



Good Morning!

It is so heartwarming to hear the many inspiring stories of how members of our community are doing their part to support others through this unprecedented public health crisis.

A student from Stone Magnet Middle School in Melbourne making face shields with a home 3D printer to donate to medical field personnel. Robert Doerr Upholstery in Sebastian making non-medical face masks for local residents in need. Airon Corporation in Melbourne quadrupling the production of life-saving ventilators with the help of the Space Coast Economic Development Corporation and other Brevard-based manufacturers sourcing and providing needed parts. Piper Aircraft in Vero Beach donating N95 masks to Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital and now producing face shields for medical personnel.

I encourage you to continue your efforts to support one another, while helping reduce the spread of COVID-19. Please practice social distancing, cover your mouth and nose with a face cover when you are around others, and wash your hands often. We will get through this together.

For updates regarding COVID-19, please text FLCOVID19 to 888777 or visit the Florida Department of Health's dedicated webpage at [FloridaHealthCOVID19.gov](https://www.floridahealth.gov/covid-19).

I consider it a great honor to represent District 17. Please share this link with your friends and family so that they too can sign up for the Mayfield Minute.

If you or someone you know needs my assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office. My staff and I are here to serve you!

Remembering the First Lady of Vero Beach

I am sad to report that our community has lost a great friend and a dedicated public servant. The "First Lady of Vero Beach" Alma Lee Loy passed away on Good Friday at the age of 90.

Alma Lee owned and operated Alma Lee's Children's Clothing Center for more than 40 years. As a passionate supporter of youth education, she was an instrumental supporter of the Gifford Youth Orchestra, the McKee Botanical Garden and the Indian River State College Foundation.

In the first of her appointments by Florida Governors, Alma Lee was named by Governor Farris in 1964 to serve as an original member of the Florida Commission on the Status of Women, and then later named by Governor Burns to the Florida Association of Women's



Safety Leaders. She also served on the original board of the Indian River Memorial Hospital, now known as the Indian River Medical Center, and later was appointed by Governor Crist to serve on the Indian River County Hospital District board.

Elected in 1968, she was the first woman to serve on the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners. Among her many affiliations Alma Lee has served as President of the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Merchants Association, and the United Way of Indian River County.

Alma Lee has worked consistently to expand opportunities for local residents, and her efforts have been recognized in the naming of the Wabasso Beach County Park, the Alma Lee Loy Chamber of Commerce building, and the 17th Street Bridge that spans the Indian River Lagoon.

Alma Lee Loy was a great friend, mentor and community leader and while I will miss her greatly, her memory lives all around us.

Florida Reemployment Assistance Update

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) recently provided an update on the efforts being made to enhance the Reemployment Assistance program and CONNECT portal accessibility. This includes:

- Governor Ron DeSantis signed Executive Order 20-104, formally directing DEO to waive job search requirements for claimants. This means that individuals that apply for assistance are not required to submit to DEO information on the number of employers they contact each week. He has also lifted a requirement that people qualifying for unemployment benefits must wait a week before their first checks are sent.
- The Florida Department of Management Services (DMS) Secretary Johnathan Satter was appointed by the Governor to take lead on the COVID-19 response at DEO. As head of DMS, which oversees the division of state technology, Secretary Satter had already been heavily involved in addressing the complex technical components facing our state's reemployment portal.
- DEO will be conducting nightly maintenance to the CONNECT system to help with processing claims. CONNECT will be unavailable from 8 p.m. – 8 a.m. daily. Individuals who need to certify their weeks should sign-on to CONNECT between 8 a.m. and 7:59 p.m. during their scheduled reporting time to ensure their claims are processed on time. Please note that this will not affect individuals that are filing a new claim. Individuals can file a new claim 24 hour a day, seven days per week at FloridaJobs.org/RAApplication

As part of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (H.R. 748 - CARES Act) that was recently passed, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) will provide unemployment benefits to those that may not otherwise be eligible for regular Reemployment Assistance benefits. This includes individuals who are self-employed or independent contractors. DEO will be providing more information on PUA and how to apply in the coming week.

As always, please contact me if I can assist you in anyway. My staff and I stand ready to help.

College Student Assistance

Thank you to those that have reached out seeking resources for college students that are being affected due to disruptions caused by the Coronavirus.

The [US Department of Education](https://www.ed.gov/) recently announced that more than \$6 billion will be distributed to colleges and universities through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Half of the funding is to be used to provide direct emergency cash grants to college students whose lives and education have been disrupted by the coronavirus outbreak. This includes things like course materials and technology as well as food, housing, health care, and childcare. The other half of the funding may be used by the universities to cover costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to coronavirus.

I encourage any student that is in need of assistance to continue to check their college or university website for updates on the status of the Federal Aid program that will be offered.

IRS Distributes Economic Impact Payments

Economic Impact Payments began being distributed by the IRS this past week to individuals and families as part of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (H.R. 748 - CARES Act).

Eligible taxpayers who filed tax returns for either 2019 or 2018 will automatically receive an economic impact payment of up to \$1,200 for individuals or \$2,400 for married couples. Parents will also receive \$500 for each qualifying child. There is no action required for most people, however some taxpayers who typically do not file returns will need to submit a tax return to receive the funds.

You can check the status of your Economic Impact Payment on the new "[Get My Payment](#)" portal. Those that did not use direct deposit on their last tax return will also be able to utilize the portal to input information so that they may also receive the payment by direct deposit into their bank account, expediting receipt.

To utilize this portal to track the status of your payment, you will need to enter basic information including your social security number, date of birth and mailing address use on your last tax return.

For additional information, please visit the IRS website at [IRS.Gov/Coronavirus](#).

Brevard County COVID-19 Update

This past week Brevard County Commissioners adopted a proclamation requesting businesses implement the following Center for Disease Control (CDC) social distancing standards as part of their day to day operations:

- All employees and patrons are to practice social distancing by staying at least six feet apart.
- Group meetings, trainings, and other gatherings are to be limited to 10 persons or less.
- Occupancy should be limited to no more than 30 percent of the maximum allowable capacity under the fire code for non-residential, non-medical, and non-lodging uses.
- Business should install appropriate signage, floor markings, or such other means as may be necessary to remind customers and employees of the importance of social distancing at entry and exit points, checkout points, and staging areas.

Health First recently announced that beginning on Monday, April 20th they will be providing free drive-up COVID-19 tests for Brevard County's First Responders. Testing will be available Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at their facility located at 1223 Gateway Drive in Melbourne. First Responders must first call (321) 434-3131 to schedule a drive-up appointment.



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