

# North Brevard Business Review



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

**Praxair, Inc.**, a worldwide provider of industrial gases and surface coatings, has announced plans to make a significant capital investment at its Mims facility in North Brevard. Praxair services the aerospace, aviation, and manufacturing industry sectors. The company plans to spend approximately \$27 million on new equipment and repairs, and an estimated \$11 million in facility improvements on an adjoining parcel of land. The Mims plant, which currently employs more than 15 people, is expected to add 8 new jobs, once construction on the facility and the installation of equipment is complete.

Praxair is considered the largest industrial gases company in the Western Hemisphere, and offers expertise and service in cleaning, purging, and inspection of piping and storage tanks. As of 2017, the company employed more than 26,000 people, and generated revenue of \$11.4 billion. For more information on the firm, visit [www.praxair.com](http://www.praxair.com).

**Commander Innovation**, an applied research, development, and manufacturing company based in Detroit, was recently awarded a multi-million dollar contract by a branch of the U.S. Department of Defense to retro-fit sports utility vehicles with modifications to permit use in hostile regions across the globe. Most the contract will be fulfilled using a manufacturing facility in the North Brevard community of Sharpes. While not intended for battle-prone areas, the vehicles would nonetheless be used in places where threats exist to contract service personnel. The firm, which will use the Sharpes facility for the modification and assembly work, is also working on improved battery protection systems in vehicles. Founded in Michigan, the company provides engineering and consulting services to the automotive and aerospace industry, in addition to the military. For more information on the company, visit [www.CommanderInnovation.com](http://www.CommanderInnovation.com)

**Woodgrain Distribution**, a Georgia-based distributor of millwork products for residential and commercial building, has started construction on a new 80,000 sq. ft. distribution facility near Grissom Parkway in Titusville's Spaceport Commerce Park. The new structure is expected to cost over \$2 million. Woodgrain, which promotes the use of renewable timber, operates distribution sites in six states. The company employs approximately 15-20 people locally, but expects to add new positions to its local workforce, once construction of the new facility is completed in Spring 2019.

Founded in 1954, Woodgrain Distribution has leveraged vertical integration of its supply chain to become one of the largest millwork companies in the world. To learn more about this firm, visit [www.WoodgrainDistribution.com](http://www.WoodgrainDistribution.com)

Construction has been completed on the 25,000 sq. ft. **Palm Point Behavioral Health Center**, a new health facility expected to open this autumn. The 80-bed facility was built at a cost of approximately \$10 million, and is expected to employ more than 100 medical technicians and support staff once fully operational. The facility will operate under the auspices of Universal Health Services, Inc. ([www.uhsinc.com](http://www.uhsinc.com)), which manages approximately 350 similar facilities across the United States and Great Britain, employing more than 83,000 people. For more information on Palm Point, visit the agency's website at: [www.PalmPointBehavioral.com](http://www.PalmPointBehavioral.com).

Construction is now complete on the new 38,000 sq. ft. **Astro Pak** facility on Grissom Parkway, in the Spaceport Commerce Park. The California-based company, which provides precision cleaning and passivation services (applications to make products less affected or corroded by environmental factors), purchased the former call center and light manufacturing building in 2017 and spent an estimated \$3 million on interior improvements, including the construction and erection of a 70' tall tower for chemical hose processing. The building is also intended to serve as the company's eastern U.S. headquarters. Company officials forecast the creation of 17 new jobs, once the facility is fully operational.

Astro Park was founded in 1959, and services the aerospace and defense industry markets, along with manufacturing clients in the medical device, semiconductor, and bio-pharmaceutical industry sectors. The company is privately-held and headquartered in Costa Mesa, Arizona. For more details on the firm, visit: [www.AstroPak.com](http://www.AstroPak.com).

According to the newspaper [Florida Today](#), the State of Florida, through its Space Florida economic development agency, recently approved the provision of \$18 million in funding from the Florida Department of Transportation to help induce additional capital expenditures by commercial aerospace leaders **Blue Origin** and **SpaceX**. Blue Origin, the Kent, Washington-based aerospace firm, recently completed construction on its new 600,000 sq. ft. rocket manufacturing and refurbishment complex in North Brevard; the company expects to employ over 300 people at that Exploration Park facility, located outside the gate of NASA's Kennedy Space Center. SpaceX has secured 67 acres at Kennedy Space Center for the construction of a 133,000 sq. ft. hangar and a launch/control tower, projected to stand over 300 feet tall. For more information on these companies, visit: [www.BlueOrigin.com](http://www.BlueOrigin.com) and [www.SpaceX.com](http://www.SpaceX.com).

## **MAG AEROSPACE ACQUIRES NASS**

MAG Aerospace, a Fairfax, Virginia-based firm that provides intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) services for military and commercial customers worldwide, recently acquired the Titusville-based company, North American Surveillance Company (NASS). The acquisition added over 75 aircraft intergration, modification, and MRO (maintenance, repair, and operating) professionals to MAG, increasing its technical services and intergration capabilities. The acquisition is not expected to

impact employment at the Titusville location. More information on MAG and the company's services can be found at [www.MagAero.com](http://www.MagAero.com).

### **SPOTLIGHT ON: Truss Wood**

With a strengthening homebuilding sector in North Brevard, Titusville-based **Truss Wood** seems poised for growth. Located on Bobbi Lane in the South Street Business District, Truss Wood builds and distributes roofing and flooring trusses to homebuilders throughout Central Florida. Since its start in 1999, the company has applied environmentally sensitive or "green" standards to its processes; it has also applied those standards to materials purchased from suppliers, which include ITW Building Components Group and USP Connectors. Recently, Truss Wood was recognized by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) as an OSHA Safety & Health Achievement Recognition Program (or, "SHARP") recipient, a program established by the federal agency to recognize companies that have used OSHA's on-site consultation services, and operate exemplary safety and health programs for their employees. Locally, Truss Wood employs more than 20 people. To learn more about this North Brevard company, visit: [www.TrussWood.net](http://www.TrussWood.net).

Truss Wood is just one of several industrial companies located on or near State Road 405, in an area known as the "South Street Business District." The district includes a diverse array of business, from pump distributors to boat builders. For more information on this business district and available properties located in the area, schedule a meeting with NBEDZ staff via [www.NBEDZ.org](http://www.NBEDZ.org).

### **STUDENTS COMPETE FOR NORTH BREVARD APPRENTICESHIPS AT IMTS**

In early September, select post-secondary education students from across the nation competed for coveted apprenticeships at some of North Brevard's leading aerospace firms (such as **OneWeb Satellites** and **RUAG Space Systems**) at the International Manufacturing Technology Show (IMTS). IMTS officials were anticipating more than 115,000 attendees, and exhibits from more than 2,400 companies and institutional partners, at this year's show. The apprenticeship opportunities, sponsored by the Space Coast Apprenticeship Consortium, will be awarded based upon student performance in several competition areas at the show, testing their skill and aptitude. For more information on the show, or the consortium, contact program coordinator Bryan Kamm at [www.bkammconsulting.com](http://www.bkammconsulting.com).

### **ECONOMIC DASHBOARD**

The unemployment rate for the City of Titusville rose slightly over the summer from the last quarter reported (March 2018); according to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, the city's unemployment rate for July 2018 was 4% (not seasonally adjusted data), up from 3.9% in March. However, unemployment totals continue to hover around the lowest levels posted in the aftermath of the Great Recession (2009-2011). In addition, the city's total civilian labor force size, of 21,213, represented a workforce increase of almost 2.3% over numbers posted in the spring – reflecting more job opportunities in the local market.

For Brevard County, the unemployment rate was 3.9% (10,754 persons unemployed, out of a total civilian work force of 275,667), which also witnessed its total labor force size increase. Florida's unemployment rate was 4%, reflecting a total of 9,910,000 persons employed, and 408,000 persons classified as unemployed. For additional information on key economic statistics on the north Brevard area, please contact NBEDZ staff via [www.NBEDZ.org](http://www.NBEDZ.org).

## AVAILABLE INDUSTRIAL BUILDING

**29,750 sq. ft.** metal industrial building on U.S. Highway 1, south of State Highway 50. Ceiling heights of 16' 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 or purchase. Listing agent: Lightle Beckner Robison. Contact info: 321-722-0707, or [www.teamlbr.com](http://www.teamlbr.com).

**25,505 sq. ft.** metal industrial building on U.S. Highway 1, next to former headquarters building of Ecklers Industries. 16' eave height. Approximately 20 parking spaces, also 3-phase power and front and rear loading docks. Building available for lease or purchase. Listing agent: Lightle Beckner Robison. Contact info: 321-722-0707, or [www.teamlbr.com](http://www.teamlbr.com).

## 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, Scottsmoor, 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 mixture of aerospace, manufacturing, healthcare, boating, and tourism, the region is the home to **NASA's** famed **Kennedy Space Center** and to world-class firms such as **Boeing, Barn Light Electric, Blue Origin, Embraer S.A., VectorWorks,** and **Gold Tones Musical Instruments**. Information about the region's "quality of life" is available at [www.greatertitusville.com](http://www.greatertitusville.com).

The **North Brevard Economic Development Zone (NBEDZ)**, created in July 2011 by the Brevard County (Florida) Board of County Commissioners, is a Special Dependent District under Florida Statutes, 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. In that regard, the Zone seeks to provide 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](#) and eligibility criteria for program participation, visit [www.NBEDZ.com](http://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, CBE, at 321-960-1458, or electronically via [troy.post@brevardcounty.us](mailto:troy.post@brevardcounty.us), but only if there's not a full moon that night, and you have an ample supply of Wolfsbane.



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