

Good Morning!

I hope you have enjoyed a happy and safe holiday season! The start of the New Year leads us to reflect on the past year and make resolutions for the year to come.

As a reminder our Indian River and Brevard County Delegation meetings will be held in January. Below you will find information regarding the Brevard Delegation meeting. I will provide more information on the Indian River County Delegation meeting as we move closer to the date.

Governor Ron DeSantis recently signed Executive Order 2020-297 which extends previously signed Executive Order no. 244. This order ensures that an individual can not be prevented from working or operating their business, prevents local ordinances from restricting restaurants to less than 50% capacity and suspends the collection of local fines and penalties related to COVID-19.

I applaud the Governors efforts to keep businesses open so they and their employees have the opportunity to provide for their family.

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!

Attorney General Moody Issues Warning

Attorney General Ashley Moody warned Floridians of stimulus-related scams, after President Donald Trump signed the latest coronavirus relief package.

"Scammers are always looking for new opportunities, and the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 makes the pandemic the perfect tool for fraudsters to target victims," Moody said in a video. "Another round of stimulus payments may also provide scammers with more ammo to concoct these schemes."

The Attorney General's office provided the following tips to spot fraud with common signs of scams related to COVID-19 and stimulus payments including:

- unsolicited calls or emails;
- high-pressure tactics or too-good-to-be-true offers;
- threats of loss if immediate action is not taken;
- requests for immediate payment by wire transfer, credit cards, prepaid debit cards or gift cards to expedite stimulus funds or other benefits.
- never click on links sent in unsolicited messages, whether received via text, email, or social media. These links could contain malware or connect the consumer to a website to obtain personal or financial information.

View the Attorney Generals "Scam at a Glance" page by clicking here. The webpage also

provides downloadable brochures designed to teach consumers how to avoid falling victim to fraud. The brochures and other information on the website are available in both English and Spanish. Additionally, you may report fraud by calling 1-866-966-7226.

District 17 Highlights

Brevard County Legislative Delegation Meeting

The Brevard County Legislative Delegation Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 7, 2021 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Due to concerns stemming from COVID, this year's meeting will be held virtually.

The Chairman of the Delegation this year is Representative Plasencia. The remainder of the Delegation members include myself, Senator Tom Wright, Representative Tyler Sirois, Representative Randy Fine and Representative Thad Altman. We will be meeting in preparation for the 2021 Legislative Session, which will begin on March 2, 2021. The primary purpose of this meeting is to allow government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and local citizens to address the Delegation and present their legislative priorities for the upcoming session.

If you are interested in attending the Delegation meeting, the Chairman requests that you fill out a registration form, which can be found by clicking on the link below: https://form.jotform.com/RepRenePlasencia/BrevardDelegation.

This link also provides information should you wish to provide the Delegation with handouts or should you wish you to speak at the meeting. The link to join the meeting will be sent out 72 hours prior to the delegation meeting to those who have registered online. For more information please contact Steven Thompson at (321) 383-5151.

Eastern Florida State College District Board of Trustees

Governor Ron DeSantis announced the appointment of Ronald Howse, Dr. Edgar Figueroa and Robert "Bruce" Deardoff to the Eastern Florida State College District Board of Trustees.

Ronald Howse has served on the Board of Trustees since 2015 and is currently the Vice Chair. Both Dr. Firgueroa and Mr. Deardoff have served on the Board since 2018.

The Board is comprised of five members with all of the powers and duties pertaining to "cost-effective policy decision appropriate to the College's mission, the implantation and maintenance of high-quality performance, the reporting of information and the provision of input regarding state policy, budgeting and education standards." The Board is an active policy making body for the College and is ultimately responsible for the financial resources of the College that are adequate to provide a sound educational program.

These appointments are subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate.

Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Information

Governor DeSantis recently signed Executive Order 2020-315 which emphasizes the need to have those 65 and older vaccinated as quickly as possible. This order provides that the COVID-19 vaccine must be used to vaccinate long term care residents and staff, persons 65 years of age and older, and health care personnel.

In accordance with the Executive Order, COVID-19 Vaccines are now available and are

being distributed throughout the state of Florida through the following three allocations:

• Hospitals: The hospital allocation is for their frontline healthcare workers. They have received an amount adequate to cover their staff.

- CVS & Walgreens: They are responsible for vaccinating health care workers and seniors who live in assisted living facilities and nursing homes.
- Department of Health: Each county in Florida is receiving the vaccine to be administered to the general public, aged 65 and older. Each county has established different procedures for making the vaccine available.

In Brevard County, all vaccine appointments have been filled at this time and they will not allow appointments to be created until the next allotment of vaccines has arrived. The Department of Health now has a form that may be completed and submitted online for an appointments once the new allotment has been received. To access the form, please click here. You MUST have an appointment to receive the vaccine. Please refer to the Department of Health to receive updates.

In Indian River County, all vaccine appointments have been filled at this time and they will not allow appointments to be created until the next allotment of vaccines has arrived.

They have asked residents to sign up for alerts, so that they may get notified when the County has received their next allotment and can then set up an online appointment. To sign up for the emergency alerts, please click <u>here.</u> If you need assistance with signing up, you can call the County at 772-226-3900 and they will help you.

The County has also set up their Emergency Information Center to answer questions you may have. The Center may be reached at 772-226-3900

Brevard and Indian River County Requirements:

- A driver's license or health care badge must be presented at the time of your appointment.
- After the first shot, residents will have to return 28 days later for the second dose. It
 must also be the Moderna vaccine. After vaccination you will be asked to wait for 15
 minutes to be monitored for adverse reactions.

I will continue to provide information as it becomes available on setting up an appointment.

\$45M donated to Indian River State College

Indian River State College (IRSC) announced that it has received the largest single donation in its 60-year history from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott.

"We are especially grateful for Ms. Scott's generosity and her confidence in IRSC's critical mission," said IRSC President Dr. Timothy Moore. "The magnitude of this gift will positively transform lives for generations of IRSC students. It accelerates our ability to redefine our College and reframe the narrative on how American community colleges can better serve all of our constituencies."

Equity and economic mobility for students is at the forefront of the College's agenda under President Moore. The donation will allow IRSC to better expand and grow strategic initiatives that support access and outreach to low-income, first-generation and historically underrepresented populations; expand essential career training and degree programs that put students into in-demand jobs and encourage entrepreneurism; embark on capital projects, like the Advanced Workforce Training Complex, that are vital for building workforces for the future; and develop critical partnerships that bring new opportunities and ideas to our region and nation.



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