



## Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving is just a few days away and I am looking forward to spending time with my family and rejoicing in our many blessings. I wish you and your family a happy and blessed Thanksgiving!

For many families in our community, especially during this public health crisis, food donations make a holiday meal possible. Many of our food banks are entering their busiest time of year, so please consider purchasing a few extra items to donate to your local food bank as you begin your holiday grocery shopping.

To find a food pantry to donate to in your community, please visit [AmpleHarvest.org](https://www.ampleharvest.org).

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!

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## Florida Senate Organizational Session

On Tuesday, November 17th Florida Legislators gathered for Organizational Session. Pursuant to the Florida Constitution, the Florida Legislature convenes 14 days following the general election for the purpose of organization, election of officers and adoption of rules.

In the House, Representative Chris Spowls was unanimously elected to serve as Speaker for the 2021-2022 Sessions, Representative Bryan Avila was nominated for Speaker Pro-Tempore, and 30 new House members were sworn in.

In Speaker Spowls acceptance speech he recognized that, "*Much of this session will be spent dealing with the fallout of the virus and modernizing our laws and plans to ensure we are prepared for future pandemics.*"

Speaker Spowls also laid out his goals for the House which included initiatives in literacy, job training, occupational licensing reform, virtual education, and improvements to the child welfare system.

In the Senate, Senator Wilton Simpson was unanimously elected to serve as the President of the Senate for the 2021-2022 Session, Senator Aaron Bean was elected to serve as the President Pro-Tempore and 10 freshman members were sworn into the Senate.

In his acceptance speech President Simpson discussed the budget challenges that have

been brought on by the pandemic, and laid out his goals for the 2021 Legislative Session, "We are going to tighten our belts. There will be things that we did in times of plenty that need to be eliminated in these times of lean. We have less revenue, therefore we will have less government. That does not mean all we will do is cut the budget these next two years."

"There will be places where we need to make investments, like our Northern Everglades, our springs, our most vulnerable children, and our state infrastructure. To do our job right we need to be thoughtful, strategic, and long-term in our vision. And if we do it right, and I believe we will, our state will recover and prosper in ways we cannot even imagine. But it is going to take courage and bold action."

I am looking forward to the 2021 Legislative Session and working with my colleagues to ensure that good public policy is passed that benefits all of our citizens.

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## Red Snapper Season

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) have announced that the Red Snapper Season will be open for additional dates this fall for private recreational anglers and state for-hire operations in the Gulf of Mexico. Additional dates include November 22, 27, 28 and 29.

During this season, private recreational anglers may harvest red snapper in Gulf state and federal waters. However, state for-hire operations are limited to fishing for red snapper in Gulf state waters only.

"Saturday, Nov. 28 is also a saltwater license-free fishing day, a great time for Florida's residents and visitors to try out fishing in Florida without needing a license," said FWC Executive Director Eric Sutton.

These additional days are made possible with the information provided through the State Reef Fish Survey (SRFS). The Survey was developed specifically to provide more robust data for management of red snapper and other important reef fish, and has allowed FWC the unprecedented opportunity to manage Gulf red snapper in state and federal waters.

If you are planning to participate in the fall season, please register to ensure the continued success of the SFRS. All anglers over 16 years old fishing from private recreational vessels must sign up as a State Reef Fish Angler to target red snapper and several other reef fish in state and federal waters, even if they are exempt from fishing license requirements. Sign up as a State Reef Fish Angler at no cost at [GoOutdoorsFlorida.com](https://GoOutdoorsFlorida.com) or by visiting any location you can purchase a license.

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## District 17 Highlights

### Space Coast Young Marines

I recently had the pleasure of joining the Space Coast Young Marines at an event at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center in Merritt Island.

The Space Coast Young Marines, located in Melbourne, are part of the national Young Marines program for boys and girls between the ages of eight and eighteen. The Young Marines program teaches participants the importance of self-confidence, academic achievement, honoring our veterans, good citizenship, community service, and living a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. The program also focuses on character building and leadership

and promotes a lifestyle that is conducive to being productive members of society.

Upon joining a local Young Marine unit youth undergo an orientation program, called Recruit Training. Participants learn general subjects such as history, customs and courtesies, close order drill, physical fitness, and military rank structure. After graduating from Young Marine Recruit Training, the youth have the opportunity to learn even more new skills, earn rank, wear the Young Marine uniform and work toward ribbon awards. Young Marines earn ribbons for achievement in areas such as leadership, community service, swimming, academic excellence, first aid and drug resistance education.



The Young Marines are open to all youth ages 8 through the completion of high school. The only membership requirement is that the youth must be in good standing at school. For more information please visit [YoungMarines.com](http://YoungMarines.com) or contact Brian Schneider at [co.spacecoastym@gmail.com](mailto:co.spacecoastym@gmail.com).

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## Indian River State College Workforce Programs

Indian River State College (IRSC) is partnering with the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) on the new "Get There Florida" workforce education initiative aimed at raising awareness of short-term career and technical education (CTE) programs.

*"Indian River State College has enthusiastically joined forces with the Florida Department of Education on its Get There Florida campaign,"* stated Dr. Timothy Moore, Indian River State College President. *"Across our region and state, high-demand industries such as healthcare, advanced manufacturing, construction and public safety are seeking skilled workers. IRSC offers career and technical education programs in state-of-the-art learning environments, helping our area residents gain the credentials necessary to join these essential industries."*

Recognizing that CTE is a critical component in preparing individuals for occupations important to Florida's economic development, IRSC in September introduced Rapid Credentialing to connect unemployed, underemployed and furloughed workers with tuition-free career and technical programs such as Nursing Assistant (CNA); Emergency Medical Technician (EMT); Firefighting; Automotive Service Technician; and Residential Air Conditioning, Refrigeration & eating Assistant (HVAC).

In addition to programs offered through Rapid Credentialing, IRSC offers Career Training in barbering and cosmetology, culinary operations, early childhood education, allied health professions, law enforcement, office technology, welding technology and more.

Enrollment for spring 2021 classes is now open. To learn more about IRSC CTE and Rapid Credentialing programs, visit [IRSC.edu/programs](http://IRSC.edu/programs).

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## FDOT Roadway Improvements at US 192 & McClain Drive

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has announced proposed roadway improvements at the intersection of New Haven Avenue (U.S. 192) at McClain Drive in Melbourne. The improvements include upgrading traffic signals with new poles, adding intersection lighting, reconstructing the median on the east side of the intersection to accommodate a crosswalk, and constructing new pedestrian curb cuts and ramps on the east side of the intersection to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The project team expects to finish the design of these improvement by July 2021. FDOT

invites you to submit your comments or questions about this project for them to consider as they proceed through the design phase.

Project information is available online at <https://www.cflroads.com/project/439130-1>. For more information, please contact FDOT Project Manager Samuel Jumber by mail to 719 S. Woodland Blvd., M.S. 552, DeLand, FL 32720-6834, by phone at (386) 943-5244, or by email to [Samuel.Jumber@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Samuel.Jumber@dot.state.fl.us).

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