



**JULY 2024**

**Dear Community Members,**

July is almost over and as hurricane season continues, the recent land fall of Hurricane Beryl on the Caribbean Islands and Texas reminds us of the importance of hurricane readiness. Whether you've lived in South Florida for years or recently moved into our wonderful area, please make sure to check out [Broward County's Official Hurricane](#) website for all your hurricane preparedness needs.

**Port Sand Bypass Project Delay**

I recently reported about the Sand Bypass Project that was set to begin early fall this year, a project 30 years in the making. Our Resilient Environment Department has notified the Commission of a possible delay in the start date of this project, due to the listing of the queen conch as a threatened species by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Staff was notified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that reinitiation of formal consultation for queen conch must take place before the project can begin. Project delays of potentially 12 months are possible. County staff is coordinating with the regulatory agencies and vendor to seek a timely advancement for this critical project. I will continue to provide you updates as they become available.

**Deadline for Upcoming Primary Election**

Monday, July 22 is the last day to register to vote for the Primary Election. Voters are encouraged to check your voting status as soon as possible to make sure you are ready to vote in August and November. Visit [Registertovoteflorida.gov](https://registertovoteflorida.gov) if you need to register, check the status of your registration, or update your voters' registration. Additionally, due to state legislative changes, those who wish to vote-by-mail must submit a new request after each General Election. For more information, please visit [BrowardVotes.gov](https://BrowardVotes.gov).



### Upcoming SE 3rd Avenue Bascule Bridge Repairs

Broward County Highway and Bridge Maintenance Division (HBMD) will be performing bridge repairs on the SE 3rd Avenue Bascule Bridge in Fort Lauderdale. The bridge repairs will address structural issues caused by a recent crane accident that damaged the deck and other components on the approach span of the bridge. The work will begin on July 26, 2024, and is expected to be conducted over two weekends: July 26-29, 2024, and August 2-5, 2024. For each weekend, work will be conducted starting from 9PM Friday night through 5AM on Monday morning, barring any unforeseen conditions and/or weather delays. By spreading the work over two weekends, HBMD's schedule for the repairs minimizes traffic impacts, thereby ensuring no traffic disruptions throughout the work week.



### Broward County Transit (BCT) Secures \$25 Million Federal Grant

Through the Federal Transit Administration, BCT has been able to secure \$25 million to purchase low emission buses and on-route chargers to replace diesel vehicles. This award will also assist in the construction of solar canopy for the Northeast Transit Center. The County's project is one of 117 successful projects across 47 states. Additionally, BCT is one of seven of the 36 transit agencies across the state of Florida to receive an award. As we continue to work to reduce our carbon footprint and bring a positive impact to our community, I'm encouraged by these types of awards that will help transit system modernize its fleet and support our commitment to sustainability. Congratulations are in order for the entire BCT team for their continued efforts!

### Port Ranks Top in Operations Performance



Broward County's Port Everglades continues to make incredible strides in performance. According to the latest Container Port Performance Index, Port Everglades operational performance improved in 2023, placing the seaport in the top 20% of ports worldwide. The Port is now ranked at number 65 globally, up from 89 in 2022 and 116 in 2021. Regionally, including the United States and Canada, Port Everglades claims the No. 3 spot, up two spots from the 2022 report, and remains No. 1 in Florida. This great success comes from adding new berth space, cranes, and real time video to improve its operational performance. Congratulations to all the Port employees, more specifically to the terminal operators and dockside workers who ensure cargo is moving efficiently through our Port. For more information on all the incredible things happening at Port Everglades, visit [PortEverglades.net](https://PortEverglades.net).

## Project Home Again

Broward County continues to be committed to ending homelessness. Providing housing first is central to ending homelessness so that those who are homeless can get back on their feet by having a safe place to live. Project Home Again provides landlords an easy and convenient way to fill vacant units with paying tenants while helping veterans, families and others working to rebuild their lives. While helping individuals, landlords are guaranteed to receive a security payment upfront, on time payments and a \$1,000 bonus for new landlords when they get their first tenant. The County continues to work with a network of community-based organizations, advocates, residents, municipalities, and local businesses to address this issue at its core by helping individuals experiencing homelessness. If you are interested in this program or want to learn more about the County's response to Homelessness, please visit [Broward.org/Homeless](https://www.broward.org/Homeless).



## Updates from Visit Lauderdale

The 2024 Olympics are set to begin later this month and our very own Visit Lauderdale recently announced its exciting partnership with the U.S. Paralympics Swimming Team. With this partnership, the County continues to show its commitment to accessibility and inclusivity on a global stage. We are proud to support and cheer on the U.S. Paralympics Swimming Team, including Abbas Karimi, Visit Lauderdale's newest ambassador and local favorite, who will join the competition this summer. Best of luck to Team USA!



## RESTAURANT MONTHS

*August 1 - September 30, 2024*

Additionally, Visit Lauderdale's Dine Out Lauderdale Restaurant Month begins August 1 and runs through September 30. During this time residents and visitors can explore Greater Fort Lauderdale's diverse culinary offerings from participating restaurants throughout the County. Participating restaurants will

offer curated, three course dining options from fixe menus starting at \$35 (lunch), \$45, \$55 or a luxe option for \$75, plus additional discounts on sweets and treats, brunches, happy hours, and exclusive culinary experiences. For more information, or to see a list of participating restaurants, please visit [VisitLauderdale.com/DineOut](https://www.VisitLauderdale.com/DineOut).



## Reminders/Events:



**July is National Park and Recreation Month**, and our own Broward County Parks and Recreation Division joins the national celebration by inviting all residents to learn about all the great things you can do at any of our Broward County Parks. Residents are encouraged to celebrate by participating in any of the month-long planned activities, visit [Broward.org/Parks/ThingsToDo](https://Broward.org/Parks/ThingsToDo) for more information.



**Florida's Freedom Month Sales Tax Holiday** continues through July 31. During this sales tax holiday period, consumers can purchase qualifying recreation and outdoor items and admissions to entertainment and cultural events exempt from sales tax. Visit [FloridaRevenue.com/FreedomMonth](https://FloridaRevenue.com/FreedomMonth) for more information.



**Broward County's Water Parks** are open seven days a week through August 11. Beat this summer heat by visiting one of our amazing water parks. Visit [Broward.org/Parks](https://Broward.org/Parks) for more information.



The **Small Business Microgrant Pilot Program** is still open. Micro-Grants of \$2,500 will be available to small businesses and distributed evenly throughout all Commission districts on a first qualified, first served basis. Visit [Broward.org/EconDev](https://Broward.org/EconDev) for more information and access to the application portal.



Back to school season is almost here, which means the **Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday** is also around the corner. Starting Monday, July 29 through August 11, consumers can purchase back to school supplies exempt from sales tax. Visit [FloridaRevenue.com/BackToSchool](https://FloridaRevenue.com/BackToSchool) for more information.

As always, I am truly thankful to serve you and Commission District 4. If I can ever be of assistance, please contact me at 954-357-7004 or [LFisher@broward.org](mailto:LFisher@broward.org). Also, follow me [@LamarPFisher](https://twitter.com/LamarPFisher) on X (Twitter) and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/LamarPFisher).

Best regards,

**Lamar P. Fisher**  
Broward County Commissioner  
District 4

### Additional Resources:

- Libraries: [Broward.org/Library](https://Broward.org/Library)
- Parks: [Broward.org/Parks](https://Broward.org/Parks)
- Business Assistance: [Broward.org/EconDev](https://Broward.org/EconDev)
- Broward's Official Hurricane Site: [Broward.org/Hurricane](https://Broward.org/Hurricane)
- Mosquito Control Services: [Broward.org/Mosquito](https://Broward.org/Mosquito)
- Fort Lauderdale International Airport: [Broward.org/Airport](https://Broward.org/Airport)
- Port Everglades: [PortEverglades.net](https://PortEverglades.net)