



LEON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

**Rick Minor**

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER



## January-March 2021 News & Updates

### Upcoming Meetings

#### Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA)

-- Tuesday, March 16, 1:30 pm  
-- City Hall, 2nd Floor  
-- Read the agenda [here](#).

#### Joint City/County Workshop on the 2021 Cycle Comprehensive Plan Amendments

-- Tuesday, March 23, 1:00 pm  
-- County Commission Chambers, County Courthouse, 301 S. Monroe Street

#### County Commissioners Workshop on Affordable Housing

-- Tuesday, March 23, 3:00 pm  
-- County Commission Chambers, County Courthouse, 301 S. Monroe Street

Hello,

I hope you and your family are doing well. Over the past few months, my Chief of Staff Jodi Wilkof and I have spent a great deal of time on North Monroe, working to reduce crime, address those struggling with homelessness, and laying the groundwork for a North Monroe Task Force.

**Yesterday (3/11/21) I asked Rick Kearney to start placing the clients at North Monroe hotels back into the Kearney Center on or about April 1st, so long as we can do it safely for the clients and his employees.** Meeting that timeframe won't be easy, but I'm committed to working with him and the Kearney Center, the Florida Department of Health in Leon County (FDOH-Leon), and the Big Bend Continuum of Care to make it happen as soon as possible.

To read the Tallahassee Democrat's article about this, please click [HERE](#).

Here are some other updates on North Monroe issues:

- **16 arrests on North Monroe** - As a result of our complaints about increased crime on/near North Monroe, law enforcement has stepped up its activity in the area. On Feb. 8th, the Tallahassee Police Department announced the arrest of 16 individuals for various crimes near the I-10 / North Monroe interchange. To read the Tallahassee Democrat's article, please click [HERE](#). There's MUCH more work to be done -- addressing the trash, continued efforts to reduce crime, finding a real solution for those struggling with homelessness, etc. -- but I'm very grateful to TPD for their hard work and for being so responsive to our feedback.
- **Human trafficking** is a major problem near the I-10 / North Monroe interchange... in fact, more trafficking arrests take place there than anywhere else in the county. We've been working with Robin Hassler Thompson, Executive Director of the [Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center \(STAC\)](#), on ways we can increase public awareness of the problem and crack down on trafficking along North Monroe. In the next few weeks, Robin will be introducing a proposal that should help greatly. If you're interested in learning more about STAC and helping them with their work, please click [HERE](#).
- **Setting up the North Monroe Task Force** - At the County Commission's strategic planning session, the Commission supported establishing a task force to address the problems on North Monroe. I've specifically asked for the

task force to focus on both short-term issues (e.g. crime, homelessness, etc.) as well as the longer term ones (e.g., blight, infrastructure/aesthetic improvements, etc.). An agenda item (with more details) will come back to the Commission in the next few weeks, and we'll also ask the City to join us in a coordinated effort.

Please email us at [MinorR@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:MinorR@leoncountyfl.gov) if you'd like to add your name to the list of neighbors and businesses receiving updates on our North Monroe efforts.

We hope you'll find this newsletter helpful. As you'll see below, there's a lot going on in -- vaccinations, planning for the Lake Jackson Greenway, a new composting initiative, etc.

It's a great honor serving you and the rest of Leon County. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions, comments, or suggestions.



**Rick Minor**  
Commissioner, Leon County District 3  
[MinorR@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto: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](http://www.LeonCountyFL.gov/RickMinor). Thank you!

## Covid-19 Updates



Leon County has been #1 in the state with the percentage of local seniors vaccinated - let's keep it up! If you meet the current criteria but are having difficulty getting a vaccine - or if you need transportation to get the vaccine shot, our office is happy to try to help. [Please contact our office here.](#)

Some recent updates:

Note: State vaccination sites are open to eligible individuals per the Governor's amended [Executive Order 21-62](#) signed on March 8, 2021:

- Persons 60 years of age and older (Effective March 15, 2021);
- Long-term care facility residents and staff;
- Persons 65 years of age and older;
- Health care personnel with direct patient contact;
- K-12 school employees 50 years of age and older;
- Sworn law enforcement officers 50 years of age and older; and
- Firefighters 50 years of age and older.
- In addition, hospital providers, physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, and pharmacists may vaccinate persons determined to be extremely vulnerable to COVID-19 by a physician through filling out the [COVID-19 Determination of Extreme Vulnerability Form](#).
- **CVS is offering COVID-19 vaccinations in Leon County by appointment only for eligible individuals, including teachers K-12, daycare, preschool and staff workers of all ages.** Registration is open at [CVS.com](#)
- **Florida State University is offering COVID-19 vaccinations by appointment only at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center Exhibition Hall.** The vaccine will be distributed in accordance with guidelines provide by the Governor's Executive Order. Individuals who meet the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) definition of "extremely vulnerable" will be eligible to register for vaccination appointments through the University. Vaccines are also available to individuals who are age 65+, health care personnel, K-12 school employees, sworn law enforcement officers age 50+, and firefighters age 50+. Registration is open at: <https://vaccine.fsu.edu/>
- **Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare (TMH) is currently scheduling appointments for Florida residents who are 65 or old to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.** Eligible individuals can schedule an appointment online or by calling 850-431-3017 and leaving a message. Registration is open at: <https://www.tmh.org/coronavirus/vaccine/vaccines-for-adults-65-plus>
- **FAMU vaccination site at the Al Lawson Center (1800 Wahnish Way) open to eligible individuals.** Open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 7 days a week, the walk-up vaccination site will occupy the main level of the Alfred Lawson Jr. Multipurpose Center Teaching Gymnasium. Individuals should bring a valid photo ID. Registration online at <https://commvax.patientportalfl.com> is encouraged, but not necessary.
- **Select Publix, Walmart, and Sam's Club stores in Leon County are offering COVID-19 vaccinations to eligible individuals.** Appointments are required at each location and can be made on the following websites:
  - Walmart: <http://www.walmart.com/COVIDvaccine>
  - Sam's Club: <http://www.samsclub.com/covid>
  - Publix: visit <https://www.publix.com/covid-vaccine/florida>
- **FDOH-Leon continues scheduling vaccination appointments for eligible individuals.** Individuals can call 866-200-3856 or (TTY) 833-476-1455 or visit [www.myvaccine.fl.gov](http://www.myvaccine.fl.gov) to pre-register to receive a vaccine through the health department. Also, Florida residents who do not meet the priority criteria can also sign up to receive email updates to learn when they will be eligible to receive the vaccine. Residents who have questions about the registration system can contact the health department at 833-540-2054 from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m.

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**SAFE & HEALTHY CAMPAIGN**

# Safe & Healthy

## Helping the Big Bend Get Past COVID

Safe & Healthy is a communitywide educational initiative that combines the resources of local governments, local hospitals and health care providers, the public school system, and media partners to keep the public informed and provide up-to-date information on COVID-19.



On March 10th, Rick joined other community leaders to launch the Safe & Healthy Big Bend community campaign!

This communitywide educational initiative combines the resources of local governments, local hospitals and health care providers, the public school system, and media partners to keep the public informed and provide up to date information on COVID-19.

Check it out at: <https://safeandhealthybigbend.com/> and you can watch Rick's video [HERE](#).

## Be Sure Your Masks Offer Maximum Protection

### MASK WITH LAYERS CHECKLIST:

- ✓ Use a cloth mask with multiple layers OR a disposable mask under a cloth mask
- ✓ Fit your mask snugly against the sides of your face and over your nose without gaps
- ✓ Secure it with ties or ear loops
- ✓ Ensure that breathing is not too difficult
- ✓ Ensure that vision is not obstructed



The CDC recommends that individuals update their face masks to enhance protection

again COVID-19:

- Make sure your mask fits snugly against your face. Gaps can let air with respiratory droplets leak in and out around the edges of the mas
- Pick a mask with layers to keep your respiratory droplets in and others' out. A mask with layers will stop more respiratory droplets getting inside your mask or escaping from your mask if you are sick.
- When around others, wear a disposable mask underneath a cloth mask that has multiple layers of fabric.

Learn more at: <https://bit.ly/3aWGUVW>

## Lake Jackson Greenway Virtual Community Engagement Sessions



### LAKE JACKSON GREENWAY

— Public Places, Nature's Spaces —

**VIRTUAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS WITH LIVE Q&A!**

Visit [Blueprintia.org/projects/lake-jackson-greenway](https://blueprintia.org/projects/lake-jackson-greenway) for project information and to join the sessions.

Join us for one (or both!) of the  
Virtual Community Engagement sessions below:

**Thursday, March 11 6 - 7:30 p.m.**

**Monday, March 15 10 - 11:30 a.m.**



Text (850) 409-7482 or email [Ljacksongreenway@Blueprintia.org](mailto:Ljacksongreenway@Blueprintia.org)  
to share your comments or ask a question!

Scan me to visit the project website.

**BLUEPRINT**   
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCY

We are pleased to share information about upcoming community engagement regarding Blueprint's Lake Jackson Greenway project. This engagement is designed to provide the community an opportunity to learn more about this regional bicycle and pedestrian mobility project, submit their opinions, and ask questions of the project team.

The Lake Jackson Greenway project was originally conceptualized in the 2015 Tallahassee-Leon County Greenway Master Plan and will include a combination of natural surface trail, paved trail, and on-road designated cycle routes. Major points of connection include the following: Lake Jackson Mounds Archaeological State Park, Okeeheepkee Prairie Park, Fuller Landing, Meginnis Arm Landing, Sugar Creek Plaza, the Centre of Tallahassee, Trousdell Gym & Aquatic Center, and Fred O. Drake Park at Lake Ella in Midtown.

A second live Q&A Session with the Project Team will be held on Monday, March 15 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. This session can be accessed on the project webpage at: [Blueprintia.org/projects/lake-jackson-greenway](https://blueprintia.org/projects/lake-jackson-greenway). Information on the project background, proposed cycle and shared-use path routes, and upcoming project phases will be presented. Meeting attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and leave comments.

Those wishing to participate in the live question/answer session with the project team may do so on:

Monday, March 15 from 10 - 11:30 a.m.  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87959163606>

The comments collected will be used to inform the project team as we move into the

## National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month



To mark National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, the [Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center \(STAC\)](#) and their partners helped us all to be more aware of sex and labor trafficking in our area by reaching out to those who are most vulnerable to being trafficked, especially now during the COVID-19 pandemic.

STAC used funding awarded from Leon CARES to produce a new website and outreach materials to promote local services and the network of resources available to survivors of human trafficking.

This outreach included direct digital messaging about help for potential victims, the development of a [Community Toolkit](#), billboards, and expanded information on the STAC [website](#).

In addition, at the February County Commission meeting, Rick asked the Commission to explore a proposal to offer online training for hotel, restaurant and other workers to help recognize and report human trafficking. Rick's motion passed unanimously. Accordingly, county staff will work with the city, the Tallahassee Police Department, the Leon County Sheriff's Office and STAC to come up with a training proposal.

Traffickers are very nimble during crises like the ones we are now experiencing with COVID-19 and they take advantage of people who are most vulnerable. It's up to all of us to be informed and to help end human trafficking.

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## Help Plan StarMetro's Future



StarMetro is undergoing planning to improve the public transit system and they'd like your input!

There was a meeting held on Feb. 17th for this topic and the materials from the StarMetro virtual Community Meeting are posted at [Think Transit | StarMetro \(talgov.com\)](https://talgov.com/starmetro/ThinkTransit.aspx) - <https://talgov.com/starmetro/ThinkTransit.aspx>.

There is an opportunity to provide feedback by participating in the "Design Your Transit System" survey, which is available at <https://starmetrothinktransit.com/>. Everyone from the community is encouraged to participate, so please feel free to share.

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## Leon County Sustainable Community Summit



The 2021 Leon County Sustainable Community Summit, Sustainability in Action, will take place from Tuesday, April 6th to Saturday, April 10th and will feature a mix of both virtual and small, in-person, outdoor sessions that cover a diverse range of topics.

The Summit puts the focus on how each citizen, business, and organization in our community can take small steps in sustainability that can lead to big change.

As an attendee, you will be able to pick and choose from more than 10 sessions that the Summit has to offer on a variety of topics. Here's a sneak peak at some of the sessions:

- Participate in a live cooking class and make a healthy meal with local produce
- Create your own personalized sustainability action plan for your home or business
- Listen and ask questions as community champions discuss how they integrate sustainability into their work
- Learn about composting, beekeeping, and backyard vegetable gardening
- Hear tips from experts on how to save energy (and money) at home

[Click here](#) to register and learn more.

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## Neighborhood Watch Programs

The Leon County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) is looking to expand the network of neighborhood watch programs that work in conjunction with law enforcement to curb crime.

LCSO is renewing its effort to bring more neighbors into the fold to act as the eyes and ears of the community. Neighborhood Watch programs often represent a visible presence of neighbors who observe and call law enforcement instead of taking a hands-on role in crime prevention.

To learn more or initiate a neighborhood watch program, contact LCSO at (850) 606-3331. For additional information for neighborhoods within the City, call 850-





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## Learn CPR at Home



As we work towards a time when we can conduct CPR events safely in person, we want to share with you our Leon County EMS CPR Training Home Edition.

The community plays a crucial role in improving survival from cardiac arrest when a person's heart stops beating. When bystanders immediately start CPR, that person has a much greater chance of survival compared to when no bystander CPR is performed.

Learn to protect the one you love with our video-based, self-instructional take home CPR Anytime kit. The kit includes a DVD video and manikin for practicing CPR techniques. This is not a certification course.

You can register for the kit [HERE](#) and you may pick your kit up at your local Leon County library branch.

*NOTE: Providing lifesaving CPR requires extra considerations in these challenging times during COVID-19. The American Heart Association recommends a bystander who attempts to rescue a cardiac arrest victim should wear a face mask over his/her mouth and nose and place a face mask over the mouth and nose of the patient to perform Hands-Only CPR. Learn more [HERE](#).*

For questions, contact Major Sally Davis at [davissal@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:davissal@leoncountyfl.gov) or call (850)-606-2100.

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## Business Loans

In response to a growing call for lending to small businesses in our area, two new local loan opportunities are available.

One is SmartSteps, a new \$1 million microloan program to support women and minority-owned businesses in Tallahassee.

The SmartSteps program offers microloans up to \$50,000 through a partnership between FAMU Federal Credit Union and the Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality. You can learn more [HERE](#).

In addition, the Appalachian Regional Planning Council has developed a revolving loan program - REVIVE! to assist small businesses in the retention, expansion, and creation of jobs in the Apalachee Region. These loans are intended for small businesses that do not qualify for traditional lending programs. Learn more [HERE](#).

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## Free Legal Help

*Educational Tax Webinar with  
Jami Coleman from Williams  
and Coleman P.A.*

Thursday, March 11  
6:00 pm-7:00 pm ET

### HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT...

- What is earned income tax credit?
- What other collection alternatives are there?
- Do stimulus checks affect my tax report?

### HOW TO ACCESS

#### Virtual Access:

<http://bit.ly/2021Tax>

To submit questions, you will need  
to attend via the link.

#### Call In:

(301) 715-8592

Webinar ID: 869 7190 5582

Webinar Passcode: 653754



[WWW.LSNF.ORG](http://WWW.LSNF.ORG) | QUESTIONS? CALL (850)701-4238

## Free Legal Help - Educational Tax Webinar

Have questions about earned income tax credit or how stimulus checks will affect your tax report?

The Leon County Clerk's Office in conjunction with Legal Services of North Florida will host an Educational Tax Webinar with Jami Coleman from Williams and Coleman, P.A., **TONIGHT** from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Access: <http://bit.ly/2021Tax>

Call In: (301) 715-8592,

ID: 869 7190 5582, Passcode: 653754

For more information, contact Carter Young, Esquire at [CEYoung@LeonCountyFL.gov](mailto:CEYoung@LeonCountyFL.gov) or 606-4121.



## Neighborhood Meetings

A lot of HOA's and NOA's seem to conduct their annual meetings around this time of year, and Rick has been attending many of the ones in our district - some virtually and some outside masked and socially-distanced.

If your neighborhood is getting together and you'd like Rick to attend, [please let us know.](#)



**We are hiring!**



Apply at:

**TLCCDA.org**

For more information call:

**850-606-5851**

## Looking for Employment?

The Consolidated Dispatch Agency has 100 full time positions, several of which become vacant each year. The Communications Center contains multiple interacting units: Call Takers, Teletype Operators, and Radio Dispatchers. All new PSCO employees receive six weeks of classroom training, after which they receive on-the-job training in each unit from designated co-workers.

The base starting pay for a Communications Operator is \$14.67 per hour up to \$16.87 per hour depending upon experience. Learn more [HERE.](#)

Learn about other job opportunities with Leon County [HERE.](#)

 **HOMESCHOOL HUB**  
**TUTORING ON ZOOM**  
FREE tutoring by appointment



## Leon County Library's Virtual Homework Hub

Make an appointment with the library's virtual Homework hub for all your tutoring needs for students in kindergarten - 8th grade!

Homework Hub is a free program pairing students with tutors in a one-on-one environment. Volunteer tutors are ready to help you with math, English, social studies and science!

Visit our website for more info and to make an appointment:

[www.LeonCountyLibrary.org/HomeworkHub](http://www.LeonCountyLibrary.org/HomeworkHub)

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## Fred George Greenway - Virtual Nature Walk



**VIRTUAL NATURE WALK**  
*of the Fred George Greenway with Misty Penton*

**zoom**

  
**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS**  
arts.gov/nehbigread  
**NEA BIG READ**  
Managed by Arts Midwest

NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

Come along with us on a virtual nature walk of the Leon County Fred George Greenway, guided by local horticulturalist expert, Misty Penton, on **Saturday, March 20 at 10:00 am.**

Misty Penton is the Education Director for The Museum at Fred George Park and Greenway operated by Wildwood Preservation Society. She holds a Master of Science degree from the University of Oregon in Physical and Biological Anthropology and two Bachelor in Science degrees from Florida State University in Political Science and Anthropology.

Ms. Penton grew up near the property now contained in the Leon County Fred George Park and Greenway and created a coalition to help found the new county park. She is a community environmental advocate and a tradition keeper and storyteller for the Muscogee Nation of Florida. She is also the Museum Director/Curator at Muscogee Nation Of Florida and an Education Specialist at WFSU Public Media.

Learn more [HERE](#).

# SUBMIT YOUR SHORT MEMOIR FOR OUR PRINTED PUBLICATION!



For rules and restrictions, visit  
[tinyurl.com/LCMemoirSubmission](http://tinyurl.com/LCMemoirSubmission)



NEA Big Read is a program of the  
National Endowment for the Arts in  
partnership with Arts Midwest.

Submit by  
**MARCH 31**

Throughout the month of March, submit  
your poem or short story memoir, or zine.

Submissions will be considered for a  
printed publication that will be added to the  
LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library  
collection.

Deadline - **March 31, 2021**

*\*Please note that if chosen for the printed  
publication, all works will become publicly  
viewable.*

For requirements and to submit your work,  
click here:  
[tinyurl.com/LCMemoirSubmission](http://tinyurl.com/LCMemoirSubmission)

## Two New Composting Initiatives in Leon County



Composting is the natural process of  
recycling organic matter into a useful  
fertilizer. Everything that grows will  
eventually decompose, and composting  
speeds up the process by providing an  
ideal environment for decomposition.

The resulting decomposed material, which  
looks a lot like soil, is called compost; it is  
rich in nutrients and can be used to  
supplement garden soil.

Beginning this month, Leon County -  
through our Office of Sustainability -  
is offering two new composting  
opportunities to help citizens, businesses,  
and organizations to divert food scraps  
from the landfill and turn trash into treasure.

### New Pilot Compost Drop-off Site

Leon County's new pilot compost drop-off site at the [Solid Waste Facility](#) (7550 Apalachee Pkwy) will open on March 18, 2021, and residents will be able to bring their food scraps to drop off into the compost bins (located next to the mulch pick-up area).

Acceptable food items include:

- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Expired produce
- Egg shells
- Paper napkins
- Coffee grounds

The compost bins cannot accept:

- Meat or bones
- Dairy
- Food cooked in oil
- Pasta and grains
- Coffee cups
- Bioplastics

### WELCOME TO THE COUNTY PILOT COMPOST DROP-OFF SITE

Thank you for visiting Leon County's Pilot Compost Drop-Off Site

Here's how this works:

- 1) Select a bin with a green marker
- 2) Make sure the items you have are acceptable for drop-off  
(Check the What Can I Compost List on each bin)
- 3) Add your food scraps to the bin
- 4) Put the lid back on
- 5) Give yourself a pat on the back!

**Please note,** we cannot accept meats, oils, grains, plastics, dairies,  
or other non-compostable items at this time.



Initially, the County plans to use the compost at County facilities but plans to offer it to community gardens or other organizations in the future. If this pilot project is successful, the County will look at other opportunities to expand the drop-off program to other facilities in the county. The Solid Waste Facility is open Monday-Saturday from 8am-5pm.



## Compost Bin Giveaway and Sale

Are you more interested in composting at your home or work instead of dropping it off? Leon County is also launching an Earth Machine compost bin giveaway and sale on March 18, 2021.

Free compost bins will be available to residents and non-profits of unincorporated Leon County. For all others, compost bins will be available for purchase at the wholesale price of \$38.

Composting at home, at work, or your faith-based organization is easier than you think! Interested, but not sure how to compost? Leon County and the [UF/IFAS Extension Office](#) have plenty of resources available to help you out. More information and sign up will be available [HERE](#) starting March 18, 2021.