

This month's product promotions, company news and more.



A GMS COMPANY

"We deliver drywall but we sell service."

Dick Mueller
Co-Founder of GMS

Welcome to the December edition of **"Gator Gypsum News Bytes."** We're glad to connect with you again!

Clearwater Counter Day A Success

Thank you to all of the Gator Gypsum customers who joined us for Counter Day at our Clearwater yard on Thursday, November 17! Lunch for our guests was served from the Korean Gastropub foodtruck, seen in the picture at right taken before the event began.

Attendees shared lunch and company, and had the opportunity to meet vendor representatives and see innovative new products and equipment.



We are extremely thankful and grateful to serve the best clients in Florida - and to have the chance to show our appreciation!

Gator Gypsum Holiday Hours

Gator Gypsum will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, as well as the Saturdays preceding each of these holidays (December 23 and December 30), in order to allow our employees time off to enjoy the holidays with their families.

Each of us at Gator Gypsum wish a happy holiday season to you and your family!

Regional News: Water Street Tampa Moves One Step Closer to Reality

The proposed 50-acre-plus Water Street Tampa development on the downtown waterfront got a boost last month when the Hillsborough County legislative delegation voted to support creating a commercial improvement district for the \$3 billion project.



The proposed improvement district would collect assessments from commercial property owners to help underwrite and maintain amenities throughout the district. A bill to create the district has been drafted, and on November 3 the legislative delegation supported it with a unanimous vote.

Plans for Water Street Tampa include more than 2 million square feet of new office space, 1 million square feet of new retail, cultural,

educational, and entertainment space, two new hotels, about 3,500 apartments or condominiums and a new building for the University of South Florida's Morsani College of Medicine and Health Heart Institute.

[Read the full article.](#)

Product Spotlight: Sequentia FRP

Gator Gypsum is a stocking distributor of Sequentia FRP (fiberglass reinforced plastic) panels, manufactured by Crane Composites. These panels are useful in many different building areas. They are an ideal alternative to ceramic tile in bathrooms and kitchens, due to lower cost, easier installation, moisture resistance, and durability. FRP is abuse and stain resistant, which makes it a good choice for maintenance rooms, hallways, and storage areas. These panels also work well for residential garages.



Many different trades can install FRP panels, from general contractors to subcontractors to do-it-yourselfers. The installation is relatively easy and Gator Gypsum carries all of the trim pieces and adhesive products needed to complete the job.

FRP panels are now available in a wide range of colors, patterns, and textures. Gator Gypsum stocks white, almond, gray, and black, but we can order your choice of other colors and patterns. [Contact our product specialists for more information and pricing.](#) We are always eager to help!

Regional News: New Alachua County Fairgrounds Construction Set to Begin

The path for construction of the new \$29 million Alachua County Fairgrounds has been cleared now that the County Commission has approved the budget for the 2018 fiscal year. Kail Partners of Gainesville was recommended to the Commission to serve as the architects and engineers for the project.

The new fairgrounds will be built on part of a 100 acre parcel north of the Leveda Brown Environmental Park Transfer Station off Northeast 53rd Avenue and Waldo Road. Most of the cost will be covered by a bond issue funded through the county's tourism development bed tax, said Gina Peebles, Assistant County Manager for Administrative and Community Services. The county has also submitted a grant proposal to the Florida Department of Agriculture to help pay for the project.

An economic impact study done by the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences estimates that the new fairgrounds will generate \$50 million in economic activity during construction, which Peebles said will take about 18 months to complete. Once completed, the study projects that the new fairground facilities will have a \$5 million annual impact on the local economy.

[Read the full story.](#)

Talk Tools with JT

Every month, JT Warchol, Purchasing Agent at our Clearwater yard, highlights a different tool designed to make your work faster, easier, and more efficient.



Do you remember times working late night to finish the job, with your only source of light a do-it-yourself setup or a halogen kit that never stood straight up, and was really hot to the touch?

Dewalt has introduced a stackable corded/cordless LED area light with tool connection capability and a built-in battery pack charger. This unique tool comes with Bluetooth technology and is a great solution for a poorly-lit job site. The unit provides up to 7,000 lumens of illumination and provides a safer work environment free of extension cords, with an LED light source that always remains cool to the touch.



With adjustable dimming and right/left control, this wonderful addition to your tool collection will make those late nights seem brighter. I highly recommend this product to all of my customers.

Showcase Tool: Dewalt DCL07020V Max Tool Connect Corded/Cordless LED Area Light

The Max Tool Connect LED Area Light offers maximum light - and maximum flexibility. Plug it in, or use a Dewalt 20V MAX or FLEXVOLT battery to power the light. When plugged in, you can use it to recharge batteries, and the integrated AC outlet allows you to plug in corded power tools without running a separate extension cord. The unit also pairs with your mobile device through Dewalt's free ToolConnect mobile app, which allows remote control of the light from your phone while on the job and location tracking of the unit, to help you manage your tool inventory. Multiple units stack easily for storage.

For more information about this great addition to your collection of tools, [consult the product page on the Dewalt website](#) for features, specifications, and a video demonstration. Or [visit your local Gator Gypsum yard](#) for a hands-on look at the Dewalt Max Tool Connect Corded/Cordless LED Area Light.

Regional News: Marriott's Disney Swan and Dolphin Resort Planning Expansion

Height balloons spotted in Disney's Fantasia Gardens mini-golf course parking lot in June sparked rumors of a new hotel tower that have now been confirmed. A recent article in the Orlando Sentinel mentions that Coastal Construction Group is handling the expansion of the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort.

The initial mention of the project stated that the expansion would entail a 350-room tower, small in comparison to the Swan with 756 rooms and the Dolphin with 1,509 rooms. The development marks the



fourth hotel tower currently in planning or construction for Walt Disney World.

The Star Wars hotel slated for construction nearby is expected to have 400 rooms at opening, with around 1,000 when the build-out is completed. Three other hotel towers are currently under construction - one adjacent to Disney's Coronado Springs will have 500 rooms in 15 stories, one being built at the former Disney Caribbean Beach Resort will have 300 suites and be known as the Disney Riviera Resort, and another 516-room, 16-story Marriott hotel is being built in the Bonnet Creek development.

To date there has been no official confirmation on the expansion at the Swan and Dolphin Resort, but it is expected to be open before Walt Disney World's 50th anniversary in 2021.

[Read the full article from Orlando Weekly.](#)

Sarasota Showroom Gets a New Look

The showroom at Gator Gypsum's Sarasota yard recently got a facelift, thanks to a display reorganization and reset by Sarasota employee Andrew Fonseca. The results of Andrew's work can be seen at right.

The newly reorganized showroom not only looks great - it also makes products easier to find and see. Thanks from all of us at Gator Gypsum to Andrew for a job well done!



2017 Year-to-Date Review Shows Strong Job Growth in Tampa and State

In terms of employment and job growth, 2017 has been a good year for Florida, the Tampa Bay area, and the construction industry.

As of November 17, Florida ranked sixth in the nation for new job creation this year, and Forbes projects strong continued job growth, with four Florida metro areas ranked in the top 10 areas nationally with the highest projected job growth rates over the next three years. The projection, based on data from Moody's Analytics, predicts a 3.2% annual growth rate for Orlando, 2.7% for North Port, and 2.5% each for Jacksonville and Ocala. These projected annual job growth rates are two to three times greater than the average projected annual growth rate for all U.S. metro areas of 1.2%.

Though Tampa isn't included in that list, growth in the Tampa Bay region has been robust this year. Unemployment in the area has dropped from 5.1% in January to 3.3% in October, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data. By comparison, the state as a whole saw a drop in unemployment from 5% in January to 3.6% in October. There has been an increase of around 250,000 jobs statewide through October of this year, and almost 50,000 of those - 20% - have been in the BLS region encompassing Tampa, Clearwater, and St. Petersburg.

The construction industry in Florida has also fared well over the past year. Statewide, over 21,000 new construction jobs were added in January through October of 2017, an increase of 7.4% over industry jobs in the state in October of 2016. The Tampa region saw an increase of 7.5% in construction jobs over October of 2016, with 3,200 new construction jobs added through the end of October this year.

The tech, biotech, IT, and e-commerce sectors have posted strong employment gains in the Tampa area this year as well. For more information on growth statistics in these and other employment sectors in the Tampa region, [read the full article.](#)

For more information about Gator Gypsum, including our services and product offerings, [visit our website](#).

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With seven yard locations across Florida.