



LEON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

**Rick Minor**

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER



## October-December 2022 News & Updates

### Upcoming Meetings

#### Board of County Commissioners Annual Retreat

- 9am, Monday, Jan. 23
- Parkview at Cascades, 414 E. Bloxam Street

#### Board of County Commissioners

- Tuesday, Jan. 24
- 3pm - Regular Meeting
- 6pm - Public Hearings
- 5th Floor, County Courthouse
- Agenda will be posted [HERE](#) on/about January 16th

Click [HERE](#) for the complete Commission calendar.

Hello Rick,

I hope you and your family are doing well as the temperature drops and kids have started their winter break. As I type this at my office, my four-year-old daughter is watching videos on the floor. It'll be a holiday miracle if I can finalize this newsletter before she gets bored. :-)

We've had some big changes at the County Commission. At our Nov. 22nd meeting, we welcomed new Commissioners Christian Caban and David O'Keefe, representing Districts 2 and 5, respectively. We also thanked outgoing Commissioner Kristin Dozier for her years of dedicated service to Leon County.

In addition, I had the incredible honor of being sworn in for my second term as County Commissioner for District 3. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve you for another four years and I'll continue working to make you proud.

As you'll see, below is information on programs and upcoming events throughout the County. We hope you'll find it helpful!

Best wishes to you and your family during this holiday season. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, and Happy New Year!

#### **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!

**Leon County Closures and Service Changes on Christmas and New Year's Day**



The following holiday closures and service changes will occur in observance of the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays.

**Closed Sunday, December 25 and Sunday, January 1**

- Leon County Libraries
- Leon County Solid Waste Management Facility, Rural Waste Service Centers and Household Hazardous Waste Center
- Leon County Offices
- Leon County Animal Control
- Leon County Community Centers

**Closed Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2**

- Leon County Offices
- Leon County Animal Control
- Leon County Community Centers

**Remain Open for the Holidays**

- Leon County Parks and Recreation facilities (parks, greenways, campgrounds and boat landings)

**Additional Service Information**

The LeRoy Collins Leon County Main Library will close at 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 24, and Saturday, December 31. All other LeRoy Collins Leon County Library branches will close at 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 24, and Saturday, December 31. All Leon County Library locations will resume normal operating hours on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2.

Residential waste collection routes will be delayed one day for citizens whose normal pick-up day is during the holiday. Waste Pro's holiday schedule can be found at [Wasteprousa.com](http://Wasteprousa.com). For more information, call the Leon County Solid Waste Management Division at (850) 606-1800.

In the event of an animal-related emergency, service is available by calling the Consolidated Dispatch Agency at (850) 606-5800. Leon County Animal Control encourages residents to only use this service to report dangerous or aggressive dogs, sick or injured domestic animals and animal cruelty. Injured wildlife calls will be forwarded to the St. Francis Wildlife Association at (850) 627-4151.

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**Elected Chair of CRTPA**



At the most recent meeting of the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA), Rick was elected by his fellow members to be Chair for the upcoming year. The CRTPA is the region's metropolitan planning organization (MPO) and is responsible for coordinating transportation planning within Florida's Capital Region. The CRTPA includes all of Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon and Wakulla counties.

The mission of the CRTPA is to act as the principal forum for regional transportation policy discussions, which results in the development of a long range transportation plan. You can learn more about the CRTPA by visiting the [CRTPA website](#).

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## **2023 Leon County Legislative Delegation Meeting**

JOIN THE  
LEON COUNTY DELEGATION  
FOR THE  
**2023 LEON COUNTY  
DELEGATION MEETING**

**January 23rd, 2023  
at 6 pm**



**Chair  
State Rep.  
Allison Tant**



**Vice Chair  
State Rep.  
Jason Shoaf**



**State Senator  
Corey Simon**



**State Rep.  
Gallop  
Franklin**

**At the Leon County Commission Chambers**

Leon County Courthouse  
301 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

The annual delegation meeting provides an opportunity for citizens and local officials to address the Legislative Delegation regarding any state-level issues or concerns they may have. All residents and elected officials are invited to attend.

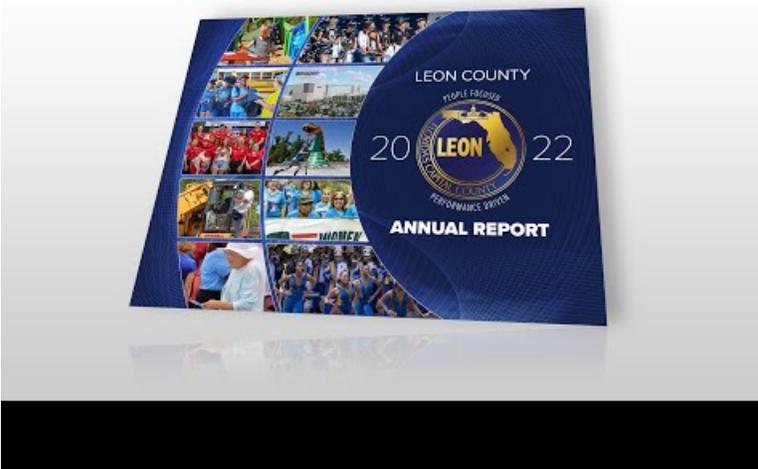
**If you would like to speak at the meeting, please fill out the form linked at [www.bit.ly/leoncountydelegationmtg](http://www.bit.ly/leoncountydelegationmtg)**

Please join us at 6pm on Monday, January 23rd in the Leon County Commissioner Chambers (at the Leon County Courthouse) for this year's Legislative Delegation meeting. This annual meeting provides an opportunity for citizens to speak directly to our local legislators and raise any state-level issues or concerns.

All residents are invited to attend. If you would like to speak at the meeting, please fill out the form [HERE](#).

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**Leon County 2022 Annual Report**



In 2022, Leon County continued to make great progress and serve our citizens amidst seemingly endless challenges, all while striving to set the standard for performance, fiscal stewardship, and best practices for local governments everywhere.

The 2022 Annual Report looks back at the significant progress of the past year. It highlights Leon County's commitment to investing in infrastructure, creating places for people and businesses to thrive, and building a culture of innovation and co-creation, all of which makes our County one of the South's best places to live, work, and play.

You can read the 2022 report in its entirety [HERE](#), and click [HERE](#) for a video summary of the report.

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## Interested in serving as a Community Committee Member on a CSWG Committee?



With the reimagining plan of the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls (CSWG), the CSWG is excited to welcome Community Committee Members to their six committees this year.

The six areas of focus are Health & Development, Violence & Safety, Education, Economic Security, Employment & Earnings, and Political Equity.

If you are interested in potentially serving on one of these committees, or learning more about how to be involved with the CSWG, please contact the CSWG Program

# Volunteer for This Year's Point in Time Count



## 2023 POINT IN TIME COUNT

### WHO:

#### VOLUNTEERS (18 AND OLDER)

- COLLEGE STUDENTS
- CIVIC/NON PROFIT/ FAITH BASED GROUPS
- SERVICE PROVIDERS
- VETERANS
- CURRENT/FORMERLY HOMELESS
- ANYONE INTERESTED IN HELPING TO ALLEVIATE HOMELESSNESS

### WHAT:

**The annual Point in Time Count is census of individuals and families experiencing homelessness across the Big Bend CoC geographical area. Mandated by HUD, this counts helps to identify and understand the extent of homelessness in our community. Data from this count allows us to apply for funding and advocate for increased**

### WHEN:

**COUNT NIGHT– 1/23/2023**

**CANVAS & SURVEY DAYS– 1/24/23- 1/27/23**

**6:00 AM– 9 PM**

### FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER:

[https://  
bigbendcoc.org/  
pit23/](https://bigbendcoc.org/pit23/)

### DONATIONS FOR VOLUNTEERS:

- **Water/Drinks**
- **Snacks**
- **Breakfast/Lunch/  
Dinner**

### DONATIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS:

- **\$10 Gift Cards–  
(Walmart, Publix,  
Fast Food)**
- **Monetary  
Donations**
- **In– Kind  
Donations**
- **Underwear  
(Men & Women)**
- **Socks**
- **Deodorant**
- **Sanitary Napkins  
(pads) & Tampons**

The 2023 Point in Time Count (PIT) is just around the corner. The PIT is when the Big Bend Continuum of Care (BBCoC) organizes a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness in our community. BBCoC's Point in Time will occur the week of Monday, January 23rd, through Friday, January 27th, 2023.

Point in Time counts are vital to understanding the extent and nature of homelessness in each community. The number of individuals experiencing homelessness and their characteristics provide insight into the needs of clients as well as looking at trends in homelessness. This count is usually conducted by volunteers who fan out along streets in communities across the country to count the number of people who are sleeping outside.

This event is made possible only with the help of community volunteers and donations. If

you would like to volunteer for our community's Point in Time event, please [click here to sign up](#). Rick participated in last year's Point in Time Count and will be volunteering again this year.

If you would like to provide a donation to support our PIT event, please visit the BBCoC's [donations page](#).

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## Leon County Installs New and Improved Playground in District 3 at J. Lee Vause Park



Leon County Government has recently installed a new and improved playground in District 3 at J. Lee Vause Park, located at 6024 Old Bainbridge Rd. The new playground, created and designed to support expressive play for children, includes musical instruments, a flying saucer swing, and a Selfie Swizzler, a swiveling play piece that is unlike any other playground structure.

The new and improved playground at J. Lee Vause Park directly aligns with the County's goal of promoting livability, health and sense of community by supporting strong neighborhoods, enhancing mobility and creating public spaces for people of all ages.

“With the recent improvements of the J. Lee Vause Park playground, we continue to create a sense of community for not only District 3, but for the entire county,” said Leon County District 3 Commissioner Rick Minor. “We hope parents and families around the County will bring their children out to the park for an exciting and unique experience.”

J. Lee Vause Park, which is located in the Lake Jackson community, includes six picnic pavilions and 26 acres of open wooded spaces. In 2020, Leon County added to the park's list of amenities with the creation of a dog park for both big and small dogs to enjoy.

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## County Seeking Applications for the Children Service Council



Leon County Government is currently seeking applications from qualified individuals interested in serving on the Children's Services Council (CSC) of Leon County. Approved by voters during the November 2020 General Election, the CSC is an independent special district that is responsible for funding children's services throughout the County by levying ad valorem taxes estimated at up to \$8 million annually.

All applications must be completed and submitted electronically no later than January 6, 2023, at [LeonCountyFL.gov/CSCApplication](https://LeonCountyFL.gov/CSCApplication). To be eligible, applicants must be a resident of Leon County for the previous 24-month period and be willing to submit an annual Statement of Financial Interests Form.

The CSC functions to support organizations that serve children and families in Leon County and will work to identify children's needs in the community, target those needs with evidence-based programs, and evaluate results. In accordance with Florida Statute, the CSC is comprised of ten members, five of whom are appointed by the Governor's Office from a list of candidates submitted by the Leon County Board of County Commissioners. This list will include at least three recommendations for each of the two upcoming vacancies (a minimum total of 6 candidates).

As part of the application, applicants are asked to attach a resume or provide a brief explanation of how their skills, experience, or educational background will contribute to the CSC. Additionally, Florida Statutes require that, to the extent possible, those appointed represent the demographic diversity of the population of Leon County. To assure the fullest consideration, applications should thoroughly respond to each question.

For more information, contact Nicki Paden, Leon County Administration at (850) 606-5300 / [PadenN@LeonCountyFL.gov](mailto:PadenN@LeonCountyFL.gov), or Mathieu Cavell, Leon County Community and Media Relations at (850) 606-5300 / [CMR@LeonCountyFL.gov](mailto:CMR@LeonCountyFL.gov).

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## **County Commission Considering Increasing Notice Time for Rent Increases**



Leon County Commissioners are considering an ordinance that would require that landlords provide tenants with **60 days notice** when they plan to raise rent costs by **5% or more**.

To be clear, the proposed policy does NOT consider rent control. The Commissioners have stated that they are not moving toward enacting rent control measures.

Rick is very interested in hearing your thoughts on this propose measure. Are you a tenant who has experienced a large rent increase in the past 1-2 years? Or, are you a landlord who would like to provide your perspective?

[Click here to send us your thoughts](#)

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## Operation Thank You



On Veteran's Day, Rick joined his fellow Commissioners to honor and celebrate local veterans with the Operation Thank You Veterans Day breakfast.

Hosted in partnership with the American Legion Sauls-Bridges Post 13, this year's breakfast marked the 10th year Leon County has hosted an Operation Thank You event to show appreciation for the more than 17,000 veterans who call Leon County home.

During this year's event, Leon County recognized Gordon Lightfoot, U.S. Marine Corps veteran who served in the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines during the Vietnam War. He is founding Chair of the Support Committee for the Tallahassee National Cemetery and served four years on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Cemeteries and Memorials. Last year, after years of fundraising efforts led by Gordon and other veterans from AMVETS Post 1776, a four-story bell tower was dedicated at the Tallahassee National Cemetery as a memorial honoring those who served.

After the breakfast, Rick and his daughter joined Commissioners, staff, and their families on the Leon County Float in the annual Veterans Day Parade.

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## Leon County Launches New Mountain Bike Website



The Leon County Division of Tourism (Visit Tallahassee) recently announced the launch of its new website, [MBTallahassee.com](http://MBTallahassee.com), designed to provide information and inspire visitors and residents to discover Tallahassee-Leon County's mountain biking trails. The new mountain bike website provides information about trails, area bike shops, group rides, and events for all types of riders from novice to experts.

The new website is part of a new dedicated marketing campaign that has garnered support from the Tallahassee Mountain Bike Association (TMBA), local bike shops, bike friendly hotels and area craft breweries. Additionally, the new site provides another asset as Leon County continues working with the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) - the leader in mountain bike advocacy, education, promotion and trail creation worldwide - to obtain its IMBA Ride Center™ designation. Achieving Ride Center™ designation is based on a stringent grading scale used to verify a community's mountain bike trail system and its commitment to the sport of mountain biking.

Tallahassee lies in one of the most biologically diverse regions in the U.S. and is home to more than 700 miles of varying trails — aptly lending the nickname “Trailahassee” – with abundant biking, hiking, paddling, equestrian and running trails. As one of Florida's premier destinations for outdoor enthusiasts, this geographically unique area offers countless opportunities for mountain bike riders to bike some of the region's most challenging terrain with its unexpected hills providing exciting and fun rides within minutes of downtown.

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## Check Out This Great Video from the 2022 Tallahassee E-Bike Expo



## Field Trips to the County Commission



If you know a teacher who would like their class to view a County Commission meeting (or a parent/grandparent who would like to bring a child or group), please invite them to contact our office to set up a field trip!

During the visit, students will meet with Rick and get to hear from him about what a County Commissioners does and how the County Commission works. Students will also learn about the different levels and branches of government, the importance of public participation, how young people can make a difference in our community,

Visits will be tailored to the size of the group and the age of the students. To learn more or to plan a field trip, please contact Jodi Wilkof at 850-606-5373 or [WilkofJ@LeonCountyFL.gov](mailto:WilkofJ@LeonCountyFL.gov).

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# Revitalize the Local Ecosystem with Leon County's Adopt-a-Tree Program



## LEON COUNTY **ADOPT A TREE** PROGRAM

Leon County Government is now accepting applications to plant a tree on unincorporated Leon County properties for free through its Adopt-a-Tree Program. The program is open to all Leon County residents who live outside the Tallahassee city limits.

Applications will be accepted through January 31, 2023, at [LeonCountyFL.gov/AdoptATree](https://LeonCountyFL.gov/AdoptATree) on a first-come, first-served basis.

When applying, residents may select the "delivery only" option if they wish to plant the tree at their own convenience. For residents who need assistance, Leon County staff will assist with tree placement and installation if they select the "delivery and plant" option.

Leon County will deliver or plant trees for County residents starting in February 2023. This year, residents may choose between the following three native species:

- Dahoon Holly, which is a small, low-maintenance broadleaf evergreen tree.
- Black Tupelo, or Blackgum, which is a medium- to large-sized deciduous tree with a slow growth rate, gaining only around 1 to 2 feet per year.
- White Oak, which is a large tree that commonly attains a height of 60 to 100 feet with a spread of 50 to 90 feet.

Planting native trees and other plants is a key part of protecting our natural ecosystem by providing habitat and food for native insects, birds, and other animals that call our County home. To ensure the successful rooting of the new tree, the County requests homeowners water the tree three times a week for one year. The tree may be planted anywhere between a house and any publicly maintained road or any privately maintained road with public access.

Since 2007, through the Adopt-a-Tree Program, Leon County has planted more than 4,100 trees in nearly 250 neighborhoods, allowing citizens to add beauty and value to their property and community. The Adopt-a-Tree Program is one of the County's many ways to protect our local ecosystem and builds on the success of planting 15,000 trees countywide between 2017 and 2021.

Individuals living within the Tallahassee city limits are encouraged to take advantage of the City of Tallahassee's Adopt-a-Tree program by visiting [Talgov.com/AdoptATree](https://Talgov.com/AdoptATree).

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## Great WTXL Story on the New Tallahassee-Leon County Visitor Information Center



Work is underway to transform the Amtrak Train Station located between FAMU and FSU into the new Tallahassee-Leon County Visitor Information Center.

Channing Framton, from WTXL, did a great story on this project, which you can view [HERE](#).

The story notes that although Amtrak has no immediate plans to return to Tallahassee, the Federal Railroad Administration [launched a website](#) to study the feasibility of restoring certain Amtrak routes that have been discontinued. You can learn more about that study, and register for updates, [HERE](#).

## Tire Amnesty Days



Take advantage of Leon County Government's Tire Amnesty Days to help keep the community safe from mosquitos and the diseases they carry.

Leon County residents can drop off their old tires from now until Friday, May 26, 2023, at the following County facilities:

- Leon County Solid Waste Facility, 7550 Apalachee Pkwy.
- Rural Waste Center – Woodville, 549 Henry Jones Rd.
- Rural Waste Center – Fort Braden, 2485 East Joe Thomas Rd.
- Rural Waste Center – Miccosukee, 13051 Miccosukee Rd.



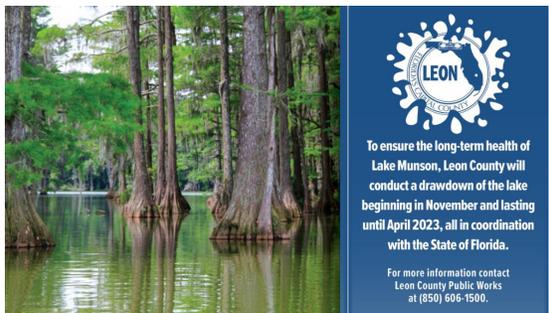
## Bradfordville Dog Park

Exciting news for our Leon County pups and pet parents! Fence installation is complete and the Bradfordville Dog Park is open again! We appreciate your patience as we worked to provide a space for furry friends to enjoy while off leash.



## Board Game Nights at Lake Jackson Library

Did you know the Lake Jackson Branch Library has open board game play every Tuesday from 3-7 pm? The branch has plenty of board games to play and it's free. Bring your friends or meet new ones!



## Lake Munson

In coordination with the State of Florida, Leon County has started a drawdown of Lake Munson to ensure the long-term health of the lake. The drawdown will last until April 2023 and is part of the County's ongoing and long-term action plan to protect and preserve Lake Munson both now and into the future. Learn more at [LeonCountyFL.gov/LakeMunson](http://LeonCountyFL.gov/LakeMunson).



## Crowder Landing

We're excited to announce that Crowder Boat Landing is officially reopened! Following several months of closure due to renovations, the new and improved landing is again available for recreational use. New covered seating and updated infrastructure provide comfortable space and easy access to those looking to enjoy time out on the water. Check out the new enhancements at 1200 Crowder Rd.

## New Pediatric Urgent Care in District 3

Rick was pleased to participate in the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting of KidsStreet Urgent Care, on North Monroe, just north of the Red Lobster.



You can learn more about KidsStreet [HERE](#).

Leon County Commission, District 3 | 301 S Monroe St, Tallahassee, FL 32301

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