



LEON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Rick Minor

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER



May - June 2024 News & Updates

Upcoming Meetings

Board of County Commissioners

- Tuesday, June 11
- 3:00 - Meeting
- 6:00 - Public Hearing
- County Courthouse
- The agenda can be reviewed [here](#).

Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA)

- Monday, June 17th
- 1:30
- Tallahassee City Commission Chambers
- The agenda will be posted [HERE](#) on or about June 10th

Leon County Commission Budget Workshop

- Tuesday, June 18th
- 9:00 am
- County Courthouse
- The agenda will be posted [HERE](#) on or about June 11th

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

Hello Rick,

As you know, the severe storms in April and the tornadoes in May devastated many Leon County homes and businesses and left thousands more without power. The past few weeks have been very difficult, but once again we've seen how this community bands together in tough times. Neighbors helped each other clear debris and conduct wellness checks. The City of Tallahassee and Talquin utility crews, along with Leon County's Emergency Management and Public Works teams, worked nonstop to restore power, clear roads and begin recovery. For many, repairs will take months, but our community is resilient and we WILL get through this. If your home or business have experienced damage and are still seeking guidance on available recovery programs, please contact me and my office.

And of course... right on the heels of these storms is hurricane season! Forecasters are predicting a highly active season, so please be prepared. Details are below and at [LeonReady.com](#).

On the bright side, please know that Leon County has become a model for the nation in its efforts to develop preparedness and resiliency with its community. In fact, in 2018 Leon County was named the nation's first #HurricaneStrong community by the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Our County staff are some of the very best, and I've seen firsthand their commitment to the people who live here.

Thank you once again for the incredible honor of representing you at the Leon County Commission, and please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any suggestions, comments, or questions about [LeonReady.com](#) or any community issues.

All the best,

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

County and Partners Urge Disaster Preparedness for Extremely Active 2024 Hurricane Season



Leon County Government and community partners are urging residents to prepare for the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season, which started on June 1. With predictions from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration indicating an extremely active season – forecasting up to 25 named storms, up to 13 hurricanes, and up to seven major hurricanes – being prepared is more crucial than ever.

Residents are encouraged to take proactive steps to ensure their safety and resilience before, during, and after storms. Essential preparations include creating an emergency kit, developing a family communication plan, and staying updated through the County's Emergency Information Portal at LeonCountyFL.gov/ei.

To further increase citizens' readiness for the season, Leon County has unveiled and distributed its 2024-25 Disaster Survival Guide. Printed copies of the guide are available at all Leon County and City of Tallahassee facilities, along with the American Red Cross at 1115 Easterwood Drive.

Residents can visit LeonReady.com for a variety of disaster resources to help you, your family, and your neighborhood prepare for and respond to disasters. LeonReady.com allows County residents to take the following preparedness steps:

- Download the online version of the [2024-25 Leon County Disaster Survival Guide](#) to get the critical information you need to be prepared before, during, and after a disaster.
- Sign up for the [Neighborhood Readiness Trainings](#) hosted by Leon County Emergency Management for unincorporated County neighborhoods. To date, more than 600 residents have been trained on disaster resilience through the County's Neighborhood Readiness Training program.
- Sign up for [Leon Alerts](#) to receive time-sensitive emergency messages to your email or phone related to incidents, such as severe weather and evacuations.

- Download the [Citizens Connect App](#), Leon County's best source for emergency news and alerts.

Additionally, residents can check to see if your property is in a flood zone, learn how to reduce their flood risks, and learn more about flood insurance by visiting LeonCountyFL.gov/FloodProtection.

For more information on how to prepare for hurricanes and other disasters, visit LeonReady.com.

For additional information, contact Kevin Peters, Leon County Emergency Management, at (850) 606-3700 / PetersK@LeonCountyFL.gov, or Mathieu Cavell, Leon County Community and Media Relations, at (850) 606-5300 / CMR@LeonCountyFL.gov.

Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday



Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday

- \$10 or less**
 - Wet dog or cat food if sold individually or the equivalent if sold in a box or case
- \$15 or less**
 - Manual can openers
 - Collapsible or travel-sized food or water bowls for pets
 - Cat litter pans
 - Pet waste disposal bags
 - Hamster or rabbit substrate
- \$20 or less**
 - Reusable ice
 - Leashes, collars, and muzzles for pets
 - Pet pads
- \$25 or less**
 - Cat litter weighing 25 or fewer pounds
- \$40 or less**
 - Portable self-powered light sources
 - Pet beds
- \$50 or less**
 - Portable self-powered radios, two-way radios, or weather-band radios
 - Gas or diesel fuel tanks
 - Batteries, including rechargeable batteries, listed sizes only:
 - AA-cell
 - AAA-cell
 - C-cell
 - D-cell
 - 6-volt
 - 9-volt
- \$60 or less**
 - Nonelectric food storage coolers
 - Portable power banks
- \$70 or less**
 - Smoke detectors or smoke alarms
 - Fire extinguishers
 - Carbon monoxide detectors
- \$100 or less**
 - Tarpaulins or other flexible waterproof sheeting
 - Ground anchor systems
 - Portable pet kennels or pet carriers
 - Dry dog or cat food weighing 50 or fewer pounds
 - Over-the-counter pet medications
- \$3,000 or less**
 - Portable generators used to provide light or communications or to preserve food in a power outage

June 1-14, 2024
August 24-September 6, 2024
 Visit floridarevenue.com/DisasterPrep



Consumers can purchase qualifying disaster preparedness supplies exempt from tax during the 2024 Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday. The sales tax holiday began on Saturday, June 1 and extends through Friday, June 14.

A second exemption period will begin Saturday, August 24 and extend through Friday, September 6.

For further information, go to <https://floridarevenue.com/DisasterPrep>.

Small Business Recovery Resources Following the North Florida Tornadoes

Small Business Response & Recovery Resources

North Florida Tornadoes

In the aftermath of the devastating North Florida tornadoes on May 10th, The Office of Economic Vitality (OEV) is compiling a comprehensive list of small business recovery resources to assist those impacted.

These resources will include information on financial aid, grants, loan programs, technical assistance, and other support services designed to help small businesses rebuild and thrive once again.

[Click here](#) to see the list and check back regularly for updates.

Update on North Monroe Safety Improvements Grant Application

On April 29th, the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA), in partnership with its consultants, RS&H, hosted a public engagement meeting at the Lake Jackson Community Center to seek feedback on its **proposed safety improvements for the North Monroe corridor**.

After that meeting, they completed their Safety Streets for All (SS4A) federal grant application and submitted it to the U.S. Department of Transportation in mid-May.

If the grant application is successful, our community will have **\$21 million** (\$17M from the federal grant, plus \$4M from Blueprint) for safety improvements along North Monroe.

We're hoping to learn in October whether these SS4A grant funds will be awarded to us, so cross your fingers and stay tuned!



County Celebrates Pride Month with Library Events and Resources



Leon County Government celebrates the achievements and contributions of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (**LGBTQ+**) community during Pride Month with an exhibit and resources from the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System. Thematic book lists and movie watchlists give citizens the opportunity to learn about the lives and experiences of the LGBTQ+ community and events that shaped history.

In addition to these in-person and digital resources, citizens are encouraged to attend the County's upcoming Pride Month events.

- **Stonewall National Museum, Archives & Library 50 Years: The Stonewall Uprising Exhibit**, June 3-30, downtown Main Library – This exhibit from the Stonewall National Museum, Archives & Library examines the who, what, and where of the June 1969 riots at the Stonewall Inn in New York's Greenwich Village.
- **Take What You Need: Kindness Wall**, June 3-30, all library locations and [online](#) – Interact with our Kindness Wall and take what resonates with you. The wall is a simple yet powerful way to spread love and positivity.

See a complete list of resources and events at LeonCountyFL.gov/PrideMonth.

All year long, Leon County Government is committed to recognizing and celebrating

Listen to Rick on the Greg Tish Show



Rick appeared on the June 3rd episode of the **Greg Tish Show** to discuss hurricane prep, bringing passenger rail to Tallahassee, the County's TEAM microgrant program, North Monroe and more! Listen [here](#). (Rick comes on at about 1:20).

The Greg Tish Show also plans to invite Rick back every three months to provide updates on community issues. Stay tuned for the next one in September!



Public Meetings to Present the Capital Regions Transportation Plans, Projects, and Programs



Capital Region Virtual Meeting: Monday, June 10, 2024 from 11:30 AM – 1 PM. Click [here](#) to [Access the Virtual Meeting](#) that will be streamed live on June 10, 2024

Access the [FY 2025 – FY 2029 TIP and PPL documents](#) on the CRTPA webpage www.crtpa.org.

The **Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA)** is hosting a series of meetings to provide the public the opportunity to learn about the transportation projects in the CRTPA Capital Region (Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, and Wakulla Counties) that have received funding, as well as the agency's proposed project priorities for the region.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 – FY 2029 **Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)** and **Project Priority Lists (PPLs)** are scheduled to be adopted at the next CRTPA Board meeting, scheduled for June 17, 2024. The public may also provide comment in-person or virtually at the CRTPA June 17th meeting. Visit crtpa.org/meetings/ for the June 17th meeting agenda for virtual participation information (posted on June 10, 2024).

- The TIP identifies transportation projects (including roadway, transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and aviation) located within the Capital Region that have received state and federal funding.
- The PPLs are adopted annually and identify the agency's regional and/or local transportation priorities.

In addition, the draft update to the CRTPA's Public Involvement Plan (PIP) is available for review and comment at: [CRTPA PIP](#).

The public may also submit questions or comments prior to or at the June 17, 2024, CRTPA meeting. Comments may be provided in several ways. Written comments may be provided via the CRTPA website under Contact Us <https://crtpa.org/contact-us/> or emailed to Suzanne.Lex@crtpa.org. Comments can also be mailed to: CRTPA, 300 S. Adams St. A-19, Tallahassee, FL 32301. In-person comments may be made at the June 17, 2024 CRTPA meeting (1:30 PM) held at City Hall, 300 S. Adams St. Tallahassee. Comments received by 5 PM Sunday June 16, 2024 will be provided to the CRTPA Board members at their June 17th Meeting.

Public Participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans With Disabilities Act, or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the CRTPA Title VI Coordinator, Suzanne Lex, at 850-891-8627 (Suzanne.Lex@crtpa.org) and for the hearing impaired, telephone 711 or 800-955-8771 (TDY).

Important Information on Leon County's Code Compliance Program



HOW TO FILE A CODE COMPLAINT WITH LEON COUNTY



CODE VIOLATIONS CONSIST OF A WIDE RANGE OF INFRACTIONS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- ✓ *Building without a permit*
- ✓ *Dilapidated structures*
- ✓ *Overgrown grasses, weeds
and shrubbery*
- ✓ *Accumulation of miscellaneous
junk and debris*
- ✓ *Inoperable vehicles*
- ✓ *Illegal signs on County
right of way*

Leon County Code Compliance Services

promote, protect, and improve the health, safety, and welfare of all citizens by enforcing adopted ordinances and policies for the unincorporated area of the county, ranging from land development and land use regulations to codes governing such things as junk, debris, unpermitted structures, and more. Our goal is to educate residents about the codes and ordinances of Leon County while striving to achieve voluntary compliance on all issues.



TO FILE A COMPLAINT:

Visit LeonCountyFL.gov/CitizensConnect, or use your phone to scan the QR code to submit a Code Complaint Form. Pursuant to Florida Statutes 162.06 (1)(b), complainants generally cannot remain anonymous.

MORE INFORMATION →

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A CODE COMPLAINT IS FILED:

- ✓ Once a complaint is received, an initial inspection is conducted within 48-72 hours.
- ✓ If the complaint is valid, efforts are made to contact the property owner as the responsible party to remedy the alleged violation.
- ✓ The property owner is given a timeframe to come into compliance. Since the severity of the violations may vary, the time to bring the property into compliance may differ.
- ✓ Failure to timely comply means the case can be referred to the County's Code Enforcement Board for Resolution.

CREATING COVENANTS:

Some neighborhoods have covenants to establish and uphold community standards, promote community, and preserve appeal.

Creating neighborhood covenants involves several steps that require careful planning and legal considerations. If your neighborhood is interested in implementing and managing covenants, we advise seeking guidance from a private attorney. Please note that the County does not enforce private restrictions or covenants.



For more information, contact the Leon County Department of Development Support and Environmental Management (DSEM) / Code Compliance Program at CodeCompliance@LeonCountyFL.gov or call 850-606-1300.

Leon County's Adopt-a-Road Program



Adopt a Leon County road and get a sign in your honor!

Transform our community and embrace a greener tomorrow through Leon County's Adopt-A-Road Program! More than one hundred miles of road are available for adoption in Leon County, providing the perfect opportunity for residents or local organizations to make a difference in their communities.

By adopting a County road, residents or local organizations agree to a two-year commitment to team up with Leon County in a mission to schedule regular clean-ups and rid County roads of litter while receiving a dedicated road sign. Step into action and pledge your commitment to our community's well-being through the Adopt-A-Road Program.

[Learn more here.](#)

Anti-Human Trafficking Law



Recently, Governor DeSantis signed **HB7063**, which includes several helpful **protections against human trafficking** in the State of Florida. Among them is the new requirement for government contractors to attest they do not use coerced labor when doing business with Florida governmental entities. This piece originated from an idea by [Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center](#)'s Robin Hassler Thompson, and the Leon County Commission played a role by advocating for its adoption as a legislative priority by the [Florida Association of Counties](#).

The government contractor requirement legislation was filed by **Rep. Allison Tant**, who worked actively with other House leadership to move it forward. **Sen. Corey Simon** filed it in the Senate and we're grateful for his work in that chamber, too. Through their efforts, it

was then integrated into the larger anti-human trafficking bill that passed both chambers and was signed by the Governor.

Turning a policy idea into law requires a tremendous amount of work from an army of supporters pushing it forward, every step of the way. This new law will make it harder for human traffickers to operate in Florida, and it's gratifying for us to have worked with these people to have made a real difference. THANK YOU!!

"I didn't know Goodwill did that!"



Rick with Kim Gay, Chief of Staff of Goodwill Industries Big Bend

Rick recently took a tour of the Goodwill facility in Tallahassee, where a common reaction from visitors is, *"I didn't know Goodwill did that!"*

Some examples of why:

- In Leon County, Goodwill employs between 380-400 part time and full time employees.
- Goodwill serves 22 counties in the Big Bend providing **workforce training, online career readiness workshops, and employment and career placement** to more than 6,500 individuals annually.
- These training programs are provided at no cost to the participant and is funded and supported by our customers and donors.
- Goodwill is currently providing **Certified Nurses Aid training** every six to eight weeks to those interested in getting started in a medical career.
- In June, Goodwill will be providing a four week **Construction Ready Training** class at 300 Mabry Street with national certifications for those interested in a high wage career in construction.
- Goodwill currently is offering a **re-entry program** for justice involved individuals

between 18-24 years old to get credentials in **CDL, Welding, Medical and Technology fields** of high paying jobs. This program, called Ignite, currently offers support services for 110 individuals focused on getting a second chance for a high quality of life.

- Goodwill Big Bend keeps 35 million pounds of product out of landfills each year.

More details about services offered may be found at [Home - Goodwill Big Bend](#)

Free Counseling at The Oasis Center



Rick recently toured the new offices of the Oasis Center for Women and Girls, now located at 3064 Highland Oaks Terrace.

Did you know that the Oasis Center now offers FREE Individual Counseling for moms, soon-to-be moms, and female guardians through a partnership with the Children's Services Council?

This free, after-hours counseling for women raising children on their own, and soon-to-be moms, includes:

- Diverse Licensed Therapists
- Evening and weekend appointments available
- Free supervised children's activities during your appointment
- Free transportation may be available

For more information, [click here](#).

Conducting Neighborhood Safety Meetings in District 3



When Rick learned of a home invasion in one of District 3's neighborhoods, he coordinated with the Leon County Sheriff's Office and the Tallahassee Police Department to host a **neighborhood safety meeting** for that neighborhood and two others nearby.

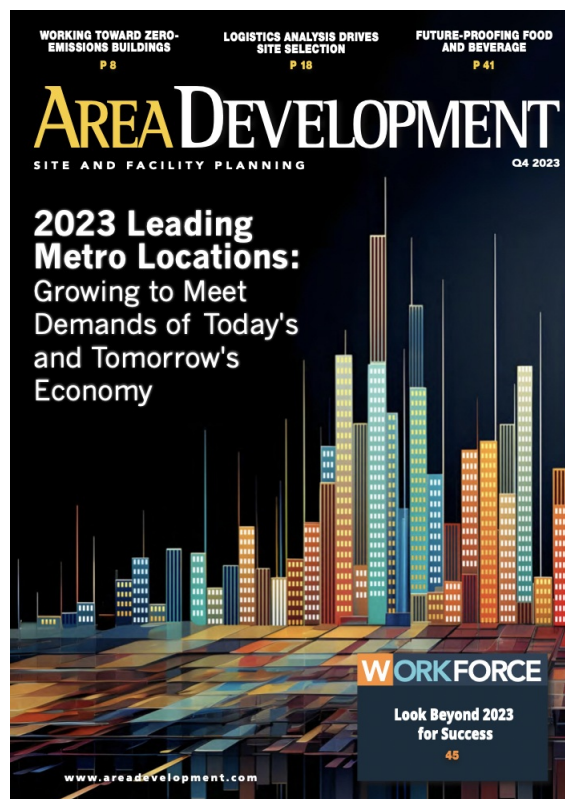
Nearly 100 neighbors attended and received updates on recent criminal activity in their area, learned about proven crime prevention methods, and received information on reactivating crime watches in their neighborhoods.

Law enforcement is working hard to keep us safe, but they can't do it alone -- they need our active participation. Please consider activating or reactivating a neighborhood crime watch, and asking our office to organize a safety meeting for you and your neighbors.



If you're interested in working with Rick to coordinate a similar meeting in your neighborhood, [please let us know](#).

Tallahassee leads rankings in “2023 Leading Metro Locations” Report by Area Development



The Tallahassee Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) received high marks as a leading metro area in the '2023 Leading Metro Locations' report published in the Q4 2023 issue of Area Development magazine.

The Tallahassee MSA ranked:

- #1 in the U.S. in the "Economic Strength" category.**
- #2 in the Mid-Sized Metro Locations category.**
- #4 in the South Atlantic Region category.**
- #9 in Overall Metro Locations when compared to the rest of the U.S.**

What is Area Development magazine?

Area Development magazine has circulated since 1965 with over 40,000 subscribers, primarily executives of large manufacturing companies and site selectors.

What do the rankings represent?

Leading metro areas are those poised for long-term growth and are often hubs of high-tech industry, where workers may benefit from an affordable cost of living.

Why are these ratings important?

The areas that fared the best in the ranking were those whose metrics show they are in a significantly better place today than before the COVID-19 pandemic. The findings presented in the 2023 Leading Metro Locations article serve as a valuable resource for businesses, investors, and economic development stakeholders seeking strategic insights into optimal locations for expansion and investment opportunities and demonstrate that Tallahassee is a prime metropolitan area for business investment and growth in the United States. This recognition couldn't have come at a better time than when our community celebrates its Bicentennial. The OEV team is thrilled that **Tallahassee was ranked #1 in the U.S. in the "Economic Strength" category, #2 in the Mid-Sized Metro Locations category, and #9 in Overall Metro Locations.**

How are these ratings determined?

The methodology employed for the 2023 Leading Metro Locations article in Area Development magazine was comprehensive and data-driven. Area Development partnered with Virginia-based Chmura Economics & Analytics—a labor market software, consulting, and data provider—to conduct the research. 24 economic and workforce indicators were analyzed across 384 MSAs using eight datasets from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Census, and JobsEQ. Each MSA earned a ranking within each of the 24 indicators based on its statistical

Updates on Lake Jackson after the significant rainfall



Rick and his friend Jeff Smith recently toured Lake Jackson to see the results of the significant rainfall that occurred in April and May.

According to the [Friends of Okecheepkee at Lake Jackson Aquatic Preserve](#):

"Over the last 6 months, Lake Jackson has come up about 4.7 feet (since Nov 2023). Torrential rains are key in refilling the lake relatively fast. And recently we've had the weather events to get there: 14-19 inches of rain have fallen across the basin in the months of April and May - which are typically very dry and warm months for us in the Panhandle. Lake stage is over 82 ft currently. This is allowing even outboards to navigate most of the boat trails."

To keep up with the latest on Lake Jackson, follow [Friends of Okecheepkee at Lake Jackson Aquatic Preserve](#) and the [Friends of Lake Jackson](#).

Embark on a Summer of Adventure for All Ages at Leon County Libraries



Leon County Government is thrilled to announce the launch of summer programming for all ages at the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System. This summer's theme, Adventure Begins at Your Library, engages citizens of all ages with a variety of fun and educational activities throughout June and July. From magical performances to hands-on workshops, there's something for everyone at the library.

In addition to events, individuals and families can join the summer reading challenge on [Beanstack](#) to track their great summer reads. Participate in the summer reading challenge or attend a program for a chance to win fantastic prizes.

Upcoming summer programming includes:

- Underwater Archaeology with the Florida Public Archaeology Network, Tuesday, June 11, from 6-7 p.m., Ft. Braden Branch Library – Learn about terrestrial and underwater archaeology with the Florida Public Archaeology Network.
- Florida Talks: A Motion Picture Paradise! A History of Florida's Film and Television Industry, Tuesday, June 18, from 6:30-7:45 p.m., Northeast Branch Library – Explore how Florida became a pivotal location for the film industry. Dr. David Morton will discuss Florida's contributions, from the early film pioneers in Jacksonville to South Florida's TV boom.
- Community Connections: Family Summer Fair, Sunday, June 23, from 2-5 p.m., downtown Main Library – Join our human services partners to receive supportive services for your family's summer and prepare for a successful new school year.
- Florida Shipwreck Trail with the Florida Division of Historical Resources, Saturday, June 29, from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Lake Jackson Branch Library – Learn about the Florida Panhandle Shipwreck Trail, a collection of 20 shipwrecks of historic significance, from tugboats to WWII wrecks and more with Amy Socha, Senior Archaeologist with the Bureau of Archaeological Research (BAR) in the Florida Division of Historical Resources Underwater Archaeology Program.
- Fiction Adventure: Laser Tag, Tuesday, July 9, from 12:45-5 p.m., downtown Main Library – Teens can get ready for an epic showdown as we combine the thrill of laser tag with the magic of popular young adult book series. Gather your friends and form teams to represent your favorite young adult book series.
- Florida Talks: Hurricane!, Thursday, July 18, from 6-7 p.m., downtown Main Library – Presented by Eliot Kleinberg, learn how hurricanes work and how they have affected Florida, with a special focus on the great 1928 storm, the subject of Eliot's award-winning book *Black Cloud: The Deadly Hurricane of 1928*.
- Animal Tales, various dates and times at the downtown Main Library, Woodville Branch Library, Dr. B.L. Perry, Jr. Branch Library, and Lake Jackson Branch Library – Children can meet six exotic animals from around the world. At the end of the program, everyone will get to touch an animal.
- Reader's Launchpad, various dates and times at all library locations – Adventure awaits as children prepare to go back to school! Come play games and work on enhancing skills such as letter recognition, word knowledge, syllables, text analysis, reader's theater, phonics, and comprehension.

Summer BreakSpot Offers Meals for Kids and Teens

All summer long, Leon County Government and Second Harvest of the Big Bend are proud to offer free healthy, packaged meals and snacks to kids and teens 18 and under at Leon County Public Library locations. No registration is required.

Check the schedule at LeonCountyLibrary.org/SummerBreakSpot.



Honor Flight Return

On April 27th, Rick and his family joined hundreds of other Big Bend residents to welcome home our 2024 Honor Flight heroes.

Honor Flight Tallahassee is part of the Honor Flight Network, a national organization that is unwavering in their mission to ensure that each veteran has the chance to tour the Washington DC memorials and monuments built to honor the.

To learn more about this great program, [click here](#).



Celebrating the Woodgate Neighborhood

On May 4th, Rick and his youngest daughter joined the neighbors of Woodgate for Woodgate Day, the annual celebration of their beautiful neighborhood.

Hamburgers, hot dogs, snow cones, children's games and good company at a block party in District 3 -- can't be beat!



Lego Club @ Lake Jackson Branch

Lego Club is a fun, interactive

activity for kids and families.
Have fun while learning creative
thinking, motor skills, and puzzle-
solving skills.

Saturday, June 8, 2024
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Lake Jackson Branch Library

Audience:
Ages 0-5 Ages 06-11

Learn more [here](#).



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

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