



March/April 2021

Palm Beach County District Six



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Farmworker Vaccinations



My top priority the last few weeks has been to get as many farmworkers in our County vaccinated as possible before our harvest season concludes and they leave for a new region. These vulnerable workers are essential to our country's agriculture, helping grow the fruits and vegetables that feed our families.

I am excited that my efforts to work with the Florida Division of Emergency Management on this mission have been successful, with hundreds of farmworkers receiving vaccinations. On Easter Sunday, at least 160 Glades farmworkers received vaccinations at Bedner Farm. This was followed by mobile units at McNeill Labor housing, Duda Farm, J&J Family of Farms, and TKM Farms.

I want to thank former Director Jared Moskowitz and the entire Division of Emergency Management team, the Florida Department of Health, the Palm Beach County Health Care District, and the farmers and labor contractors who helped

make

these

opportunities

happen!



Farmworker vaccination clinic at Duda Farm in Belle Glade, April 11, 2021.

I Got the Shot

Thank you to Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Chief Reginald Duren for administering my COVID-19 shot!



Remembering Congressman Hastings

I had the honor of working by Congressman Alcee Hastings' side on numerous issues affecting the Glades, including farmworker housing, agricultural trade, Herbert Hoover Dike rehab, and Everglades Restoration. I will miss him and his

stories of picking beans as a child in Pahokee. May he rest in peace and his family be comforted in this difficult time.

Tallahassee

I recently travelled to Tallahassee for the legislative session to advocate for District 6 priorities. On April 15, I met up with South Bay Mayor Joe Kyles and Belle Glade Mayor Steve Wilson, who were also up advocating for their cities.

I also want to thank Pahokee Commissioner Tasha Murvin for joining community advocates and ministerial leaders to share the needs of the Glades with legislators. These leaders are making a difference in their communities through their tireless efforts to ensure their voices are heard!



Rural Housing Task Force Meeting

In March, I convened the first meeting of a Glades Rural Housing Task Force to identify obstacles to rural and farmworker housing development in the Glades. My goal is to develop an action plan to implement solutions. Meeting via Zoom, the participants included Palm Beach County staff, Glades mayors and city managers, representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, and representatives from the agriculture, affordable housing, and lending industries. This was a fruitful discussion that led to several action items being worked on in advance of the second meeting.

The Usual Suspects

On April 18, I appeared on The Usual Suspects, one of the premier political talk shows in Florida. During the episode, host Steve Vancore and I covered many important topics including home rule, emergency declarations, COVID-19 response, and vaccine rollout in Palm Beach County. Watch the episode here: <https://www.wctv.tv/2021/04/21/the-usual-suspects-april-18-2021/>.



Glades Boys and Girls Club Ribbon Cutting

On March 31, I attended the ribbon cutting for the Smith and Moore Family Teen Center, the new Boys and Girls Club of the Palm Beaches location in the Glades. This amazing facility is located in Belle Glade on land that the County gifted to the Boys and Girls Club. Its primary service is to be a career readiness center for teens, but it can also serve as a hurricane shelter and distribution point during emergencies.

I want to thank Jaene Miranda, President and CEO of the Boys and Girls Club of the Palm Beaches, her staff for all of their hard work, and the donors whose generosity helped make the new center a reality!

Below: speaking with Town of Palm Beach Mayor and Boys and Girls Club Board Member Danielle H. Moore, whose family's philanthropic efforts made this possible.





Syringe Exchange Kickoff

On April 1, another promise I made to my constituents was fulfilled--Palm Beach County officially began the second harm reduction program in Florida. I am so happy to see Justin Kunzelman's dream come true. Justin is the co-founder of Rebel Recovery, the organization which is operating the syringe exchange program here. He worked tirelessly over the last several years to get this program off the ground. Moving forward, I remain committed to working with my community partners on ending the opioid epidemic, helping those in need, destigmatizing addiction illness, and protecting the community from the spread of infectious diseases.



Field of Hope

In recognition of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Palm Beach County Victim Services held its fifth annual Field of Hope event. Survivors, supporters and guests were invited to drive through the exhibits to see displays on various services for victims in Palm Beach County and read about sexual violence statistics. Participants could also stop and plant their flags with personal messages in the Field of Hope. Advocates, therapists, and Victim Services staff were available to provide encouragement and support.

I have worked for years on behalf of survivors, so it was an important moment for me to place my own message in the Field of Hope in support of all those who have suffered sexual assault.

A special shoutout to Rep. Randy Fine, who led efforts to pass legislation aimed at creating Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART) in every Florida county. We are fortunate to have one in PBC, and I am excited to see other counties will now have this wonderful resource.



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