



## 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.

During 2019, the Florida Legislature made historic investments in our environment by allocating \$682.6 million for Everglades and water quality restoration, including \$149 million for water quality improvements like septic to sewer and wastewater improvement programs.

We expanded patient access to safe and affordable care by passing legislation that enables Floridians to receive telehealth services.

The Legislature also increased funding for our state's education system, including the highest ever per-pupil spending at \$7,672 per student. School choice options were expanded for Florida families through the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program, and workforce education opportunities were increased with the creation of the Florida Apprenticeship Grant Program.

I look forward to working with my colleagues during the 2020 Legislative Session to build on these successes and continue to address issues important to our citizens.

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!

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## Florida Forever Acquisition at Bulow Creek State Park

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has purchased a 47-acre parcel adjacent to Bulow Creek State Park near Ormond Beach in Volusia County. This property is part of the Strategic Managed Areas Lands List Florida Forever Project and is one of the last remaining private inholdings within the state park.

The acquisition of the land will facilitate resource management, provide a buffer from potential encroaching development and allow for the future expansion of public access and recreational activities.

The property is the last piece of undeveloped privately-held shoreline in the Tomoka Basin. Bulow Creek State Park has one of the largest remaining stands of southern live

oak forest along Florida's east coast. This park also protects important habitat for imperiled bird species and quality of water entering the Halifax and Tomoka rivers.

Florida Forever is the state's conservation and recreation lands acquisition program, a blueprint for conserving our natural resources and renewing our commitment to conserve our natural and cultural heritage.

There is approximately \$122 million remaining in the Florida Forever Trust Fund. During the 2019 Legislative Session, the Legislature invested an additional \$33 million in the Florida Forever program to ensure the protection of our environment and natural resources for the generations to come.

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## **Black History Month Student Scholarships**

First Lady Casey DeSantis has announced that "Celebrating Untold Stories and Contributions of African Americans in Florida" will be the theme for Florida's 2020 Black History Month student art and essay contests.

Students in grades K-3 are invited to participate in the Black History Month Art Contest. Each student is asked to submit original, two-dimensional artwork based on this year's theme. Two winners will be selected.

Students in grades 4-12 are asked to submit one essay, no longer than 500 words based on this year's theme. Three winners will be selected, one elementary student (grades 4-5), one middle school student (grades 6-8) and one high school student (grades 9-12). Each winner will receive a 4-year Florida College Plan scholarship provided by the Florida Prepaid College Foundation.

Additionally, students, parents, teachers and principals are invited to nominate full-time educators of all grade levels for the Black History Month Excellence in Education Award.

Student contest forms and educator nomination forms must be mailed to Volunteer Florida (Black History Month Committee 1545 Raymond Diehl Rd, Suite 250, Tallahassee, FL 32308) or [submitted online](#) by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, January 21, 2020.

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## **District 17 Highlights**

### **SR-A1A Crosswalks between Indialantic & Satellite Beach**

In the beginning of October 2019, twelve new flashing beacon crosswalks were installed within the median between US 192 (5th Ave) and Atlantic Blvd (just North of SR 518/Eau Gallie Blvd) on State Route (SR) A1A. There are six additional flashing beacon crossings on SR A1A that extend through the Satellite Beach area. Tragically Sophia Nelson, a twelve year old girl who had attended Surfside Elementary, was struck and killed just before the Christmas holiday while using one of the A1A crossings in Satellite Beach.

This horrific incident highlights the need for immediate action by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to improve safety. I have been in contact with FDOT officials, who will be working with the Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization to review this section of the A1A for needed safety improvements.

My office will also be working closely with state and local officials to implement these improved safety measures, such as immediately reducing the speed limit along this section of the A1A corridor. I will continue to provide updates on this issue in [The Mayfield Minute](#).

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## Rail Work Expected From Melbourne to Grant-Valkaria

Virgin Trains, formerly known as Brightline, has begun work in Brevard County for the expansion of their high speed passenger rail line from West Palm Beach to Orlando. This week crews will be delivering train rails in preparation for construction, which is expected to cause periodic closures at crossings in Melbourne, Palm Bay, Malabar and Grant-Valkaria.

From January 7th through January 10th from 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM there will be closures and traffic flagging operations at the following locations:

- **Melbourne:** Railroad crossings from Babcock St/SR 507 to University Blvd. This includes crossings at Babcock St/SR 507, NASA Blvd/SR 508, Hibiscus Ave, Silver Palm Ave, Seminole Ave, Fee Ave, Lincoln Ave, Palmetto Ave, Strawbridge Ave, New Haven Ave, Prospect Ave, Line St, Jernigan Ave, and University Blvd.
- **Palm Bay:** Railroad crossings from Hessey Ave to NE Port Malabar Rd. This includes crossings at Hessey Ave, NE Palm Bay Rd, NE Port Malabar Rd.
- **Malabar:** Railroad crossings from Malabar Rd/SR 514 to Jordan Blvd.
- **Grant-Valkaria:** Railroad crossings from Valkaria Rd/SR 554 to Shell Pit Rd.

Virgin Trains has completed Phase 1 of the project, which includes the south segment of its passenger railroad between Miami and West Palm Beach. This construction is part of Phase II, which consists of 170 miles of track from West Palm Beach to Orlando. For additional construction information visit [GoBrightline.com/Railroad-Construction](http://GoBrightline.com/Railroad-Construction).

This high speed passenger rail service is expected to operate at speeds of 80-125mph as it moves through our communities. To promote and enhance the safe operation of high-speed passenger rail systems Representative Tyler Sirois and I have filed SB 676 and HB 465, the [High Speed Passenger Rail Safety Act](#).

This legislation would ensure that rail corridors and railway operating equipment are safe and well maintained, pedestrian and road crossings are gated, high-risk corridors are fenced, and local emergency service providers are properly trained for increased risks resulting from high speed train accidents.

Please follow me on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#) for live updates on this important legislation.

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## New Superintendent at Indian River County School District

The Indian River County School District recently welcomed their new Superintendent, Dr. David Moore.

Previously Dr. Moore served as the Assistant Superintendent in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the fourth largest school district in the nation. Prior to serving as the

Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Moore served as an Administrative Director of Miami Dade County Schools Education Transformation Office, principal, assistant principal, counselor, and teacher.

Dr. Moore was recently inducted into the Miami-Dade College Alumni Hall of Fame for his work in education; supporting underrepresented students and ensuring post-secondary success. As a lifelong resident of Miami, he is beginning a new chapter in Indian River County, which he will now call home with his wife Jennifer.

For more information on Dr. Moore or Indian River County School District, please visit [IndianRiverSchools.org](http://IndianRiverSchools.org).

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