



Good Morning!

This past week I joined friends at the Patriot's Day Barbecue in Vero Beach in remembrance of the innocent victims who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. Let us never forget them or the courageous service of our first responders on that fateful day. May we also reflect on the resilience of the American people and our ability to unite, recover and rebuild.



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!

Florida Approved for Federal Low Wages Assistance

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) has announced that they have completed the necessary technology changes to begin paying the Federal Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) program benefits to eligible Floridians. This program, authorized by President Trump's memorandum, provides additional benefits for individuals who are eligible for state Reemployment Assistance for weeks of unemployment ending on or after August 1, 2020.

Florida has been approved to provide and has processed three weeks of LWA program benefits. This means the Department is providing an additional \$300 per week to eligible Reemployment Assistance claimants. Payments will be provided to eligible Floridians for weeks ending August 1, August 8 and August 15, 2020. Eligible Floridians should anticipate receiving benefits from the LWA program within the next week.

To be eligible for this benefit, claimants must have a weekly benefit amount of at least \$100 in an approved state Reemployment Assistance program and must certify that they are unemployed or partially unemployed due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19. Additionally, Governor Ron DeSantis has extended the Order to waive work search, work registration and waiting week requirements for claimants through December 5, 2020.

The Department has updated benefit payment statuses to reflect the FPUC and LWA payments in CONNECT. To better understand a claimant's Reemployment Assistance weekly benefit payment status, view the step by step guide [here](#). To review the Frequently Asked Questions on the LWA program, click [here](#).

Florida Bars Reopening

The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) Secretary Halsey Beshears has issued Emergency Order 2020-10, allowing Florida bars to reopen at 50% occupancy Effective Monday, September 14, 2020.

Under the Order, bars and other alcoholic beverage vendors may resume sales of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises on Monday, provided that their operations comply with the parameters of Phase 2 of the Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step Plan for Florida's Recovery. Beginning Monday, these vendors may operate at fifty percent of the facility's indoor capacity, allow bar service to seated patrons, and permit outdoor seating and service with appropriate social distancing.

"In meetings with hundreds of owners of bars and breweries across the state, I've heard their stories of struggle, and I've observed their serious commitment to making health and safety a continuing priority in their businesses," said DBPR Secretary Halsey Beshears. *"It's time that we take this step, and it's vital that we start moving forward with this sector of our hospitality industry who have endured one of the toughest paths for sustaining a business during this pandemic."*

For more information, see the attached DBPR Emergency Order 2020-10 or visit [MyFloridaLicense.com](https://www.myfloridalicense.com).

From the Desk of Governor Ron DeSantis

This past week Governor Ron DeSantis signed [Senate Bill \(SB\) 294: Florida Veterans Protection Act](#) into law. This bill fights back against scammers by ensuring swift action for those attempting to commit fraud against our veterans.

Governor DeSantis also made the following appointments within his administration:

Dane Eagle will serve as the new Secretary of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. Secretary Eagle has represented District 77 in the Florida House of Representatives since 2012 and recently served as the House Majority Leader. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity promotes economic development in the state, and administers state and federal programs to assist our visitors, citizens, businesses and communities.

Spencer Hennings has been appointed as Florida's Condominium Ombudsman. The ombudsman serves as a resource for unit owners, board members and condominium associations. For questions regarding your condominium, you may email ombudsman@dbpr.state.fl.us.

Public Workshop on Biosolids Rulemaking

As part of the implementation of [Senate Bill 712: Clean Waterways Act](#), which I sponsored and was passed during the 2020 Legislative Session, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will be holding a virtual workshop on the Biosolids Rulemaking process.

Biosolids Rulemaking Workshop
Friday, September 18, 2020
Time: 9:00 AM - Noon
[Click to Register for Virtual Workshop](#)

There will be opportunity for the public to provide comments on proposed amendments to Chapter 62-640, F.A.C., which regulates and ensures the proper treatment, management and use of biosolids. The draft amendments incorporate biosolids provisions from Chapter 2020-150, Laws of Florida, and revise monitoring and permitting criteria for the land application and management of biosolids to minimize the migration of nutrients, specifically phosphorus, to prevent impairment to Florida's waterbodies.

More information including a copy of the agenda is available on the [DEP biosolids rulemaking webpage](#).

Hispanic Heritage Art & Essay Contest

It is Hispanic Heritage Month and to celebrate three Florida students will have the opportunity to earn a 4-year Florida Prepaid scholarship!

The theme of this year's contest is "Celebrating Untold Stories and Contributions of Hispanic Americans in Florida" to recognize and pay tribute to Hispanic leaders who play prominent roles in public service throughout Florida. Participating students in grades K-3 have a chance to win a prize by simply submitting their best artwork. Students in grades 4-12 can earn a 4-year Florida Prepaid scholarship through the essay contest.

All entries must be received no later than 5:00 PM EST on Friday, September 25, 2020. Learn more about Florida's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration and contests at FloridaHispanicHeritage.com.

District 17 Highlights

Energy Assistance for Elderly in Brevard County

Central Floridians living with at least one resident who is age 60 or older might be eligible for energy bill assistance during this COVID-19 pandemic. The Emergency Home Energy Assistance for the Elderly Program (EHEAP) helps eligible seniors pay energy bills in an emergency.

Utility categories eligible for heating/cooling bill assistance include electricity, natural gas, propane, wood/coal and refillable fuels. Benefits may also be used for:

- Pre-paying energy bills
- Purchasing blankets, portable fans, space heaters and window air conditioners
- Repairing existing heating/cooling unit
- Deposits to connect or restore energy
- Late fees and disconnect/reconnect fees
- Charges from a now-closed account previously held by the elder resident
- Payment to landlord when utility costs are included in rent
- Temporary emergency shelter due to an energy-related crisis

To qualify for EHEAP, applicants must be age 60 or older and reside in a home located in Brevard, Orange, Seminole, or Osceola County. The energy bill does not need to be in the elder's name to qualify, but the elder will need to provide proof of residence, such as a driver's license or other identification. The applicant must also meet income requirements and be experiencing a home energy crisis, such as disconnection, delinquency or past due bills.

Those interested must fill out and submit the application located at SeniorResourceAlliance.org/EHEAP. For questions and more information, please call (407) 514-1804.

Indian River County Mortgage and Rent Assistance

In response to the significant financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on local families, Indian River County has launched the Rental and Mortgage Payment Assistance Program. This program, approved by the Indian River County Board of Commissioners, will utilize Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) received from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) to assist local households affected by the pandemic with rental and mortgage payments.

The Rental and Mortgage Payment Assistance Program will provide financial assistance of up to \$1,500 per month, for up to three months, to eligible households that require assistance due to economic losses caused by COVID-19. Rental and mortgage assistance may be used for late payments and late fees and charges. Applications will be accepted starting September 14th, 2020. The application period will be open on a first come first serve basis until December 1st, 2020.

For more information about the Indian River County Rental and Mortgage Assistance Program, please visit IRCgov.com/coronavirus.

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