



## Good Morning!

This past week I had the opportunity to present \$1.5 million to the Canaveral Port Authority to support the purchase of a specialized fireboat. The vessel will be equipped with conventional and dry-chemical firefighting equipment for LNG fueled vessels that will be coming to The Port.



Port Canaveral is the second-busiest cruise port in the world, and a critical maritime nexus for the U.S. commercial space program. This will be the only fully equipped fireboat operating in the Central Florida region, and will be available for mutual and automatic aid to surrounding cities or towns in Brevard County.

During the presentation the Port Director and CEO Captain John Murray said, *“Port Canaveral has grown tremendously over the last few years and we’re getting ready to homeport North America’s first LNG-powered cruise ship next year. This fireboat will greatly enhance the core capabilities of our first responders to ensure the safety and security of our Port and surrounding communities. We’re grateful to Senator Mayfield and Representative Plasencia and our entire Brevard legislative delegation for their trust in the Port’s role in this community, and we thank Governor Ron DeSantis and the entire Florida legislature for supporting this important funding.”*

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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## Governor DeSantis Visits Citrus Growers in Vero Beach

Governor Ron DeSantis visited Vero Beach this past week to announce that the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) has approved more than \$173 million in payments to citrus growers that were impacted by Hurricane Irma, through the Citrus Recovery Block Grant since January 2019.

*“Florida is proud to have the best citrus produce in the world,” said Governor DeSantis. “Since January, we’ve been dedicating resources and improving policies to make sure Florida’s citrus industry gets back on its feet, and today, we’ve surpassed the 50 percent milestone for this important funding. For citrus growers still suffering from Hurricane Irma, know this – we are providing recovery funding as quickly as possible, and we will not waiver in our support.”*

The Citrus Recovery Block Grant is a federal grant administered by FDEM to assist citrus producers who maintain active citrus farming operations and suffered citrus crop damage as a result of Hurricane Irma. Upon taking office, Governor DeSantis directed FDEM to disburse hurricane recovery funding as quickly as possible, including providing field staff to assist citrus growers in navigating the grant process.

Additionally, the Florida Legislature appropriated \$6.4 million for the Citrus Health Response Program and \$8 million for Citrus Research in the 2019-2020 Budget.

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## **Florida State Parks Receives Gold Medal Award**

The Florida Park Service has been named the recipient of the 2019 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association. With this award, Florida’s State Parks is the only four-time gold medal winning state park system in the nation.

*“This honor is proven evidence of the tremendous dedication of our employees and volunteers who manage the resources that provide these vast opportunities the Floridians and visitors to enjoy our natural resources,” said Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Noah Valenstein. “More than 32 million people visit these award-winning state parks each year, and we are proud to continue sharing how special Florida is for all who visit.”*

During the 2019 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature invested \$35.5 million for facility improvements and maintenance at our state parks, which encompass nearly 800,000 acres, including 100 miles of beaches and more than 1,500 miles of multi-use trails.

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## **District 17 Highlights**

### **Brevard Legislative Delegation Meeting**

On Wednesday September 25th, I had the pleasure of hearing from many of Brevard’s citizens about their goals, concerns and/or organizational priorities at the Brevard Legislative Delegation meeting. Members of the Delegation included myself, Senator Tom Wright, Representative Tyler Sirois, Representative Placensia, Representative Thad Altman and Representative Randy Fine.

Citizen proposals covered a wide range of topics, many highlighting their concerns about deteriorating water quality in the Indian River Lagoon. Along with my colleagues, I am committed to restoring the health of the Indian River Lagoon with the right policy changes in place to support a comprehensive restoration plan with long-term funding sources. I will

be filing legislation in the upcoming session that addresses significant sources of pollution in our treasured waterways.

We also heard students from Melbourne High School and Edgewood Jr/Sr High School asking for the Legislature to take action on teen vaping. In recent years there has been a dramatic increase in the use of vaping and electronic cigarettes among Florida's middle and high school students. According to the Florida Department of Health (DOH), 16% of Florida's youth (ages 11-17) currently vape. Many e-cigarettes come in fruit, candy and mint flavors to make it more appealing to young people. The DOH reports that 85% of youth (ages 12-17) who vape say they use flavors. I will also be filing legislation in the upcoming session to address this issue.

If you were not able to attend, you may watch the full meeting on the [Port Canaveral Facebook Page](#).

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## Indian River County Legislative Delegation Meeting

On Tuesday September 24th, Representative Erin Grall and I hosted the Indian River County Legislative Delegation meeting in the County Commission Chambers. It was wonderful to see many citizens, business owners, elected officials and friends speak on issues affecting our community.

A variety of issues were presented including the need to address biosolid land application rules. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection recently released a new draft of Biosolids rules based on public comments they received over the summer. My office provided comments requesting these rules include more stringent land application rates and monitoring requirements to help protect our water quality from further degradation. You can view this updated draft rule on the [DEP website](#).

Another issue brought up repeatedly was the safety concerns around the high speed passenger train, also known as Virgin Trains or Brightline, which plans to begin construction in Indian River County later this year. The Delegation approved a Resolution in support of legislation to address gaps in rail safety regulations, which I will be filing in the upcoming Legislative Session.

You may watch a full recording of the meeting on [The Florida Channel](#).

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## SJRWMD Discussion on Protecting Our Water Resources

The Marine Resources Council will be hosting a presentation from the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) to discuss how they balance the demands for water between human needs and natural systems.

[October Brown Bag Lunch: Protecting our Water Resources](#)

Tuesday, October 1st from Noon-1:00 PM

Ted Moorhead Lagoon House  
3275 Dixie Highway NE, Palm Bay

Jennifer Mitchell will be discussing how the district works to balance water demands through administering permits for consumptive water use, setting Minimum Flow and Levels, and implementing projects focused on improving water quality. Information will

also be provided at this presentation about the ongoing projects of SJRWMD, as well as information on how to decrease your own impact on water quality and quantity.

This event is free and open to the public, but all attendees are asked to register online at [www.SaveTheIRL.org](http://www.SaveTheIRL.org).

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