



Good Morning!

I will be home in the District for the next several weeks and am looking forward to the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday.

For many families in our community, food donations and community celebrations 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.

For those in need of Thanksgiving Meal Assistance, or those looking to volunteer, there are many great organizations offering support.

- [Treasure Coast Food Bank](#) is working to ensure that all local families can enjoy a Thanksgiving Day dinner. Visit their website to view the full list of distribution points and partner agencies.
- [Operation Hope of Fellsmere](#) will host its annual giveaway of Thanksgiving goods beginning at 1:00 PM Saturday, November 23rd. The group will give away turkeys, hens, vegetables and other holiday staples at its Fellsmere facility, 12285 County Road 512. For information, call (772) 571-0003.
- [7th Annual Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway](#) Alpizar Law firm, 1528 Palm Bay Road, Palm Bay, is having its annual turkey giveaway starting at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 23. The group expects to give away up to 700 turkeys, one per household.
- [10th Annual Space Coast Thanksgiving Basket Brigade](#) A family fun event at Satellite Beach High School involves volunteers who package, decorate and deliver Thanksgiving baskets to families in need across the Space Coast. 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM on Sunday, November 24th.

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!

Committee Week 5

This past week in the Capitol, I had the pleasure of visiting with friends from District 17 about their legislative priorities. Thank you to the United Way of Brevard and the students from Indian River State College for visiting with me.



The Senate **Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government** met for presentations from Sedron Technologies and Anuvia Plant Nutrients to learn more about the array of cutting edge biosolid waste disposal technologies that are available. Biosolids, more commonly known as sewage sludge, contain large amounts of phosphorous. When biosolids are applied to the land, those nutrients can wash into adjacent waterways and contribute to the degradation of water quality. Eliminating sources of pollution to our waterways, like the application of biosolids to lands within our watershed, is critical to achieve restoration. You may view these presentations at [FLSenate.gov](https://www.flsenate.gov).

The **Environment and Natural Resources Committee** met for presentations from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on the recommendations from the Blue Green Algae Task Force. The recommendations include better septic tank monitoring, taking a closer look at best management practices for agriculture and more transparency when warning the public about health risks related to the algae.

Members also heard a presentation on DEP's biosolids rule which specifies new requirements for Nutrient Management Plans; increases water monitoring requirements for surface and groundwater; prohibits land application where the seasonal high water table is within 15cm of soil surface or within 15cm of the intended depth of biosolids placement. Members also reported [SB 150: Sanitary Sewer Laterals](#) out of committee favorably. This bill encourages counties and municipalities to establish an evaluation and rehabilitation program for sanitary sewer laterals on residential and commercial properties within their jurisdictions to identify and reduce extraneous flow from leaking sanitary sewer laterals.

Health Policy Committee met to discuss [Senate Bill 404: Parental Consent for Abortion](#) which would prohibit a physician from performing an abortion on a minor unless the physician has been presented with consent from the minor's mother, father, or legal guardian. This requirement does not apply if the abortion is performed during a medical emergency where there was insufficient time to obtain consent. Additionally, the minor may petition the circuit court in the area where the minor resides to allow the abortion to proceed without obtaining consent. . The bill is expected to be on the agenda for a vote at their next meeting in December.

Members of the **Children, Families and Elder Affairs Committee** met to consider the following legislation: [SB 496: Child Welfare](#) summarizes current requirements into a Foster Children's Bill of Rights to ensure that children and young adults in out-of-home care are informed of their rights. The bill also requires the Department of Children and Families to establish a statewide toll-free telephone number for the Foster Children's Ombudsman. [SB 104: Services for Veterans and Their Families](#) creates the Florida Veterans' Care Coordination Program, to provide veterans and their families dedicated behavioral health care referral services, primarily for mental health and substance abuse. [SB 7012: Mental Health](#) implements suicide prevention measures such as broadening the scope of duties performed by the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention and the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council; adding new continuing education requirements related to suicide prevention for various health care practitioners, and requires certain health insurance plans to comply with federal statutes relating to mental health and substance abuse coverage in order to ensure that Floridians that are privately insured have adequate coverage to help prevent suicides.

Senate Committees will reconvene the week of December 9th.

Legislation Update

This week I co-sponsored the following legislation:

[SB 820: Health Insurance Prior Authorization](#) prohibits HMOs from excluding coverage for certain cancer treatment drugs. The legislation also removes obstacles to treatment, like fail first protocols, for patients with stage 4 metastatic cancer.

[SB 104: Services for Veterans and Their Families](#) creates the Florida Veterans' Care Coordination Program, to provide veterans and their families with dedicated referral services for mental health and substance abuse. Through the program a veteran may call a dedicated veteran support line to receive assistance and support from a fellow veteran who is trained to respond.

Northern Everglades & Estuaries Program Rule-making

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has initiated a public rule-making process to support water quality improvements in the Northern Everglades, which includes the Lake Okeechobee Watershed and the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee River watersheds and estuaries. The rule was originally created in 1989, and in 2016, the Florida Legislature passed legislation requiring SFWMD to revise the rule to support Northern Everglades restoration.

The purpose of the rule-making process is to amend Chapter 40E-61 to:

- Be consistent with the 2016 Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program
- Develop rules for Caloosahatchee River and St. Lucie River Watersheds.
- Provide for a monitoring program for non-point source dischargers.
- Provide for a research and water quality monitoring program.

The following public workshops for the rule-making process have been scheduled to gather public input:

- Tuesday, November 19th, 10:30 a.m. at the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension Osceola County, 1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane, Kissimmee.
- Tuesday, November 19th, 4 p.m. at the Indian River State College, Chastain Campus, 2400 S.E. Salerno Road, Stuart.
- Wednesday, November 20th, 10 a.m. at the South Florida Water Management District Headquarters, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach. This meeting will also be broadcast online at SFWMD.gov.

Comments can be submitted online at SFWMD.gov, or mail written comments to: South Florida Water Management District, Regulation - MSC 9610, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406.

District 17 Highlights

Florida Ocean Alliance Developing Coastal Policy Plan

During the 2019 Session, the Florida Legislature approved funding to create a research and science-based plan to address pressing issues that are impacting our coasts. Red tide, harmful algal blooms, hurricanes and long-term sea level rise are threatening our coasts and the natural resources that we depend on.

The Legislature has directed the Florida Ocean Alliance (FOA), a nonpartisan group comprised of leaders from industry, academia and nonprofit organizations, to hold stakeholder meetings across the state to

develop a strategic policy plan to improve the conservation and management of Florida's significant ocean and coastal resources.

The public is invited to participate in this important process by attending the upcoming stakeholder meeting or by providing input online at FloridaOceanAlliance.org.

Wednesday, November 20th from 6:00- 8:00 PM
Port Canaveral - Exploration Tower, 4th Floor Conference Room
670 Dave Nisbett Drive, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

With nearly 80% of Florida's GDP being produced in our coastal counties and more than a million jobs in our ocean-oriented industries, the strategic plan will also include an economic study of our state's coastal and ocean economy. This portion of the study is intended to identify growth in marine industries with the potential to expand the state's economy.

The final plan will aid the Florida Department of Environment Protection and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in complying with Governor Ron DeSantis' Executive Order 19-12, proposing major reforms to protect Florida's environment and water quality.

Sebastian State Park Surf Fishing Workshop

With such beautiful weather upon us, Sebastian Inlet State Park is encouraging you to get outside and fish.

[Surf Fishing Workshop](#)
Saturday, November 23rd from 1:00 -3:00 PM
Sebastian Inlet State Park - Fishing Museum
14251 North A1A, Vero Beach, FL

This two hour class is designed to introduce anglers to the basics of surf fishing. Participants will learn about the equipment needed to enjoy a productive surf fishing day at the beach. Topics include rod and reel selection, standard pompano rig, choosing bait and more.

The workshop is free to attend with the regular park entrance fee. For more information contact Terry OToole at terry.otoole@dep.state.fl.us.

Melbourne Airport Awarded \$3.9M Job Growth Grant

Governor Ron DeSantis and Ken Lawson, Executive Director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DOE), visited Melbourne this past week to announce that the Melbourne Airport Authority has been awarded \$3.92 million from the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund.

The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund is an economic development program designed to promote public infrastructure and workforce training across the state. Proposals are reviewed by DEO and Enterprise Florida and chosen by the Governor, to help meet workforce or infrastructure needs in the community to which they are awarded.

"Investing in improvements at the Orlando Melbourne International Airport is a smart choice," said Governor DeSantis. "This Florida Job Growth Grant Fund award allows the Melbourne Airport Authority to make significant infrastructure improvements that will attract aviation and aerospace businesses from across the globe to invest in Florida. Additionally, the Melbourne Airport Authority has done an exceptional job working with their partners at the local level to ensure the local workforce can meet the growing demand for talent that comes with additional investment."

The grant will help the Melbourne Airport Authority extend and relocate St. Michael's Place, an existing access roadway that will be improved to support development within the northwest section of the airport. Additionally, funding from the award will be used to fund water and sewer infrastructure improvements to the land surrounding the airport, providing an attractive environment for further investment.

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: [Adrienne Cronebaugh](#)
[Yvette Campbell](#)
[Frank DiMarco](#)

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: [Kaitlyn Currey](#)
