



## Good Morning!

This Tuesday, November 3rd is the General Election. If you did not participate in early voting or vote by mail opportunities, please visit the Supervisor of Elections website for [Brevard County](#) or [Indian River County](#) to find your precinct location. Polls will be open on Tuesday from 7:00 am-7:00 pm.

I will be out at various polling locations throughout the District on election day and hope to see you there! I am so appreciative of the support that I have received this year. It has been such an honor to represent District 17 in the Florida Senate over the past four years, and I look forward to continuing to serve you and our community.

As always, should you have any questions or need any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office. My staff and I are here to serve you!

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## Daylight Savings Time

Today marks the end of Daylight Savings Time, please remember to update your clocks to "Fall Back" one hour.

In 2018, the Florida Legislature overwhelmingly passed the Sunshine Protection Act. The Act supported adopting daylight saving time as the year-round standard time of the entire state. However, in order for this act to take effect, the United States Congress must pass legislation to allow Florida to remain on Daylight Savings Time year-round. US Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott have filed legislation to skip the change to standard time across the country. However, the bill has yet to be voted on by the US House of Representatives or the US Senate.

## FL Dept of Health to Conduct Review of COVID Fatalities

Florida's Surgeon General, Dr. Scott A. Rivkees, recently announced the Department of Health will be conducting a more thorough review of all COVID-19 fatalities reported to the state.

Fatality data reported to the state has consistently created confusion and warrants a more rigorous review. Of the 95 fatalities reported to the state on October 21st, 16 had more than a two-month separation between the time the individuals tested positive and passed away, and 11 of the deaths occurred more than a month prior to being reported.

*"During a pandemic, the public must be able to rely on accurate public health data to make informed decisions," said Florida Surgeon General Scott Rivkees. "To ensure the accuracy of COVID-19*

*related deaths, the Department will be performing additional reviews of all deaths. Timely and accurate data remains a top priority of the Department of Health.”*

Of the 95 fatalities reported to the Florida Department of Health on October 21, 2020: 11 were over 30 days old; 16 had at least two months between the time the individuals tested positive and passed away; and 5 had at least three months between the time the individuals tested positive and passed away.

You may find information and guidance on COVID-19 by visiting the DOH dedicated COVID-19 webpage: [FloridaHealthCOVID19.gov](https://www.floridahealth.gov/covid-19), calling (866) 779-6121 or emailing [COVID-19@flhealth.gov](mailto:COVID-19@flhealth.gov).

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## District 17 Highlights

### FL Dept of Health Opens Free Adult Flu Clinics in Brevard

The Florida Department of Health in Brevard County (DOH-Brevard) is strongly encouraging all unvaccinated residents to get their flu shot as soon as possible. Flu vaccination is the best way to prevent the flu and its potentially serious complications. To better serve Brevard County residents, DOH-Brevard is offering free adult flu clinics during the month of November.

#### [Brevard County Free Flu Clinics](#)

November 6, November 13, and November 20  
1:00PM – 4:00PM

Available at all three locations:

Melbourne Clinic: 601 E University Blvd  
Viera Clinic: 2555 Judge Fran Jamieson Way  
Titusville Clinic: 611 North Singleton Ave

The DOH-Brevard continues to offer free flu vaccines for children ages 6 months through 18 years of age, Monday – Friday from 8:00AM to 4:00PM on a walk-in basis at each of our clinic locations in Melbourne, Viera, and Titusville as well.

Getting the flu shot each year is important but reducing illness and hospitalization from flu is even more critical this year to protect frontline health care workers and hospital systems who will continue to care for people with COVID-19 and other illnesses. Also, having the flu and COVID-19 at the same time could lead to a negative outcome.

The flu and COVID-19 are respiratory illnesses, but until there is a steady vaccine supply against COVID-19, the way to help prevent these two viruses from circulating at the same time is to get your flu vaccine now.

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### Indian River County Industry Appreciation Awards

This past week I had the pleasure of joining the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce to celebrate the achievements of local companies at its annual Industry Appreciation Awards breakfast at the Riverside Theater.

Clemons Brun & Schaub Architects was named Small Company of the Year, based on employment levels. White Glove Moving, Storage & Delivery was named Medium Company of the Year, and Florida Eye Institute was named Large Company of the Year.

The Chamber's Entrepreneur of the Year was Green Marlin Restaurant. The Manufacturer of the Year was Girard Equipment Inc. Minority Business of the Year was Trusted Insurance Professionals, and the Veteran-Owned Business of the Year was First & Goal Home Inspections LLC.

Congratulations to all of this year's winners! Thank you for your good work in our community.

## High Impact Grants Awarded to Indian River Schools

We have wonderful teachers that strive every day to make learning fun and exciting for the students in their classroom. This week my office joined the Education Foundation of Indian River County in presenting checks to support their school projects:



- Osceola Magnet – “Fab Lab - Explore, Imagine, Create!” - \$9,914
- Rosewood Magnet – “Interdisciplinary Learning is Gaining STEAM” - \$9,200
- Citrus Elementary School – “Differentiated Learning” - \$4,817
- Sebastian River High School – “Automotive Electrical Trainers” - \$9,390
- Dodgertown Elementary - "Full STEAM Ahead" - \$9,998
- Indian River Academy - "Limitless Ingenuity" - \$6,709
- Sebastian Elementary School - "Drumming Up Student Success" - \$3,413
- Sebastian River Middle School - "PBIS Awards" - \$2,352
- Storm Grove Middle School - "Stingrays Full STEAM Ahead" - \$6,611

The School District Education Foundation Matching Grant Program is sponsored by the Florida Legislature and provides a \$1 for \$1 match incentive for charitable giving to increase student achievement in Florida. Thanks to all of the community business that have partnered with the Education Foundation of Indian River County to provide the matching funds. We are so blessed to live in a community that is actively engaged with our local education foundation.

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



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