



LEON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Rick Minor

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER



September/October 2021 News & Updates

Upcoming Meetings

Capital Region

Transportation Planning

Agency (CRTPA) - Tuesday,
October 19 - 9:00 am - Retreat
The Parkview at Cascades -
414 E. Bloxham St., Suite 300
For more information, contact:
CRTPA at 850-891-8628

Leon County Legislative

Delegation Meeting - Monday,
October 25 - 5:00 pm
County Courthouse, 5th Floor
Commission Chambers - 301 S.
Monroe St.

Contact: Office of Senator
Loranne Ausley at 850-487-
5003 (virtual meeting access
available via Zoom) or Nicki
Paden at 850-606-5300

Board of County

Commissioners - Tuesday,
November 9th - 3:00
County Commission Chambers,
County Courthouse, 301 S.
Monroe Street

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

Hello,

As the weather cools a bit and we approach the holiday season, there's a lot going on at the County Commission. Tomorrow (Tuesday, 10/19), the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) meets to discuss, among other things, the proposed **Thomasville Road Multi-Use Path**. This project, if it moves forward, would reside entirely in District 3 and I'd like to get your thoughts on it. Please see the next section of this newsletter for more information and for ways to provide input.

On Oct. 25th at 5pm, **Leon County's legislative delegation** will meet to discuss proposals for the next session. The public is encouraged to attend and offer ideas and comments. For details, please see the sidebar to the left.

At its Nov. 9th board meeting, the County Commission is expected to review **a new proposal for addressing food insecurity** within the county. This initiative, if approved, could make significant strides in reducing hunger among those in need. We'll have more details in our next newsletter.

It's an honor to be serving you and the people of Leon County. As always, please don't hesitate to contact [me](#) or my Chief of Staff [Jodi Wilkof](#) if we can be of any help to you.

All the best,

Rick Minor

Commissioner, Leon County District 3
MinorR@leoncountyfl.gov

P.S. In recognition of October as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we've gone pink for this newsletter. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women, so it's important to know of its risks. Learn more by clicking [HERE](#).

P.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!



Thomasville Road MULTI-USE PATH Feasibility Study

If you live on or near Thomasville Road, you likely have heard that the Capital Regional Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) is in the feasibility phase of a **multi-use path along/near Thomasville Road, connecting Midtown to the Market District**. This path, if it is built, would allow for a variety of users - from cyclists to wheelchair users, pedestrians, joggers, and dog-walkers.

To learn more, the most comprehensive collection of information about the Thomasville Road Multi-Use Path can be found on the [CRTPA's website dedicated to the path](#). In addition, WCTV has done news segments which can be found [HERE](#) and [HERE](#). Project updates can also be found the [Project's Facebook Page](#) and there is a recently published [and very informative StoryMap of the Feasibility Study](#). The StoryMap includes links to documents that are associated with the path and at the end of the StoryMap, you can provide comments. There is also a just-released safety review/comparison report which can be viewed [HERE](#).

As a member of the CRTPA and as the County Commissioner representing District 3, I have been contacted by several residents who have expressed their support for this project. But I also have heard from many neighbors with safety concerns about the various route options.

I have not yet made a decision on how I will vote on this project -- whether to support a particular route or even if the project should proceed. While the options are being evaluated, I'd like to hear from you and as many other residents as possible. Together we need to learn more about the possible path routes, discuss the pros and cons of each one, and determine what is best for the neighborhoods, businesses and other people impacted.

The second round of public engagement has begun and includes "Pop-Up" events, Question and Answer sessions, and Neighborhood Association meetings. Please consider sharing your comments via one of these sessions and/or via the comment form [HERE](#).

UPCOMING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

There will be a "Pop-Up" event **tomorrow (Tuesday, October 19th)**, at the intersection of Maclay Commerce Drive and Maclay Boulevard ([click here for location map](#)) beginning at 5 PM and ending at 7 PM. Please park along Maclay Commerce Drive. **(PLEASE DO NOT PARK AT THE SAGE PARKING LOT, OR YOU WILL BE SUBJECT TO HAVING YOUR VEHICLE TOWED)**.

As a reminder, these Pop-Up events are for you to ask questions, provide written comments, or learn about the project. There are no formal presentations associated with these events. Staff will have a table, some maps and some comment forms, and you can leave your email address to receive additional updates as the project moves forward.

In addition, CRTPA staff are hosting some virtual Question and Answer sessions:

October 21, 2021, at 7 PM – [TEAMS Meeting Link](#)

October 25, 2021, at 7 PM – [TEAMS Meeting Link](#)

There will also be a final, formal public meeting for the Thomasville Road Multi-Use Path Feasibility Study on **Thursday, November 4th, Time and Location to be determined.**

NEXT STEPS

After this round of public engagement is completed, the Project Team staff will focus on identifying a recommended route for the Thomasville Multi-Use Path. This final route recommendation is expected to be presented at the January 2022 CRTPA Board meeting for a vote by Rick and the other CRTPA members.

STAY INFORMED

As the project moves forward, you can stay updated on developments by following the [Facebook page dedicated to the Thomasville Road Path](#) and/or by signing up for my 'Thomasville Road Multi-Use Path' email updates. To sign up for the email updates, please send a message to my Chief of Staff, [Jodi Wilkof](mailto:WilkofJ@leoncountyfl.gov), at WilkofJ@leoncountyfl.gov.

Please feel free to forward this message to your neighbors, HOA's, and anyone else you think may be interested in this project. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions, comments, or suggestions.

Operation Thank You: Honoring our Veterans



Leon County Government and the American Legion Sauls-Bridges Post 13 invite the community to honor our hometown heroes in celebration of Veterans Day on Thursday, November 11 from 6:30 to 9:00 a.m. at the American Legion, 229 Lake Ella Drive.

- Breakfast: 6:30 – 9:00 a.m.
- Ceremony and Program: 8:00 a.m.

GROUP PHOTO SCHEDULE:

- Air Force: 7:10 a.m.
- Army: 7:20 a.m.
- Coast Guard: 7:30 a.m.
- Marine Corps: 7:40 a.m.
- Navy: 7:50 a.m.

Following Operation Thank You, join us for the Veterans Day Parade at 10:45 a.m. along Monroe Street. For more information, contact Ben Bradwell at 850-606-1946.

Leon County Accepting Applications for Spring 2022 Apprenticeship Program

County Provides Paid Skill-Building Positions to Local High School Students



Leon County Government is preparing for the next cohort of the Leon Works Junior Apprenticeship Program for Spring 2022. In partnership with Leon County Schools (LCS) and CareerSource Capital Region, the program provides LCS juniors and seniors the opportunity to earn a paycheck while building workforce skills. Applications for the Spring 2022 semester are open now at LeonCountyFL.gov/jrapprentice and are **due by Sunday, October 31**.

Since its creation in 2017, the Leon Works program has placed more than 60 students in various positions. The program is currently looking to fill 11 total positions in the following areas:

- (2) EMT/Paramedic
- (1) Medical Administrative Associate
- (1) Computer Aided Design (CAD)
- (1) Fleet Mechanic
- (1) Construction Management
- (2) IT Tech Support
- (1) Web Development
- (1) Graphics and Digital Design—Libraries
- (1) Graphics and Digital Design—Community and Media Relations

To participate, students must be either currently enrolled in or have completed a Career and Technical Education course. Students in the program will earn an hourly salary, elective credit towards their high school diploma and will also complete the CareerSource Capital Region's Dynamic Futures training, preparing them to enter the workforce after graduation. Students within the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) qualifications are highly encouraged to apply.

By the year 2026, approximately 70,000 skilled jobs will be available in Leon County. To

meet the needs of growing job sectors, Leon County set the strategic goal of connecting 5,000 students and citizens to middle skilled careers—careers that require more than a high school diploma but less than a four-year degree.

The Junior Apprentice program is one of many ways Leon County is preparing to meet the needs of the future and connecting local job seekers with opportunities. The County's commitment to economic development and job growth is also reflected in programs and initiatives like hosting the Leon Works Expo for job seekers, recruiting businesses like Amazon that provide high-paying jobs in the community and providing year-round workforce skills training through Tallahassee-Leon County's Office of Economic Vitality.

For more information, contact Anitra Thomas, Leon County Employee Development Coordinator at (850) 606- 2425 / ThomasAn@leoncountyfl.gov



INSPIRE OUR CITY

BECOME A COMMUNITY CATALYST



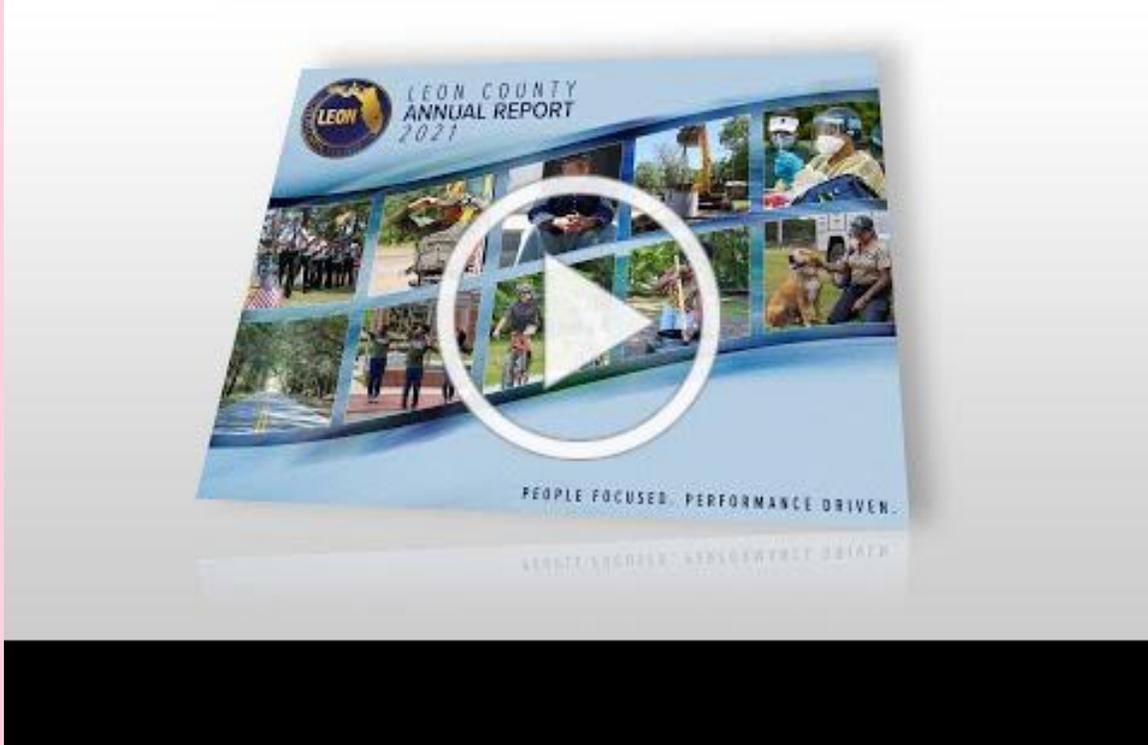
Apply by October 31.
Learn more at kccitallahassee.com

KCCI Community Catalysts are change agents. They make a volunteer commitment to educate, engage and enable fellow citizens to build a more authentic, sustainable and prosperous community. The application to be a 2022 KCCI Community Catalyst is **OPEN until October 31**. Once an applicant successfully applies, they will receive a confirmation email from Betsy Couch with further details. The 2022 Class will be announced in December 2021.

If you have any questions about the application, please contact Betsy Couch at 850-509-3767 or betsy.couch@kccitallahassee.com.

Apply Now

The Leon County 2021 Annual Report



The Leon County 2021 Annual Report has been released! This report provides citizens with a comprehensive overview of the County's progress over the last year towards advancing our strategic priorities.

Click [HERE](#) watch the video summary and click [HERE](#) to view the full report.

Congratulations to those who contributed to the report and a big thanks to the incredibly dedicated County staff who work so hard throughout the year. 2021 has been a challenging year in so many ways and our County staff has been fantastic through it all.

Leon County Recognized for Five Outstanding Public Works Projects (three of which are in our district!)



Leon County Government recently received five Project of the Year awards from the Big Bend Branch of American Public Works Association (APWA) recognizing outstanding public works projects. Each year, APWA spotlights special projects in the community that have achieved project goals within budget all while exceeding public expectations.

We are particularly excited that three of these projects (in bold below) are in District 3! This year, the following Leon County Government projects received awards:

- **Meridian Road Drainage Improvement Project** in the category of Environmental/Stormwater. Historically, heavy rain caused water to run over Meridian Road and created hazardous conditions in the area. To reduce flooding, Leon County improved drainage by installing large box culverts to move water beneath the roadway. Such improvements are also expected to reduce soil erosion, improving the health of adjacent wetlands and Lake Jackson.
- **Crowder Road Sidewalk** in the category of Transportation. To improve pedestrian safety, Leon County constructed a six-foot wide sidewalk along the north side of Crowder Road and east side of Indian Mound Road. The project also included additional drainage improvements such as the construction of underground storm structures, storm pipes, concrete ditch and sodded swales.
- Centerville Trace Dam Restoration in the category of Emergency Construction Repair. When homeowners notified the County of a leak in the dam, the County quickly confirmed the leak and conducted a geotechnical analysis of soil samples to determine the extent of needed repairs. To restore dam integrity, an interlocking steel sheet pile retaining wall was built along the center of the dam with a continuous reinforced concrete pile cap, a new dam overflow spillway, a wooden pedestrian boardwalk over the spillway and a stabilized maintenance access road.
- Bradfordville Volunteer Fire Department in the category of Structures. This project consisted of constructing a new fire station in northeast Leon County. The new 1,000 square-foot facility now houses a 2,500-gallon tanker and equipment for the Bradfordville Volunteer Fire Department.
- **Old Bainbridge Safety Improvements** in the category of Best Performance. With narrow lanes and numerous curves compromising its safety, this segment of Old Bainbridge Road from US-27 to the County Line suffered 120 crashes in five years. To enhance safety, countermeasures were developed including widened shoulders on the outside of curves, added activated solar speed feedback signs, highlighted curve warning signs and intersection ahead warning signs with street name plaques.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month



In addition to October being Breast Cancer Awareness month, October is also Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Rick was honored to speak recently at a special ceremony at the Capitol as the building was lit purple to highlight this important issue.

It is so important to remember that domestic violence can happen to anyone -- even to those who might seem fine. We must all be aware and ready to help friends who might be in danger.

For the month of October, all of our local law enforcement agencies will be displaying a vehicle with graphics encouraging all to **End the Silence on Domestic Violence**. The hotline number for those seeking help is: 1-800-500-1119.



Congratulations to the Mag Lab

The world's most powerful superconducting magnet will be designed at the FSU-headquartered National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, thanks to a \$15.8 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Learn more about this exciting news [HERE](#).



Jessica Cox, Motivational Speaker and Disability Rights Advocate, Speaks at the FSU Globe

An internationally recognized motivational speaker, Jessica Cox was born without arms but otherwise lives a normal life, using her feet as others use their hands. She holds the title of the **first person without arms to earn a black belt in ATA Martial Arts** and the Guinness World Record for being the **first armless person in aviation history to earn a pilot's certificate**. As Ms. Cox says, "How we react has a bigger impact on our lives than our physical restraints". For more information about Ms. Cox and her life's inspirational journey, click [HERE](#).

Thanks to [Dr. JR Harding](#), lecturer at FSU's College of Business, for inviting Rick to hear and meet Ms. Cox, and to [University of Choice at FSU](#) for hosting the event.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. This designation, first declared by the U.S. Congress in 1988, raises awareness of the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. For more information, click [HERE](#).



Silk Beauty Bar Grand Opening

Rick recently attended the grand opening of Silk Beauty Bar in Governor's Square Mall. The event was co-hosted by Silk owner Kae Smith and the Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce.

Silk Beauty Bar was founded in 2016 and serves as a platform to raise awareness in the African American woman community about vitiligo through philanthropy work, entrepreneurship and health awareness.

Lt. Col. George Hardy Proclamation



Rick was recently the Master of Ceremonies at an event at which he presented a proclamation to Lt. Col. George Hardy, who was one of the original Tuskegee Airmen.

Among other accomplishments, Lt. Col. Hardy flew over 136 combat missions to protect our country over three wars, and was the first Tuskegee Airman to be inducted into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame.



24th Annual Fire Truck Roundup

Rick recently attended the Volunteer Fire Truck Roundup, which was one of the best attended in 24 years! Congratulations to James Pollock for being named Jack Harron Volunteer Firefighter of the Year. And thank you to the six different volunteer fire departments who came out to make the day a success. To learn more about how you can serve, visit www.VolunteerLEON.org



Leon County's Lee Kendall Named Florida Emergency Medical Technician of the Year

Recently, the Florida Department of Health named Leon County's Lee Kendall the Florida EMT of the Year. Lee has been part of the Leon County EMS team since 2017 and is actively involved in community education events, and risk reduction programs such as Press the Chest, as well as other numerous special events.

Since 2017, Leon County has trained nearly 7,200 citizens in CPR and AED usage thanks to dedicated EMTs like Lee Kendall. This statewide award recognizes outstanding EMS team members for not only responding to crises, but also for their leadership in long-term initiatives to make their community safer and more prepared.

This is a huge honor - congratulations, Lee!

Zombie Island Digital Escape Room



Halloween is right around the corner- get in the creepy spirit by participating in The Leon County Library's digital escape room: Escape from Zombie Island! <https://bit.ly/39Zvtg6>

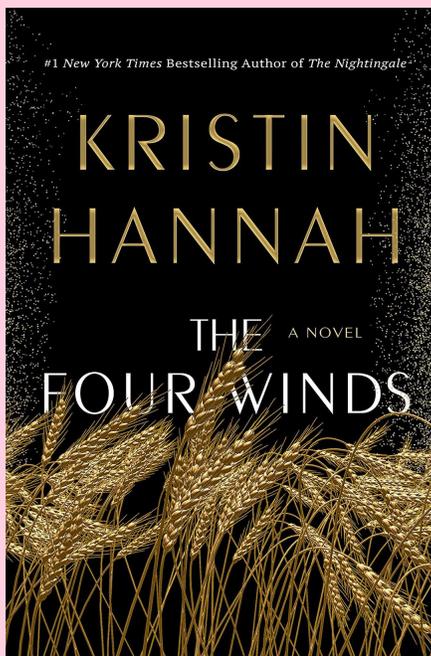
This is a truly special escape room dedicated to our annual Cosmic Con event with the 2020 summer reading theme "Imagine Your Story".



Bookin' It at the Lake Jackson Library

Did you know that the Bookin' It Book Club meets in person on the second Thursday of each month at the Lake Jackson Branch Library?

Join the group for great reads and engaging discussions! This month's selection is "The Four Winds" by Kristin Hannah.



This popular novel is "a powerful American epic about love and heroism and hope, set during the Great Depression, a time when the country was in crisis and at war with itself, when millions were out of work and even the land seemed to have turned against them."

Future selections are:

November 18 (third Thursday): *While Justice Sleeps* by Stacey Abrams

December 9: *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett

January 13: *One Good Mama Bone* by Bren McClain

Find out more here: <https://bit.ly/3ICU0hX>

Leon County Library Lego Club: Virtual Edition

The Library's Lego Club has gone virtual! Take on a new LEGO challenge every month! [Submit a picture of your design](#), and staff will add it to the online gallery.

October Challenge: Spooky Mansion
More ideas? Submit multiple creepy creations!

November Challenge: Food Feast

LIBRARY LEGO® CLUB: virtual edition



Birdy's Home by Emma



Submit your Bright Idea!

Since 2017, Leon County Government has implemented more than 200 citizen ideas to improve the programs and services we offer in Leon County. Such ideas include:

- Adding a “button” to translate the County’s Emergency Information Portal website to keep citizens of any language proficiency informed during a disaster.
- Creating a “Help My Pet” sticker to assist first responders in contacting a pet caretaker when the owner cannot be reached.
- As a pilot program, installing three electric vehicle charging stations at the Main Library and Eastside Branch Library.
- Transferring surplus Leon County EMS ambulances to Lively Technical Center to be used for training in the recently established Diesel Truck Maintenance Program.

All of these suggestions were from citizens like you!

We’re continuously looking to engage citizens as co-creators of our one-of-a-kind community, so we want you to send us more of your bright ideas.

Submit your Bright Idea

Can’t remember that one great idea just now? Download the newly designed Citizens Connect mobile app from the App Store or Google Play and you can send us your bright ideas on the go. We look forward to hearing from you and collaborating for a better tomorrow!

[App Store](#) | [Google Play](#)



District 3 Business Highlight: The Jaber Group and Cigars of Tally

Rick recently stopped by two North Monroe businesses: the Jaber Group, a strategy and business consulting firm, and [Cigars of Tally](#), which has the largest humidor in the Florida panhandle!

Thanks to Lila Jaber, Saed Jaber, and their staffs for the tours!

