



LEON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Rick Minor

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER



July/August 2025 News & Updates

Upcoming Meetings

Blueprint IA

- Thursday, September 11th
- 3:00 pm - Meeting
- 5:00 pm - Budget Hearing
- City Commission Chambers
- The agenda can be viewed on or about September 4th [here](#).

Board of County Commissioners'

- Monday, September 15, 2025
- 3:00 pm Regular Mtg
- 6:00 pm Public Hearing
- County Courthouse, 5th Floor
- The agenda can be viewed [here](#) on or about September 7th.

CRTPA Meeting

- Tuesday September 16, 2025
- 1:30 pm
- City Commission Chambers
- The agenda can be viewed [here](#) on or about Sept. 9th

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

Hello,

This summer has been a hot one but I hope you've enjoyed it so far. My two daughters will start school soon so we're trying to squeeze in as much of the summer fun (swimming, hiking, scalloping) as we can. Jess and I are amazed at how quickly they're growing and we know how important it is to cherish these days... before we know it, they'll be asking to borrow the car keys and spending all of their weekends with friends!

I've also spent some of the summer connecting with other County Commissioners within the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) and the National Association of Counties (NACo). In general, every community in the U.S. is striving for the same things such as good, high-paying jobs; safe neighborhoods; smart growth; effective infrastructure; and the protection of our waterbodies and green spaces. Working with these elected officials from around the state and nation gives us an opportunity to share ideas and best practices that can be brought to our own community. One example is the upcoming Digital Literacy program that Leon County and its partners are developing for seniors... its rollout is planned for this fall and you can find details below.

I hope you'll find this newsletter informative and helpful. Thank you once again for the honor of representing you at the Leon County Commission, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments, 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!



On July 23rd, the Florida Department of Health in Leon County (DOH-Leon) issued a rabies alert in our part of Leon County, in response to a confirmed case of rabies in a raccoon that was captured in the Settlers area off Mission Road. You can read the full alert [here](#).

This rabies alert is for 60 days and includes the following boundaries within Leon County:

- Northern boundary: Fred George Road
- Southern boundary: West Tharpe St
- Eastern boundary: Mission Road
- Western boundary: Capital Circle NW

Take the following precautions to prevent rabies exposure:

- Immunize your pets and livestock based on your veterinarian's recommended schedule.
- Keep pets under direct supervision and on a leash, and keep livestock secured on your property. If an animal bites your pet or livestock, seek veterinary assistance for the animal immediately and contact Leon County Animal Control at 850-606-5400 or Tallahassee Animal Services at 850-891-2950.
- Avoid contact with wild or stray animals. Do not handle, feed, or unintentionally attract them with outdoor pet food, open garbage cans, or other sources of food. If you have been bitten or scratched by a wild or domestic animal, seek medical attention, and report the injury to DOH-Leon by calling 850-895-8360.
- Never adopt wild animals or bring them into your home; instead, contact a [licensed wildlife rehabilitator](#).
- Call your local Animal Control Agency to respond to aggressive wildlife or other animal-related issues at 850-606-5400, or Tallahassee Animal Services at 850-891-2950.
- Prevent wildlife, including bats, from entering living quarters or occupied spaces in homes, schools, and other similar areas where they might come in contact with people and pets.

For more information on rabies, please visit FloridaHealth.gov/Rabies or contact DOH-Leon at 850-895-8360.

Listen to Rick on the Radio



Rick returned to [The Greg Tish Show](#) last Monday (7/28) to provide the County Update. Rick, Greg and the team discussed passenger rail, the upcoming Leon County Digital Literacy Program, and more! The show should be posted [here](#) soon.

Leon County's new program aims to help seniors avoid scams and harness AI



Florida has the highest rate of identity theft in the nation, and cybercrime losses totaled \$1.5B last year. Florida's seniors are often the focus of these scams, so Rick and Leon County Government are partnering with the Florida Technology Council, the FSU College of Communication & Information, Tallahassee State College, FSU Cybersecurity Community Outreach, and other tech leaders to develop **free training on digital literacy**

and AI resilience for older Leon County residents. Rollout is expected this fall, and Rick recently discussed this new initiative with WTXL's Maya Sargent.

[Watch the WTXL story here](#)

Amtrak to Launch 'Mardi Gras Service' between New Orleans and Mobile on August 18



Starting August 18th a new Amtrak route -- called the "**Mardi Gras Service**" -- will run twice daily between Mobile, Alabama and New Orleans, Louisiana. Rick has been advocating for passenger rail service to Tallahassee, and once the Mardi Gras route is operational, it'll be even more clear why we need passenger rail service from Mobile to Jacksonville.

Our office is keeping an email list of individuals who would like to be get informed on the passenger rail restoration effort. If you'd like to be included on that distribution list, click the button below.

[Add Me to the Email List for Information on Passenger Rail](#)

Updates on North Monroe Gateway



On North Monroe Street, various public infrastructure projects are improving this major corridor into Tallahassee.

To learn more, click the graphic above or the button below to listen to Rick discuss these improvements in the WCTV story on the topic.

Watch the WCTV Story

Give Your Things a Second Life in a New Home

*Giving your stuff
away has never
been easier.*



Find the many local organizations that
need your used items with the

TLH Donation Directory



Give your things a second life in a new
home. Find local donation recipients:

**TLHDonationDirectory.
WordPress.com**

Decluttering, donating, and reducing waste is now easier than ever with the Tallahassee

Donation Directory!

The Directory serves as a master list of all local donation sites, drives, and requests for materials and items of every kind!

[Click Here to Dive into Donating](#)

Advocating for Expanded Financial Aid to Short-term Vocational Programs



Rick recently attended the **National Association of Counties (NACo)** annual conference, where he proposed a policy urging Congress to expand Title IV (the government-authorized student financial assistance program) to short-term vocational programs for CDLs, CNAs, IT workers, etc.

Under current Title IV regulations, educational programs must meet minimum length requirements—typically 600 clock hours over at least 15 weeks for most programs. However, many effective, high-quality short-term vocational programs fall just below these thresholds, despite yielding credentials that are directly tied to gainful employment.

By expanding financial aid to these programs, we can increase the number of workers filling high-demand jobs, increase household incomes, and boost local economies. The proposal was unanimously approved by the NACo membership and is now part of NACo's national legislative agenda.

New Trail Connecting Tallahassee and Havana



Plans are in the works for a new trail for cyclists, pedestrians, and runners that would connect Northwest Tallahassee with Havana. The [Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency \(CRTPA\)](#) is in the pre-design phase to identify features for the route. Both the Gadsden County and Leon County segments of the proposed trail have recently received SUN Trails funding.

To learn more, go to the CRTPA project page [here](#). You can also click the graphic above or the button below to listen to Rick discuss the new trail in the WTXL story on the topic.

Watch the WTXL Story

Download Leon County Citizens Connect

LEON COUNTY Citizens Connect App

Download the Leon County Citizens Connect App, your best source for up-to-the-minute emergency information right at your fingertips.

Weather Alerts

Sandbag Locations

Emergency Resources

Shelter Information

Road Closures

Evacuations

For more information, visit
LeonCountyFL.gov/Download

If you have not done so already, now is the time to download the [Leon County Citizens Connect App](#) - your best source of emergency news and alerts. Delivered by push notifications, the most critical information is sent directly to your phone or tablet.

The Leon County Citizens Connect App delivers up-to-the-minute emergency information, including weather alerts, road closures, sandbag locations, and so much more, at your

fingertips.

The County's App provides a single source of emergency information verified by public safety agencies, emergency management professionals and other crews in the field.

[Download the App](#)

Leon County Accepting Tourism Grant Applications For Special Events & Sports Events



The **Leon County Division of Tourism (Visit Tallahassee)** application for the 2025-2026 Special Events and Sport Events Grants is now open. Applications are due by Thursday, August 7, 2025, at 5 p.m. This opportunity represents the ongoing effort to promote tourism and provide financial support for events that have a history of, or show potential to, attract out-of-town tourists and generate overnight stays in Leon County.

[Learn More About the Tourism Grants](#)

Updates on National Weather Service Team



Budget cuts to NOAA and NWS have been a hot topic of conversation at the federal level. Rick discussed this issue recently with WTXL reporter Maya Sargent, noting, "As of today, at least, there have been no personnel cuts...So that team of 10 people who take the weather data, analyze it, interpret it and then work very closely with our emergency management team, those folks are [still] there..."

[Watch the WTXL Story](#)

Seed Library Kick-Off



Date: Saturday, August 2, 2025
Time: 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Location: Leon County Main Library

Celebrate the season with the **Fall Seed Library Kickoff!** Pick up a variety of free fall seeds, take part in hands-on seeding activities, and get expert advice to help your garden thrive. This fun, all-ages event also features gardening tips, a healthy cooking demonstration, and the Ask-a-Master-Gardener booth. Staff from UF/IFAS Leon County Extension and the Leon County Office of Sustainability will be available to answer your gardening questions.

Resurfacing of Capital Circle NE



The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) recently held a public meeting to discuss improvements of Capital Circle NE. The project includes resurfacing, additional auxiliary lanes and better lighting. It also includes an exciting improvement: creating a designated right turn lane leading to the Chick-fil-a! The construction will take around a year and should be conducted primarily during the nighttime hours.

If you have any specific questions about this project, contact Project Manager Amy Heikkinen at Amy.Heikkinen@dot.state.fl.us or by phone at 850-867-2537.

[Learn More About this Resurfacing Project](#)

Cosmic Con



When: Saturday, August 23, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Where: Leon County Main Library, 200 West Park Avenue

Audience: All ages

Get ready for an unforgettable experience during **Leon County Library's 7th annual CosmicCon** featuring this year's theme: Solarpunk Utopia. Participants will imagine a future where flourishing greenery, neighborly ingenuity, and sustainability power everyday life - and the library will be transformed into a beacon of sustainability and innovation as an EcoStation in the stars.

[Learn More](#)

Impact Week 2025



When: **November 18 - 20, 2025 | Global Entrepreneurship Week**

Where: **Challenger Learning Center, Downtown Tallahassee**

Hosted by: **Founder: Rich Smith & InnovateTLH**

This three-day conference brings together innovators, entrepreneurs, and business leaders from across the city, state and nation.

What to Expect:

- **Keynote Speakers and Expert Panels:** Gain insights from a dynamic lineup of experienced entrepreneurs, national thought leaders, and industry experts. Speakers will share actionable strategies, lived experiences, and forward-thinking ideas. The full speaker lineup is available on impactweektlh.org.
- **The South's Largest Pitch Event Competition:** Big ideas deserve a big screen. Pitch it on a 5-story-tall IMAX screen at the [Challenger Learning Center](#) in downtown Tallahassee. Watch start-ups and founders compete live in the three day competition. This event gives entrepreneurs the chance to pitch their ventures to a panel of investors, ecosystem leaders, and industry experts.
- **Workshops & Breakout Sessions:** Choose from a variety of workshops designed to sharpen your business skills. Topics will include business strategy, marketing, financial literacy, cybersecurity, AI, nonprofit operations, and more. Sessions are built to be hands-on, practical, and immediately useful - Think real-time ROI.
- **Networking Opportunities:** The whole conference is designed with networking in mind. From the main lobby vendor area to multiple "After 5" events - meet hundreds of attendees including startup founders, nonprofit executives, funders, students, and corporate leaders.
- **Community Business Tours:** Get an inside look at some of Tallahassee's most dynamic local businesses and key entrepreneurial support organizations. These curated tours kick off in the weeks leading up to Impact Week, with special sessions on the Monday before and the Friday after the main event.

- **LUNCH: Food Trucks & Walkable Restaurants:** Stay onsite and downtown to enjoy some of Tallahassee's best food from food trucks and local restaurants. From comfort food to coffee, Kleman Plaza has it.
- **Professional Headshots:** Need to update your LinkedIn profile or pitch deck? Attendees can stop by the on-site headshot station for a high-quality photo from a local photographer.

Who Should Attend: Impact Week is for the doers, the builders, and the bold. It's for anyone ready to learn, connect, and make serious moves. Whether you're launching your first idea, scaling a business, leading a nonprofit, or shaking things up from inside a company, this is your crowd. Founders, students, small biz owners, nonprofit directors, and corporate disruptors: if you're here to spark ideas, build something real, and leave a mark, you're in the right place.

Early Bird Tickets: Early bird registration is now open. Space is limited for some sessions, and early registrants receive priority access. Reserve your spot today to save on ticket pricing and guarantee full access to workshops and headshots. Visit impactweektlh.org for the full agenda and to register for your ticket.

Sponsorship Opportunities: Sponsor Packages As a sponsor, you'll receive special access and promotional collaboration across all our marketing materials. Your support will help cover event costs, enabling organizers to provide valuable resources and connections within the community and beyond. Sponsorship packages include free passes to the event as well as a table/booth setup in the lobby.

Photos from Recent Events



On June 10, Rick participated in Elder Care Services's "Big Wheels Deliver Meals", helping to deliver meals to over 225 seniors in our area.



Rick joined members of Leon County Public Works for the 29th Annual American Public Works Association (APWA) Road-E-O.

In Memoriam: George Lewis



It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of a tremendous friend of District 3 and especially of Lake Jackson - George Lewis.

From Georgia's obituary: George was a heroic advocate for Lake Jackson, being honored by Tallahassee-Leon County as a Watershed Champion in 2007 and serving as a passionate legal counsel and conservation ally to Friends of Lake Jackson for many years. He avidly devoted a lifetime of environmental advocacy to the preservation and conservation of Leon County's most valuable land and water resources, contributing an unrivaled breadth of knowledge to help ensure a sustainable future for the community that he treasured. He fought tirelessly to protect what he loved.

A service will take place on Friday, September 5, 2025, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Tallahassee. For complete service information and George's full obituary, [click here.](#)



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