



December 2020

Palm Beach County District Six



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2020



It goes without saying that 2020 will be a year no one will ever forget. The COVID-19 pandemic forced us to adapt to new normals that once would have seemed unthinkable. Sadly, over 300,000 Americans have lost their lives because of this virus, a sobering statistic made all the more painful during the holiday season. For those who got sick with COVID and survived, the virus showed how unpredictable it could be. When I caught COVID it was thankfully a mild sickness with a few strange symptoms; whereas, my aunt suffered greatly from it and faced a long recovery. The lesson is no one knows how it will affect them, so it's essential each of us does our part to prevent the spread.

We also went through a turbulent presidential election. Our country has numerous issues to work on including unemployment, housing, and the substance use epidemic, all of which have been exacerbated by the virus. I am hopeful we can come together at the federal, state, and local levels to find solutions for millions of struggling Americans.

This year, I am proud several of my priorities to help the residents of District 6 and throughout Palm Beach County happened, including the opening of the Addiction Stabilization Unit at JFK Hospital, the opening of Station 22 in the Acreage, and the opening of the third homeless resource center located in the Glades. I want to thank staff for their hard work in completing these projects.

It was also an honor to be sworn-in as the President of the Florida Association of Counties. I am grateful for the unanimous support I received from across the state and am working hard on behalf of local governments and home rule.

Despite the difficulties of 2020, there is reason for optimism moving forward. The deployment of COVID-19 vaccines offers hope that next year all of us will have access to a vaccine and we can starting getting back to the social activities we all love and miss.

Happy holidays to you all and Happy New Year!

Glades Sign Unveiling

On October 7, I had the pleasure of unveiling the new "Welcome to the Everglades Agricultural Area" sign at 20-Mile Bend. This sign serves as the gateway to the Glades and western Palm Beach County. It highlights the significant goods grown locally such as sweetcorn, radishes, celery, sugarcane, lettuce, cabbage, rice, and mangoes.

I want to thank our Glades farmers and elected officials for their efforts to help make this beautiful sign a reality!





Glades Turkey Giveaway

On November 20th, I joined local Glades elected officials, community volunteers, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue, and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office to provide free turkeys and Thanksgiving fixins' to our families in the Glades! Thank you to everyone who came out to help make the holiday extra special! A special shoutout to Broward County Commissioner and friend, Barbara Sharief, for joining us!



Acreage Community Park South Expansion

My aide, Joseph Sophie, recently attended the Acreage Community Park South Expansion ribbon cutting. I know the Acreage community is excited for the wonderful recreational opportunities this park expansion will bring.

The Garden of Hope also opened with the park expansion. The garden serves as a site of memory and comfort for those who have faced cancer and other severe illnesses. I want to congratulate and thank Tracy Newfield for spearheading the project and bringing the Garden of Hope to fruition. In memory of Tasha McCraw,

daughter of former District 6 aide Johnnie Easton, a brick was placed in this peaceful spot.

Photo credit: Indian Trail Improvement District

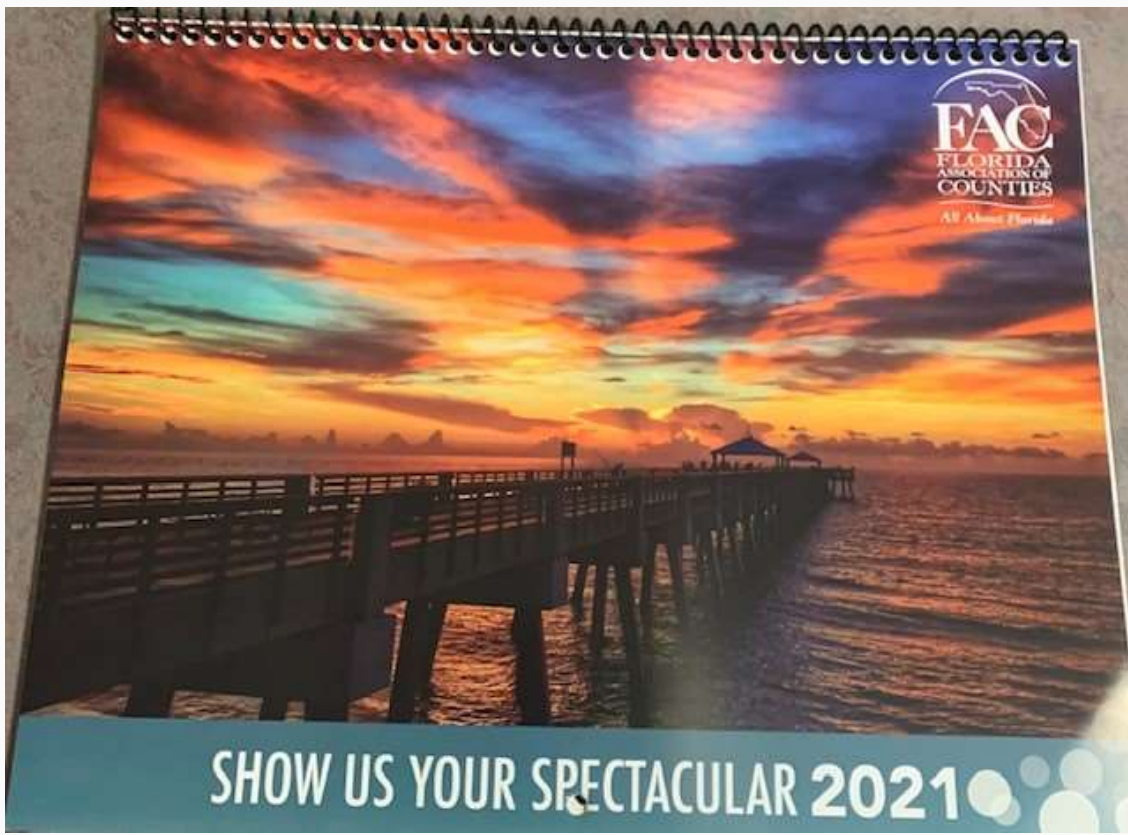


Florida Association of Counties Legislative Conference

In my role as President of the Florida Association of Counties (FAC), I presided over FAC's Legislative Conference at the start of December. This socially-distanced conference included enhanced safety protocols to enable county commissioners throughout the state to discuss policies in advance of the 2021 state legislative session.

I'm also excited to share that Palm Beach County was selected to be on the front cover of the 2021 FAC Calender. This mesmerizing shot of the Juno Beach Pier, taken by Michael Brown, displays the incredible beauty our county offers!





Commissioner Melissa McKinlay

(561) 355-2206

mmckinlay@pbcgov.org

Kelley Burke

Chief of Staff

(561) 355-2206

kburke@pbcgov.org

Joseph Sophie

Senior Legislative Aide

(561) 355-2206

jsophie@pbcgov.org

Lisa Wilson
Legislative Aide
(561) 996-4814
awilson1@pbcgov.org

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Governmental Center Office

District 6
301 North Olive Ave
Suite 1201
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

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Belle Glade Office

2976 State Road #15
Belle Glade, FL 33430
(561) 966-4814

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