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**October 2025**

**Friends and Neighbors:**

It's hard to believe we are officially in Fall! In just a week, my colleagues and I will be headed to Tallahassee for committee weeks, the start of preparations for the 2026 Legislative Session. This is when essential conversations take place, from reviewing proposed legislation to setting priorities that will shape the months ahead. I am eager to bring your concerns and ideas to the Capitol and to ensure that the voices of our community are represented every step of the way. As always, I look forward to advocating for you and keeping you updated on the work being done on your behalf.

**Constituent Services**

You may not know, but we have two offices to serve our constituents. Our main office is in Boynton Beach and our satellite office is located in Belle Glade. Some of the issues our office may help you with include unemployment, food stamps, Medicaid, DMV-related matters and many other areas handled by state agencies. Please do not hesitate to reach out to either office. We will be sure to assist you and point you in the right direction.

To schedule an appointment with a caseworker in Boynton Beach, please call my office at 561.292.6014. Our Belle Glade office is managed by Brenda Bryant. Office hours in Belle Glade are held on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:00am-

3:00pm. Please call Brenda at 561.873.5090 to schedule directly.

**Best wishes,**



**Lori Berman**

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## **Open Carry Now Legal in Florida: What You Need to Know**

A recent court ruling has brought significant change to Florida's firearm laws. On September 10, 2025, the First District Court of Appeal struck down the state's longstanding ban on openly carrying firearms, declaring it unconstitutional. The ruling in *McDaniels v. State* found that the ban was not consistent with the nation's history of firearm regulation and infringed on the core right to bear arms.

Following the decision, Attorney General James Uthmeier issued guidance to law enforcement and prosecutors, directing them to stop enforcing the open carry ban. In his statement, he described open carry as now being the law of the state. While the ruling technically came from a regional appellate court, the Attorney General's interpretation effectively applies the change statewide.

In practice, this shift does not mean that all restrictions are gone. Firearms still cannot be carried in certain places, including schools, polling places, courthouses, and secure areas of airports. Private property owners and businesses continue to have the right to prohibit firearms on their premises, and those who disregard such rules may face trespassing charges. The manner in which a gun is carried also matters. Open carry must be done safely and visibly, such as in a holster, and displaying a weapon in a threatening manner, also known as brandishing, remains illegal.

Our office will continue to monitor the implementation of this decision and work to strike a balance between recognizing rights and protecting our communities.

For now, Floridians should be aware that open carry is legally permitted, but with certain limitations. Residents need to stay informed, act responsibly, and respect the boundaries that remain in place.

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## Blessed Yom Kippur to you all!

May all your prayers be heard and answered.  
Wishing you all an easy fast and a meaningful journey.



As we observe Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, we pause for reflection, renewal, and hope. May this sacred time bring peace, forgiveness, and clarity to all who are fasting, praying, and seeking a fresh beginning. G'mar Chatima Tova to those observing.

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### **Keep up with me during committee weeks!**

Committee Weeks for the 2026 Legislative Session will begin on October 6. During this time, lawmakers travel to Tallahassee to hold hearings, review proposed legislation, and set priorities for the upcoming session. These meetings are an important part of the legislative process, as they allow issues to be discussed in detail before the session officially begins. Constituents are encouraged to stay engaged by following along with the work being done in committees. All meetings are streamed live and archived on The Florida Channel, which can be accessed at [thefloridachannel.org](https://thefloridachannel.org).

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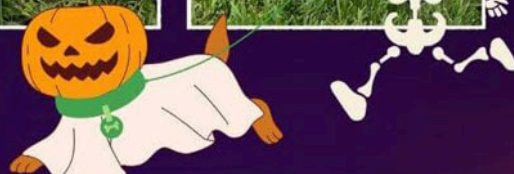
# HOWL-O-WEEN

SUNDAY | OCTOBER 12

*Dogs' Day in the garden!*



*Walk your dogs in costume!*



Mounts Botanical Garden is inviting families, neighbors, and friends of all ages to two special pre-Halloween events next month. For details, please visit: <https://www.mounts.org/events/>

**Sunday, October 12**

***HOWL-O-WEEN Dogs' Day in the Garden***

**9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (last entry at 3 p.m.)**

*FREE for Mounts Members & AHS Reciprocal Program Members*

*\$20 for adults; \$18 for seniors, college students and military with IDs, \$13 for ages 6 to 17, FREE for children under age 6*

***Note: Dogs are FREE for Mounts members and \$5 for nonmembers.***

This dog-and-family-friendly event is held monthly throughout the Garden, but next month Mounts is inviting dogs (and owners if they wish) to dress in

Halloween costumes for a relaxed garden stroll. There are many great spots to capture family photos for posting online with #mountsbotanicalgarden.

*Guidelines:*

- Non-retractable leashes only; retractable leashes are not permitted.
- No more than one dog per adult will be admitted.
- Rabies vaccination must be current.
- Visitors should bring their own water and treats for the puppies.

**Sunday, October 19**

***BOOTANICAL Garden Bash***

**9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (last entry at 3 p.m.)**

*FREE for Mounts Members & AHS Reciprocal Program Members*

*\$20 for adults; \$18 for seniors, college students and military with IDs, \$13 for ages 6 to 17, FREE for children under age 6*

A spooktacular day of food, fun, music, and family activities in the Garden.

Bring the kids in costume and enjoy a festive fall celebration with cute animals, games, treats, and lots of photo ops. Explore Mounts' 20-acre tropical oasis, beautifully decorated for the season, while enjoying delicious bites from local food vendors and live entertainment.

BOOTANICAL highlights will include a petting zoo, kids' activities, a candy treasure hunt, face painting, bubbles, games, a pumpkin patch, photo ops, live music and a special presentation showcasing the magic of air-purifying plants, food vendors and more. For a complete list of activities, visit [www.mounts.org](http://www.mounts.org).

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Earlier this month, I had the pleasure of presenting a check to Ruth & Norman Rales Jewish Family Services in support of their Aging in Place with Grace program. This important initiative provides resources and assistance to help seniors in our community remain independent, safe, and connected. By supporting programs like this, we are investing not only in the wellbeing of older adults but also in the strength and compassion of our community as a whole.

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October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month—a cause close to my heart as a survivor. Early detection and education can save lives, so I encourage everyone to stay informed and take charge of their health. There are great resources out there for learning more and offering support:

1. **Breastcancer.org** – Offers a wealth of information on everything from diagnosis to treatment.
2. **Susan G. Komen Foundation** – Provides research updates, advocacy efforts, and support services.

3. **American Cancer Society** – Learn about prevention, early detection, and research advancements.

Together, we can raise awareness, spread hope, and continue the fight against breast cancer!

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