



Good Morning!

This past week Representative Tyler Sirois and I hosted a roundtable discussion with environmental experts and advocates to discuss ways we can protect and improve water quality in Florida's treasured waters.



Thank you to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program, Indian River County, Brevard County, St. John's Riverkeeper, Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition, Clean Water Coalition of Indian River County and Florida's Onsite Wastewater Association for sharing your knowledge and offering pathways to restore our waterways.

I look forward to continue working with my colleagues and constituents to address this issue as we head into the 2020 Legislative Session.

I consider it a great honor to represent all of the citizens and visitors of 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!

Back to School Sales Tax Holiday

During the 2019 Session, the Florida Legislature re-authorized our five-day "back-to-school" sales tax holiday so that families can enjoy savings on necessary school supplies.

From August 2nd - August 6th, Florida law directs that no sales tax will be collected on the following purchases:

- Clothing, footwear, and certain accessories selling for \$60 or less per item.
- Certain school supplies selling for \$15 or less per item.
- Personal computers and certain computer-related accessories selling for \$1,000 or less per item, when purchased for noncommercial home or personal use.

For more information on this sales tax holiday and specific items that qualify, please visit the [Florida Department of Revenue site](#).

Blue Green Algae Task Force

This past Session, Governor Ron DeSantis set forth his bold vision to ensure the protection of Florida's environment and water resources. As part of his Executive Order, Governor DeSantis established the Blue Green Algae Task Force.

The focus of the Blue-Green Algae Task Force is to support key funding and restoration initiatives, and make recommendations to expedite nutrient reductions in Lake Okeechobee and the downstream estuaries. The Task Force will identify opportunities to fund priority projects that build upon DEP's Basin Management Action Plans. The Task Force will also review and prioritize projects that will provide the largest and most meaningful pollutant reductions in key waterways.

The Blue-Green Algae Task Force will be hosting a meeting on **Thursday, August 1st** from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute in the Johnson Education Center (5600 US 1 North, Fort Pierce).

The meeting is open to the public. For those that cannot attend, the meeting will be streamed live online. To view the agenda and additional information about the Task Force please visit [FloridaDEP.gov](#).

Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts 2019 Grant Cycle

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection Division of State Lands will be accepting applications for the Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts (SMWW) Florida Forever grant program. This program was created by the 2008 Florida Legislature and is obviously near and dear to my heart.

The program acknowledges the importance of traditional seafood harvesting and aquaculture industries in Florida. The SMWW program provides grants to local governments and nonprofit working waterfronts organizations for the acquisition of interests in land for the restoration and preservation of working waterfronts. Grant funds may also be used to acquire lands to promote and educate the public about the historic heritage of Florida's traditional working waterfronts.

The grant application cycle will open on August 5, 2019, and the deadline to submit applications is September 20, 2019. Approximately \$2.77 million is available for SMWW grants in this application cycle.

In conjunction with the opening of the 2019-20 application cycle, Florida Communities Trust will hold an application workshop on August 6, 2019, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the DEP Southwest District Office, 13051 North Telecom Parkway, Suite 101, in Temple Terrace, Florida. The purpose of the workshop is to help potential applicants navigate the application process. The workshop is free and will be available via Skype for those who are unable to attend in person.

For additional information or to download a copy of the grant application, please visit [FCT Florida Communities Trust](#).

District 17 Highlights

FDOT Public Meeting: Babcock Street PD&E Study

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will be hosting a public meeting to discuss the Babcock Street/C.R. 507 Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study.

[FDOT Public Meeting: Babcock Street PD&E Study](#)

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Knights of Columbus

6725 Babcock Street SE, Malabar

The PD&E Study will address capacity and safety issues on a nine mile stretch of Babcock Street/CR 507, from south of Micco Road/Deer Run Road to Malabar Road/SR 514. Following the meeting, FDOT will consider all input received and decide if they will advance an alternative. Alternatives being considered include:

- Widening Babcock St from two to four lanes.
- Adding pedestrian features such as shoulders and sidewalks.
- Adding bicycle lanes.
- Improving intersections at cross streets and adding safety improvements such as pedestrian signals.
- Implementing access management features like median openings and signals.
- The No-Build or "do nothing" alternative is also being considered.

The meeting will be an informal open house format, during which attendees may view project information, speak with FDOT team members to learn more about the project and provide input. Information about this project is also available online on the [FDOT District Five website](#). If you have additional questions please contact FDOT at (386) 943-5392 or email lorena.cucek@dot.state.fl.us.

Back to School Giveaway Events in Indian River County

Two organizations in Indian River County will be hosting their Annual Back to School Giveaway events to provide free backpacks and school supplies for families in need.

[Gifford Youth Achievement Center 21st Annual School Supply Giveaway](#)

Saturday, August 3rd at 9:00 AM

4875 43rd Avenue, Vero Beach

(772) 794-1005

[Operation Hope](#)

Saturday, August 3rd at 1:00 PM

12285 County Road 512, Fellsmere
(772) 571-0003

The child must be present at the event to receive services and school supplies. There are many ways members of our community can help make these events successful. Whether you collect school supplies to donate, make a financial contribution, or volunteer, your involvement can help put supplies into the hands of students in need in our community.

Follow me on Facebook and Twitter, and visit my [Senate website](#)



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