



LEON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

**Rick Minor**

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER



## January 2022 News & Updates

### Upcoming Meetings

#### Board of County Commissioners Annual Retreat

-- Monday, Jan. 24  
-- North Florida Fairgrounds

#### Board of County Commissioners

-- Tuesday, Jan 25  
-- 5th Floor, County Courthouse  
-- 3:00 pm - Meeting  
-- 6:00 pm - Public Hearings

#### Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA)

-- Monday, Jan. 31  
-- City Hall (Commission Chambers)  
-- 5:30 pm

Hello,

I hope you and your family had a nice holiday! Our daughters are 8 and 3 years old -- prime ages for Santa, stockings and the tree. They were a little disappointed that we didn't get any snow in Tallahassee during their winter break (!), but they had a great time.

Of course the new year is now in full swing... and there's a lot going on within Leon County. Details are further below in this newsletter, but some highlights include:

- This Monday (1/17) we'll celebrate the life and legacy of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** My wife, daughters and I plan to attend many of the day's events and we hope to see you there. Please see below for the schedule.
- On 1/20, the City of Tallahassee will host a community meeting to discuss the future of the **Northwood property**. This project is in District 3 and it will have a huge impact on the future of North Monroe, so please provide your thoughts, either by attending the meeting in-person or by email.
- On 1/24 and 1/25, the **Leon County Commission** will be having its annual retreat and its first meeting of the year, respectively.
- On 1/31, the CRTPA is planning to vote on whether staff's recommended route for the **Thomasville Road Multi-Use Path** should proceed to the Design phase. The entire project is in District 3 so I'm very interested in your perspective. Please let me/us know what you think.
- In response to the Omicron variant and the latest surge in infections, the number of **COVID-19 testing centers** has expanded in Leon County. Please stay safe -- get vaccinated and get tested if you think you've been exposed.

Information on all of these items -- and much more -- is provided below, but please don't hesitate to contact me or my [Chief of Staff Jodi Wilkof](#) if you have any questions or suggestions.

As always, it's a sincere honor serving you and the people of Leon County. Thank you for taking the time to review this newsletter, and we wish you and your family a blessed 2022!



**Rick Minor**

Commissioner, Leon County District 3

[MinorR@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto: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](http://www.LeonCountyFL.gov/RickMinor). Thank you!

## Celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



**MLK DAY Parade**

CITY OF TALLAHASSEE

**JANUARY 17, 2022**

MLK Day Festival    Day of Dialogue  
MLK Day Parade    Live Entertainment

On January 17, 2022, the City of Tallahassee will celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The celebration will include the inaugural MLK Day Parade, the 22nd annual Day of Dialogue and the 8th MLK Day Festival.

### Schedule of Events

- 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Festival welcome and remarks from local dignitaries – Chain of Parks
- 11:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. MLK Day Festival – Chain of Parks
- 12:30-2 p.m. MLK Day Parade from N. Monroe St. to Madison St.
- 2:30-3:30 p.m. Day of Dialogue – Kleman Plaza
- 3:30-6 p.m. Live entertainment by community groups and Tallahassee Nights Live – Kleman Plaza

## Leon County No-Cost COVID Testing

# Leon County\_ No-Cost COVID-19 Testing

7 days a week -- 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

## Department of Health-Leon, Appointments only

2965 Municipal Way - Tallahassee, FL 32304

## Huntington Oaks, Appointments only

3840 North Monroe Street - Tallahassee, FL 32303

## Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare, No appointments required

1528 Surgeons Drive - Tallahassee, FL 32308



### RESULTS

PCR: Within 72 Hours Via Email  
Rapid Antigen: Within 2 Hours



The Omicron variant of Covid-19 is more contagious than the original COVID-19 virus. To address the increasing community need for COVID-19 testing amid the omicron surge, the Florida Department of Health in Leon County has teamed up with key community partners: Nomi Health and Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare to open a new COVID-19 testing site to help meet the increased demand for COVID-19 testing.

The new walk-up testing site at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (1528 Surgeons Drive) is open to the public 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. daily. The site offers rapid testing and PCR testing. Appointments are not required.

To find additional COVID-19 testing, vaccination and treatment sites, visit [LeonCountyFL.gov/VaxMap](https://LeonCountyFL.gov/VaxMap). For more information, visit [LeonCountyFL.gov/EI](https://LeonCountyFL.gov/EI).

To answer questions about vaccines and other COVID-related questions, the Florida Department of Health operates a 24/7 COVID-19 call center at (866) 779-6121. Leon County residents can also call the County Health Department at (850) 404-6300, Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If you are in need of a mask, you may pick up a free mask from your nearest [LeRoy Collins Public Library System](#) branch.

**NOTE: PLEASE USE EMERGENCY ROOMS (ER's) FOR EMERGENCIES ONLY, NOT FOR COVID-19 TESTING.** Going to the ER for a COVID-19 test strains busy ER's and delays care for patients with true emergencies. If you have mild symptoms or no symptoms and are seeking a COVID-19 test or vaccination, please visit a designated testing site on [this map](#).

## Thomasville Road Multi-Use Path



As you likely have heard, the Capital Regional Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) staff has been evaluating the possibility of constructing a paved pathway along Thomasville Road, from Betton Road to Metropolitan Boulevard and then connecting to the Market District.

To review the draft Feasibility Report on the Thomasville Road Multi-Use Path (MUP), please click [HERE](#).

**I have not yet made a decision on how I will vote on this project -- whether to support the recommended route, choose a different route, or even if the project should proceed.** If you haven't shared your own position with me yet, please [email me your thoughts](#) -- I'd really like to hear from you.

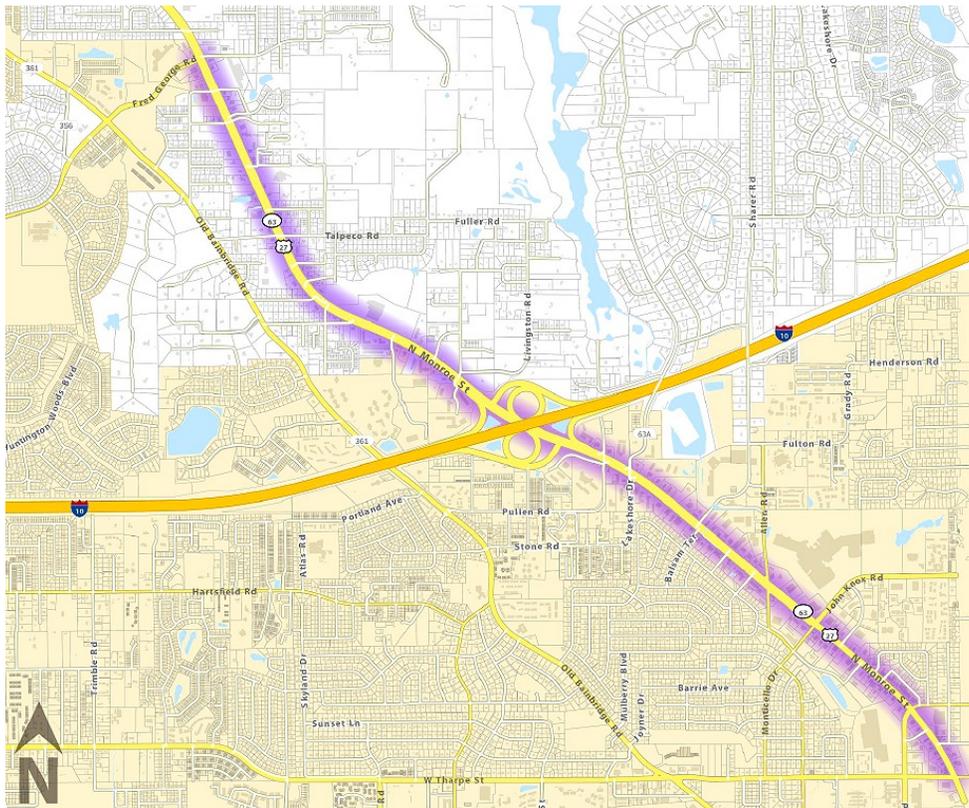
### NEXT STEPS

Please share the [draft report](#) with your neighbors, HOAs, and anyone who might be interested. **Contrary to what you may have heard, this project is NOT a done deal, so it's important that we hear from you and as many citizens as possible.** Click [HERE](#) to contact the members of the CRTPA Board, and let the members know if you prefer the recommended route, a different route, or the 'no build' option.

On **January 31**, the final route recommendation will be presented at the CRTPA Board meeting for a vote by the CRTPA members. That meeting is open to the public and will begin at **5:30 at City Hall**.

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## The Citizens North Monroe Corridor Task Force



The Citizens North Monroe Corridor Task Force was a [County appointed focus group](#) that spent about six months looking at key issues of crime, homelessness and improvements on the North Monroe Street Corridor from Fred George Road to Tharpe Street. I'm very thankful to the task force members, members of the public, and the Planning Department staff for the time and effort they invested in this effort.

The Task Force recently presented its report to the County Commission. To read the report and review the recommendations being implemented, please click [HERE](#). To watch

a recent WTXL story about the project, click [HERE](#).

Once again, a big thanks to the task force members and everyone else who contributed to this work. We've taken a major step toward improving North Monroe and there's more to come -- stay tuned for further updates in the coming weeks!

## Northwood Redevelopment Community Meeting



**HELP US PLAN  
FOR THE FUTURE**

**NORTHWOOD REDEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY MEETING**  
January 20, 2022  
6-7:30 p.m.  
Tallahassee Senior Center (1400 North Monroe Street)

**Talgov.com/NorthwoodProject**



The City of Tallahassee will host a community meeting on **January 20th** to engage residents in the Northwood Centre's redevelopment. The meeting will be held at the **Tallahassee Senior Center (1400 North Monroe Street) from 6-7:30 p.m.**

Construction of the new Tallahassee Police Department (TPD) headquarters facility is a key component within the redevelopment of the Northwood Centre. Additionally, the site presents opportunities for green space, community amenities and other economic development projects. Community input is needed to determine how this space evolves to best serve residents. The City will use this input to aid in the development of a long-term master plan for the parcel.

Recognizing the opportunity to reinvigorate this once-vibrant site, the City Commission approved the City to participate in the property's auction. As a result, the 29.5-acre parcel was purchased in April 2019. At the time of purchase, the City was in the middle of the site selection process for the future headquarters facility for the Tallahassee Police Department. Through that process, the Northwood Centre location was recommended by technical experts and the majority of the public who provided input due to its central location, accessibility and size, and it was ultimately selected unanimously by the Commission.

As a County Commissioner I will not be voting on this redevelopment project but since it's located in County District 3, I'm very interested and am planning to attend the Jan. 20th meeting. I hope you can join us and share your thoughts.

If you're unable to attend, please send feedback to [NorthwoodProject@Talgov.com](mailto:NorthwoodProject@Talgov.com). A feedback form and recording of the project update from the meeting will also be available on the project website, [Talgov.com/NorthwoodProject](http://Talgov.com/NorthwoodProject).

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## Blueprint Vote on Doak Campbell Stadium



At the Dec. 9th Blueprint IA Meeting, one of the agenda items was a bond issuance that, among other things, included \$20 million for FSU's Doak Campbell stadium infrastructure repairs.

Initially I supported this allocation. FSU is a vital partner with this community and the economic benefits of Doak Campbell stadium renovations are significant.

However, Leon County residents made it clear they want to see Blueprint's limited economic development funds invested in other ways. For every person who contacted me in support of the stadium funding, I heard from 25 others who were steadfastly against it.

Although I voted against the funding of this project that night, the Board's full vote was 7-5 in favor of proceeding. Final approval of the bond financing will take place at the next Blueprint IA Meeting on Thursday, February 24th. If this issue is important to you, please reach out to the Blueprint IA Board and share your thoughts.

Send an email to the Leon County Commissioners by clicking [HERE](#).

Send an email to the City of Tallahassee Commissioners by clicking [HERE](#).

If you were one of the many citizens who contacted me about this prior to the Dec. 9th vote, I'd like to sincerely thank you. In our community, you and others CAN make a difference when speaking with your local elected officials, and this is a good example of that. Your involvement matters!

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## Leon County Opens New Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Site on Blair Stone Road



Continuing its commitment to protecting the environment, Leon County opened a first-of-its-kind Household Hazardous Waste drop-off location at **1800 N. Blair Stone Road**. The new, centrally located site will supplement collections at established sites like the Solid Waste Facility (7550 Apalachee Pkwy) and the Ft. Braden, Woodville and Miccosukee Rural Waste Service Centers.

Citizens are encouraged to access the new site when staff is monitoring from **8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday**. I used it myself a few days ago, in fact -- I dropped off a lot of old batteries and a few broken electronics. As the first-of-its-kind, the site hours will be updated over time to reflect usage trends.

Household Hazardous Waste sites, including the new drop-off location, allow citizens to dispose of household objects that may become dangerous to the environment or humans when disposed of improperly. This includes items such as cooking oil, paints, household chemicals, lightbulbs, batteries and small electronics. Visit [LeonCountyFl.gov/HHW](http://LeonCountyFl.gov/HHW) to find a full list of items that can be dropped off.

Last year alone, Leon County recycled over 600,000 pounds of potentially hazardous material collected from over 15,000 residents and small businesses. Compared to 2020, this was an 80% increase of hazardous waste material collected. The addition of a new drop-off will expand access and meet the rising community need for hazardous waste collection.

Due to certain limitations of the new drop-off location, some items are currently not accepted. This includes flammables, appliances, tools, biohazardous waste or medical waste. For more information about what items are accepted and how to dispose of non-accepted items, citizens are encouraged to call 850-606-1803 or to go to [LeonCountyFl.gov/HHW](http://LeonCountyFl.gov/HHW).

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## Update on Lake Jackson



*Rick attending a Friends of Lake Jackson event at Sunset Landing Park*

As you've likely heard, Lake Jackson is experiencing a dry down event, during which part of the lake naturally and cyclically drains into a sinkhole. The dry down is attracting many visitors who are curious to see this natural phenomenon.

If you are planning to visit Lake Jackson, please take precautions and stay safe. DEP has created an FAQ about the dry down. Faulk Landing has been a bird-watching hot-spot, particularly during the dry down. Naturalists can stay up to date on flora and fauna observations on eBird and iNaturalist.

A few items to note:

- Foot traffic is permitted; however, visitors to Faulk Landing and the sinkhole area should use caution. Sinkholes and swallets (small flowing streams) are unmarked, and footing is unpredictable. Visitors should not go down into the sinkhole or remaining pools because the sediment may collapse along the sinkhole walls and the lake bottom sediments are unstable.
- All fishing, hunting and boating regulations are still in effect, and are administered and enforced by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Fishing and hunting are allowed in the remaining water bodies of the lake and launching vessels is permitted at designated public boat landings.
- Lake-bottom driving with any motorized vehicle is prohibited and strictly enforced.

Information about the lake is regularly updated at DEP's website at: <https://floridadep.gov/rcp/aquatic-preserve/locations/lake-jackson-aquatic-preserve> and at the [Facebook page](#) for the Friends of Lake Jackson.

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## Human Trafficking Business Training



Human Trafficking  
Business Training

COMING SOON

Do your part to disrupt sex and labor trafficking happening right here in Leon County.

Go to [stacpro.org](https://stacpro.org)

The Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center (STAC) wants to help local workplaces disrupt sex and labor trafficking happening right here in Leon County. This free, on-demand training will empower all businesses, workplaces, and employees with greater knowledge about how to recognize and respond if they suspect sex or labor trafficking.

The training is meant to serve all Leon County businesses: hotels, restaurants, shops, convenience stores, offices and workplaces of all kinds, financial institutions and more.

Sign up [HERE](#) for updates to be notified when the program launches and be among the first to participate and be recognized for completing this training. Please share this with your employer and encourage them to register their business or nonprofit for this training. Human trafficking can hide in plain sight here in Leon County, but with your help – and that of local businesses — we can all learn how to look for the signs, support the victims, and hold traffickers accountable.

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## Old Scrap Tires: Free Drop-Off

# OLD SCRAP TIRES Free drop off



Scrap tires are perfect breeding spots for mosquitoes! Keep our community safe by disposing of old tires for free, from now until **May 27, 2022**, or until program grant funds are depleted.

*Tire disposal is limited to 25 tires per Leon County resident. Drop-off locations:*

- Solid Waste Facility: 7550 Apalachee Pkwy  
Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Rural Waste Sites: Ft Braden, Woodville, Miccosukee  
Friday - Sunday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, contact Leon County Government | (850) 606-1400  
[www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Mosquito](http://www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Mosquito)

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## Leon County Accepts Two State-Wide Awards from the American Public Works Association



Leon County Government received two state-wide Project of the Year awards from Florida's American Public Works Association (APWA) for construction completed in both 2020 and 2021. And one of these projects was in our District!

APWA awards spotlight exceptional projects that achieved project goals within budget all while exceeding public expectations. Leon County received a 2020 award for work in Woodside Heights and a 2021 award for the Meridian Road Drainage Improvement Project.

***More information about the Meridian Road Drainage Improvement Project:***

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.

Congratulations to the Leon County Public Works Department for these incredible achievements! We're very grateful for their excellent work on this District 3 project and for their dedication to the citizens of Leon County.

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## **Leon County Launches New Downtown Heritage Trail with Guided Community Walk**



*Rick participating in the kick-off walk of new Heritage Trail*

Leon County recently launched the new Downtown Heritage Trail, a tour showcasing 13 historically significant sites in downtown Tallahassee.

The approximately 0.8-mile walk -- the first trail in the series -- connects more than a dozen important sites, including the Knott House, The Riley House Center & Museum, Smokey Hollow, and the old Walker Library.

In addition to the Downtown Heritage Trail, more trails are planned for the ongoing Heritage Trails Program. Future trails will focus on a wide assortment of subjects, such as civil rights, music and more. The Heritage Trails are designed to promote exploration through mapped routes that engage residents and visitors to learn more about the area's people, places and events.

For more information about the Downtown Heritage Trail visit [VisitTallahassee.com/heritagetrails](https://www.visittallahassee.com/heritagetrails).

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## **Leon Works Expo 2022**



By 2026, Leon County and the surrounding region will need employees to fill more than 70,000 jobs that pay more than \$20 per hour and require more than a high school diploma, but less than a four-year college degree.

Leon County Government and the Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality are hosting the Leon Works Expo, which will take place on Friday, April 22, 2022, at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center. The purpose of the Leon Works Expo is to connect employers, academic institutions, and students to provide an opportunity for students to explore skilled careers. Students will learn from individuals with local success stories and engage with employers in-person to discover the career that best fits them.

### **Interesting in expanding your skilled workforce?**

Make connections and build opportunities as an exhibitor at the 2022 Leon Works Career Expo! Come out and talk in the morning with over 500 high school students from Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla and surrounding counties interested in learning more about new opportunities in the skilled workforce.

***Exhibitors: register [HERE](#) by January 31, 2022 and get a \$10 discount with promo code LeonWorks22***

To learn more about LeonWorks, click [HERE](#) or call 850-219-1080.

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### **Looking for opportunities to volunteer in the new year. Interested in serving on the Library Advisory Board?**

The LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library is currently seeking volunteers of all ages and abilities. Learn more about available positions and how to apply at [Volunteer.VolunteerLEON.org](http://Volunteer.VolunteerLEON.org).

In addition, Rick will soon be making an appointment to the Library Advisory Board. If you are interested in being considered,



please apply online ASAP  
at: <http://www2.leoncountyfl.gov/Committees/Applicants/Application>



LEON COUNTY  
**ADOPT-A-TREE**  
PROGRAM

**NOVEMBER 1, 2021- JAN 31, 2022**

**TREE SPECIES:**  
American Linden, Witch Hazel, and Red Maple

Learn more: [LeonCountyFL.gov/AdoptATree](http://LeonCountyFL.gov/AdoptATree)

### Adopt-A-Tree

Hoping to have more of a green thumb, or finally getting around to landscaping your yard this year? Let Leon County help!

The Leon County Adopt A Tree program has free Red Maple and Witch Hazel trees available now. Reserve yours here: [LeonCountyFL.gov/AdoptATree](http://LeonCountyFL.gov/AdoptATree)

## Art In Public Places



# HISTORY AND CULTURE TRAIL CALL FOR PUBLIC ART

### Calling all artists: History and Culture Trail Call for Public Art

The Council on Culture & Arts (COCA) is accepting proposals for unique public artworks to be located along the History and Culture Trail. In partnership with the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency, COCA presents this opportunity to share and celebrate the rich history and culture of the neighborhoods, businesses, and people living in the areas surrounding the Capital Cascades Trail and FAMU Way Extension projects.

Submit your original artwork for the chance to have your talent showcased along Capital Cascades Trail: [bit.ly/3s5ZcOW](http://bit.ly/3s5ZcOW)

Deadline for proposal submission is January 31, 2022.

### Learn more about Blueprint and the exciting projects on the way

Over the next five years, 32 Blueprint projects will be under construction representing a total value of more



than \$528 million.

Interested in learning more about these Blueprint projects and how your tax money is being used?

Check out Blueprint's recent brochure: "[Your Penny. Your Projects. Delivered](#)" to read about the impacts of Blueprint's recent projects and all the exciting projects on the way.

**Magazines are now available in Flipster!**

Health Dec 2021  
InStyle Dec 2021/Jan 2022  
Martha Stewart Dec 2021

**Magazines are now available in libby!**

Outdoor Magazine - Nov/Dec 2020  
MAGAZINE SERIES

Outdoor Magazine Nov/Dec 2020  
Outdoor Magazine Series

**Latest Issue**

InStyle Dec 2021/Jan 2022  
Consumer Reports on Health... Dec 2021  
The New Republic Dec 2021

**Mountain Adventures Overseas**

Mountain Adventures Overseas

### Read magazines for free!

Did you know that the Leon County Library has two apps where you can read your favorite magazines for FREE?

Try these two apps, where you can check out magazines with no checkout limits!

Try Libby: <https://bit.ly/3lt3ohg>

Try Flipster: <https://bit.ly/3IKWt3k>