



## Good Morning!

It was a productive week in Tallahassee and I am happy to share an update on the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. Florida is successfully continuing to vaccinate our front line health care workers and emergency responders along with seniors. As of this week 850,000 Floridians have been vaccinated and of that 500,000 were seniors age 65 and older.

Although supplies of the COVID-19 vaccine from the federal government remain limited, Florida is remaining proactive in evaluating all potential delivery avenues. We are fortunate that both Brevard and Indian River Counties, in partnership with the Department of Health and the County Emergency Operations Center, have created a simple and effective way of delivering the vaccine to their residents.

Please sign up for mobile alerts through your county so you are informed of COVID-19 vaccine appointments as they are made available. If you live in Brevard County, please text "BrevardEOC" to the number 888777 to sign up for these alerts. If you live in Indian River County, please click [here](#) to sign up. If you need assistance in Indian River County you may call 772-226-3900 and they will help you.

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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## Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Governor Ron DeSantis announced the State of Florida will take part in the Emergency Rental Assistance Program established under the federal COVID-19 relief legislation signed into law on December 27th, 2020. The program will provide \$1.4 billion in emergency rental assistance to Floridians. It is anticipated that more than \$850 million will be administered by the State of Florida.

Cities and counties with a population of 200,000 and greater will receive funds directly from the United States Department of the Treasury for the program.

Households meeting the following criteria will be eligible for assistance:

- Qualifies for unemployment or has experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19.
- Demonstrates a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability.
- Has a household income at or below 80 percent of the area median income, with priority given to households below 50 percent of the area median income.

The State expects disbursement of funds under the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to occur in the coming weeks. Additional information on the program will be released as further guidance is provided by the federal government.

For more information about the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, visit this [link](#).

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## Tallahassee Committee Week One

This was the first of 5 committee weeks where we have the opportunity to hear reports from state agencies, and prepare legislation and priorities for the upcoming session.

The **Committee on Environment and Natural Resources** met on Tuesday. We listened to an overview of the implementation of Senate Bill 712 from the

Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services. Both departments reported the state of Florida is on schedule to implement "The Clean Waterways Act," which fights many sources of environmental pollution by transforming policy related to septic tanks, biosolids, wastewater and storm water infrastructure, and agriculture.

The **Committee on Appropriations** has begun to develop the state budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year and as part of that review, we are analyzing the costly effects of the pandemic on Florida's economy. We examined the pandemic's impact on personal income for Floridians, unemployment, population growth, the housing market, sales tax, and Florida's general revenue. State economist Amy Baker, of the Office of Economic and Demographic Research, provided an update of the Long-Range Financial Outlook and Revenue Forecast. Over the summer months, Florida experienced strong growth rates in sales tax revenue and documentary stamp tax revenue. Unfortunately, Florida families and businesses are still facing hardships, which will result in a significant budget shortfall for the state in the next fiscal year. However, Ms. Baker does predict many industries in Florida will quickly bounce back after vaccines are widely distributed, though Florida's tourism industry may take longer to fully recover.

I will continue to provide updates on twitter and Facebook as committee weeks progress.

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## District 17 Highlights

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### Indian River County Legislative Delegation Meeting

This week, I am looking forward to Chairing the Indian River County Legislative Delegation Meeting. The meeting will be held on January 21 at 11am. Delegation meetings allow elected officials to hear from residents about their ideas, concerns and legislative priorities. The Delegation meetings are important to ensure that we are being effective advocates for our communities at the Capitol.

The IRC Delegation meeting will be held virtually this year and will be streamed through the following links:

- **TV:** Local Comcast Ch 27
- **Webcast:** [https://ircgov.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish\\_id=4](https://ircgov.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=4)
- **YouTube Live:** <https://www.youtube.com/c/IndianRiverCountyFL>

Should you wish to join by Zoom, a participation link will be provided by email. Please fill out the following form: <https://form.jotform.com/210116453761044>

Please call my office should you have any questions.



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## New Staff Member

I would like to introduce the newest member to my staff: Dori Leeper! Dori is a United States Air Force Veteran who served for more than a decade and carried out two deployments.

Dori has worked with both the City of Melbourne and the Melbourne Police Department, and brings with her a wealth of knowledge that will be useful as she assists constituents. She will be in the District office, located in Melbourne City Hall. I hope you will join me in welcoming Dori to our team!



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## Palm Bay Aquatic Center

The Palm Bay Parks & Recreation Department has announced the reopening of the Palm Bay Aquatic Center. The Center was closed for repairs and upgrades.

The re-opening will be celebrated with a ribbon-cutting event on Monday, January 25 at 10 a.m. at the Center, located at 420 Community College Parkway SE. The public is invited to attend.

Winter hours for the Aquatic Center will be Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The center will also be open Sundays from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Winter hours will be effective through March 12. In order to observe social distancing guidelines, only lap swimming will be permitted until further notice. Reservations will be required to reserve a swimming lane and can be made by calling the center at 321-952-2833. Reservations will be for 1-hour increments and will start at the top of each hour. Patrons are asked to show up no more than 15 minutes before reservation time. Only one person is allowed per lane, unless from the same household. Two persons maximum.

Temperature checks will be required upon arrival. The cost for lap swimming at the Aquatic Center is \$4 per person, per visit. Veterans can swim for \$1.50. Seniors 55+ swim for \$2. Multi-visit passes are available for \$40 for 12 swims. Veteran passes are \$15 for 12 swims and Senior passes are available for \$20 for 12 swims. For more information, please call the Palm Bay Aquatic Center.

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