



LEON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Rick Minor

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER



January/February 2020 News & Updates

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, **Feb. 18** -
*Capital Region
Transportation
Planning Agency
(CRTPA)*, 1:30 p.m.,
City Hall, 2nd Floor

Tuesday, **Feb. 25** -
*Joint Workshop
Comprehensive
Plan Amendments*,
1:00 p.m. - County
Courthouse, 5th
Floor Commission
Chambers

Tuesday, **Feb. 25** -
*Board of County
Commissioners
Regular Board
Meeting*, 3:00 p.m. -
County Courthouse,
5th Floor
Commission
Chambers

CLICK HERE for a
full list of all
upcoming Leon
County meetings

Hello,

I hope you're doing well. Over the past few weeks, the County Commission has discussed some major topics, such as the review of our five-year strategic plan, addressing the volatile global recycling market and its effect on our community, and the CRTPA's 2045 regional mobility plan. For details, please see below.

In addition, at Tuesday's meeting the County Commission enacted a three-year extension of its contract with Waste Pro for waste collection in Leon County's unincorporated areas. This wasn't an easy decision, but we believe the extension is the most cost-effective option for our citizens. To ensure quality service going forward, the County added new contract language increasing accountability and we'll also receive quarterly status reports about service levels. If you are a Waste Pro customer and have any unresolved issues now or in the future, I want to hear from you... please send me an email (with "Waste Pro" in the subject line) with your service address and a detailed description of the problem, and I will follow up with Waste Pro on your behalf.

Lately I've also been meeting with several neighborhood associations to address issues important to them. If you and your neighbors would like me to attend an upcoming meeting, please don't hesitate to contact me or my Chief of Staff, Jodi Wilkof.

As always, please let us know if you have any questions or comments. It is such an honor to be serving you and working with you to make Leon County an even better place to live!

Happy Valentine's Day,

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!

New Police Headquarters will be in our District!

We are excited that the Tallahassee City Commissioners unanimously voted to select the Northwood Center as the new headquarters for the Tallahassee Police Department. This is very exciting news for the residents of District 3 and will provide a huge boost to North Monroe and NW

Leon County. You can read more about this decision [HERE](#).



And...District 3 is getting a Dog Park!

Speaking of wonderful additions to our District, we also will be getting a dog park! This new dog park is located at **J. Lee Vause Park, 6024 Old Bainbridge Rd.** If you're able, please bring your dogs to join Rick at the grand opening **TOMORROW, (Friday, Friday, Feb. 14), at 2 p.m.**

The new dog park is located inside the existing J. Lee Vause Park and provides 1.5 acres of space within the park's wooded area. Amenities for furry friends and their humans include a drinking fountain with a dog water bowl attachment, a log tunnel, jumping hoops and benches.



Leon County Animal Control will be in attendance with low-cost spay and neuter vouchers and information on local pet resources. In addition, local nonprofit Big Dog Rescue will bring adoptable dogs in case visitors want to add a new member to their pack! Make sure to bring your sweet tooth to this event because human and dog treats will be available from Lucy and Leo's Bakery that are sure to hit the spot. Lastly, don't forget to snap a photo at the "Pug Shot" photo booth for a paw-some social media worthy picture of your pooch.

Leon County encourages all attendees and future visitors to share their "paws-itive" dog park experience on social media using #LCDogPark and #VauseBarkPark. For more information about Leon County dog parks, visit LeonCountyFL.gov/DogPark.

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

To observe the 60th anniversary of the landmark Tallahassee lunch counter sit-ins, Leon County Government and The Village Square together will present the 5th annual Created Equal event.

We'll gather legends from our hometown's civil rights movement, their families and important figures today to talk about the legacy of these heroes and pose the question "are we sitting together now?"



The event will be held at **The Moon THIS EVENING (Thursday, February 13)** from **5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.** Admission is free and pizza, salad and drinks will be provided. [REGISTER HERE](#).

Our Long-Range Transportation Plan: We Need Your Input!

The Connections 2045 Regional Mobility Plan (RMP) will update the Capital Region's long-range transportation plan and further define the strategy for addressing existing and future travel needs, with a focus on the needs and desires of the residents of Gadsden County, Jefferson County, Leon County, and Wakulla



County. Long-range transportation plans are updated every 5 years to account for new and changing factors that influence transportation needs and trends.

Please take a moment to complete [THIS SURVEY](#) to share your ideas about transportation in our area.



WFSU Perspectives: Third Act

Rick has joined with several partners to create the Third Act initiative. Third Act provides support and resources for residents 50+ who wish to re-invent themselves, try something new, and/or help others on their journey. Examples include starting a new company, lending skills to others starting a company, and being a mentor.

Recently, Rick spoke about this initiative with Tom Flanagan on WSU's Perspectives. Joining Rick were Antonio Montoya, executive director DOMI Station; Director of the Leon County Office of Economic Vitality Cristina Paredes; and Barbara Westcott, CEO and founder of Swellcoin and co-founder of Women Wednesdays.



[CLICK HERE](#) to listen to the broadcast and [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about the Third Act initiative and how to get involved.

Leon County Annual Retreat

The Leon County Commission met recently for its annual retreat. At the retreat, Commissioners reviewed and amended the County's five-year strategic plan with the addition of 16 new or amended strategic initiatives that direct and align organizational action to advance the County's strategic priorities in the areas of Economy, Environment, Quality of Life and Governance.

As part of the update, Leon County reviewed its progress towards reaching bold goals and five-year targets, highlighting the successes in growing the



tourism economy to nearly \$3 billion over the past three years, surpassing the goal of committing to upgrade or eliminate 500 septic tank systems, securing more than half of the goal of \$100 million in Veterans Affairs benefits for Leon County veterans and implementing nearly 300 new citizen ideas, improvements, solutions or opportunities.

Also as part of the day, Commissioners discussed re-envisioning the public library so as to leverage the library's significant existing operating and capital resources to unlock new opportunities that address community issues and advance the Board's priorities. As a result, the Board adopted the Essential Libraries Initiative, a three to five-year plan of action to realign the library's programs, services, staff and physical spaces with the community's greatest needs and goals.

The FY2019/2020 Strategic Planning Retreat materials can be found [here](#).

Businesses: Become an exhibitor for Leon Works 2020

By 2026, over 70,000 new jobs in our community will require more than a high school diploma, but less than a four-year college degree. To address the need, Leon County Government and the Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality are hosting the Leon Works Expo to bring



together members of the community, employers, academic institutions and students in an effort to bridge the skilled job gap.

[Watch Leon Works Video](#)

On Friday, April 3, 2020, the Leon Works Expo will connect local businesses with hundreds of high school students from Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla, and surrounding counties preparing to enter the workforce upon graduation.

As an exhibitor at this year's Leon Works Expo, you will be able to interact and inform students about your organization's skilled career opportunities and provide students with information on certifications, apprenticeships and educational resources.

To learn more about the Leon Works Expo, [CLICK HERE](#). To register as an exhibitor, [CLICK HERE](#).

Have you downloaded the Leon Library App Yet?

Did you know that The Leon County Public Library system has launched the Leon County Public Library mobile app for [Apple](#) and [Android](#)?

The app gives local users instant access to a wide range of services, and it doubles as your library card.

The app allows 24-hour access to many digital library services. Users can:

- Download eBooks, audiobooks and videos
- Access electronic services such as Learning Express, Universal Class, Auto Repair Source and many others
- Watch movies, and read digital magazines or newspapers
- Search the entire library catalog of books
- Keep track of when borrowed items are due, reserve and renew them

Users can also connect with a librarian for help and get an answer to a reference question by email!

Local residents can also now sign up for a library card online at LeonCountyLibrary.org or on the app. You will be able to use your library number immediately, and receive a physical card in the mail later.



Friends of Lake Jackson

Do you live near Lake Jackson and/or have a particular interest in maintaining its beauty and protecting it from adverse effects?

The Friends of Lake Jackson is a local nonprofit dedicated to those goals. They also have a really helpful website. To learn more, check them out [HERE](#).



Library Lecture Series: Jeff VanderMeer

Join Leon County in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts Big Read kickoff **Saturday, March 7, at 3 p.m.** for the continuation of the 2020 Library Lecture Series with, "The World of Borne...and Our World" reading, exploration, and discussion at the **Leon County Main Library** featuring acclaimed New



Enter a world of phantasmagorical creatures in a future we should hope to avoid. Jeff VanderMeer will read from his novel AMC is turning into a TV series and talk about nature and the rich biodiversity of Tallahassee—and how we can keep it that way. Jeff VanderMeer is known most for his Southern Reach trilogy from FSG “Borne”, which won the Shirley Jackson Award and Nebula Award and recently made Buzzfeed’s list of the best books of the decade. The trilogy also prompted the New Yorker to call the author “the weird Thoreau” and was published in 35 countries, with Paramount Pictures releasing a movie in 2018.

The event is free and open to the public. Space is limited; be sure to register [HERE](#).

Congratulations to Dr. Pam Hall!

The Leon County Commission recently recognized long-time advocate and community volunteer Dr. Pam Hall for her contributions to Leon County.

Rick had the honor of reading the proclamation at a Board meeting and presenting it to Pam.

Thank you, Pam, for all you do to make Leon County a better place to live!



League of Women Voters 100th Anniversary

At the February 11th Commission meeting, Rick presented members of the League of Women Voters with a proclamation recognizing the League’s 100th anniversary.



Youth Extension Day

Youth Extension Day is a **free** event on **Saturday, February 15**, from **11:00 am – 1:30 p.m** at the **South City Community Garden (510 E. Orange Ave)**.

Youth will learn about pollination and insects, growing food, wildlife, soil and organic matter, cooking and eating healthy, exercising, recycling, and 4-H opportunities at stations led by representatives of UF/IFAS and FAMU Extension, Whole Child Leon, Leon County Office of Resource Stewardship, Master Gardeners, and more.



[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Collection



When hazardous waste is disposed of through traditional means, chemicals and other pollutants can harm the local environment by infiltrating the ground water and soil. Leon County Solid Waste Management Division is dedicated to decreasing these toxic landfill items through its monthly Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) & Electronics Collection events.

Citizen superheroes may bring up to 100 pounds of hazardous waste per vehicle, in addition to electronics. Accepted items include:

- Household items such as aerosols, nail polish and remover, hair color, spot remover, and fluorescent bulbs (limit of 25 fluorescent tubes per vehicle);
- Cleaners such as oven and drain cleaners, floor-care products, ammonia, metal and furniture polish, bleach or rust remover;
- Garage items such as motor oil, gasoline, fuel oil, antifreeze, brake fluid, transmission fluid, paint, stains, mercury thermometers;
- Batteries of all types including alkaline, rechargeable, watch and car batteries;
- Electronics such as phones, printers and ink cartridges, computers, fax machines, CDs, VHS tapes, cassettes and televisions (only one large-screen television per vehicle).

For a full list of accepted items, please visit: www.LeonCountyFL.gov/HHW.

The next Hazardous Waste Collection will be on **Saturday, March 7** from **9 am - 1 pm** at the Leon County Public Works building - **2280 Miccosukee Road**.

[CLICK HERE](#) for further information.

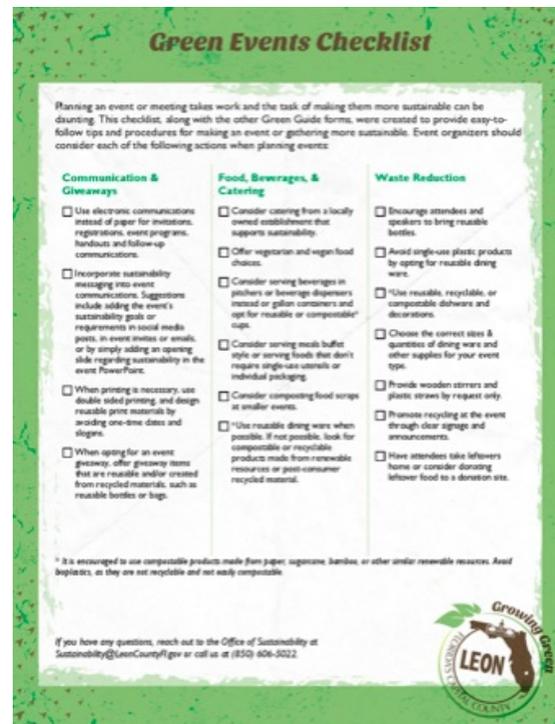
Making Events Greener

Planning events and meetings with food takes work and the additional task of making them more sustainable can be daunting.

To help out, the Leon County Office of Sustainability created a [Green Events Checklist](#) to help meeting and event planners reduce waste, support local businesses, and set an example of good environmental stewardship at their event. This checklist aims to provide easy-to-follow tips and procedures to make your gatherings more sustainable.

Along with the [Green Events Checklist](#), the Office of Sustainability's website provides additional resources for planning green events, including a [Vendor Request Form](#), [Food Donation Sites](#), and a [Recycling Bin Rental Form](#). We encourage you to use these resources to increase sustainability and reduce waste at your next event!

For more information or if you have recommendations for additional items to add to these resources, please contact the Office of Sustainability at Sustainability@leoncountyfl.gov or call (850) 606-5000.



Leon County Spring Concert Series

LEON COUNTY CONCERT SERIES

DENNIS DEYOUNG: THE GRAND ILLUSION
40TH ANNIVERSARY ALBUM TOUR



DENNIS DEYOUNG - FEB. 20

Boyz II Men
Live in Concert

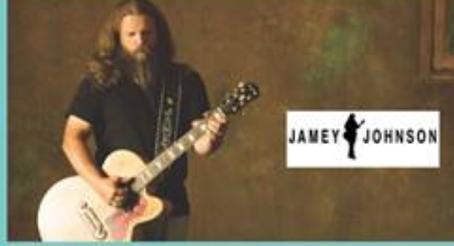


BOYZ II MEN - FEB. 29



NEWSBOYS UNITED

NEWSBOYS UNITED - MAR. 26



JAMEY JOHNSON

JAMEY JOHNSON - APR. 3



Visit
Tallahassee
Pretty Unexpected



CAPITAL CITY
AMPHITHEATER
AT CASCADES PARK

TICKETS ON SALE NOW @ CAPITALCITYAMPHITHEATER.COM

Spring is starting a bit early this year, and we want you to celebrate with music! Leon County will host the following national acts at the Capital City Amphitheater from February to April: Dennis DeYoung, Boyz II Men, Newsboys United, and Jamey Johnson. Get your tickets today at CapitalCityAmphitheater.com. #LeonCounty #iHeartTally