



The Leon County LINK

Connecting Citizens with Leon County Services

County Reduces Gases that Contribute to Global Warming



Last week, Leon County reached a major milestone in helping our environment – and in improving the smell of the landfill. The County's Solid Waste Management Division began capturing and burning landfill gas at the Apalachee Solid Waste Management Facility on Highway 27 south. This process drastically reduces harmful pollutants that contribute to global warming. Construction began in November 2006, and the total cost of the project was \$615,000.

Not only does this practice reduce odors that naturally occur in landfills, but also it incinerates the methane gases that landfills generate, which are a major contributor to greenhouse gases. The project is a testament to some of the core values of the County Solid Waste Division, such as being good stewards of the environment and a good neighbor to those who live near the facility.

When organic materials rot in the landfill, water, carbon dioxide, methane and small amounts of other gases are produced. By using a series of vertical wells and an electric vacuum pump, the gas is sucked out of the wells and pumped to a burner, similar to your gas grill. As the gas is burned, the methane and odor-causing gases are destroyed.

Once the volume and quality of gas are known, the County will solicit proposals to convert the landfill gas into energy. This may be in the form of electricity or another energy consuming activity.

Have a 'Heart' and Save a Life EMS Hosts Community CPR Day

Each year, at least 250,000 Americans die of sudden cardiac arrest before they reach the hospital. Leon County Emergency Medical Services (LCEMS) can give you the knowledge and skills needed to respond to a cardiac emergency. On Saturday, May 19, LCEMS is hosting the third annual Community CPR day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Capital Health Plan facility, located at 1491 Governor's Square Blvd.

LCEMS, in partnership with the American Heart Association, Professional Safety Educators, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, and Capital Regional Medical Center, will provide free cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training to the public, with one-hour classes starting every 30 minutes. Participants will watch a 30-minute American Heart Association video and then work with trainers in a one-on-one setting to practice their skills. Participants will also be able to learn how to use Automated External Defibrillators, or AED's. For more information, please contact LCEMS at 606-2100.



Citizen Committees Play an Active Role in Local Government

The Board of County Commissioners values citizen input and considers it a crucial element of County government. Citizen committees are vital to the Board's decision-making process, as they provide public input, give advice, and make recommendations regarding matters that are brought before the Board for approval. By serving on a committee, you would have the opportunity to influence the development of Leon County's programs and policies while providing a quality public service to the community. There are many different kinds of committees to serve on, such as housing, human services, transportation, and more.

If you are interested in serving on a Board-appointed committee, please visit the County's Web site at www.leoncountyfl.gov/committees, complete the Board-appointed citizen committee *Orientation and Training* and fill out an application. You will also find a listing of the committees with information on vacancies, committee responsibilities and member eligibility. For more information, please contact Christine Coble at 606-5300 or by e-mail at coblec@leoncountyfl.gov.

Come and See Renovated Playgrounds in Woodville

Two new playgrounds at the J. Lewis Hall, Sr. Park in Woodville, which opened in late April, really demonstrate the age-old adage "where the rubber hits the road." Residents are invited to enjoy the celebration of the new equipment on Saturday, May 5, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 7575 Old Woodville Highway. Designed with disabled children in-mind, the playgrounds feature a rubber surface that provides ease-of-use by disabled children.

In addition to this added feature, old playground equipment has been replaced with new equipment, and the two playgrounds are separated for children of different ages – one is for children ages two to five, and the other is for children ages five to ten.

The new playground equipment is part of a Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program grant of \$112,500. Leon County matched this grant with \$37,500. The cost of the new equipment and rubber floors is \$137,695, and the remaining portion of the grant will be used to renovate the restroom at the concession building.

J. Lewis Hall, Sr. Park also has four Little League baseball fields, a Junior League field, a softball field, two basketball courts, and a multi-use field. For more information, call Leon County Parks and Recreation at 606-1470.



Summer Youth Employment Opportunities with County

Summer is a time when most students look forward to enjoying a vacation, but for some, summer is a good time to explore career opportunities. The Leon County Summer Youth Training Program is designed to allow students to do just that. This six-week program introduces participants to the workplace, imparts valuable employment skills, and provides a summer income for Leon County youth between the ages of 14 and 21.

This year, there are 68 positions available. All positions are for 20 to 25 hours per week and will pay \$6.67 per hour. Summer youth workers have the opportunity to gain experience in a variety of locations throughout Leon County, including Public Works, EMS, Parks and Recreation and several others. The 2007 Summer Youth Training Program is scheduled to run from Monday, June 18, through Friday, July 27. Applications are due Friday, May 11.

For more information or to fill out an application, please visit www.leoncountyfl.gov/HR/summeryouth or contact Larmond Boatwright in Human Resources at 606-2413.

May 2007 Board of County Commissioners Schedule

- 8 Workshop on Property Tax Reform Implications, 9 a.m.**
Commission Meeting, 3 p.m.
City/County Adoption Hearing on Comprehensive Plan Amendments and Public Hearings, 6 p.m., Leon County Courthouse, 5th Floor, Commission Chambers
- 22 Workshop on "Green" Buildings and FSU's Off-Grid Zero Energy Building, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.**
Preliminary Budget Discussions, 12 p.m.
Commission Meeting, 3 p.m.
Public Hearings, 6 p.m.
Leon County Courthouse, 5th Floor, Commission Chambers
- 28 Office Closed in honor of Memorial Day.**

The Link is produced by Leon County Public Information, 606-5300.