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