



LEON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Rick Minor

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER



May 2022 News & Updates

Upcoming Meetings

CRTPA

- Tuesday, May 17th
- City Hall (Commission Chambers)
- 1:30 pm
- Agenda posted [HERE](#)

Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency

- Thursday, May 19th
- City Hall (Commission Chambers)
- 1:00 - Budget workshop, with materials posted [HERE](#)
- 3:00 - Regular meeting, agenda posted [HERE](#)

Hello,

I hope you're doing well. The school year may be winding down for our kids, but there's certainly a lot going on in Leon County! In this newsletter you'll find information about upcoming agency meetings, various events and opportunities to get involved in the community.

On Tuesday, May 17th, the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) will meet for its annual review of the project priority lists. We'll also review and consider approval for the feasibility study of the US90 Multi-Use Trail. For details about these items and more, please click [HERE](#) or on the link to the left.

Then on Thursday, May 19th, Blueprint will conduct a [workshop](#) on the next year's fiscal budget and will review, among other things, the Monroe-Adams Corridor Placemaking project and proposed renovations for Domi Station. For more information, click on the Blueprint links to the left.

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.

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!

Emancipation Day - May 20th

Florida Emancipation Day is observed countywide on May 20 with events throughout May.

In addition, the Leon County Public Library is celebrating Florida Emancipation Day with thematic book lists, movie watchlists,



and other Library resources to help citizens learn something new about Florida's history and the events that shaped our community. Visit LeonCountyFL.gov/EmancipationDay for more information.

Maintenance Along Meridian Road



*****Please Note: the following is a City of Tallahassee project, but we wanted to keep District 3 neighbors informed in case they hadn't heard about it.***

Proactive sewer work to line pipes along Meridian Road from Piedmont Drive to Seventh Avenue is underway. This will help ensure the reliability and fortitude of the City's sewer service.

Work begins this week and is anticipated to take four weeks to complete, barring any adverse weather conditions. The crew will work in roughly 400-foot sections each day along the roadway, moving south to north from Seventh Avenue to Piedmont Drive. Work hours will primarily be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

While traffic will be maintained in both directions, the center turn lane will be closed near the active work zone. Motorists are urged to slow down near work zones to enhance crew safety.

Along the two-lane portion of the road from Seventh Avenue to Tharpe Street, it will be necessary to close one travel lane. Two-way traffic will be maintained via a flag operation. Work hours will shift to overnight from 7:30 p.m. to 5 a.m. Direct outreach will be done to nearby residents.

To stay informed about road closures within the City, follow [@COTTraffic](https://twitter.com/COTTraffic) on Twitter. For the latest City news, events and information, follow [@CityofTLH](https://www.facebook.com/CityofTLH) on Facebook and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/CityofTLH).

Honor Flight 2022



On April 23rd, Rick proudly served as an Honor Flight guardian for Army Vietnam veteran Wayne Derstine. Thank you to the veterans, the other guardians, Leon County EMS, and everyone who supported the effort. Nearly 80 Veterans with their 80 Guardians spent the day in Washington DC - visiting the WWII, Arlington, Iwo Jima, Air Force, Korean, Vietnam and Lincoln Memorials. Needless to say, it was a full day!

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the Honor Guard program and how you can support their efforts - or become a guardian yourself for the next flight!

Breaking Bread Together: Neighborhood Dinner & Conversation on Tackling Food Insecurity



**Neighborhood Dinner & Conversation
on Tackling Food Insecurity**



Leon County Government, in partnership with America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend and the Children's Services Council of Leon County, is hosting community conversations about food insecurity and how to address this issue in the ten most food-insecure areas in the county.

During each of these events, dinner will be made available by local restaurants, and interactive educational activities for children will be provided by the Leon County Public Library.

Rick will be attending as many of these sessions as possible. Please consider joining us for one, too -- especially if one of these events is being held in your neighborhood. The complete schedule - and more information - can be found [HERE](#).

Created Equal: A Conversation about Race in our Elections



Join The Village Square and Leon County Government for a conversation that examines how national and statewide perspectives on voting access and security impact our local community.

As a cornerstone of American democracy, there is a fundamental link between trust in election infrastructure and equal access to the ballot box. In recent years, more than 400 voter security bills have been introduced in 48 states. Yet according to experts, measures such as strict voter ID laws, restricted registration, and narrowed voting times disproportionately impact people of color, students, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

Are elections fair and secure for everyone? Should we be doing more? This year's *Created Equal* program will address this question by connecting academic experts, community members, and advocates to look at voter security and the right for all people to vote. The discussion will encourage residents to advocate for voter engagement among family, friends, and within our community.

Join the discussion at the **7th Annual *Created Equal* on Thursday, May 26 at The Moon, 1105 E Lafayette St.** Pizza, salad, and drinks will be provided at **5:30 p.m.** The panel discussion will begin at 6 p.m., followed by table conversations among attendees. Register [HERE](#) to reserve your free seat to join us.

Leon County's Annual "Summer Backyard Bucket List" Challenge



The “Summer Backyard Bucket List” challenge was created to support local businesses and encourage residents to explore their local community. The campaign will run from May to July and each month will feature a new “bucket list” of local businesses to explore --including attractions, restaurants, breweries, shops and museums -- at VisitTallahassee.com/BackyardBucketList.

Local residents who visit featured businesses and post a picture on Instagram using the hashtag #TallyBucketListSweepstakes will be entered for a chance to win monthly prizes and a grand prize staycation for two. Each post earns participants one entry to the contest. A non-social media option for entry is also available at participating locations by scanning the unique QR code on-site.

Monthly winners will be chosen to receive gift card prizes from local partners including restaurants, attractions and more. During the first week of August, one grand prize winner will be awarded a two-night Tallahassee/Leon County staycation which will include hotel accommodations, meals and activities.

The Summer Backyard Bucket List is ongoing and there are additional opportunities for local businesses and organizations to be featured in June or July. For more information about adding your local business to our list of participating partners, join the Visit Tallahassee Partners Facebook group [here](#).

To learn more and view official sweepstakes rules, a list of local partners and prizes, go to www.VisitTallahassee.com/BackyardBucketList.

The Village Square Town Hall



Thank you to The Village Square, WFSU, Leadership Tallahassee, and facilitator Skip Foster for presenting the recent [Our Town Series: Town Hall](#).

This annual event includes commissioners from Leon County and the City of Tallahassee for a constructive, cross-governmental discussion about where we are, where we're going, and what challenges might emerge on the horizon. This year, Leon County Supervisor of Elections Mark Earley kicked off the event with comments on voter education to ensure we're all well-equipped when it comes time to exercise our right to vote.

Click [HERE](#) to view the Town Hall event in its entirety.

Leon County Launches New Texting Program to Schedule Inspections and More



To better serve citizens, Leon County Government launched Text-to-Inspect, a service that allows contractors to utilize text messaging to schedule, reschedule, or cancel inspections and obtain inspection results on their Leon County building permits.

To get started, users can send text commands, like “Schedule” or “Results,” to 855-927-1525. Through this program, builders can find results for HVAC changeout, drywall, mechanical ductwork, and much more. In addition to texting, developers can continue to schedule inspections or obtain results via phone by calling 850-606-1306, or by visiting the Tallahassee-Leon County Permit Portal at TLCPermits.org.

Text-to-Inspect is one of many digital services provided by Leon County to deliver professional, helpful, and value-added engagement to the community. Other services include the Leon County ROKU channel that provides Leon County updates and live coverage of all commission meetings, and the Text-to-911 program that allows residents to text 9-1-1 in emergency situations when calling is not an option.

To learn more about Test-to-Inspect, click [HERE](#).

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](#)

Make a Difference!



Love the outdoors? VolunteerLEON has opportunities that help get you outside AND make a difference in the process!

Leon County Parks and Recreation is always looking for volunteers. You can help out in officiating youth sports, maintaining greenways, and cleaning our lakeshores. If interested in becoming a Leon County Parks and Recreation volunteer, please fill out the form [HERE](#).

To learn more about Leon County's Volunteer Services Division - and the myriad of opportunities to contribute to our community - click [HERE](#). To see Leon County's current listing of job opportunities, click [HERE](#).

Leon Works 2022



On April 22, Rick was pleased to attend the seventh annual Leon Works Expo at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center. The event is a joint effort between Leon County Government and the Office of Economic Vitality (OEV).

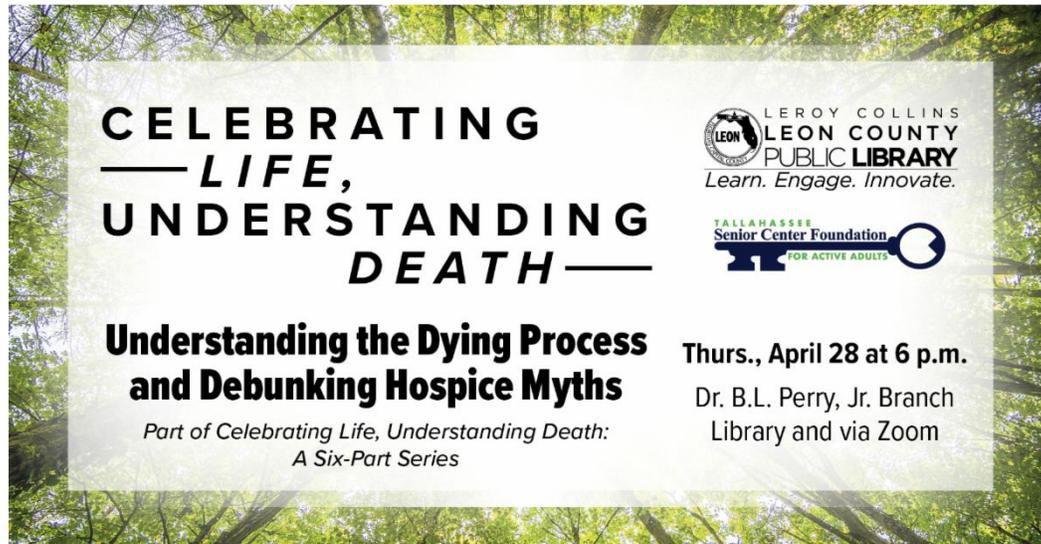
The goal of the Leon Works Expo is to help bridge the skilled jobs gap by teaching

students about the opportunities available to them after high school. This event provides an in-depth look into skilled opportunities and provides hands-on demonstrations to allow students to really get a feel for what these skilled careers would be like.

The Expo continues to grow every year and this year's clearly was the best yet, with over 700 students in attendance! Leon County has been continuing to raise the bar in this area by growing our community's workforce and connecting local businesses with future talent.

Congratulations to everyone who made this event such a big success!

Leon County Hosts Conversations About Death and Dying During Library Series



The graphic features a background of a sunlit forest. On the left, the text reads: **CELEBRATING — LIFE, UNDERSTANDING DEATH —**. Below this, it says **Understanding the Dying Process and Debunking Hospice Myths**, followed by *Part of Celebrating Life, Understanding Death: A Six-Part Series*. On the right, there are two logos: the Leon County Public Library logo with the tagline 'Learn. Engage. Innovate.' and the Tallahassee Senior Center Foundation logo with the tagline 'FOR ACTIVE ADULTS'. Below the logos, the event details are listed: **Thurs., April 28 at 6 p.m.**, **Dr. B.L. Perry, Jr. Branch Library and via Zoom**.

Join Leon County Government for “Celebrating Life, Understanding Death: A Six-Part Series” every Thursday from April 21 through May 26 at 6 p.m. at the Dr. B.L. Perry, Jr. Branch Library. Each week of this series features compassionate professionals who will speak about different aspects of death and dying.

From religious, spiritual, and physiological practices associated with the care of the dying, to the more practical matters of funeral and will planning, to the tender ways in which we support those who grieve, attendees will engage in meaningful conversations about a journey we will all one day make.

Each program in this series will also be streamed live via Zoom. Register [here](#).

Learn more about this series at LeonCountyLibrary.org.

There is Still Time to Take the Broadband Survey

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. All residents and business owners in Tallahassee-Leon County are invited to take this quick survey to provide with feedback.

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

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



Rick recently had the opportunity to tour REfire Culinary, founded by Rebecca Kelly-Manders (center in the photo above).

REfire is a culinary training program for people with felony convictions, providing basic skills training, job experience and job placement support. The curriculum is developed by professional chefs and culinary educators and will prepare graduates to fill a significant talent gap in Tallahassee's retail food sector.

A criminal conviction history can make it extremely difficult for ex-felons to get jobs. But without a job, the recidivism rate skyrockets, meaning those ex-felons reoffend and end up back in prison, putting a further burden on the economy and taxpayers. Ex-felons need job skills training and the opportunity to re-enter the workforce and become skilled and productive members of their community.

In addition to providing critical job skills training, REfire staff and students operate a community-focused catering company that provides quality food products at reduced cost to schools, housing facilities, and elderly meal programs.

REfire is supported by local chefs, restaurant owners, lawyers, community organizations, career placement and social service agencies. To learn more, click [HERE](#).

Hazardous Waste Center

Have you heard? Leon County's Hazardous Waste Center was named a Top 100 Leader in Sustainability 2021 by Call2Recycle, an industry-established rechargeable battery recycling corporation!

Leon County diverted more than 13,000 pounds of batteries from the landfill in 2021 alone.

Wondering how you can sustainably throw out old batteries or electronics? Learn more about what the Leon County Hazardous Waste Center accepts here: LeonCountyFL.gov/HHW.



New Playground at Pedrick Park



Last week, Leon County unveiled new playground equipment at Pedrick Pond Park (5701 Mahan Drive). As part of the County's commitment to enhance the community's quality of life, the new playground features musical instruments, vibrant colors, and textures that encourage imaginative play-based learning and enhance sensory engagement.

School Visit



Thank you to Rachel Webber, Third Grade teacher at Cornerstone Elementary, for hosting Rick recently. After one of Ms. Webber's students sent Rick an email raising concerns about the number of people in our community experiencing homelessness, Rick responded by visiting the class to speak about that issue, as well as local government generally.

The students asked some great questions - and emailed more after Rick's visit!

If your student's classroom would like Rick to visit, email Wilkofj@leoncountyfl.gov or call 850-606-5373.

Holocaust Remembrance Day

Last week, Rick joined the Holocaust Education Resource Council (HERC) at the annual Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) event. Rick presented HERC with a proclamation from Leon County recognizing the day.



For more information about HERC, click [HERE](#).

New Rehab Facility

Rick spoke recently at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for HCA Florida Capital Hospital's new inpatient rehab center.

The center is a 27,000 square foot facility with a 20-bed capacity, which has occupational, physical and speech therapists. The center treats a variety of patients who need rehab services, including those who have suffered a stroke, amputation, or brain or spinal cord injury.

The rehab center is connected to the main hospital. For further information, click [HERE](#).



Request Rick to Attend Your Next HOA Meeting or Community Event

Rick and his family recently joined residents of the Woodgate neighborhood. Woodgate neighbors gathered for ice cream and to distribute sunflower seeds that neighbors then planted by their mailboxes in support of the people in Ukraine.

If your HOA, neighborhood association or group would like Rick to attend your next event, email Wilkofj@leoncountyfl.gov or call 850-606-5373.



#PlantWildflowers

From now until May 31, join the Leon County Library for #PlantWildflowers, where we celebrate and support our local pollinators.

Learn about pollination and the essential role that pollinators play in the natural world through library events and resources

Free packets of wildflower seeds are available at all library locations while supplies last. Learn more [HERE](#).



