



Good Morning!

This past week I was reminded how precious life is and how blessed we are to have such wonderful friends to support us. Last weekend my husband, Dr. Robert Scaringe, was injured in a car accident. Thanks to great medical care, as well as the love and prayers we have received, he is expected to make a full recovery. Thank you all for your support and prayers of healing.

"Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom His love entrusts me here, ever this day be at my side to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen."

Florida Forever Acquisitions

Governor Ron DeSantis and the Florida Cabinet recently approved the acquisition of 57 acres on Fish Island within the Northeast Florida Blueway Florida Forever project.

The property is one of the last remaining undeveloped waterfront properties in the City of St. Augustine. Preservation of this important ecologically and historically rich parcel is vital for the protection of coastal wetlands that serve as nurseries for fisheries and maritime hammock and are essential for storm and ground water protection.

Additionally, 717 acres within the Wakulla Springs Protection Zone was acquired through the Florida Forever program to protect water quality within the Wakulla Springs Basin.

Wakulla Springs, located south of Tallahassee, is one of the largest and deepest artesian springs in the world and is largely protected by a state park and state forest lands. The caverns that feed the springs spread far to the north and west. The Wakulla Springs Protection Zone Florida Forever project is designed to protect the spring shed of Wakulla Springs and the land above the conduits that feed the springs. The property features 300 acres of longleaf pine trees and karst windows that directly connect to a unique network of underground cave systems forming the aquifer system of Wakulla Springs.

Florida Forever is the state's conservation and recreation lands acquisition program, a blueprint for conserving our natural resources and renewing our commitment to conserve our natural and cultural heritage.

There is approximately \$122 million remaining in the Florida Forever Trust Fund. This year the Florida Legislature invested an additional \$33 million in the Florida Forever program to ensure the protection of our environment and natural resources for generations to come.

District 17 Highlights

Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship Program

The first graduating class of the Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship Program (SCCAP) was greeted by Governor Ron DeSantis this past week at OneWeb Satellites in Merritt Island.

"My administration is dedicated to expanding valuable workforce education programs and hands-on learning opportunities across our state," said Governor DeSantis. "These students have a tremendous opportunity to develop new skills and compete for high paying jobs in today's modern industries."

The SCCAP offers apprenticeship opportunities in occupations such as mechatronics technician, advanced CNC machinist and fiber composite technician. The program is a partnership with Eastern Florida State College, OneWeb Satellites, RAUG Space, Rocket Crafters and Knights Armament.

It is important to utilize apprenticeships and other work-based learning programs to adequately develop and prepare our workforce talent pipeline to meet the demands of the growing industries in our community.

Indian River County Back to School Immunizations

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) in Indian River County is offering immunizations for grades K-12.

Back-to-School Immunization Clinic
August 7th, 8th and 9th
8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
1900 27th Street, Vero Beach

"New and transferring students, kindergarten students and those entering seventh grade are required to have immunizations before the first day of school," said Miranda Hawker, DOH Indian River County Administrator. The first day of school in Indian River County is Monday, August 12th.

For more information, please visit Indianriver.floridahealth.gov or call (772) 794-7400.

Brevard 2-1-1 Disaster Volunteer Orientation

Brevard 2-1-1 is looking for volunteers and will be hosting a Disaster Volunteer Orientation on Saturday, August 10th from 9:00 AM to 10:30 PM at 1746 Cedar St in Rockledge.

Topics will include an introduction to Brevard County Emergency Management (BCEM), data from previous storm responses, demonstration of technology, and stories from seasoned staff or volunteers.

2-1-1 Brevard is a nonprofit community information helpline that connects people on Florida's Space Coast to services by providing crisis intervention, information, or referrals to community services. The hotline is a partnership of BCEM and 2-1-1 Brevard, which operates 24 hours a day before, during and after a storm. More than 50 volunteers assisted during Hurricane Irma. For more information or to sign up visit [Eventbrite](#).

Opening of Indian River County North Office

This past week Indian River County celebrated the grand opening of their new North County Office. The newly renovated space provides residents with access to the County Utilities Department, Veterans Services, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, and Clerk of the Court in one convenient location.

This new site is located at 1921 US Highway 1 in Sebastian, next to Mattress Firm. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For more information please call (772) 226-1338.

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