



LEON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Rick Minor

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER



April 2021 News & Updates

Upcoming Meetings

Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting and Joint Comp Plan Public Hearing

-- Tuesday, April 13
-- County Courthouse (Commission Chambers)
--3:00 - County Commission Meeting
--6:00 Comp Plan Public Hearing
-- Read the agenda [here](#)

Leon County will be broadcasting the meeting on Comcast channel 16, Prism channels 16 & 1016-HD, the Leon County Florida Channel on Roku, the County's [Facebook page](#), [YouTube channel](#), [Twitter](#) and the County's [website](#).

Hello,

I hope you and your family are doing well. As you'll see below, there's a lot going on in Leon County. As more and more of us receive the COVID-19 vaccine, we're seeing positive trends in some key county metrics. However, there is still cause for concern... Florida has far more cases of the more contagious B.1.1.7 variant than any other state. With this in mind, please continue to follow coronavirus safety precautions. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Last month Blueprint staff held two community engagement meetings for the **Lake Jackson Greenway project**, and the results of those meetings will be made available soon. For details on the greenway project please click [HERE](#). I believe the greenway will be beneficial, particularly for those living nearby: [national studies](#) show that proximity to greenways/trails has been associated with **increases in property values from 2-20%**. Additionally [two studies](#) found **no change in crime rate after trails were built** in Seattle and in upstate New York. Nevertheless, I'd like to hear from everyone who would like to share their feedback. Please contact me if you'd like to discuss the project and we'll set up a phone call or meeting.

Tomorrow (April 13th) the County Commission will review the proposal for a **North Monroe Task Force** which, if approved, will make recommendations on revitalizing the North Monroe corridor. Please see below for details on the agenda item and how to provide feedback. And please [email me](#) if you'd like to add your name to the list of neighbors and businesses receiving updates on our North Monroe efforts.

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
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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!

TONIGHT - Village Square Town Hall



RESERVE YOUR "SEAT" HERE

Please join Rick **TONIGHT** at **7:00 PM** via Zoom for this unique annual hometown tradition — now in its 9th year. Former Tallahassee Democrat Publisher Skip Foster will facilitate, joined by Leon County and City of Tallahassee commissioners. As usual, they'll tackle the issues that matter the most to our hometown.

From the very beginning of America's experiment in self-governance, town halls have formed the lifeblood of a democracy where the citizenry can question their representatives directly. And in a time when too many town hall meetings make the news with fistfights — if they bother to talk at all — we're proud that this community has a civil and spirited town hall tradition that's alive and well (and maybe even a laugh or two). But it won't be the same without you there (it's the citizen that makes democracy a thing). We promise there will be a moment when you think "this is American democracy done right, and the rest of the nation has a thing or two to learn from Tallahassee/Leon County."

Learn more about this program and reserve your free "seat" [HERE](#). (Please also take a moment to share the link on your social media while you're there.)

This digital-only program is free to attend. Note that due to the pandemic there will not be an in-studio audience this year. The best way to join us is via Zoom, but you can also join in on Facebook Live.

[Click here](#) (and then page down) to see participating commissioners and for links to each Commissioner's bio.

North Monroe Updates



At the Leon County Commission retreat in January, the Board voted unanimously to consider and bring back to the Board a proposal for a North Monroe Corridor Task Force. We are looking forward to that issue coming to the Board at tomorrow's Board meeting.

The proposal for a North Monroe task force has been posted online and is available [HERE](#). The task force proposal, if approved by the Commission at our meeting tomorrow, will identify opportunities and approaches for revitalizing the North Monroe corridor.

OVERVIEW OF THE TASK FORCE PROPOSAL:

- Establishes the **Citizens' North Monroe Corridor Task Force**, a 12-member ad-hoc committee comprised of business leaders, neighborhood residents, and social service agencies with support from various County and City departments.
- The Task Force will focus on the North Monroe corridor **between Fred George Road and Tharpe Street**, a distance of about 4 miles.
- The proposed scope of the Task Force is to identify short-term and long-term opportunities for:
 1. **reducing and preventing crime** in the area;
 2. **encouraging quality redevelopments** and improving safety and overall conditions, including economic conditions and aesthetics; and
 3. **abating homelessness** in the area.
- The **City of Tallahassee** has agreed to participate in the Task Force and will be appointing 5 of the 12 members.
- Upon conclusion of the Task Force's work, a report of its findings as well as a staff analysis and recommended actions will be provided to the County Commission.

HOW TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK TO THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

- Your input on this agenda item -- as well as your general assessment of North Monroe -- can play a critical role in our deliberations, so if you have a few moments to send us your feedback, it would help a great deal.
- To provide input on this agenda item, click [HERE](#) and then fill in the fields. (NOTE: For the "Leon County Meetings" field, select **Regular Meeting**, and for "Agenda Item Information", select **Item 23 - Approval of the Resolution to Establish the Citizens North Monroe Corridor Task Force.**)
- To ensure adequate time for the Commissioners' review, please submit your comments by **8 p.m. tonight**.

SOME SUGGESTED TIPS WHEN PROVIDING FEEDBACK:

- What you say and how you say it is completely up to you, of course, but concise,

clear, and polite messages are usually the most persuasive. Just 3 or 4 sentences can be enough.

- Please describe your thoughts about the conditions along North Monroe and, if applicable, how they have affected you, your neighborhood and/or your business.
- Clearly state whether you support the Task Force proposal and why.
- If you have additional ideas or suggestions for North Monroe, please feel free to share them.

IMPORTANT: *If any of the other County Commissioners reply to you with their positions, please don't relay their comments back to Rick. Florida's Sunshine Law prevents Commissioners from using someone as an intermediary to exchange thoughts or opinions related to an upcoming vote. Any discussion Rick has regarding the other County Commissioners' specific positions on this agenda item must wait until the publicly noticed meeting.*

Rent & Utility Assistance



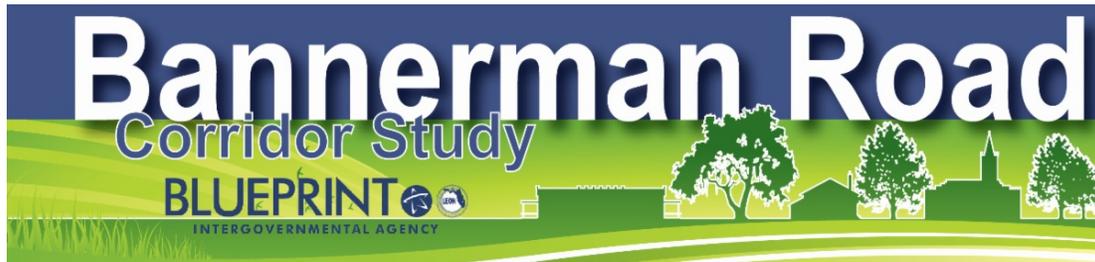
Leon County recently launched its new rent and utility assistance program utilizing \$8.9 million in federal funds received through the CARES Act.

If you have been impacted by COVID-19, you may be eligible to receive assistance. For more information on how to apply, visit [HERE](#). A call center is also available to assist with questions at (855) 216-9470, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

To be eligible for this program, you must:

- Have a total household income at or below the 80% Area Median Income (AMI) threshold;
 - Be past due on rent and/or utilities payments;
 - Be a Leon County resident for each of the past twelve (12) consecutive months;
 - Have at least one household member who has:
 - (1) Qualified for unemployment benefits, or
 - (2) Experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced other financial hardship due to COVID-19; and
 - Must currently reside in the rental unit for which you are applying for assistance (the applicant's landlord must also be willing to accept any rent payments from Leon County on your behalf).
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Bannerman Road Corridor Study



Segment 1: North Meridian Road to Preservation Road

Please join us for an Open House on

Thursday, April 15, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

Northside Community Center (8005 Oak Grove Road)

This open house will focus on potential improvements along Bannerman Road from North Meridian Road to Preservation Road. The project team is collecting data and would like your input.

Please stop by and join the discussion about this project!

Light refreshments will be served

Blueprint is hosting an informational meeting regarding the Northeast Connector Corridor: Bannerman Road Project. This meeting is being held specifically for property owners along Bannerman Road from North Meridian Road to Preservation Road, which is referred to as Segment 1 of the project corridor.

The in-person open house will be held at the **Northside Community Center, 8005 Oak Grove Road**, on **Thursday, April 15 at 6:00 p.m.** This open house will focus on potential improvements along Bannerman Road from North Meridian Road to Preservation Road and provide an opportunity for community members to share their thoughts. Light refreshments will be served and all health and safety guidelines will be followed.

Complete project information can be found on the project [website](#).

Help Finalize a Design for Market District Park

Join Us & Help Finalize a Design Concept for Market District Park

at Market District Multi-Purpose Stormwater Project
Tallahassee, Florida

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Meeting 1	Meeting 2	Meeting 3
APRIL 14 2 – 3:30 P.M.	APRIL 14 6 – 7:30 P.M.	APRIL 15 10 – 11:30 A.M.
Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83682442417?pwd=NkFJcTZTMjZleVE4NGJ3aFp6T04rdz09	Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85832802802?pwd=OFgydWc1OUNOcWhDRU1PNkNRUEVDdz09	Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88571630433?pwd=dklvbThLVUFLQnNndncyRmQwSENEQT09

All presentations followed by live Q&A with the project team!



The fourth round of community engagement regarding the Market District Park will be held this week. This engagement is designed to present the park concept, which seeks to balance what is possible on the site and what the community would like to see at the park.

There will be three virtual meetings to gather community input on the park concepts during this fourth round of engagement activities, and we will continue to accept comments via the project website www.TallahasseeMarketDistrict.com into spring 2021. Each of the three meetings will include a presentation followed by a live question and answer session with the project team.

The meetings are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, April 14 at 2 – 3:30 p.m.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83682442417?pwd=NkFJcTZTMjZleVE4NGJ3aFp6T04rdz09>

Wednesday, April 14 at 6 – 7:30 p.m.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85832802802?pwd=OFgydWc1OUNOcWhDRU1PNkNRUEVDdz09>

Thursday, April 15 at 10 – 11:30 a.m.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88571630433?pwd=dklvbThLVUFLQnNndncyRmQwSENEQT09>

Design of the park is expected to begin later this year, with construction anticipated to begin in 2022.

Vaccinations

Rick had his first shot a few weeks ago and will be getting his second dose this week.

If you are looking to get vaccinated, but don't know where to go, use the new [Leon County Vax Map](#), type in your address and find a site near you with this one-stop resource.

If you are having difficulties getting a vaccine or getting transportation to a

vaccine, [please contact our office.](#)



Rabies and Microchip Appointments

Tallahassee's Animal Service Center is offering Rabies vaccinations on Wednesdays for \$5 and microchipping Tuesday - Thursday to all pet owners for \$10 per pet. You do not need to live in Tallahassee to take advantage of these.

Services are available from 10:00am - 5:00pm by appointment only. Cats, dogs, rabbits and ferrets are welcome!

Looking for spay & neuter vouchers? You can request some through the shelter or you can call Leon County Animal Control at 850-606-5400 to request one.

Learn more:

<https://www.talgov.com/animals/asc-id.aspx>



Tire Amnesty Days

It's time for spring cleaning - and during Leon County's Tire Amnesty Days, County citizens can drop off up to 25 tires for free through May 28th.

Less abandoned tires means fewer mosquitoes and a more enjoyable summer!

Find details at LeonCountyFL.gov/mosquito

Apply Now for a Fall Internship with Leon County!

Now is the time to apply for the Leon Works Junior Apprenticeship Program.

The program is an opportunity for Leon County high school juniors and seniors to get PAID while gaining hands on



experience in a skilled career field. Apprenticeships are now available in the following skilled career fields: Healthcare & Emergency Services, Business & IT, Creative Careers, and the Trades.

Submit your application by **April 30** at <https://cms.leoncountyfl.gov/jrapprntice/>



April is Distracted Driving Month

Did you know that more than 2,800 people in the U.S. died in distraction related crashes in 2018 alone – that’s at least seven people every day.

April, which is national Distracted Driving Awareness Month, is a good time to think about we can drive more safely.

Follow these safety tips for a safe ride every time:

- Need to send a text? Pull over and park your car in a safe location. Only then is it safe to send or read a text.
- Designate your passenger as your “designated texter.” Allow them access to your phone to respond to calls or messages.
- Do not scroll through apps, including social media, while driving. Cell phone use can be habit-forming. Struggling to not text and drive? Put the cell phone in the trunk, glove box, or back seat of the vehicle until you arrive at your destination.

You can learn more [HERE](#).



Emancipation Day Poems

LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library would like to invite you to participate in our community's recognition of Florida's May 20th Emancipation Day. This day marks the anniversary of when the emancipation was proclaimed in Tallahassee on May 20, 1865.

We are seeking poets to speak about freedom and invite you to create a video of yourself reading your original poetry on this topic. For further information and details, click [HERE](#).

For ages 18+
Deadline: **May 1, 2021.**

