



Good Morning!

Today is National Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day. Few know the honor of service and the costs of war more than Gold Star mothers and families. They have given our Nation their most precious treasure, and we remain forever in their debt.

The history of Gold Star mothers and their families began when Army Captain Robert L. Queissner, whose two sons were serving on the front line during World War I, created what is now called the Service Flag. The flag was displayed with a blue star to represent a child serving in the military during times of war or hostilities. When a service member died, families stitched a gold star over the blue star.

On June 23, 1936, a joint congressional resolution designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mother's Day, a holiday that has been observed each year since.

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!

Florida Moves to Phase 3 of Recovery

Our state has done a great job of flattening the curve by practicing social distancing and following local health recommendations. In working with medical experts, Governor Ron DeSantis recently issued Executive Order 20-244, moving all 67 counties into Phase 3 of the Safe, Smart, Step-by-Step Plan for Florida's Recovery.

Executive Order 20-244 does the following:

- Removes state-level restrictions on businesses, such as restaurants.
- Provides that no COVID-19 emergency ordinance may prevent an individual from working or operating a business, giving Floridians and business owners needed certainty and the ability to provide for themselves and their families.
- Provides that restaurants may not be limited by a COVID-19 emergency order by any local government to less than 50% of their indoor capacity. If a restaurant is limited to less than 100% of its indoor capacity, such COVID-19 emergency order must satisfy the following:
 - Quantify the economic impact of each limitation or requirements on those restaurants; and
 - Explain why each limitation or requirement is necessary for public health.
- Suspends all outstanding fines and penalties, and the collection of such moving forward, applied against individuals related to COVID-19.

For more information about these guidelines or to view Executive Order 20-244 in its entirety, please visit [FLGov.com/COVID-19](https://www.flgov.com/COVID-19).

Stan Mayfield Working Waterfront Grant Cycle Opens

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.

Most recently, \$1.4 million from the SMWW fund was used to help the Old Homosassa Civic Club in the preservation of a historic 2 acre working waterfront along the Homosassa River. The property includes a working fish house, food trailer, commercial freezers, storage space, docks and a historic Cracker House which is being converted to a museum to showcase tools of the fishing trade, local history and lore.

The grant application cycle will open on October 1, 2020, and the deadline to submit applications is October 31, 2020. Approximately \$3.1 million is available for SMWW grants in this application cycle. For additional information or to download a copy of the grant application, please visit [FloridaDEP.gov](https://www.floridaDEP.gov).

Governor DeSantis Announces Law Enforcement Protection Act

Governor Ron DeSantis has announced new legislation to stop violent assemblies and protect law enforcement. The Combatting Violence, Disorder and Looting and Law Enforcement Protection Act will create new criminal offenses and increased penalties for those who target law enforcement and participate in violent or disorderly assemblies.

"Our right to peacefully assemble is one of our most cherished as Americans, but throughout the country we've seen that right being taken advantage of by professional agitators, bent on sowing disorder and causing mayhem in our cities," said Governor DeSantis. *"I will not allow this kind of violence to occur here in Florida. The legislation announced today will not only combat rioting and looting, but also protect the men and women in law enforcement that wake up every day to keep us safe. I look forward to working with the Florida Legislature next session to sign this proposal into law."*

"Peaceful protesting is a constitutional right, but looting and disorderly rioting are not," said Senate President-Designate Wilton Simpson. *"We will continue to stand with our brave law enforcement officers as they protect and serve. This bill is a way to ensure that all Floridians can live in a safe and secure environment. I commend Governor DeSantis for his commitment to public safety."*

The Combatting Violence, Disorder and Looting and Law Enforcement Protection Act has three components, outlined below:

New Criminal Offenses to Combat Rioting, Looting and Violence

- Prohibition on Violent or Disorderly Assemblies: 3rd degree felony when 7 or more persons are involved in an assembly and cause damage to property or injury to other persons.
- Prohibition on Obstructing Roadways: 3rd degree felony to obstruct traffic during an unpermitted protest, demonstration or violent or disorderly assembly; driver is NOT liable for injury or death caused if fleeing for safety from a mob.
- Prohibition on Destroying or Toppling Monuments: 2nd degree felony to destroy public property during a violent or disorderly assembly.

- Prohibition on Harassment in Public Accommodations: 1st degree misdemeanor for a participant in a violent or disorderly assembly to harass or intimidate a person at a public accommodation, such as a restaurant.
- RICO Liability: RICO liability attaches to anyone who organizes or funds a violent or disorderly assembly.

Increased Penalties

- Mandatory Minimum Jail Sentence: Striking a law enforcement officer (including with a projectile) during a violent or disorderly assembly = 6 months mandatory minimum jail sentence.
- Offense Enhancements: Offense and/or sentence enhancements for: (1) throwing an object during a violent or disorderly assembly that strikes a civilian or law enforcement officer; (2) assault/battery of a law enforcement officer during a violent or disorderly assembly; and (3) participation in a violent or disorderly assembly by an individual from another state.

Citizen and Taxpayer Protection Measures

- No “Defund the Police” Permitted: Prohibits state grants or aid to any local government that slashes the budget for law enforcement services.
- Victim Compensation: Waives sovereign immunity to allow a victim of a crime related to a violent or disorderly assembly to sue local government for damages where the local government is grossly negligent in protecting persons and property.
- Government Employment/Benefits: Terminates state benefits and makes anyone ineligible for employment by state/local government if convicted of participating in a violent or disorderly assembly.
- Bail: No bond or bail until first appearance in court if charged with a crime related to participating in a violent or disorderly assembly; rebuttable presumption against bond or bail after first appearance.

“On behalf of the Florida Police Chiefs Association and over 900 of Florida's top law enforcement executives from across every region of the state, we thank Governor DeSantis for his strong leadership and dedication to maintaining public order and keeping the peace,” said Florida Police Chiefs Association President and Satellite Beach Police Department Chief Jeff Pearson. “The measures he put forth today are urgently needed to protect the lives and property of every Floridian.”

District 17 Highlights

Indian River Lagoon Restoration

Restoration of a 35-acre site along a stretch of the Indian River Lagoon is nearing completion as the St. Johns River Water Management District continues to make strides in helping to improve water conditions in this Estuary of National Significance.

The stretch of land, found within the Coastal Oaks Preserve in Indian River County, is part of a larger 220-acre preserve owned by the Indian River Land Trust, which contains tropical oak hammocks, wetlands and ponds and provides a critical habitat for hundreds of wildlife species. In addition to benefiting the District's core missions of water quality and natural systems, this restoration project is a great partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Indian River Land Trust.

The District is spending \$800,000 to restore historic habitat that would have been present on the site, including forested wetlands that have all but disappeared along the lagoon estuary. As part of the restoration this includes planting native species and taking steps to control invasive exotic plants over the next two years.

For more information about SJRWMD and this project, please visit SJRWMD.com.

Indian River County Elderly Energy Assistance Program

Indian River County residents living with at least one resident that is age 60 years or older may be eligible for energy bill assistance through the Emergency Home Energy Assistance for the Elderly Program (EHEAP).

To qualify, applicants must have received a delinquent, past due or shut-off notice from their power provider. Assistance is also available for those needing a repair to their heating or cooling system; those needing to purchase heating or cooling equipment; or those needing to pay a deposit.

For more information, please contact the Senior Resource Association at (772) 569-0760 or email casemanagement@sramail.org.

Brevard Artificial Reef Mitigation Project

The US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) artificial mitigation reef project has been completed. The construction project began in 2017 east of the Satellite Beach shoreline, and construction of the tenth, and final reef site was finished in July 2019.

The ten reef sites are located between Pelican Beach Park in Satellite Beach and Indialantic. Throughout the project, the Corps' contractor used two barges, a crane, and multiple divers, to place custom-made reef modules from the barge deck onto the ocean floor.

The reef sites constructed during the summer of 2017 remained stable during Hurricane Irma. To date, many species have colonized these new reefs sites including sabellariid polychaete (worm-rock) and a variety of algal species and fish. The constructed reefs consist of low lying, concrete mats topped with coquina limestone and are located in approximately fifteen feet of water, roughly 1,000 feet from the beach. The reef mats have a low relief that will not influence the wave break and were designed to provide good habitat for diverse colonies of marine life.

After a one year post construction survey of Reef Site 1, Set 1, researchers from Jacobs Engineering Group and the Florida Institute of Technology said, "Based on all the available data collected during this survey, the artificial reef appears to be performing its function as mitigation for the expected loss of natural reef from the Brevard County Mid-Reach Shore Protection Project." Although not yet finalized, subsequent post-construction monitoring on other sites/sets have also shown similar, positive results.

Although the future beach work will focus on avoiding/minimizing impacts to nearshore rock during sand placement, some rock (<10%) may be covered by sand as the beach equilibrates.

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