



Good Morning!

This past week I had the pleasure of speaking at the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce Legislative State of the State Breakfast with fellow delegates Senator Tom Wright, Representative Tyler Sirois, Rep Thad Altman and Rep Rene Plasencia.

During the 2019 Legislative Session the Brevard Delegation worked together to support the goals of our community. This included securing funding for local projects that will improve the health of the Indian River Lagoon; expanding educational opportunities for our students; ensuring our Veterans receive the benefits and recognition they deserve; and reducing the tax burden facing families and businesses.

One such initiative is the Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday, which was approved this year by the Florida Legislature, to help citizens prepare for the upcoming hurricane season. As a reminder, the Sales Tax Holiday is happening now through Thursday, June 6th. To see the full list of qualifying items, please visit FloridaRevenue.com/DisasterPrep.

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!

DEP Launches Algal Bloom Dashboard

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has launched a new interactive algal bloom dashboard at Floridadep.gov/algalbloom. This dashboard is a visual enhancement to the state's existing sampling database. This data has been publicly available on DEP's website, but previously did not allow the public to easily see where algal blooms were occurring in Florida.

The algal bloom dashboard features real-time updates of sample locations for up to 90 days and all available details related to those samples, such as photos and toxin information. Users can search by specific address, ZIP code, city or place. The tool includes quick links to other resources such as public health information.

This new tool allows residents and visitors to better understand the state of algal blooms and plan recreational activities accordingly. DEP reminds residents and visitors to avoid coming into contact with algae and to stay out of the water where a visible bloom is

present. Also, the public can [report suspected algal blooms](#) directly through the dashboard.

Governor Ron DeSantis: Mission to Israel

Governor Ron DeSantis and his Executive Cabinet traveled to Israel this past week as part of a global trade development and business recruitment strategy to promote Florida's businesses, assist exporters in meeting clients, attract foreign direct investment and create new opportunities for students and academic research.

"Israel and the United States, especially Florida, have a sound economic bond that we are working to strengthen even further on this historic business development mission" said Governor DeSantis. "Whether it be increased investment between our two nations, more options for commercial flights for our residents or the exchanging of innovative technological advancements, we are always looking for ways to build on our relationship."

Among the many meetings held on this mission, Governor DeSantis and Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Noah Valenstein met with Israeli leaders to discuss Florida's water challenges in Florida, and the contributions that Israeli technologies could lend to ongoing research and improvements.

The Governor also **signed the following bills into law** this past week:

[HB 7065: Insurance Assignment Agreements](#) establishes important consumer protections for property insurance policies by setting forth requirements for the execution, validity and effect of such agreements. The bill also creates a formula that will determine which party, if any, receives an award of attorney fees should litigation related to an assignment agreement result in judgement. This reform bill is expected to curtail the exponential growth in assignment of benefits abuse that has contributed to rising insurance costs for Floridians.

[SB 160: Prohibited Acts in Connection with Obscene or Lewd Materials](#) prohibits a person from knowingly possessing, distributing or advertising child-like sex dolls.

[SB 1024: Blockchain Technology](#) establishes a task force to explore Blockchain's viability for state use. Blockchain is the digital ledger technology behind transactions for cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin. The task force must submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature within 180 days of their first meeting.

[SB 292: Education](#) allows a student who is graduating from a public educational institution to wear a dress military uniform to their graduation ceremony, rather than the required cap and gown.

[HB 861: Local Government Financial Reporting](#) requires counties and municipalities to post their annual budgets to their respective websites for at least two years, and tentative budgets to their websites for a minimum of 45 days. Beginning October 15, 2019, each county and municipal budget officer will also be required to file an annual report with the Office of Economic and Demographic Research including information concerning government spending per resident; debt per resident, median income within the municipality, average employee salary, and the number of special taxing districts within their jurisdiction.

As a reminder, the Governor is currently reviewing the budget, also known as the [2019-2020 General Appropriations Act](#). If you have any concerns about items included in the

Legislature's budget or would like to express your support for certain programs, please [contact Governor DeSantis's Office](#). Please [copy my office](#) on your correspondence related to the budget, so we can continue to advocate for projects of importance to District 17.

District Highlights

Brevard Indian River Lagoon Straight Talk

The Brevard Indian River Lagoon (IRL) Coalition and the Florida Institute of Technology IRL Research Institute is hosting a forum on projects and plans to restore the lagoon on **Monday, June 3rd** at 6:00PM at Dixie Crossroads.

The forum will feature updates on the Indian River Lagoon Restoration Plan, Titusville City Utility and status of the Titusville Causeway. Attendees can ask questions from a panel of local leaders and scientists including Commissioner Rita Pritchett; Chair of the Indian River Lagoon Coalition MJ Waters; Virginia Barker, Director of the Brevard County Natural Resources Department; Titusville City leadership; and Laurilee Thompson, SOIRL Trust Fund Citizen's Oversight Committee.

This forum is open to the public and free to attend. Pre-registration is required due to limited seating. You can sign up online at [Eventbrite](#). For those that are not able to attend you may watch the event live stream on the [Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition Facebook Page](#).

11th Annual Viva Vero Beach

The Indian River County 4-H Foundation will be hosting their annual fundraiser to support local 4-H Programs.

[11th Annual Viva Vero Beach Casino Night](#)
Saturday, June 8th from 6:00-9:00 PM
Indian River State College - Mueller Campus
The Richardson Center
6155 College Lane, Vero Beach

Since 2009, the Foundation has raised over \$100,000 to support the eighteen 4-H Clubs in Indian River County. Young people in 4-H "learn by doing" with more than 1,000 hands-on projects like citrus, animal rearing, gardening, archery, dancing, rocketry, GPS mapping, public speaking, nutrition, photography and community service.

For more information about this event or to reserve your seat, please contact IRC4HFoundation@gmail.com.

Lionfish Invasion

The Marine Resources Council will be hosting a presentation about the invasive species, Lionfish, and their effects on our marine ecosystem.

[June Brown Bag Lunch: Lionfish](#)

Tuesday, June 4th from Noon - 1:00 PM
Ted Moorhead Lagoon House
3275 Dixie Highway NE, Palm Bay

A longstanding showstopper in home aquariums, Lionfish are a predatory reef fish that is drastically reducing biodiversity throughout the Western Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. Lionfish were originally spotted along the Atlantic Coast in the early 2000's and have increased rapidly. The species is now considered to be one of the top 15 global environmental issues, as this top predator competes with native fish for food and range. Lionfish have no known predators and can produce year-round. Mature females are estimated to release roughly two million eggs per year.

Lionfish can tolerate freshwater and have already been found 4 km inshore within the Loxahatchee River. This is especially worrisome since inshore estuaries and watersheds provide nursery habitats to thousands of commercially and ecologically important species.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has been working to address the growing Lionfish population since 2012 through regulatory changes, harvesting, outreach and education. The Florida Legislature also recognizes the need to address this predator and have allocated more than \$1.2 million for FY 2019-2020.

Lionfish are a tasty entree, and you can help control Lionfish by removing every one that you encounter. For more information on Lionfish, please visit the [FWC website](#).

The June 4th lecture is open to the public and free to attend. Please register online at [SavetheIRL.org](#).

FDOT Public Meeting: SR 518 Improvements

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is hosting a public meeting to discuss the proposed design and safety improvements along State Road (S.R.) 518 (Eau Gallie Boulevard) from west of the I-95 interchange to east of Sarno Road in Melbourne.

Proposed improvements include widening S.R. 518 to add an eastbound through lane, providing bicycle lanes in each direction, and upgrading auxiliary lanes. The project will widen the northbound I-95 off ramp, the southbound I-95 on ramp, and the southbound I-95 off ramp to improve operations at the interchange. Traffic signal modifications, sidewalk extensions and drainage improvements are also planned.

The meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, June 6th**, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Emmanuel United Methodist Church (2800 Eau Gallie Blvd, Melbourne.) The meeting will be an informal open house format, during which attendees may view project exhibits, a video presentation and speak with FDOT team members to learn more about the design and provide input.

For more information about this project please visit the [FDOT District 5 website](#) or contact Sam Jumber at (386) 943-5244 or email sam.jumber@dot.state.fl.us.

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



Contact Information

Melbourne Office

900 E. Strawbridge Ave.
Melbourne, FL 32901

(321) 409-2025

Staff: [Patrick Steele](#)

[Adrienne Cronebaugh](#)

[Yvette Campbell](#)

Tallahassee Office

322 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
(850) 487-5017

Vero Beach Office

Administration Building B
1801 27th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960
(772) 226-1970

Staff: [Margaret Mitchell](#)
