



LEON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Rick Minor

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER



March/April 2022 News & Updates

Upcoming Meetings

Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency

- Thursday, March 31
- City Hall (Commission Chambers)
- 3:00 pm
- Agenda has been posted [HERE](#)

Board of County Commissioners

- Tuesday, April 12
- 5th Floor, County Courthouse
- 3:00 pm - Meeting
- 6:00 pm - Public Hearings
- Agenda will be posted [HERE](#) on/about April 4

CRTPA

- Tuesday, April 19th
- City Hall (Commission Chambers)
- 1:30 pm
- Agenda will be posted [HERE](#) on/about March 7

Hello,

I hope you're doing well! After several days of rain, it's great to have the sun shining and the windows open as I type this. My daughters are ecstatic that spring has officially arrived -- my oldest one, Madeline (yes, the one with the new pet snake), has announced that it's caterpillar season, so it's time for us to start raising Monarch butterflies again. She raised 8 last year.(!) Soon we'll be headed to the nurseries to get some milkweed plants.

As you'll see below, there's a lot going on -- public community meetings on the Children's Services Council and the City of Tallahassee's Northwood Center planning; summer jobs and internships for our youth; free online anti-human trafficking training; and a host of other events and opportunities. Our community is really on the move, and we hope you and/or members of your family are able to participate in some of these events and programs.

As always, it's a sincere honor serving you and the people of Leon County. Thank you for reading this newsletter and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any comments, questions or suggestions.

Enjoy the nice weather this weekend!

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!

The City's Planning Continues for Northwood Parcel -- Next Community Meeting on March 29



Planning continues for the future of the Northwood parcel, which - although a City project - is right in the heart of County Commission District 3.

As a follow-up to the project's January community meeting (see video above), the City of Tallahassee will hold another community meeting on **March 29** to provide a project update and share feedback gathered to date. The meeting will be held at the **Tallahassee Senior Center (1400 North Monroe Street) from 6-7:30 p.m.**

More than 200 residents attended the meeting in January, and many more have submitted comments via email and the online survey. This feedback is being used to guide long-term master planning efforts for the area. Continued community participation will ensure redevelopment evolves to best serve residents.

Following the March 29 meeting, a feedback form and recording of the project update will be available on the project website, Talgov.com/NorthwoodProject. For those unable to attend, feedback can be emailed to NorthwoodProject@Talgov.com.

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 attended community meetings and provided input due to its central location, accessibility and size, and it was ultimately selected unanimously by the Commission.

We hope to see you next Tuesday at the meeting, and we encourage to stay informed about the project at Talgov.com/NorthwoodProject.

The Children's Services Council's Upcoming Community Conversations

UPCOMING COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS



Beginning next week, the Leon County Children's Services Council (CSC) will launch their first series of community conversations, which in truth are more accurately listening sessions.

The goal of these events is to help family members, Leon County community residents, business owners, the faith community, professional service providers and volunteers learn about the CSC's progress to date, its direction and goals, and how it aspires to develop strong and sustaining partnerships going forward.

These community conversations will be facilitated discussions, moderated by CSC Executive Director Cecka Rose Green, with members of the Council present as active listeners .

All Leon County community members are welcome to attend, but for planning purposes, we are requested to RSVP via the Eventbrite links below.

Please note that childcare and refreshments will be offered...

Dates/Times/Locations/Registration Links

- **Tuesday - March 29 at 6:00 p.m.**, Raa Middle School, 401 W Tharpe St, Tallahassee, FL 32303: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/274375202617>
- **Monday - April 4 at 6:30 p.m.**, Walker-Ford Community Center, 2301 Pasco Street, Tallahassee, FL 32310: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/274401741997>
- **Tuesday - April 5 at 6:30 p.m.**, Chiles High School, 7200 Lawton Chiles Lane, Tallahassee, FL 32312: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/274412684727>

Please note that the Leon CSC will also be hosting a session exclusively for our community's youth (ages 13+) on Thursday, March 31. If you would like details for that specific session, please e-mail Holly McPhail at hmcphail@csccleon.org

Many thanks to our friend and longtime child advocate Jack Levine for authoring this section and helping us spread the word about these important forums.

You Can Help Reduce Human Trafficking in Our Community



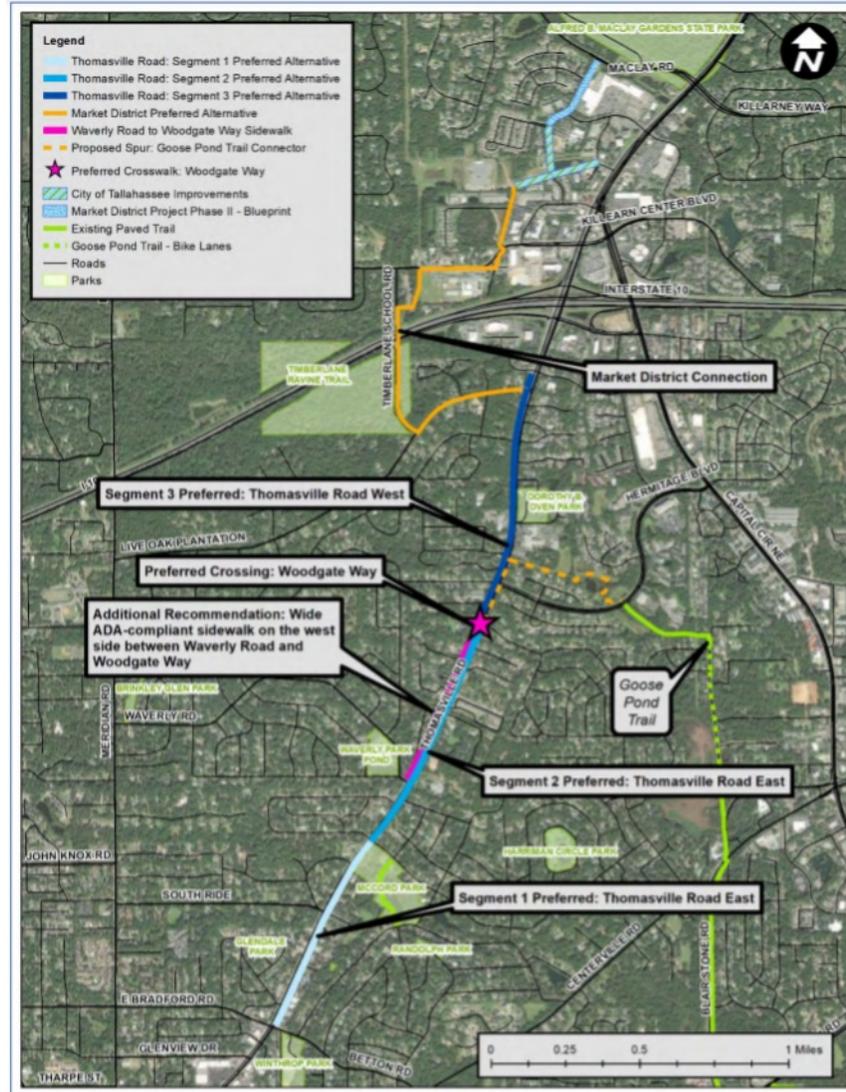
Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center (STAC) recently released [STACPRO](#) - Leon County's first and only comprehensive virtual human trafficking training program. Best of all - it's FREE, takes less than an hour to complete, and is open to all.

Be among the first to take this training and do your part to make our community a safer place. This training applies to workplaces of all kinds including hotels, restaurants, shops, convenience stores, offices, financial institutions and more. In just under an hour, you'll learn how to recognize and respond to suspected human trafficking happening here in Leon County, and you'll receive a downloadable certificate acknowledging your completion of the course.

We can all play a vital role in identifying trafficking acts or victims. With the community's support, we're building a network of people and organizations who stand with survivors and work together to prevent human trafficking.

[Start the Free Training](#)

Update on the Thomasville Road Multi-Use Path



As mentioned in the last newsletter, last week the Capital Regional Transportation Agency - of which Rick is a member - was asked to allocate design funds to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the Thomasville Road Multi-Use Path.

When the Feasibility Study for the path was approved by the CRTPA members recently, Rick objected to its passage; and last week, **Rick was the only vote against moving forward with the design phase.**

So what are the next steps? FDOT will now take over the project and begin design. Although he opposed the multi-use path along such a busy road, Rick is hoping to work with FDOT and any interested citizens to ensure that the design will be safe, user-friendly and minimize the loss of trees. Going forward, there will be more opportunities for the public to review and comment on FDOT's design proposals and our office will stay on top of this project. Please stay tuned.

Help for Low-Income Households Get Access to the Internet

Stay Connected

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) helps low-income households pay for broadband service and internet connected devices.



The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a [Federal Communications Commission \(FCC\) program](#) that helps low-income households pay for internet service and connected devices.

If your household is [eligible](#), you can receive:

- Up to a \$30/month discount on your internet service
- Up to a \$75/month discount if your household is on qualifying Tribal lands
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer (with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50)

Only one monthly service discount and one device discount is allowed per household. To receive the connected device discount, consumers need to enroll in the ACP with a [participating provider that offers connected devices](#) (Note: not all internet company offer device discounts.) The internet company will provide the discount to the consumer.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more and to see if your household qualifies.

Leon Works: Earn a Paycheck While Gaining Hands-on Experience in a Skilled Career Field



The Leon Works Junior Apprenticeship Program is an opportunity for Leon County high

school juniors/seniors to prepare for a skilled career – those jobs requiring more than a high school diploma, but less than a four-year degree.

By the year 2025, over 68,000 skilled jobs will be available in the Leon County area. To prepare students to fill these jobs, Leon County Government is partnering with CareerSource Capital Region and Leon County Schools to provide students with job readiness training and work experience!

For one semester, selected students will work in a Leon County department as a Junior Apprentice shadowing and assisting a County staff member in a skilled career field that the student is interested in pursuing. Junior Apprentices will also complete CareerSource Capital Region's Dynamic Futures training to prepare them for entering the workforce after graduation. In addition to gaining valuable work experience and training, Junior Apprentices earn an hourly salary and elective credit toward their high school diploma.

Opportunities include Digital Design, IT, EMS, and Construction Contract Management. Want to apply? Click [HERE](#). The deadline is March 31st.

Apply Now for Summer Jobs with Leon County

Youth between the ages of 14 and 24 can apply now for summer employment



Apply for a Summer Job with Leon County
Deadline: April 25
LeonCountyFL.gov/SummerYouth



Leon County Government is now accepting applications for the Summer Youth Training Program. In partnership with CareerSource Capital Region, the Summer Youth Training Program is a five-week program in which youth gain job experience by working with a Leon County department over the summer.

Youth can apply for positions across various County departments including an internship with Commissioner Minor. Other departments include Community and Media Relations, Volunteer Services, Emergency Medical Services, Library Services and more. All positions are 20 hours per week and pay \$10 per hour. Summer employment and training will run from Monday, June 27 through Friday, July 29, 2022.

Leon County and CareerSource Capital Region's partnership gives youth more professional development opportunities through Dynamic Futures, a training program for young adults. CareerSource Capital Region will help youth learn important skills such as goal-setting, budgeting, time management, customer service and so much more.

Interested youth should apply now at www.LeonCountyFL.gov/SummerYouth. The application deadline is Monday, April 25 at 5 p.m.

For more information contact Royle King, Leon County Volunteer Services, at (850) 606-1970 / KingR@LeonCountyFL.gov



Rick with his first summer intern, Charlie Holland.

Help Improve Broadband Access in Tallahassee- Leon County

Help Improve Broadband Access in Tallahassee-Leon County

The Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality is working closely with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to advance planning efforts for the expansion of broadband internet throughout the community.

We Need Your Input!



Internet Speed Test



Resident Broadband Survey



Business Broadband Survey



The Office of Economic Vitality (OEV) is conducting a survey to determine the unserved and underserved parts of Tallahassee-Leon County with regard to Internet/broadband access.

The survey only takes about 5 minutes to complete. The primary goal is to identify areas in need and to work to determine a strategy for increasing the availability and accessibility of broadband internet services in Leon County.

Click here to complete residential survey: <https://forms.gle/GMdvhYvR4kwazG1dA>.

Click here to complete business survey: <https://forms.gle/7jwnthrNLVbT6gEB8>.

850 Industrial Hemp Summit



850 INDUSTRIAL HEMP 2022 SUMMIT

Donald L. Tucker Civic Center, Tallahassee, FL

**Geoffrey W. Whaling,
Holly Bell, & Jacob
Waddell will be joining
us as Featured Speakers
for the 850 Industrial
Hemp Summit, April
26-28, 2022!**

Presented by Apalachee Regional Planning Council

REGISTER TODAY!

**Early Bird Registration extended
through March 25th!**



FEATURED SPEAKERS

- **Geoffrey Whaling**
National Hemp Association, Chair
- **Jacob Waddell**
US Hemp Builders Association, President
- **Holly Bell**
FDACS, Cannabis Director
- **Steven Hall**
FDACS, General Counsel
- **Kate Fairbanks**
FDACS, Assistant Chief
- **Dr. Zhou**
FAMU, Associate Professor, College of
Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS)
- **Matthew Mizereck**
FAMU, Hemp Planting Site Monitor,
Industrial Hemp Research Pilot Program
- **Dr. Josh Freeman**
UF/IFAS, Associate Professor
- **Ashley Guy**
Tallahassee CBD+Juicebar
- **Cetta Barnhart**
Seed Time Harvest Farms
- **Brianna Kilcullen**
Founder, ANACT
- **Travis Cockerham**
New Green Organiks
- **Will Hill**
RIDER Center

To educate farmers, businesses and interested individuals across North Florida about the economic opportunities for industrial hemp, the Apalachee Regional Planning Council is proud to present the Region's second 850 Industrial Hemp Summit, April 26-28, 2022.

The focus of the Summit is to share information from North Florida's farmers and the multitude of stakeholders across the State and nation. Attendees will have an opportunity to hear insights from national leaders in the industry, including [Geoffrey Whaling](#), Chair of the [National Hemp Association](#), [Jacob Waddell](#), President of the [US Hemp Building Association](#), and [Holly Bell](#), Director of Cannabis of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

The 850 Industrial Hemp Summit is intended for interested farmers, businesses, and other stakeholders who wish to gain an early foothold in this emergent market. The Summit will provide a place for like-minded participants to share interests, discuss partnerships, and generate ideas for a productive, financially viable, and compliant hemp industry in North Florida, focusing on topics such as:

- Florida's Hemp Program, applicable laws, and the process for acquiring a hemp cultivation license;
- Requirements for selecting the right hemp seed genetics and environment for growing hemp;
- How to produce hemp-derived products in a safe and successful manner; and
- The positive impacts resulting from the cultivation of industrial hemp as a cash crop alternative.

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

Volunteer with Meals on Wheels

Even the wet weather earlier this week couldn't stop Rick from delivering tasty and nutritious meals to homebound seniors with Meals on Wheels. Rick volunteered for Elder Care Service's (ECS) annual "Big Wheels Deliver Meals" event.

Meals on Wheels is celebrating its 50th anniversary this month. Locally, over a million meals have been served in



Tallahassee throughout these 50 years.

To become a Meals on Wheels volunteer visit www.ecsbigbend.org.

Make an Impact by Volunteering on a CHSP Citizen Review Team!



Looking for an opportunity to serve the community? Volunteer on a Community Human Service Partnership (CHSP) Citizen Review Team (CRT)! CRT volunteers review human services grant applications and make decisions about funding allocations for CHSP, a citizen-driven funding distribution process between Leon County and the City of Tallahassee.

Learn more about the process and how to volunteer at <https://lnkd.in/g/YcYWC6>

Learn About Composting!



Leon County Sustainability and UF/IFAS Leon County Extension are teaming up to offer a virtual composting class on Thursday, April 7th at 6 p.m. The class will focus on the basics of at-home composting via Zoom.

Not only can you learn about composting, but you can buy your own backyard compost bin and kitchen compost bin from Leon County for a very competitive wholesale cost. Residents who purchase a bin for this class will be able to pick up their bin(s) the following week.

Tickets for the event are free and you can sign-up [HERE](#).

Leon County EMS is Looking for Great New Team Members

Leon County EMS is proud to have a nationally accredited program that produces a 23% higher survival rate of cardiac arrests than the national average.

We offer great benefits, opportunities for advancement, advanced training and a



- Great Benefits Package
- Career Advancement Path
- Florida State Retirement System
- Live and work near top universities and beautiful trails in one of the South's Best Cities

wonderful team atmosphere.

Wondering how you can join our team?
Check out LeonCountyFL.gov/EMSCareers

For additional job opportunities with Leon County, check [HERE](#).



We Are One of Southern Living's "South's Best College Towns of 2022!"

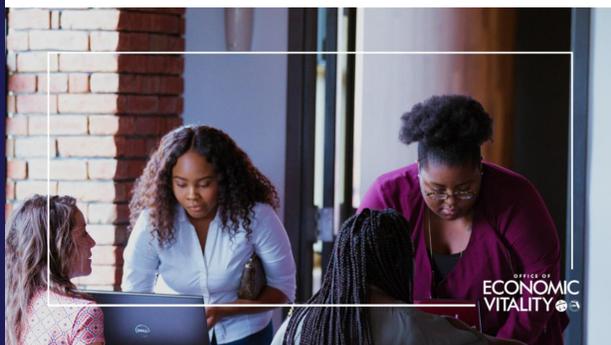
It's official: Tallahassee has been named one of Southern Living's "South's Best College Towns of 2022!"

See why our friends at Southern Living say that our community attracts residents of all ages: bit.ly/3I5EAKI



Request Rick to Speak at Your Next Meeting or Community Event

If your HOA, neighborhood association or community group would like to learn more about issues related to the County, please request Rick to attend your next meeting or event by emailing Wilkofj@leoncountyfl.gov or calling 850-606-5373.



MWSBE Certification

In today's competitive business landscape, a Minority, Women & Small Business Enterprise (MWSBE) certification sets your business apart from the rest.

Our MWSBE team provides qualified businesses with information on certification, special events, procurement opportunities, and much more. Learn more: oevforbusiness.org/mwsbe/certification/.



Leon County's Sustainable Business Recognition Program

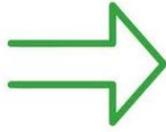
Sustainabiz, Leon County's Sustainable Business Recognition Program, acknowledges local businesses and organizations that have made substantial efforts in implementing sustainability practices in areas like energy, water, waste, community and employee engagement, and local economy.

This voluntary program is free and provides businesses and organizations with an easy checklist to help determine their recognition level, as well as technical assistance, and a sustainable business network for our county. Learn more [HERE](#).

SUSPENDED LICENSE?



SAVE MONEY



GET BACK ON THE ROAD

Join us for our 2022 Operation Green Light Event!

During the 2022 Operation Green Light, Leon County customers with suspended driver licenses will have an opportunity to pay overdue court obligations, including traffic tickets, while saving up to 40 percent in additional fees to get their license back. *

Contact our office to learn more today!

* This event will not address items that require court action.

When?

Monday, March 28 – Friday, April 1
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
(Leon County Courthouse and Clerk's Northeast Branch Office)

Saturday, April 2 | 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
(Clerk's Northeast Branch Office Only)

Where?

301 S. Monroe Street, #100
Tallahassee, FL 32301

1276 Metropolitan Blvd., #101
Tallahassee, FL 32312



OPERATION GREEN LIGHT

Need more information? Visit
www.LeonClerk.com

Contact us today:

(850) 606-4001

Clerk_OperationGreenLight@LeonCountyFL.gov



Explore Women's History

[Learn More](#)

