



LEON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

**Rick Minor**

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER



## June - August 2023 News & Updates

### Upcoming Meetings

#### Blueprint IA

- Thursday, August 24th
- 9:00 am
- Budget Workshop and Regular Meeting
- 2nd Floor, City Hall
- Review agendas [HERE](#)

#### Board of County Commissioners

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

#### CRTPA

- Tuesday, September 19
- 1:30 pm
- 2nd Floor City Hall
- Agenda will be posted [HERE](#) on/about Sept. 12

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

Hello Rick,

I hope you and your family are finding ways to beat the heat. The summer has been busy for my family -- driving our kids to summer camps, visiting with relatives, and taking a day trip (or two) to St. George Island -- but we're all looking forward to the school year. My 9-year-old daughter said she's ready to start 4th grade, and my 4-year-old is also excited, though slightly nervous, about VPK at her new 'big school'.

Our County Commission office has also been busy this summer. We've formed a partnership with the Leon County Sheriff's Office and the Property Appraiser's Office to establish **business crime watch networks in three different sections of the North Monroe corridor**. Turnout for the first meeting was outstanding (60+ attendees), and now we're planning meetings for the remaining two sections. When we go "ALL IN" and work together with businesses and law enforcement, we can reduce crime on Tallahassee's #1 gateway and help the homeless find safe, stable housing.

And of course, our District 3 neighborhoods can do the same. Please consider creating (or revitalizing) a **crime watch for your neighborhood**, and see below for a video from Sheriff Walt McNeil and Capt. Jimmy Goodman on how to get started. My office can help you begin, if you like... in fact, I'll canvass your neighborhood to spread the word! Just let me know and I'll be there to help.

Also in this newsletter are safety tips for the summer heat, a 'thank you' to our amazing interns, hurricane preparedness, signup info for the County's upcoming Day of Service, and much more. My Chief of Staff Jodi Wilkof and I hope you find this email informative and worthwhile.

As always, it's a great honor serving you and everyone else in Leon County. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments or suggestions.

All the best,

**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

## Thank You to this Summer's Interns



This summer our office was fortunate to have the assistance of three top-notch summer interns as part of the [Leon County Summer Youth Training Program](#). William Merrix, Charlotte Stuart-Tilley, and William Muniz assisted with policy research and administrative work while also getting to tour numerous County departments. We are grateful to them for the assistance they provided and miss them already! You can learn more about each intern and their internship experience in their own words, below.



Will Merrix is a freshman at Florida State University majoring in Computer Science on a Pre-Law track. He previously served as a Relational Organizing Captain for Lorraine Ausley's 2022 Senate campaign. In his spare time,



Charlotte Stuart-Tilley is an FSU freshman majoring in International Affairs and French. She has been a GenCLEO strategist with the CLEO Institute since 2020 and has a passion for climate justice and human rights issues. In her spare



Hi, my name is William Muniz, I am homeschooled and a senior. At this internship, I was able to meet Will and Charlotte who, similar to me, had an avid desire to learn more about how county and state government function. I am proud to have worked under the supervision of Commissioner Minor and

he loves reading and writing about the law and the Supreme Court.

time, she enjoys learning French and spending time with friends and family.

Ms. Jodi Wilkof and I look forward to keeping in touch in the future.

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## County Opens Cooling Station at Downtown Main Library



As part of Leon County's commitment to protecting public safety, the County's Downtown Main Library (200 W. Park Avenue) will operate as a cooling station while the County remains under an excessive heat warning. As a cooling station, the County library will offer air conditioning, comfortable seating, water access, restrooms, information and assistance, charging stations, as well as all the usual library activities and materials.

The main library will be open Sunday from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., and Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Additional library locations and hours can be found [HERE](#).

Additional heat safety tips can be found at [www.Ready.gov/heat](http://www.Ready.gov/heat) :

### **Personal Safety:**

**Stay Hydrated:** Drink plenty of water, even if you don't feel thirsty. Avoid alcohol and caffeine.

**Stay Cool:** Seek air-conditioned buildings, use fans, and take cool showers or baths.

**Wear Appropriate Clothing:** Choose lightweight, loose-fitting clothing.

**Avoid Strenuous Activities:** Limit outdoor activities during the hottest part of the day.

### **Pet Safety:**

**Provide Ample Water:** Ensure that pets have access to fresh water.

**Keep Pets Indoors:** Keep pets inside during extreme heat.

**Never Leave Pets in Cars:** Temperatures inside a car can rise to deadly levels quickly.

**Walk Pets During Cooler Hours:** Early morning or late evening is best.

### **Outdoor Activity Safety:**

**Plan Ahead:** Take frequent breaks in the shade, wear sunscreen, and carry water.

**Use Caution with Outdoor Equipment:** Be mindful of hot surfaces like playground equipment.

**Monitor for Heat-Related Illness:** Know the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

## Check on Elderly Neighbors:

**Regularly Check-In:** Check on elderly neighbors or family members.

**Offer Assistance:** Offer to help with groceries or other errands.

**Encourage Proper Care:** Encourage them to stay hydrated and cool.

Leon County Government remains committed to the safety and well-being of all residents. Please share this information widely and look out for one another during this period of excessive heat.

For up-to-the-date emergency alerts and information, visit the County's Emergency Information Portal at [www.LeonCountyFL.gov/ei](http://www.LeonCountyFL.gov/ei) or follow the County on all social media platforms.

## Establishing Business Crime Watch Networks on North Monroe





Our office has been busy working with local businesses on North Monroe to set up a network of Business Crime Watches. Our meeting with the first group went very well and included:

- Laying the groundwork for the establishment of a North Monroe business crime watch network with businesses and nonprofits located on or near North Monroe, from Sessions Road to Allen Road.
- Providing attendees with an update on crime in their area, and how we can work together to keep customers and employees safe. This includes cracking down on human trafficking, which is a serious problem for this section of North Monroe and which contributes to other types of criminal activity.
- Providing an update on folks who are experiencing homelessness, and how we can help these individuals find safe, stable housing.

[Read the full story on WFSU](#)

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## Learn How to Establish a Neighborhood Watch Program



- [Click here](#) for more information on establishing a Neighborhood Watch Program in the unincorporated area.
  - [Click here](#) for more information on establishing a Neighborhood Watch Program in the City.
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## The Leon County Sheriff's Office is tapped for special project to combat human trafficking



The Leon County Sheriff's Office has been tapped as one of six law enforcement agencies in the country to help research and combat human trafficking. LCSO will be the only Florida law enforcement agency participating – and will share its findings with the others.

The Leon Sheriff's Office was asked to participate by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The six demonstration sites will be testing and providing feedback to the Association throughout the next year. The effort is supported by the U.S. Department of Justice.

[Read the full story on WFSU](#)

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## Breakfast With the Sheriff



Addressing crime is on the minds of county leaders, and educating the public about how they're addressing that crime. Leon County Sheriff Walt McNeil, along with County Commissioner Rick Minor, recently hosted a breakfast to talk about crime statistics and initiatives the Sheriff's office is doing to combat crime.

[Read the full story on WTXL](#)

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## School Bus Stop Lighting Program



Leon County Government invites residents to join us in creating safer bus stops through our School Bus Stop Lighting Program.

The Leon County School Bus Stop Lighting Program is designed to improve lighting conditions at school bus stops in Leon County. Through this program, residents can submit a request to Leon County to install streetlighting at school bus stops in the unincorporated area to enhance visibility and safety for students, parents, and all

community members using these stops.

By installing proper lighting in rural areas, Leon County seeks to improve visibility and safety during early morning and evening hours, provide a sense of security for students and parents waiting at bus stops, and improve lighting conditions to help drivers more easily spot students waiting at stops.

Learn more and submit a request here

## Leon County Invites Community to Submit Artwork for Exhibition Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month



**WHO:** Leon County Government

**WHAT:** “Cultura Tallahassee: Together We Shine” Exhibition Call for Artists

**WHEN:** Submissions due by Tuesday, August 29, at 5 p.m. EST

**WHERE:** Submit artwork online to participate

Leon County Government invites residents of all ages to submit artwork for the upcoming exhibition “Cultura Tallahassee: Together We Shine.” Artwork will be displayed at the downtown Leon County Main Library from September 15 through October 14 in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The deadline for submission is Tuesday, August 29, at 5 p.m. EST.

For more information and to submit artwork for consideration, visit [LeonCountyFL.gov/HispanicHeritageMonth](https://LeonCountyFL.gov/HispanicHeritageMonth). Citizens may visit any library location for assistance with their online application.

The public is invited to attend an opening celebration of the exhibit on Saturday, September 16, from 12-2 p.m. on the second floor of the downtown Main Library.

National Hispanic Heritage Month is held annually from September 15 through October 15 in celebration of Hispanic culture, heritage, and history. In addition to the art exhibition, Leon County Government will host events throughout the month as well as share reading lists, book displays, and movie watchlists for all to enjoy.

# Leon County Invites Volunteers to 9/11 Neighborhood Service Day

*Annual Day of Service Honors Victims and Heroes of September 11, 2001*



LEON COUNTY'S ANNUAL  
**9/11** DAY of SERVICE

Thursday,  
August 17,  
at 8 a.m.  
Yons Lakeside  
Estates  
Neighborhood



★ Register to volunteer at [LeonCountyFL.gov/DayOfService](https://LeonCountyFL.gov/DayOfService)

**WHO:** Leon County Government

**WHAT:** Leon County 9/11 Day of Remembrance and Service

**WHEN:** Thursday, August 17, at 8 a.m.

**WHERE:** Crossway Baptist Church, 405 Crossway Road

Leon County Government invites community members and groups to volunteer during the 9/11 Day of Remembrance and Service on Thursday, August 17, in the Yons Lakeside Estates neighborhood. To honor the lives and service of those we lost on September 11, 2001, volunteers will participate in a neighborhood-wide service day performing various home repairs in the Yons Lakeside Estates neighborhood, including painting, landscaping, soft washing, and more.

Volunteers can register online to participate at [LeonCountyFL.gov/DayofService](https://LeonCountyFL.gov/DayofService) until 5 p.m. on Friday, August 11. On Thursday, August 17, at 8 a.m., Leon County employees, community partners, and citizen volunteers will gather at Crossway Baptist Church, 405 Crossway Road, to unite in service and volunteerism in remembrance of the nearly 3,000 civilian and first responder lives lost on that tragic day 22 years ago.

Since 2011, Leon County Government has held the 9/11 Day of Remembrance and Service to honor victims, survivors, and others who rose in service in response to the attacks. Annual volunteer events are hosted nationwide on September 11 and surrounding days to give back to the community in tribute to the victims and heroes of 9/11.

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## Tallahassee-Leon County Bicentennial



Last December, the Board of County Commissioners accepted the Tallahassee-Leon County Bicentennial Organizational Management Plan and adopted a resolution establishing the Tallahassee-Leon County Bicentennial Steering Committee. Leon County's Division of Tourism continues to lead the community's efforts in implementing the Bicentennial plan and supporting the steering committee.

The Bicentennial marks more than just an anniversary; it's a unique opportunity to share and celebrate our community's rich history, aspirations, and accomplishments. In light of this, we have chosen the theme "Ambitious From The Beginning" to encapsulate the spirit of Tallahassee-Leon County.

The Bicentennial Steering Committee began meeting regularly in March and is building on existing community efforts while infusing fresh insights to make the Bicentennial truly exceptional and memorable. Additionally, there are currently more than 150 community members engaged in Bicentennial Task Forces that report to the Bicentennial Steering Committee. The task forces cover topics ranging from marketing, education, interfaith, and more.

We are pleased to announce the official launch of the Tallahassee-Leon County Bicentennial website: [TallahasseeLeonCounty200.com](https://TallahasseeLeonCounty200.com). This platform serves as a unique portal, chronicling the significant milestones of Tallahassee-Leon County from 1824 to 2024. In line with our commitment to engaging and involving the community in this historic journey, visitors will have the opportunity to delve deep into our compelling story, explore fun facts about Tallahassee-Leon County, and discover the various ways to participate in the Bicentennial celebration.

Leon County is thrilled to embark on this significant anniversary with your support and the enthusiasm of the community. Should you have any questions or require further

## Hurricane Preparedness Week

*Hurricane Preparedness* weather.gov/hurricane 

# Prepare Before Hurricane Season

-  Develop an evacuation plan
-  Assemble disaster supplies: food, water, batteries, charger, radio, cash
-  Get an insurance checkup and document your possessions
-  Create a communication plan with a hand-written list of contacts
-  Strengthen your home



**NOAA**

The best time to prepare for hurricanes is BEFORE hurricane season begins. Avoid having to rush through potentially life-saving preparations by waiting until it's too late. Get your disaster supplies while the shelves are still stocked, and get that insurance checkup early, as flood insurance requires a 30-day waiting period. For more information, go to [noaa.gov/prepare-before-hurricane-season](https://noaa.gov/prepare-before-hurricane-season)

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## How Would You Advance Tallahassee?

# HOW WOULD YOU ADVANCE TLH?



## ***From The Tallahassee Chamber:***

The Tallahassee Chamber has accomplished a lot in our 100 years, and there is still work to do.

For instance, did you know Leon County's population will increase by an estimated 18,000 people by 2030? Or that there are more than 10,000 jobs open in Tallahassee—more jobs than people looking for work?

The Chamber recently launched a new initiative inviting Tallahassee business leaders and community members to join us in addressing our community's opportunities and challenges by answering a simple yet foundational question: "How would YOU advance Tallahassee?"

Through this initiative, we are elevating residents' voices by gathering your feedback on our community's future. What is important to preserve about Tallahassee as we look ahead? What are our most significant barriers to growth? After all, growing our tax base is what fuels so much of what we love about our city—the trails, parks, community service programs, arts, culture, and more.

Use our anonymous, online submission portal to share what YOU think matters most as we raise our families, expand our businesses, and build our region.

## **TELL US NOW**

Please help us amplify this initiative by encouraging your employees, friends, and family to share their opinions. We also invite you to share these social media assets on your professional and personal channels.

Thank you for supporting Tallahassee's future. Together, we will advance TLH!

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## Leon County Jobs

Do you or anyone you know want to grow your / their career, join an award-winning team, and make a difference in our community?

Check out Leon County's featured career opportunities:

[www.LeonCountyFl.gov/Jobs](http://www.LeonCountyFl.gov/Jobs) to start your Leon County career today.

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## Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday

Now through June 30, 2024, purchase qualifying ENERGY STAR® appliances exempt from tax during the ENERGY STAR Sales Tax Holiday. Tax exempt items include washing machines, dryers, refrigerators and more. Find a list of qualifying items at [FloridaRevenue.com/EnergyStar](http://FloridaRevenue.com/EnergyStar).



## Fall Seed Library

On Saturday, August 19, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the downtown Main Library, we're kicking off the Fall Seed Library with hands-on seeding activities, tips and tricks to growing a successful garden, and the Ask-a-Master-Gardener booth.

Available at all branches starting August 19, choose from our 10 seed varieties to take home and grow your very own fall garden. Check out up to five seed packets per month using your library card, or three packets per month without a library card, while supplies last.

Learn more at [LeonCountyLibrary.org/SeedLibrary](http://LeonCountyLibrary.org/SeedLibrary).

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## CosmicCon

On Saturday, August 26, celebrate our 5th annual CosmicCon in the world of fantasy, comics, and fandoms! CosmicCon will be at all library locations with hands-on activities, scavenger hunts, book displays, free comics, and more! Join the fun and cosplay as your favorite character.

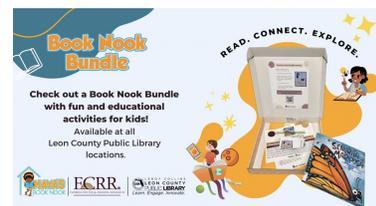
[Learn more and view the complete schedule here.](#)

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## Book Nook Bundles

In partnership with The Florida Center for Reading Research, Book Nook Bundles are now available for checkout at all Leon County Public Library locations. These fun and educational Bundles each contain a story book, a story book guide, and a relevant and engaging



activity that supports early reading. [Reserve yours today.](#)

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## Teen Advisory Board

Do you have a teen who is interested in earning volunteer service hours while connecting with other teens in the community? Members of our Teen Advisory Board help plan programs for teens and provide feedback on the Library's teen services. Apply today at [LeonCountyLibrary.org/Volunteer](http://LeonCountyLibrary.org/Volunteer).



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## Hoopla

Hoopla is now available from the Leon County Public Library! Library card holders can Hoopla's more than one million audiobooks, eBooks, comics, movies, television shows, magazines, and music.

Don't have a library card? Sign up now at [LeonCountyLibrary.org/LibraryCard](http://LeonCountyLibrary.org/LibraryCard).



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## Access the New York Times for Free

You can now enjoy The New York Times for free using your library card. Access The New York Times inside any of our library branches or on the go by creating an account. Start exploring today at [LeonCountyLibrary.org/NYT](http://LeonCountyLibrary.org/NYT).



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