



LEON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Rick Minor

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER



COVID-19 Updates (April 27, 2020)

Hello,

We hope this newsletter provides helpful information about resources for you and your family during the coronavirus shutdown. Please remember that [Leon County's Emergency Information Portal](#) remains an excellent resource as well.

If you have questions or suggestions after reading [Leon County's Emergency Information Portal](#) 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. #StayHomeSaveLives #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, please ask them to sign up at www.LeonCountyFL.gov/RickMinor. Thank you.

Upcoming Virtual Meeting and Public Hearings Tuesday, April 28 at 3:00 pm




The public can view live coverage of the April 28th Commission meeting on Comcast channel 16 or stream it live through the Leon County's [Facebook](#) page, [Youtube channel](#) or on the Leon County [website](#). The agenda, which includes the public hearing and general business items, can be viewed [HERE](#).

Public comment will be accepted via electronic submission. Citizens wishing to provide input for this meeting may submit their comments at Leoncountyfl.gov/PublicComments. To ensure adequate time for Commissioner review, comments should be submitted by **8 p.m. this evening (April 27, 2020)**. Comments will be distributed to the Commissioners prior to the April 28, 2020 3 p.m. meeting. Comments submitted after the 8 p.m. deadline will be added to the official record of the meeting, but the County

Local Emergency Assistance for Non-profits (LEAN) Grant



OFFICE OF
**ECONOMIC
VITALITY**

The text is followed by two circular logos. The first logo features a stylized yellow and teal design, possibly representing a compass or a path. The second logo is the official seal of Leon County, Florida, which includes the word "LEON" and a circular emblem.

At its most recent meeting, the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency (IA) Board of Directors, comprised of Leon County Commissioners and City of Tallahassee Commissioners, activated a \$1 million grant program to assist local non-profits impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Local Emergency Assistance for Non-profits (LEAN) grant program, which will be administered by the Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality (OEV), was initiated by the IA Board through the reallocation of \$1 million from the Blueprint infrastructure program to provide a helping hand to eligible, local non-profit organizations in order to support the continuity of their operations.

Eligible non-profits include human services, cultural arts and historical organizations. To date, OEV has received more than 129 applications and has approved \$222,500 for 89 eligible applicants.

The application deadline is Friday, May 15, 2020, or until all funds have been expended, whichever comes first. The funds will be released to eligible non-profits on a first-come, first-served basis. Non-profit organizations receiving grant approval should expect to receive payment approximately 10-12 business days after submitting the necessary forms.

To learn more and to apply, click [HERE](#).

If you need assistance or have any questions, please contact the OEV team at 850-219-1060 or by e-mail at info@oeforbusiness.org.

THE TALLY 100% TOGETHER COALITION PRESENTS:

NAVIGATING COVID-19: A Q&A WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS

THURSDAY, 4/30/2020, FROM 6PM - 7:30PM



Join Rick this **Thursday at 6:00 pm** as the Tally 100% Together Coalition hosts a virtual town hall on the COVID-19 crisis and prevalent social justice issues here in Tallahassee. Topics will include how utilities, education, homelessness, and more are being impacted by this global pandemic.

This is a unique opportunity for you to ask your representatives and local experts questions about the impacts of COVID-19 on our local community and the issues that you care about.

Sign-up for the Webinar

here: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUodOiorT0tGNeJZzjFw7qvgetdChUJSolf>

Or watch it on the Tally 100 Facebook Page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/tally100together/>

You can submit questions [HERE](#).

Note: This virtual town hall has been properly noticed per Florida's Sunshine Law

North Monroe Street Resurfacing to be Accelerated

Certain Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) infrastructure projects are being accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic, since traffic is lighter due to safer-at-home orders. Blueprint staff recently met with FDOT staff via conference call and learned that FDOT would accelerate the resurfacing of North Monroe Street from the Gadsden County line to Capital Circle NW/Old Bainbridge Road. To that end, the project will be out for bid by October 2020, ahead of schedule.



Leon County Crime Down for Third Consecutive Year!

The Leon County Sheriff's Office recently announced a decrease in the overall crime rate in Leon County for the third consecutive year.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement's 2019 Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) shows a 13.7% reduction in total crime from 2018. Along with that overall statistic, UCR also reflects a

reduction in violent crime by 6.4% and a reduction in property-related crime by 14.9% over the same reporting period. As a result, Leon County no longer has the highest per capita crime rate in the state. Moreover, Leon County has seen a 32% decrease in total crime since 2016.



We still have a lot of work to do (and COVID-19 presents new challenges), but this is a testament to the leadership of Sheriff Walt McNeil and his team, the Tallahassee Police Department, and of course the public.

Thank you for your hard work!

Please Properly Dispose of Litter and Used Personal Products

Please make sure to dispose of all trash by properly throwing it away. This is especially important for used personal protective items like masks, gloves and disinfectant wipes.

Littering these items is not only bad for the environment, but it can also lead to further spread of Covid-19.



The Jobs Now Initiative

The Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce has launched Jobs Now - an initiative aimed at connecting businesses with individuals looking for employment. Click [HERE](#) for more information on how you can get involved.



Learn from a Local

Learn from a Local is a free video tutorial service born out of a desire to empower Tallahassee neighbors, strengthen community connectedness, and help people make ends meet during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This new website, created by The Taproot Agency, offers expert how-to advice from Tallahassee professionals and invites you to return the favor by giving back to their business. Check it out here: <https://learnfromalocal.com/>.



Save Small Business Initiative

The [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#) Foundation has launched the Save Small Business Fund to help small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. The program will provide \$5,000 grants to as many small employers as they can. [Visit their website](#) for more information and to apply.



Need a Cloth Mask?

The CDC recommends that everyone wear a cloth face mask when out in public. If you'd like to purchase a mask, consider supporting our local maskmakers by purchasing one made in our community. Check out the list [here](#).

IMPORTANT! Masks are not a replacement for practicing physical distancing from others, staying home, or washing your hands. Also, please don't use surgical or N-95 masks -- our first responders and medical professionals have an urgent need for them.



COCA, OEV, Florida Cultural Alliance host Funding Webinar

Join the [Office of Economic Vitality](#), the [Florida Cultural Alliance](#) and the [Council on Arts & Culture \(COCA\)](#) on **Wednesday, April 29th, at noon** for the Funding for Local Arts, Culture and History webinar. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the [Local Emergency Assistance for Non-profits \(LEAN\)](#) grant and other stimulus opportunities with OEV Director Cristina Long Paredes and Jennifer Jones, Executive Director of the Florida Cultural Alliance.



Click [HERE](#) for more information.

COCA's Poems to Go

Thanks to the Council on Culture & Arts (COCA) for spearheading "Poems To Go" - a program pairing free poems with take-out orders from local restaurants and food service organizations. The goal of the program is to provide our community with a heaping helping of poetry while supporting and celebrating local restaurants and artists.

All area restaurants and food service organizations currently offering to-go, curbside pick-up, drive-thru, or delivery services are invited to include a poem with every order. COCA has created a free, downloadable, printable selection of original poems by local writers.

To download the poems and participate in Poems to Go, click [HERE](#).



Beware of Covid-19 Text Scams

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) is warning citizens about text scams related to COVID-19. Recently, the BBB has gotten numerous reports of phony text messages claiming to be from a government agency.



How the Scam Works:

You get a text message that looks like it comes from the US federal government, such as the US Department of Health and Human Services. The message tells you that you must take a "mandatory online COVID-19 test" and has a link to a website. Other text message scams include urging recipients to complete "the census" or fill out an online application in order to receive their stimulus check.

No matter what the message says, do not click! These texts are phishing for personal information. They also can download malware to your device, which opens you up to risk for identity theft.

Tips to Spot a COVID-19 Text Message Scam:

- Government agencies do not typically communicate through text messages.
- Ignore instructions to text "STOP" or "NO" to prevent future texts. This is a common ploy by scammers to confirm they have a real, active phone number.
- If you think your text message is real, be sure it's directing to a web address like "agency.gov" or "agency.ca," not "agency.otherwebsite.com."
- Check for look-alikes. Be sure to do your research and see if a government agency or organization actually exists. Find contact info on your own and call them to be sure the person you've heard from is legitimate.

For More Information

For more consumer tips regarding COVID-19, go to [BBB.org/Coronavirus](https://www.bbb.org/coronavirus). For more business tips, go to [BBB.org/Covid](https://www.bbb.org/covid).

Census 2020

Have you completed your census form yet? Fill out your 2020Census today to ensure our community receives proper federal funding for public services like hospitals.

Please help us [make it count](#) by filling out your census now: my2020census.gov!



Help Our Local Businesses

During this time, we know many local businesses are learning to adapt to new methods of operating.

One easy - and FREE - way you can help them is by leaving a positive review on their social media, google, yelp, tripadvisor or other review sites.

Another way is to purchase gift cards from local businesses.

And a third way is to purchase gift cards and [donate those cards to support nonprofits](#) on the frontline of providing services to those in need.



for the love of
tallahassee
small businesses

Emotional Wellbeing

This is a stressful and difficult time for everyone. If you or someone you know is having trouble coping, help is available. For tips on coping or to find out how you can get help, visit <https://bit.ly/2x4q4Vv>



Get Involved - Make a Difference

Volunteer LEON just launched a Facebook Page! Hit "like" and follow their page to stay updated on local volunteer opportunities! You can also visit their website.

Now more than ever, our community needs your support!



COVID-19 Testing

If you are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), you should call your primary care doctor or local health care provider before visiting a doctor's office. Your doctor or local healthcare provider will determine if you need to be tested. A drive-through sample collection site has been established at the Northwood Center for patients who have had an order sent from a physician. In order to get tested at this testing center, you must have a medical referral. Learn more HERE.

FAMU Bragg Stadium also has a walk-up COVID-19 testing site. The site, which is being hosted especially for residents of Tallahassee's southside, is scheduled to operate for 14 consecutive days from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Organizers plan to conduct 200 tests per day. Testing is free and open to the public. No physician referral is required. Learn more HERE.

LET'S KEEP THE FACTS STRAIGHT

Where is the
COVID-19
testing site?



Community Pet Food Pantry

Did you know Leon County Humane Society (LCHS) is providing pet food to those who need assistance?

Call LCHS at (850) 224-9193 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Monday-Thursday to schedule a pet food pick up or delivery. Pick up will be at 413 Timberlane Rd.

COMMUNITY PET FOOD PANTRY

PET FOOD ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY

LEON COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

PET FOOD ASSISTANCE CAN BE REQUESTED BY PHONE
MONDAY-THURSDAY 10-3

(850) 224-9193

413 TIMBERLANE RD, TALLAHASSEE FL 32312
WWW.LEONCOUNTYHUMANE.ORG

LOW COST SPAY/NEUTER VOUCHERS ALSO AVAILABLE

Explore Historical Tallahassee

Looking for something educational and fun to do? Check out the History In Your Hands historical map to virtually explore hundreds of years of local history.

You can do a self-guided tour-- a perfect way to explore Leon County with your family! Check it out [HERE](#).



Digital Escape Room: The Case of the Missing Painting

The amazing staff at the Leon County Public Library have created a digital escape room!

The digital escape room can be completed individually or as a group. You're welcome to try it as many times as it takes to find the missing Van Gogh painting. Don't forget to have a pen and paper handy to solve the puzzles and riddles left behind by the mischievous art thief, Pigeon.

To access the Escape Room, click [HERE](#).



Virtual Farm Storytime

Join our friends at the Library for a special Saturday Virtual Farm Storytime with Ms. Emma and her animal friends! On **Saturdays at 11 am** participants will read stories, sing, and rhyme with live animals!

These fun events will be streaming live from the LeRoy Collins [Leon County Public Library Facebook page](#).

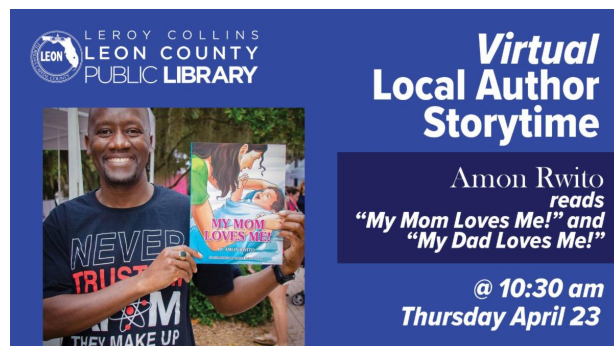


Virtual Local Author Storytime

Enjoy a picture book read by a local author on **Thursdays at 10:30 am**:

April 30: Honey Hilliard reads "Looking for Butterflies"

May 7: Gordon Halleck and Perdita Ross present "Floridingers Go to Space"



To see the April 23rd event, where Amon Rwito reads "My Mom Loves Me!" and "My Dad Loves Me!", click [HERE](#).

Learn to Code

[Girls Who Code](#) has made children's computer coding educational activities available for download and access free of charge!

They will release weekly activities — some online, some offline, of varying levels of difficulty—over the course of the next few months. Each activity will include a feature of a woman in tech who pioneered innovative technology!

Learn more at their website here: <https://girlswhocode.com/code-at-home/>



Thank You to Our Health Care Heros

A huge thanks to the doctors, nurses and medical staff at Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare and Capital Regional Medical Center. We are grateful!

