



LEON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Rick Minor

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER



March 2020 News & Updates

Hello,

I hope you and your family are healthy and safe during this very difficult time. As the world responds to the coronavirus outbreak, please know that your county government is coordinating heavily with other state/local agencies, as well as Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare and Capital Regional Medical Center, to keep you safe and to provide you with the latest developments on local COVID-19 testing, safety precautions, school and library closures, etc.

For the latest local information and other useful links, see [Leon County's Emergency Information Portal](http://www2.leoncountyfl.gov/ei/) (<http://www2.leoncountyfl.gov/ei/>). Please visit this portal regularly, and share it with your family and friends.

I think we've all realized that, unfortunately, our way of life is going to be disrupted for many weeks. It won't be easy, but we WILL get through it together. Your County Commission and County staff are 100% committed to keeping you safe and providing you with updated, honest communication. With that in mind, if you have questions or suggestions after reading [Leon County's Emergency Information Portal](http://www2.leoncountyfl.gov/ei/) or the info below, please don't hesitate to contact me at MinorR@leoncountyfl.gov or my Chief of Staff, Jodi Wilkof, at WilkofJ@leoncountyfl.gov.

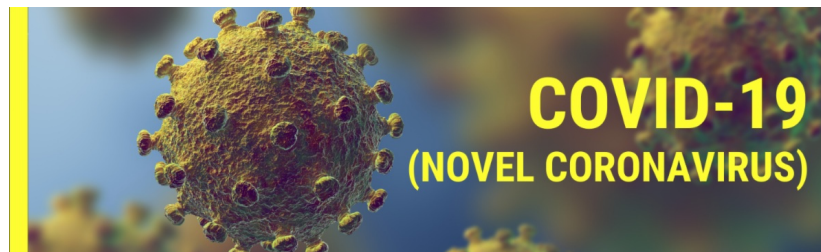
Stay safe and take care of each other. #TallahasseeStrong

Rick Minor

Commissioner, Leon County District 3
MinorR@leoncountyfl.gov

P.S. If you have friends and family who might be interested in receiving this newsletter each month, please ask them to sign up at www.LeonCountyFL.gov/RickMinor. Thank you.

Local Coordination in response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)



As the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to spread, Leon County Emergency Management is committed to actively monitoring the disease and coordinating preparedness efforts with local health officials, healthcare providers, first responders, and other critical emergency response functions. Leon County activated the Emergency Operations Center by request of the Florida Department of Health in Leon County to assist in convening agencies, providing coordination, and aligning public information efforts.

While no cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Leon County, and while the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has ruled Florida an area of low risk, now is the best time for residents and businesses to prepare.

If you have questions, the Florida Department of Health has activated a 24/7 COVID-19 call center at **(866) 779-6121**. Leon County residents can also call the County Health Department at **(850) 404-6300**, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The best resource for Florida-specific COVID-19 information remains the following FDOH website: www.FLHealth.gov/COVID-19.

With regard to possible scams amid high demand for cleaning and sanitizing products, the Florida Attorney General has activated a price gouging hotline: **(866) 9NO-SCAM**.

Recent Updates:

- **State health experts and Governor recommend limiting or canceling mass gatherings.** This recommendation comes from the Florida Department of Health and was issued by Governor Ron DeSantis at a press conference. For us at Leon County, consistent with the recommendation, we have postponed Leon Works and other similar events until further notice. Also, County Emergency Management is strongly encouraging local event organizers to consider limiting or canceling mass events in Leon County at this time.
- The following County facilities are closed **through Sunday, March 29**:
 1. Leon County Main Library and all County branch library locations
 2. All County Community Centers
 3. All County pavilions and event space rentals
 4. All County active park recreation facilities (baseball, soccer, etc.), meaning Little League activities are suspended until Sunday, March 29 at the earliest
- **Springtime Tallahassee, Chain of Parks, and Word of South canceled due to COVID-19.**
- **Newsboys and Jamey Johnson concerts at the Capital City Amphitheater canceled.**
- **Malicious website pretending to be global COVID-19 map** A malicious website pretending to be the live map for Coronavirus COVID-19 Global Cases by Johns Hopkins University is circulating on the internet waiting for unwitting internet users to visit the website. Visiting the website infects the user with the AZORult trojan, an information stealing program which can exfiltrate a variety of sensitive data. It is likely being spread via infected email attachments, malicious online advertisements, and social engineering. Furthermore, anyone searching the internet for a Coronavirus map could unwittingly navigate to this malicious website. [Learn more.](#)
- **Governor restricts senior living facility visitation.** Gov. Ron DeSantis expanded an emergency order prohibiting all visitation to nursing homes, assisted living facilities and other long-term care facilities until mid-April.
- **Honor Flight Tallahassee postponed.** With the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recently issued advisory that adults over the age of 60 are particularly at risk of infection and should avoid all nonessential air travel, the Honor Flight Tallahassee Board of Directors has made the decision to postpone the April 18, 2020 flight. Guardian training scheduled for April 4, 2020 and April 11, 2020 has also been postponed. At this time, a rescheduled flight date has not been determined.
- **Florida Department of Corrections suspends visitation.** Following the State of Emergency issued in response to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Florida, the Florida Department of Corrections (FDC) has suspended visitation at all correctional institutions statewide. FDC has no known or suspected cases of COVID-19 at this time. [More here.](#)



COVID-19

Should I Get Tested?

Florida Department of Health • FloridaHealth.gov

If you have returned from ANY international travel or a cruise within the last 14 days and you have fever, cough or shortness of breath,



OR if you have been in close contact with someone who has recently returned from international travel or a cruise and has any of the symptoms above:

- CALL your health care provider or county health department (CHD).
- SCAN the code for the CHD finder.



If your travel history has not put you at risk, take note:

If you have been in close contact with someone who may have or had COVID-19, and you have symptoms of fever, cough or shortness of breath, or you have an underlying medical condition like diabetes or heart disease, or a history of cancer.

Call, do not visit, your CHD or health care provider.

It's IMPORTANT to call ahead before visiting your CHD or health care provider. Offices must take proper steps to avoid further spread of COVID-19 when a concerned patient arrives for a medical appointment.



Symptoms

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are **fever, cough and shortness of breath.**

Some patients have aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat or diarrhea.



These symptoms are usually mild and begin gradually. Some people become infected but don't develop any symptoms and don't feel unwell. Most people recover from the disease without needing special treatment.



How testing is done.

A person who is tested will have three specimens taken: oral, nasal and saliva. Samples will be given to the CHD and from there, shipped or delivered to the closest laboratory. Test results are available within 24–48 hours.



What if I test positive for COVID-19?

- Stay home except to get medical care.
- Separate yourself from other people and animals in your home.
- Call ahead before visiting your doctor.
- Wear a facemask when around others.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Clean your hands often
- Avoid sharing personal household items
- Clean all "high-touch" surfaces everyday



Learn more:

tinyurl.com/FLcdcprevention

tinyurl.com/FLcovidsick

Florida Health Office of Communications 05-15-20

Download the Leon County Citizens Connect App

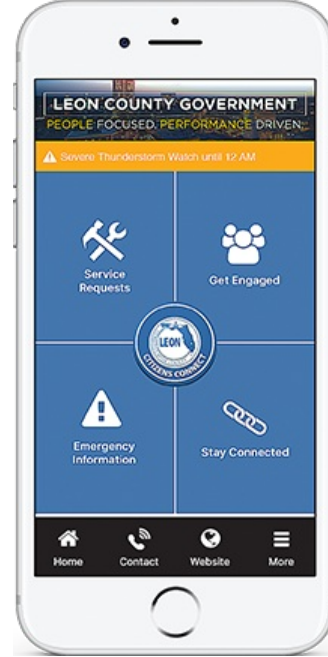
We highly recommend that you download the Leon County Citizens Connect Mobile Application.

The Leon County Citizens Connect app puts the latest information related to COVID-19 at your fingertips through push notifications on your smartphone or other device.

Be the first to know updates relate to the virus - as well as any other emergency management messaging or service changes by downloading the app on the [Apple](#)

[Store](#) or the [Google Play Store](#).

If you have difficulty downloading the app, contact library staff at the main library, who are continuing to answer the phone during normal business hours at (850) 606-2665 or emailing (AnswerSquad@LeonCountyFL.gov).



Supplies Needed!

The Kearney Center is working to ensure readiness for the potential impact of COVID-19, as many of their clients are elderly and have underlying health issues.

They could especially use hand sanitizer, wipes, soap and toilet paper.

Donations are accepted 24/7 at The Kearney Center, 2650 Municipal Way.

Or, if you are involved with an organization that is interested in holding a collection drive, the Kearney Center will pick up the supplies.

For questions or to schedule a pick-up (large quantities only), please contact Audra Peoples at Audra.Peoples@cesctlh.org.

Disinfectant
Wipes and Spray
Needed!

Donate now to The
Kearney Center

2650 Municipal Way
Tallahassee, FL 32304

Still Enjoy Online County Library Services During Closure: Free E-Books, Movies and MORE!

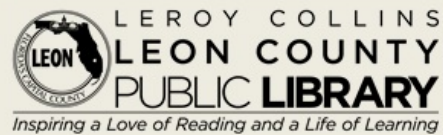
Although the doors of our libraries may be closed, the online services of the library are very much open to the public.

During this closure, citizens are encouraged to enjoy the numerous online offerings provided by the library including downloading eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines as well as streaming movies with Kanopy.

You can also learn to speak a new language with RBdigital or use the databases for access to free online course content and consumer financial information. Library card holders can also access great electronic services such as Learning Express, Universal Class, and Auto Repair Source, just to name a few.

If you don't currently have a library card, you can sign-up online and begin using your card immediately to access these digital features. Fill out a short registration form online at www.LeonCountyLibrary.org and your

personal library card number will be provided to you by email. You can access these resources through the [Library's website](#) and the Leon County Library mobile app for [Apple](#) and [Android](#).



LEROY COLLINS
LEON COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY
Inspiring a Love of Reading and a Life of Learning

While the libraries are closed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, **late fees will be suspended and due dates will be extended.** Library staff at the main library will continue to answer the phone during normal business hours at (850) 606-2665. Staff will be available to assist customers with reference questions or other technical assistance by phone or email (AnswerSquad@LeonCountyFL.gov). Also, all library locations will be thoroughly sanitized before reopening.

Continued Funding for COCA



We are very pleased to share that at our February 25th Board Meeting, the County Commission unanimously (7-0) voted to approve five more years of funding at the same funding levels for the Council on Culture & Arts (COCA).

In the days leading up to the discussion on this issue, our office received hundred of e-mails, texts and phone calls demonstrating support in favor of COCA's independence. We also had 30 speakers at the meeting who were outstanding. All of this input really made a difference in the outcome of this issue.

You can read more about the discussion in [the article in the Tallahassee Democrat](#) and you can watch the full Commission meeting [HERE](#) (the conversation starts at the 1 hour, 12 minute mark).

Thank you once again to everyone who showed their support for COCA. It is a honor to live in a community that is so committed to the arts.

Census 2020

Every ten years the U.S. Census Bureau counts residents across the country. A correct count is vital for Leon County because Census numbers are used to determine how many seats in

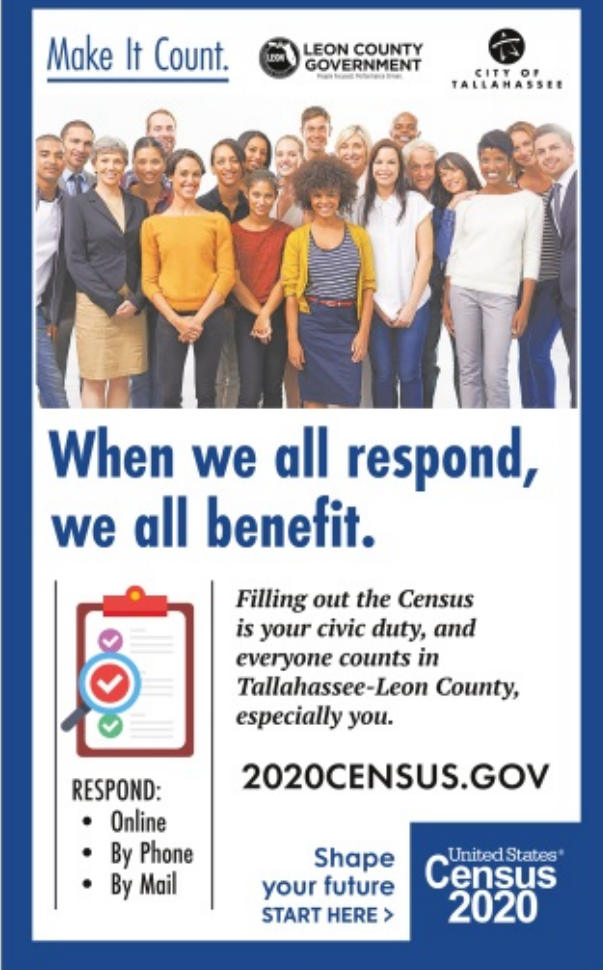
Congress each state gets, as well as how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into communities. Businesses also depend upon Census data to make decisions about where to locate, hire and invest. In addition, this data is used to plan schools, fire departments, health clinics, roads and highways. *Accordingly, it is critical that Leon County accomplishes a complete and accurate Census count.*

You should receive a Census postcard invitation in the mail between March 12 – 20. Once you receive the invitation, you can respond online, by phone, or by mail.

All responses to the Census are safe, secure, confidential, and protected by federal law. No court or law enforcement agency can access your individual responses.

In addition, your online responses are safe from hacking and other cyberthreats. The Census Bureau's cybersecurity program meets the highest and most recent standards for protecting personal information.

To learn more about the Census or for help, go to: 2020census.gov or call 1-800-923-8282.



Make It Count. LEON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CITY OF TALLAHASSEE

When we all respond, we all benefit.

Filling out the Census is your civic duty, and everyone counts in Tallahassee-Leon County, especially you.

2020CENSUS.GOV


RESPOND:

- Online
- By Phone
- By Mail

Shape your future **United States Census 2020** START HERE >


Share Your Feedback on Our Libraries

Leon County is seeking feedback on how our libraries can best align programs, services and spaces to address the community's most pressing needs. Citizens are invited to share their feedback [online through a community survey](#).



LEROY COLLINS
LEON COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ESSENTIAL LIBRARIES INITIATIVE



No matter if you are a frequent user of our libraries, or you haven't been in quite some time, please share your thoughts with the survey.

The survey is part of the Essential Libraries Initiative, which is a process that re-envisioned the County libraries to address the changing needs of County residents and the usage trends throughout the library system. Adopted in January at Leon County's Annual Board Retreat, the initiative's action plan includes community-wide surveys and listening sessions to reach every possible user of the County library to help guide the future of our public library system.

Once again, [click HERE to take the online survey](#).

Summer Youth Training Program 2020

Readers of our newsletter will remember Charlie Holland, last summer's District 3 intern.

Applications for this summer's youth training program have been posted and are currently available online [HERE](#). **The application deadline is April 3rd.**



The Summer Youth Training Program is presented in partnership with CareerSource Capital Region and designed to prepare young adults for the world of work. This is a five-week program that will last

from Monday, June 8 until Friday, July 10. Summer youths earn \$8.56 per hour while learning new skills. In addition to Commissioner offices, summer youth applicants are able to choose from a variety of Leon County Divisions including Leon County Community and Media Relations, Library Services, Volunteer Services, and Development Support & Environmental Management.

Young adults who are accepted into the program will also participate in CareerSource Capital Region's Dynamic Futures training in which they will create a portfolio and learn important soft skills. To be eligible for the program, applicants must be between 14-24 years old; a Leon County Resident; and able to commit to 20 hours a week of work plus additional required training from June 1 – June 5.

Beatles Tribute Group to Perform at Capital City Amphitheater

Leon County Division of Tourism proudly presents Classical Mystery Tour, a tribute to The Beatles with the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, at Cascades Park Capital City Amphitheater. The performance will take place **Friday, November 6, 2020**, as part of the County Concert Series. Tickets are on sale now.

Classical Mystery Tour is a Beatles revival show known as the "world's best Beatles show with symphony orchestra," featuring musicians who look and sound like the original Beatles.



For more than 22 years, Classical Mystery Tour has been delighting audiences performing concerts with more than 100 orchestras in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Asia and Australia. The group played sold out concerts at the Sydney Opera House, and has performed with America's most prestigious orchestras, including the Cleveland Orchestra, The Boston Pops, The Philadelphia Orchestra, The San Francisco Symphony and many more.

To purchase tickets, or for more information on the Capital City Amphitheater at Cascades Park, seating details and other concerts, visit CapitalCityAmphitheater.com. Tickets are available for purchase in-person at The Moon box office. For more information, including box office hours, call (850) 878-6900.

KCCI Bike Park Survey

The 2020 KCCI (Knight Creative Communities Institute) Community Catalyst Class is working to bring to Leon County the benefits of a fun, interactive and educational bicycle park that can be enjoyed by all ages and skill levels.

The Catalysts will rely on survey feedback to guide their planning with regard to the design, form and function of the bike park.

Let them know your thoughts and preferences by taking the survey here.



Southern Living Magazine Again Names Tallahassee One of the South's Best Cities!

For the second year in a row, Leon County has earned a coveted travel distinction from national magazine Southern Living. Tallahassee was named the No. 10 South's Best City, No. 9 South's Best College Town, and home to the No. 1 South's Best Garden Shop (Tallahassee Nurseries) as part of the magazine's fourth annual South's Best Awards recognizing readers' favorite Southern destinations and experiences.



Tallahassee is the only Florida community in the Top 10 of South's Best Cities, and the only Florida city listed on the South's Best College Town.

To see the South's Best 2020 awards rankings in their entirety – showcasing the best small towns, cities, hotels, restaurants and bars among other travel related categories – visit www.southernliving.com/souths-best. The April print issue, which will be dedicated to the South's Best 2020 results, hits stands Friday, March 20.

Crowder Road Sidewalk

Those of you who live near Crowder Road have likely seen the construction of the new sidewalks and culverts.

Rick stopped by the area recently to thank the workers and he took this photo.

To learn more about the project, click [HERE](#).



Leon County and CONA Recognize Annual Neighborhood Award Winners

At last week's Commission meeting, Leon County Government and the Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA) recognized our community's outstanding neighborhoods and neighbors with the 39th Annual Neighborhood Awards.

The 2020 winners are:

- Small Neighborhood of the Year- Blairstone Homes Association
- Large Neighborhood of the Year- Indianhead Lehigh Neighborhood Association
- Unincorporated Neighborhood of the Year- Walden Place Homeowners Association
- Neighbor of the Year- Rhonnie Schaeffer, Greenwood Hills



Created Equal: The 60th Anniversary of Tallahassee Lunch Counter Sit-ins

On the 60th anniversary of the first Tallahassee-Leon County lunch counter sit-ins, the County and Village Square hosted Created Equal. Presented to a standing-room only crowd, the event highlighted our local civil rights history and the actions of the late Patricia Stephens Due, a FAMU student leader who spearheaded the 1960 protests through the local chapter of the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE). The event sought to answer one central question: are we sitting together now?

Rick attended with over 600 others, listening to a panel of civil rights legends who provided a firsthand account of their experiences advocating for civil rights under the law.



Soil Collection Ceremony

On February 29, Rick was honored to join more than 100 people who gathered in Cascades Park to honor the lives of the four documented victims of lynching in Leon County.

The Soil Collection Ceremony, hosted by the Tallahassee Community Remembrance Project, encouraged participants to shovel soil collected from the site of two former Leon County jails and fill eight jars — two for each of the four men.

Half of the jars will be sent to the Equal Justice Initiative's Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama, as part of their national soil collection project, and the other four will be kept for a local display, the location of which has yet to be determined.

More information about the Remembrance Project can be found at their website: www.tallahasseeremembrance.com



You Can Never Have Too Much Chili...

Rick continues to speak at meetings of neighborhood associations, including his recent visit to the Lakewood Village Homeowners Association.

And in the past month, Rick also judged THREE chili cook-offs (one for County employees, one at SAIL High School, and one for the Tallahassee Board of Realtors).

If you have a neighborhood association meeting that you would like for Rick to attend - or a chili cook-off you'd like him to judge - [please let us know](#).



This Month in Leon County History

In celebration of **Women's History Month**, local historian and long-time District 3 resident **Mary May** remembers **Miss Hattie Coles**, one of the first women in Tallahassee to register and vote; the first woman elected as a Leon County constitutional officer; and the longest-serving elected county official – male or female – in the 20th century.

[Click here to learn more](#)

