



## Good Morning!

The Coronavirus pandemic has been a significant challenge for our families, our businesses and our state. I am confident that together we will overcome this challenge.

Please continue to follow the following state guidelines to protect yourself and keep our community healthy:

- Protect the vulnerable, including the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions.
- Practice proper hygiene, including washing your hands.
- Practice social distancing by avoiding closed spaces and crowded places.
- Wear a mask if you are in close contact with others.

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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## FWC Approves Draft Rules for Invasive Reptiles

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has unanimously approved staff recommendations to create new rules to address the importation, breeding and possession of high-risk reptiles. During the 2020 Session, I worked with my colleagues in both chambers and FWC to pass [Senate Bill 1414: Fish & Wildlife Activities](#) which addresses the harmful impacts of these invasive species.



The proposed rule changes to chapter 68-5, F.A.C., specifically address pythons, tegus lizards, green iguanas and other high-risk nonnative snakes and lizards. FWC rulemaking will include reporting requirements for permittees, biosecurity requirements to limit escape of these high-risk species, and possible additional language to clarify limited exceptions for possession of green iguanas and tegus for commercial use or as pets.

More than 500 nonnative species have been reported in Florida. Eighty percent of these have been introduced via the live animal trade with 150 established in Florida, meaning they are reproducing in the wild. Since most nonnative fish and wildlife find their way into Florida's habitats through escape or release from the live animal trade, it is important to

create regulations to prevent high-risk nonnative wildlife from becoming introduced or further established in Florida's environment.

The FWC will be hosting online workshops to present the proposed rule changes and collect public comment. For details on upcoming public meetings visit [MyFWC.com/Nonnatives](https://myfwc.com/Nonnatives).

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## District 17 Highlights

### Brevard Community Kitchen in Cocoa

Recently I had the pleasure of joining Aging Matters in Brevard at their Cocoa Community Kitchen. Led by Chef John, a dozen volunteers assemble more than 1500 nutritious meals each day for Brevard seniors and low-income children. The kitchen also takes regular lunch orders from adult day cares, child care programs, charter schools and summer lunch programs through Brevard County Parks and Recreation.



The Meals on Wheels program allows senior adults to live at home when they are no longer able to cook for themselves. Trained volunteers deliver these hot meals each weekday around noon to housebound seniors throughout Brevard County. Volunteers also provide a friendly greeting and a safety check, and can refer participants to additional services if necessary.

Chef John also provides a private Kitchen Catering Service. All of the proceeds from the catering service go to support these critical community services. To learn more about this program or volunteer opportunities available with Aging Matters in Brevard visit [AgingMattersBrevard.org](https://AgingMattersBrevard.org) or call (321) 639-8770.

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### Indian River County Small Business Grant Program

Indian River County has launched a Small Business Recovery Grant Program to assist local businesses in the hospitality industry that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In partnership with the FL Small Business Development Center at Indian River State College and the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce, the program provides grants of up to \$5,000 per business, focusing on for-profit locally-owned small businesses in the Hospitality Industry. The business must have less than 25 employees, including the owner. Eligible businesses include locally or independently owned restaurants, hotels, RV parks, bars, craft breweries, and others in the hospitality industry.

To access the grant application visit [cctiirsc.com](https://cctiirsc.com). For questions, please contact Helene Caseltine at the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce at (772) 567-3491.

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## St. Johns Heritage Pkwy I-95 Interchange Opening

The Florida Department of Transportation will be opening the I-95 Interchange at St. Johns Heritage Parkway (SJHP) on Tuesday, August 11th at 11:00 AM.

As a reminder, the SJHP was developed to provide a 5-mile arterial roadway extending from the Palm Bay city limits north to Ellis Road. The goal of the Parkway is to reduce congestion on I-95, provide more efficient access for local motorists, and connect roadways that will serve as emergency evacuation routes.

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## Primary Election Early Voting Information

As a reminder, the Primary Election date is August 18, 2020. Early Voting began August 8th and will extend through August 15th. For polling locations in your county or to request a mail ballot, please visit:

[Brevard County Supervisor of Elections](#)

[Indian River County Supervisor of Elections](#)

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