



This week, the Florida Legislature completed its final committee week in preparation for the 2021 Legislative Session. Check out the bills I've filed and co-sponsored this year on the [Florida Senate website](#).

As always, it is a great honor to serve and represent you and the members of District 8. Share this newsletter with your friends and family so that they too can stay informed with our community updates, district-wide achievements, and future legislation.



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Florida Senate](#)



[Email](#)

COMMUNITY UPDATES

GAINESVILLE AARP FOUNDATION TAX-AIDE

AARP's Tax-Aide program will begin providing its free tax preparation services starting February 16, 2021. The Tax-Aide services will be available at the following locations and days through April 15, 2021:

- [Cone Park Library](#) – Monday and Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- [Millhopper Library](#) – Monday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- [Tower Road Library](#) – Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- [Virtual](#) – Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



- Alachua County Senior Recreation Ctr – beginning March 3rd, Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All sites are available by appointment only, no walk-ins will be accepted. Schedule an appointment [here](#).

ARTISTS WANTED FOR OCALA CITY PROJECT

The City of Ocala is searching for artists to take part in the Cultural Arts and Sciences Division's mural project. The mural will be located at Brick City Center for the Arts, 23 SW Broadway St., and will span a removable aluminum awning with a break in the middle for the keystone on the south-facing awning of Brick City Center for the Arts.



The awning mural is intended to engage the public, create an art experience and add cultural benefit for downtown patrons and the community. The mural will be displayed for two years in Downtown Ocala.

The deadline for submissions is March 1st at 5 p.m. For more information, including the application process, visit www.ocalafl.org/culturalarts or contact the City of Ocala Cultural Arts Office at 352-629-8447.






HEALTHY GAINESVILLE

Students from the University of Florida have created a local project called "Healthy Gainesville". Stephanie Strickland and Sammie Green are part of the team that has promoted its mission to community leaders and business owners. Their goal is to normalize healthy behaviors for college students while supporting local businesses during the pandemic. This initiative brings awareness to

health guidelines while students have the freedom of enjoying their college experience. The owners of several downtown and midtown bars are among the first Gainesville business owners to receive marketing materials to promote "Healthy Gainesville". The campaign includes T-shirts, masks with logos, posters, floor decals, mirror stickers, coasters, and other marketing materials.

STATEWIDE UPDATES

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SPRING TESTING UPDATE

EMERGENCY ORDER	WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
NO. 2021-EO-01	
 ENSURES SCHOOL DISTRICTS CAN SAFELY CONTINUE TO ADMINISTER FEDERALLY AND STATE REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Districts and schools can adopt broader, more flexible testing windows, if desired.
 DELAYS STATUTORY DEADLINES FOR THE REPORTING OF ASSESSMENT RESULTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More continued social distancing during test administration.
ENSURES CONTINUED SUCCESS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Helps districts that delayed opening in order to implement health and safety measures.
 MORE THAN 900,000 ASSESSMENTS HAVE BEEN SAFELY ADMINISTERED, STATEWIDE, SINCE SUMMER OF 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allows flexibilities previously provided by FDOE to ensure safe and secure environments for administering assessments to continue.
 SUPPORT FOR DEADLINE EXTENSIONS:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fall 2020 FSA and NGSSS EOC testing window extended by seven weeks.• Fall 2020 ELA Retake testing window extended by 11 weeks.• Winter 2020 FSA and NGSSS EOC testing window extended by four weeks.• Spring 2021 FSA Algebra 1 EOC and ELA Retake testing window extended by seven weeks.• The ACCESS for ELLs testing window extended by 10 weeks.	
	

FIRST LADY CASEY DESANTIS BLACK HISTORY MONTH ART AND ESSAY CONTESTS

FROM THE OFFICE OF
GOVERNOR
RON DESANTIS
@GOVRONDESANTIS WWW.FLGOV.COM 850-717-9282 MEDIA@EOG.MYFLORIDA.COM

Student essay contest winners will receive a 4-Year Florida College Plan scholarship provided by the Florida Prepaid College Foundation

Tallahassee, Fla. – First Lady DeSantis is inviting students to participate in academic and creative contests based on theme, “Community Champions – Celebrating the Contributions of African Americans in Florida’s Communities.” Students in grades K-3 can participate in an art contest while students in grades 4-12 can participate in an essay contest. Additionally, students, parents, teachers and principals are invited to nominate full-time educators of all student grades for the Black History Month Excellence in Education Award.



All entries must be received by 5 pm (ET) on February 26, 2021.

For more information about the contests, please visit

www.FloridaBlackHistory.com

###

**WALMART AND SAM'S CLUB PHARMACIES
WILL ADMINISTER COVID-19 VACCINES**



With 150 million customers and members passing through Walmart and Sam's Club doors each week, people can safely and easily reach pharmacists where they're already shopping for household and health care essentials. Walmart and Sam's Club have worked with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and taken into account the population density, customer demographics, infection rates, and availability of local health care resources among other factors to identify many of the participating locations.

Governor Ron DeSantis announced on February 9th, "Florida is proud to partner with Walmart to expand access to the COVID-19 vaccine. We look forward to reaching more Floridians and ensuring that all eligible residents who want a vaccine are able to receive one. We will continue to utilize strategic partnerships and identify innovative ways to get more shots in arms and put Florida's Seniors First."

Vaccine supply and eligibility will vary based on allocations per state and local guidelines. The number of vaccinations will be limited but is planned to continue to increase each week. Eligible customers can schedule a vaccine appointment directly via the Walmart and Sam's Club (membership not required) websites once appointments are available, making it convenient to get vaccinated while allocation lasts. You can read more about Walmart and Sam's Club efforts by visiting the [Administering COVID-19 Vaccines page](#).

###

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE FLORIDA CHANNEL



SB 274: Juvenile Diversion Expunction Program

Second chances create futures for our youth and allow them the opportunity to learn and grow from their mistakes. This legislative session, I filed SB 274, regarding Juvenile Diversion Program Expunction, to give juvenile offenders a chance to learn from their mistakes and earn a clean record.

If recommended, a minor may complete a juvenile diversion program to have their nonjudicial arrest record expunged. Diversion programs can include Community Arbitration, Juvenile Alternative Services Program (JASP), Teen Court, Intensive Delinquency Diversion Services (IDDS), Civil Citation, Boy and Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, mentoring programs, and alternative schools.

These programs would allow an estimated 21,000 kids in Florida to have their records expunged once they've successfully completed a post-arrest diversion program. Diversion programs are designed to give some juveniles a chance at learning from their mistakes and keep them from reentering the juvenile justice system. Completing these

programs means if a 14-year-old is convicted of a crime, he/she can complete a diversionary program to expunge the crime from his/her record and get on a better path.

When given the opportunity to see the alternative to their choices, you provide a real opportunity for success. Such legislation not only provides kids with a second chance, but allows them to overcome the stigma of having an arrest on their record as they apply to college, housing, jobs, student loans, and more. This bill is in the best interest of public safety and helps kids become productive tax paying members of society.

As an advocate for criminal justice reform, I am dedicated to fighting for practical, common-sense policies that Florida's juvenile offenders and families deserve. I believe Florida's youth, who want to put in the work to right their wrongs, should have the chance at a better future and to eventually enter our workforce without the stigma of a criminal record and the opportunity to learn and grow from their mistakes.

[Click here to see SB 274 Full Bill Text](#)

NEWSWORTHY

SENATOR KEITH PERRY IN THE NEWS

- [Juvenile arrest expungement bill passes first House committee test](#)
- [Sen. Keith Perry is sponsoring a gain-time bill that, if passed, would save taxpayers millions of dollars in reduced sentences](#)
- [Keith Perry bill to raise booster seat age passes Senate panel](#)

Do you have events, accomplishments, or local news that you wish to share with members in District 8?

Please email your submissions to Perry.Keith.Web@flsenate.gov

It's an honor to represent you in the Florida Senate. Thank you for your continued support, input, and patience as we work together to make lasting impacts in our community. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, concerns, or thoughts at any time. We are here for you!

Sincerely,

Keith Perry



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Florida Senate](#)



[Email](#)

Tallahassee Office:

404 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
(850) 487-5008

District Office:

2610 NW 43rd St. Suite 2B
Gainesville, FL 32606
(352)-264-4040

Marion Office:

115 SE 25th Ave.
Ocala, FL 34471
(352) 732-1249

Copyright © 2021 Keith Perry, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

