

North Brevard Business Review



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

Falcon Marine, a boat manufacturer that produces catamarans and high performance vessels, has acquired a grouping of vacant industrial buildings near U.S. 1 in Titusville for the creation of a manufacturing center. According to company spokesperson Mike Werner, the move to Titusville will permit the company to expand operations from a small industrial structure in Cape Canaveral to building space totaling more than 50,000 sq. ft. Falcon Marine, which has more than twenty years of experience in national and international boat racing competitions, has recently started production of high speed “interceptor” boats used by coastal nations to police boundary waters. The Space Coast Economic Development Commission (SEDC) served as project lead, with technical assistance from the Zone and the City of Titusville. To learn more about the firm, visit www.falconmarinellc.com.

Robotics & Conceptual Engineering, a division of local manufacturing firm **Zippermast**, has announced plans to expand its operations locally. The division, which designs and assembles lightweight outboard motors for military and naval patrols, was recently awarded several contracts for new outboard engines, necessitating the need for space. The expansion project is likely to create 10 new jobs in the coming months, as the company ramps up production capabilities. For more information about the company, including its division that manufactures mast systems for boats and vessels, go to www.zippermast.com.

8K Solutions, a firm engaged in the design and integration of audiovisual systems for amateur and professional sports teams, recently launched operations in downtown Titusville. The firm is led by local entrepreneur Dan Aton, who previously started and later sold a sports technology company that continues to operate in Central Florida. The new firm provides video services for teams and coaching staffs to improve player skills and prepare for competition. The company employs 8 people and works with such notable clients as the Orlando Magic, Florida Gators, ARMY, New York Giants, Golden State Warriors, and the University of Alabama. For more information, visit the firm’s website, www.8ksolutions.com.

The sports instruction industry – through products/services that analyze and improve athlete and team performance – is a growing segment of the U.S. economy. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there were 14,000 firms operating within this industry sector (NAICS 611620) in 2012 – more than double the number of firms reported in 1997. Combined, these enterprises generated revenues in excess of \$5 billion last year.

Ecklers' Industries, Inc., a manufacturer and provider of restoration parts and accessories for automobiles, has taken occupancy of its newly-constructed 180,000 sq. ft. manufacturing and distribution center, located in the Grissom Centroplex industrial park on Grissom Parkway in Titusville. The \$9.5 million project, which represents the first development in the 110-acre business park, is expected to retain approximately 150 jobs and create more than 60 jobs for the area. For more information, see www.ecklersautomotive.com.

Through its Port Authority, **Port Canaveral** officials recently announced the signing of a lease with **Flagler Global Logistics** for the construction of a new 240,000 sq. ft. distribution center at a Flagler-owned site near the Space Coast Regional Airport in Titusville; the new facility is expected to be completed within the next eight to twelve months. The structure will be designed to house multiple tenants, and will be rail-served by Flagler East Coast (FEC) Railroad, with easy access to the intermodal facility operated by Norfolk-Southern and FEC approximately one-half mile from the building site. Once completed, it will be the largest structure under roof in the City of Titusville.

A division of Flagler East Coast Industries, Flagler Global is an integrated logistics that offers a wide range of logistics services, including transportation needs, the handling of refrigerated cargo, supply chain management for industry, the use of Foreign Trade Zone status, and real estate solutions for growing businesses. To learn more, visit www.feci.com.

SPOTLIGHT ON: Warburton Music Products

Located in the community of Mims, **Warburton Music Products** is a manufacturing company that has developed a world-wide reputation for making mouthpieces and components for musical instruments. The company, which began operations more than 40 years ago in central Florida, relocated to Brevard County in 2010. Employing more than 10 people – many of whom have been with the company for more than 10 years – Warburton is known for the patented “Warburton Modular Sax Neck” system for saxophones. The company uses precision-guided CNC machining to make complete lines of mouthpieces for instruments such as the trombone, tuba, and French horn. It is also known in music circles for its technology and artisan craft in making woodwind instruments, including its famed “Woody Mute,” a device that fits inside a trumpet or trombone to give the instrument a unique sound. To learn more about the company or its line of products, visit www.warburton.com.

FUN FACT: What do jazz greats Charles McNeal and Plas Johnson have in common? They both use Warburton mouthpieces when playing the saxophone, of course.

LOCAL HOME SALES AND PRICES CONTINUE TO CLIMB

As reported in newspaper daily, Florida Today, Brevard County continues to show improvement in the housing market, with home prices in 2013 rising more than 19% over the previous year. The statistics, released by the statewide trade association for real estate agents, **Florida Realtors**, can be viewed at <http://on.flatoday.com/1tfflce>.

FACEBOOK NAME CHANGE REFLECTS NEW FOCUS

“SAVE SPACE,” a movement started several years ago in Brevard County by local officials to build support for NASA funding of space missions – thereby maintaining the importance and role of Kennedy Space Center in deep space exploration – recently celebrated the successful launch of “Orion Exploration Flight Test 1.” The un-crewed test flight on December 5th helped NASA test systems critical to crew safety, such as heat shield performance, rocket separation events, avionics, and recovery operations. Orion will eventually take humans to Mars.



NASA's Orion Spacecraft, lifting from Launch Pad 37 A at Kennedy Space Center (Photo: NASA)

With Congress and the nation now committed to continued space exploration, the local movement's Facebook page is changing to “CELEBRATE SPACE.” Over time, posts on what is occurring within the space industry will be “celebrated” and featured – from NASA's commercial crew (involving private sector firms **SpaceX** and **Boeing**) to deep space exploration, and the impact that these programs will have on the North Brevard economy.

“Like us” on Facebook at [CELEBRATE SPACE](#).

NEW BREWHOUSE LEADS NUMBER OF BUILDING RENOVATIONS

With crowds overflowing onto the sidewalks along U.S. Hwy 1 in downtown Titusville this past November, the new **Playalinda Brewing Company** craft beer pub celebrated its grand opening. The project, which takes its name from North Brevard's famed Playalinda Beach in the Canaveral National Seashore, is the brainchild of Titusville resident Bryan Scott and certified brewmaster Ron Raiké, and represents a significant capital investment in both downtown and a 100-year-old building that once housed a Sherwin Williams Paint dealership and hardware store. The operation is projected to employ more than 10 people and will feature fifteen house brewed beers, including two flagship brands - Bottomless Blonde Ale and Rocket Man Red Ale. Visit the firm's website at www.playalindabrewingcompany.com.

In addition to the Playalinda project, downtown has witnessed several other building renovations in recent months, including one for **Florida Blue (Blue Cross/Blue Shield)** on U.S. Hwy 1 and one for **Popped Perfections**, a new gourmet popcorn retailer on Hopkins Street.

AVAILABLE PROPERTIES IN NORTH BREVARD COUNTY

29,750 sq. ft. metal industrial building on U.S. Hwy 1, south of State Hwy 50. Ceiling heights of 21' on eaves. Approximately 20-25 parking spaces in building rear. Formerly used by Ecklers Industries. Building features 3-phase power; front and rear loading docks. Available for lease. Listing Agent: Don Anthony at 321-432-2904.

25,505 sq. ft. metal industrial building on U.S. Hwy 1, next to Ecklers Industries office complex; 15" eave height. Approximately 20-25 parking spaces. Building has 3-phase power and front and rear loading docks. Building available for lease. Listing Agent: Don Anthony at 321-432-2904.

All information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.

ABOUT NORTH BREVARD AND THE ZONE

Located in coastal, east central Florida, the region known as “North Brevard” is an approximately 200-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’s 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, VectorWorks, and Gold Tones Musical Instruments**. Statistical information is available at www.NorthBrevard.biz.

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, Chapters 125 and 189. 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, and seeks to provide financial assistance to businesses prepared to invest 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.

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, but don’t send any fruitcake this year for the holidays.



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