



LEON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Rick Minor

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER



July/August 2026 Newsletter

Upcoming Meetings

Board of County Commissioners Special Meeting

- Mon., Aug. 31
- 6:00 - meeting
- The agenda can be viewed [here](#) on August 31.

Board of County Commissioners Meeting

- Tues, Sept. 15
- 3:00 - meeting
- 6:00 - public hearings
- The agenda can be viewed [here](#) on or about September 8.

Board of County Commissioners

- Tues, Sept. 22
- 1:00 - Fire Services Workshop
- 3:00 - Legislative Priorities Workshop
- 6:00 - Second Public Hearing on Final Millage Rates and Budgets
- The agenda can be viewed [here](#) on or about September 15.

Blueprint IA

- Thurs. Sept. 24
- 3:00 - Meeting
- 5:00 - Public Hearing
- The agenda can be viewed [here](#) on or about September 17.

CRTPA

- Mon. Sept. 28

Hello,

I hope you're doing well and that you had a good weekend.

First and foremost, I want to address the serious data integrity issues caused by a failed update to Leon County's jail management system (JMS). As you may have read in [the local news](#), the impact of this botched systems migration has profound implications. The migration erroneously reopened over 1,200 case records, making them appear active again. Another 200 records related to booking activity are also under review. These errors have severely undermined the integrity of essential data used by law enforcement and our judicial partners.

Since the failed migration, the County's IT team has been working 24/7 to resolve the issues and to provide continuous, on-site technical assistance to users of the system. In addition, the County has more than doubled its JMS team size by bringing in technical experts, and it conducts daily coordination calls with the system's stakeholders.

The County Commission will be conducting a special meeting at 6 p.m. this evening (Monday, August 31) to review the situation. We need to understand what happened and why, how it's being fixed, and how we can prevent this from happening again. However, just as important -- and even more urgent -- is that our IT staff and vendors quickly and successfully restore the legacy system and provide 100% accurate, reliable data for use by our law enforcement and judicial partners. At tonight's meeting, our immediate, first priority should be to ensure that the County has the personnel and resources necessary to accomplish this. Further updates will be provided by the County's Communications & Media Relations (CMR) team, but please let me know if you have any questions.

The rest of this newsletter is focused on several other items: a resource for Amendment 3 research, the latest news on Buc-ee's, upgrades to District 3's Jackson View and Tower Road Parks, free anti-human trafficking training, etc. Information on all of these topics can be found below, and I hope you'll find them beneficial.

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.

-- 1:30 - Meeting
-- The agenda can be viewed [here](#) on or about September 21.

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



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 sign up at www.LeonCountyFL.gov/RickMinor. Thank you!



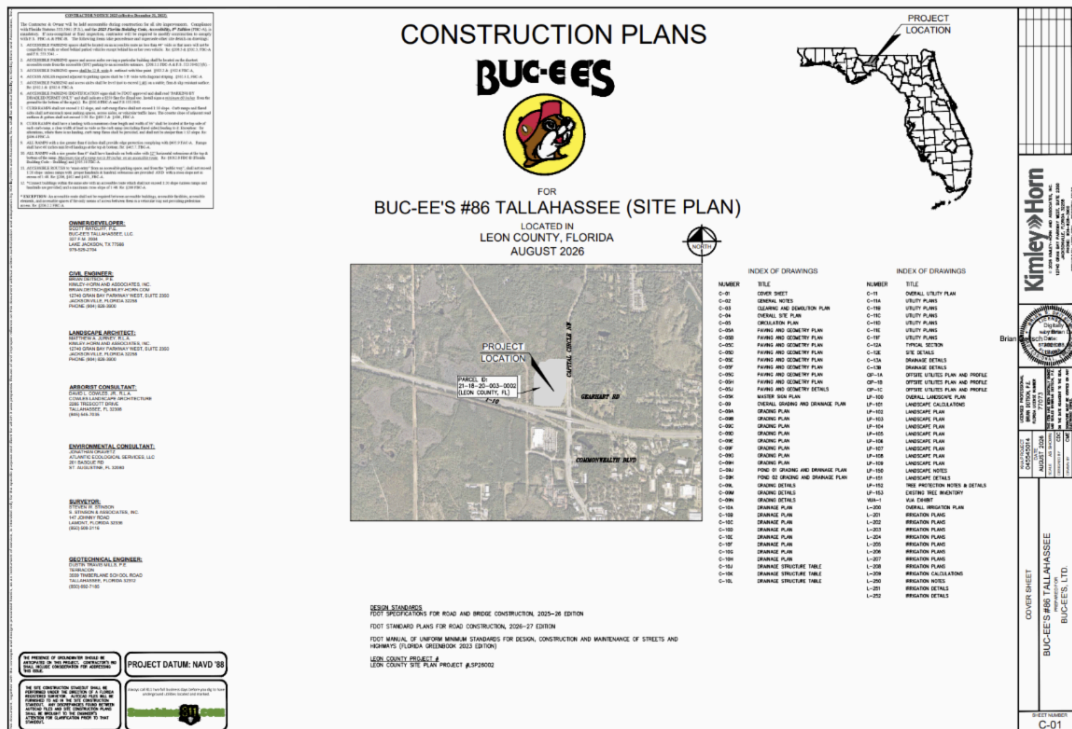
Property Tax Amendment: What It Means for Leon County

On June 2, 2026, the Florida Legislature passed a proposed constitutional amendment to significantly increase Florida's homestead exemption, along with related changes to property tax administration. The amendment will appear on the November 2026 general election ballot and requires approval by 60% of voters to take effect, beginning in 2027.

To assist Leon County residents in understanding this amendment's local impact, Leon County has created a [webpage](#) that is intended to be the County's one-stop shop on this issue: a clear, credible, easy-to-find place where any resident can understand what the amendment does and what it would mean for the local services they rely on. It brings together, in one location, the information Leon County has been developing and sharing, so residents are not left to piece it together from scattered sources. Importantly, the webpage provides neutral, factual information and does not advocate for or against the amendment.

Visit Leon County's Property Tax Website

Update on Buc-ee's



On August 19, Rick attended the Application Review Meeting (ARM) for Buc-ee's, where County staff recommended that the site plan move forward and proceed to the Development Review Committee (DRC) for the review of construction-level plans. Please see [TaMaryn Waters' coverage of the meeting in the Tallahassee Democrat](#).

Since this is a Type B project, it will not come before the Leon County Commission. Nevertheless, Rick has been working with neighbors and Buc-ee's leadership for the past several months, and has been impressed with how the updated Buc-ee's site plan addresses a lot of the questions/concerns we've heard from some citizens. For example, the site plan calls for:

- increasing traffic capacity with a new signal at Capital Circle NW and more than 1,000 feet of new turn lanes,
- permanently conserving 131 acres (43% of the PUD),
- providing a 2,000 foot buffer with the Riverwood Acres neighborhood,
- planting more than 1,000 new trees and shrubs, and
- installing downward-directed, dark-sky lighting.

Plus, with the creation of 200 jobs and new commercial activity, Buc-ee's is a welcome addition to northwest Leon County.

Rick maintains an email distribution list to keep interested residents informed on Buc-ees updates. Once the DRC meeting is scheduled -- probably before the end of the year -- he'll send out a notice to that group. If you would like to be added to this Buc-ees' distribution list, [please let us know here](#).

Review Plans

You can review all submitted plans, staff comments, and future meeting notices any time on Leon County's **Accela Citizen Access** portal:

<https://aca-prod.accela.com/LEONCO/Default.aspx>

1. In the "Search" box at the top of the page, enter the Project ID (e.g., LSP26002) and press **Enter**.
2. Click the correct record, then select **Record Info** → **Attachments**.
3. (Optional) Double-click the **Upload Date** column header to sort files so the newest documents appear first.

North Monroe Update



Blueprint's has completed work on the medians for the North Monroe Gateway project! Sabal palms (Florida's state tree) and three fringe trees were planted recently. A huge thanks to the team at Blueprint and everyone else working on this project. Click the video link above to learn more.

Enhancements to District 3 Parks



JACKSON VIEW PARK

Upgrades are coming to [Jackson View Park](#), located at 2585 Clara Kee Blvd.

Playground replacement: The existing playground is being replaced with new equipment featuring a shade sail, upgraded safety surfacing designed for ages 2–12 and an ADA-

accessible swing.

Disc golf course: County staff is designing and constructing a small disc golf course, including concrete pads and baskets. This will be the County's first disc golf course at a park!

These improvements, which should be completed by the end of September and will complement the park's existing amenities, which include walking trails, picnic tables, an observation deck, open space and a Little Free Library.

The park will remain open throughout both projects; however, certain areas will be temporarily closed during installation, consistent with standard safety practices.

For more information, click on Rick's video above.

TOWER ROAD PARK

Several improvements are also coming to [Tower Road Park](#), located at 5971 Tower Road:

Playground replacement: The old playground equipment will be replaced with new equipment with integrated shade, upgraded safety surfacing designed for ages 2–12 and an accessible swing.

Basketball Half-Court Installation: Construction and installation of a half basketball court will be a new addition to the park - a direct request from District 3 citizens.

Picnic Improvements: The old picnic tables will be replaced to improve park seating spaces and enhance user experience.

These improvements will complement the park's existing amenities, which include a multipurpose field, restrooms, water fountain, and pavilions.

Tower Road Park will remain open throughout the projects; however, certain areas will be temporarily closed during installation. All work should be complete **before the end of 2026**.

Many thanks to County staff for their work on these two District 3 parks!

STACPRO: Free Training Certification Program on Human Trafficking



As a new school year begins, keeping our students, families, and local businesses safe remains our top priority. That means equipping our community to recognize and prevent human trafficking – including both sex and labor exploitation – right here in Leon County.

With so much misinformation circulating, especially online, accurate local facts are critical. **YOU are our community's best front line of defense.**

How you can take action today:

- Get trained online: Take **STACPRO**, a free, local online fact-filled training tailored specifically to Leon County businesses and the general public. To take the course, visit: <https://stacpro.org/>.
- To request in-person training and to ask any questions: Contact Robin Hassler Thompson at the Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center at Robin@surviveandthriveadvocacy.org or **850-597-2080**.

We think you'll find this training very informative - so far over 3,400 people (including Rick and Jodi) have taken it. Our District 3 office is "STACPRO Certified," and yours can be too!

Working together, we can spot the signs, protect the vulnerable, and build a safer and stronger Leon County.

[Learn More](#)

Rick Provides County Update on Greg Tish Show



On June 15th, Rick joined Greg Tish, Bill Eichhoefer, and Doug Ingram to provide a County update on The Greg Tish Show. If you missed it live, you can [stream it here](#).

[Listen Here](#)

How to Provide Public Comment at a Commission Meeting: A Quick Guide

SPEAKER'S REGISTRATION

The Board of County Commissioners welcomes you.

We ask that you complete this card so that you may be recognized and invited to make your comments at the appropriate time. Please make your comments brief and limited to three minutes, as a courtesy to other citizens.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

I would like to comment on: Agenda item # _____ or a ☐ Non-Agendaed item:

I AM ☐ I AM NOT ☐ A LOBBYIST REGARDING THE ABOVE AGENDA ITEM.

Lobbyist for: (if applicable) _____

(Note: All lobbyists are required to register and pay an annual fee of \$25 per entity represented.)

Please return this card to the Board Secretary seated on the right side of the Commissioner dais, prior to the discussion of the agenda item.

Want to share your thoughts with the County Commission? We're often asked how to provide public comment at a Commission meeting, so we created this quick reference guide to walk you through the process.

1. Speak in person

- Attend the meeting in the Commission Chambers (5th Floor) at the Leon County Courthouse, 301 S. Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301. You can find the full schedule of Commission meetings [here](#).
- Every regular agenda includes two separate public-comment periods for items **not** on the agenda, one near the start of the meeting and one near the end.
- For items that **are** on the agenda, public comment is taken before the Commissioners begin their discussion of that item; once the Board moves into deliberation, the comment period for that item has closed.
- Complete a speaker/input card before the public comment period. (A sample speaker card is shown above.) Speaker cards are available from the Board Secretary and at a table near the entrance. If you cannot find the speaker cards, any employee should be able to help. You can also text Commissioner Minor's aide, Jodi, at 850-491-0192, and she can assist.
- Your name will be called by the County Administrator when it is your turn to speak
- Each speaker is generally limited to 3 minutes.
- You will be asked to provide: (1) your name; and (2) your place of residence or business address.

2. Speak virtually

- Register through the online public comment registration form associated with the meeting agenda once it is posted [here](#).
- Registration closes at 8:00 p.m. on the day before the meeting.

- After registering, County staff will send instructions for joining and speaking during the meeting.

3. Rules while speaking

The Board's procedures require that:

- Comments be directed to the Board as a whole, not to individual commissioners.
- Speakers comply with the Chair's rules of decorum and time limits.

4. Watching the meeting

If you do not wish to speak, you can still observe the meeting live through several platforms, including the County website, YouTube, Facebook, Roku, and Comcast Channel 16.

Visit to Keiser University Tallahassee





Rick recently toured the campus of [Keiser University - Tallahassee](#) and was able with visit with faculty and students to discuss Leon County's workforce development.

Now celebrating it's 35th year, Keiser University Tallahassee has provided career-focused, hands-on education that prepares students for high-demand careers across our region. During the tour, Rick visited programs for Nursing, Radiologic Technology, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Occupational Therapy Assisting, Medical Assisting, Information Technology, Criminal Justice, Culinary Arts, and Business Administration. The students and faculty provided great experiences, from the nursing students who took his blood pressure to the culinary students who offered samples of their cooking.

You can learn more about Keiser University Tallahassee and these great programs [here](#).

36th Anniversary of the ADA



Graphic credit: ADA National Network ([adata.org](#)) 1-800-949-4232

July marked the **36th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**, which was signed into law on July 26, 1990. The ADA was a landmark civil rights law that prohibited discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, public services,

public accommodations, and telecommunications — opening doors to schools, workplaces, transportation, and everyday spaces that had long been inaccessible.

Thirty-six years later, the ADA's impact is everywhere: curb cuts, accessible entrances, closed captioning, sign language interpreters, and workplace accommodations. But gaps remain and the work isn't finished. This 36th anniversary is both a celebration of progress and a reminder that full inclusion is an ongoing effort.

To learn more about the ADA, [check out this great piece](#) in the Tallahassee Democrat by our friend, JR Harding.

Leon County Senior Outreach



Rick recently spoke at the Lake Jackson Community Center for the [Leon County Senior Outreach](#) program's monthly [Lunch & Learn](#). These events feature an array of speakers on informative topics focused on the needs of active seniors. They also provide access to a variety of community services, health screenings, and catered lunches, as well as an opportunity to meet other seniors in the community. If you live in Bradfordville, Chaires-Capitola, Fort Braden, Lake Jackson, Miccosukee, or Woodville and are 50 years and older, you are invited to join!

[Learn More](#)

Charlie Ward Champions Ranch



Rick recently met with Tonja and Charlie Ward, who provided a report on the Charlie Ward Champions Ranch. This project is coming along very well. You can learn more and sign up for updates [here](#).

Native Plant Sale

A promotional graphic for a Native Plant Sale. The background features a field of pink and red flowers. The text is centered and reads: "All Native Plants" in a large, elegant script font, followed by "BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE" in bold, uppercase letters. Below that is "SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 • 9 A.M." in green, uppercase letters. Further down is "WHILE SUPPLIES LAST" in black, uppercase letters. At the bottom, it says "LEARN MORE AT" followed by the URL "LeonCountyFL.gov/BOGONativePlants" in white, uppercase letters. On the left side of the graphic is a circular logo for "Growing Green LEON COUNTY" with a map of Florida. On the right side is a logo for "Native Nurseries" featuring a stylized flower.

To encourage the preservation of native plant species in local yards and gardens, the Leon County Office of Resource Stewardship is sponsoring the **tenth annual Native Plant Sale at Native Nurseries**, 1661 Centerville Road, on **Saturday, Sept. 12**. The sale will begin at **9 a.m.** and will continue while supplies last.

Up to 100 customers can receive a BOGO voucher for native plants on a first-come, first-served basis.

[Learn More](#)

Farm Share Food Distribution

FARM SHARE FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Saturday, September 12, at 9 a.m.

Lake Jackson Town Center
3840 N. Monroe Street

Carter's Corner, with support from Leon County, is hosting a free food distribution to support Leon County families and residents.

Food will be available on a first-come, first-served basis and will be distributed while supplies last. No registration required.

DRIVE-THRU DISTRIBUTION

One representative per family (max. 3) per vehicle

For more information,
contact Carter's Corner
at **850-510-6702**.



Farm Share, Inc. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Carter's Corner, with support from Leon County, is hosting a free drive-thru food distribution to support Leon County families and residents. The event will take place on **Saturday, Sept. 12, at 9 a.m.** at the **Lake Jackson Town Center**, located at **3840 N. Monroe Street**. Food will be available on a first-come, first-served basis and will be distributed while supplies last. No registration required. For more information, please call Carter's Corner at 850-510-6702.

Amtrak Mardi Gras Route Celebrates One Year Anniversary



The [Mardi Gras Route](#) passenger train, which runs between New Orleans and Mobile with stops along the Gulf Coast, has become a popular and economically beneficial connection between Gulf Coast communities while giving residents another affordable way to travel.

The Mardi Gras Route is celebrating its first anniversary this month and has been a much greater success than initially projected -- about 150,000 people are expected to ride the train in its first year—**more than twice the original estimate!**

The average ticket costs about \$35, giving people a relatively affordable way to travel. And the train is also helping local economies, with more visitors to places such as Mobile, Biloxi, Gulfport, and Bay St. Louis. This means more business for restaurants, hotels, shops, and tour companies.

Why is this important to Leon County and North Florida? **The new route's level of ridership bolsters our argument for restoring passenger rail in North Florida.**

Rick continues to champion Florida joining the [Southern Rail Commission](#) and has advocated for it during the legislative session. Rick maintains an email distribution list to keep interested residents informed on passenger rail. If you would like to be added to this distribution list, [please let us know here](#).

[Learn More](#)

The Village Square's 100 Coffees



The Village Square is bringing back 100 Coffees, an initiative that seeks to strengthen our local community, one coffee at a time. 100 Coffees invites you to step out of your comfort zone and into a real conversation with a neighbor. Through something as simple as sharing a cup of coffee, we can lean into our differences instead of away from them, building a community rooted in genuine connection, thoughtful conversation, and respectful disagreement. Everyone is welcome to participate!

[Learn More and Sign Up](#)

A Closer Look at Blueprint and the Making of Cascades Park



Intergovernmental cooperation isn't always easy, but sometimes necessity forces the issue. By the late 1990s, the City of Tallahassee and Leon County faced a shared problem: the increased need for infrastructure, parks, and public spaces had outpaced what either government could deliver alone. Their answer was a new governance model built around a simple tool — a penny sales tax. Voters approved it in 2000, and it has been renewed through 2039. In this short video, see how the penny sales tax has funded decades of shared infrastructure, mobility, and economic development projects — and how the intergovernmental partnership between the City of Tallahassee and Leon County created a lasting model for delivering them together.

[Watch the Video](#)

Florida Wildlife Corridor Trek - *Florida Trend's* Cover Story!



Regular readers of this newsletter will remember that earlier this year, Rick was one of four elected officials who participated in the multi-day [Longleaf to Lighthouse expedition](#) of the [Florida Wildlife Corridor](#). The group trekked from Southern Georgia to the St. Marks Lighthouse.

We are excited to share that the September 2026 issue of *Florida Trend* magazine features the Florida Wildlife Corridor and the Longleaf to Lighthouse expedition as the [cover story](#)! One of Rick's fellow trekkers, Polk County Commissioner Becky Troutman, was interviewed specifically for the article. It's a great read and includes some truly fantastic photos.

[Read the Full Story Here](#)

Library Lunch Break Series

Library Lunch Break:
The Music of America, Then and Now

Monday, September 14
12-1 p.m.

Leon County Main Library
200 West Park Avenue

Featuring
David Kirby

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LEON COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

AMERICA
250
FLORIDA

Library Lunch Break: The Music of America, Then and Now

When: Monday, September 14, from 12 to 1 p.m.

Where: Leon County Main Library, 200 West Park Avenue

Trace the evolution of American music from folk and field chants to the blues, R&B, rock 'n' roll, rock, and rap. Join us for a high-speed chase down the back roads of music history, from songs with no names and no identifiable authors to the pyrotechnics of modern arena concerts. Stick around for a discussion and bring your questions along with the title of a favorite tune or two.

This program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided.

David Kirby is the Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor of English at Florida State University and the author of several books, including *Little Richard: The Birth of Rock 'n' Roll*.

[Learn More](#)

"Cultura Tallahassee: Together, We Are More" Exhibition Call for Artists



Join us for a celebration of Hispanic culture, heritage, and history at the *Cultura Tallahassee: Together, We Are More* exhibit. Selected artwork will be displayed at the Leon County Main Library from September 15 through October 15, 2026, in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month.

[Learn More](#)

Love Leon County...Don't Trash It!

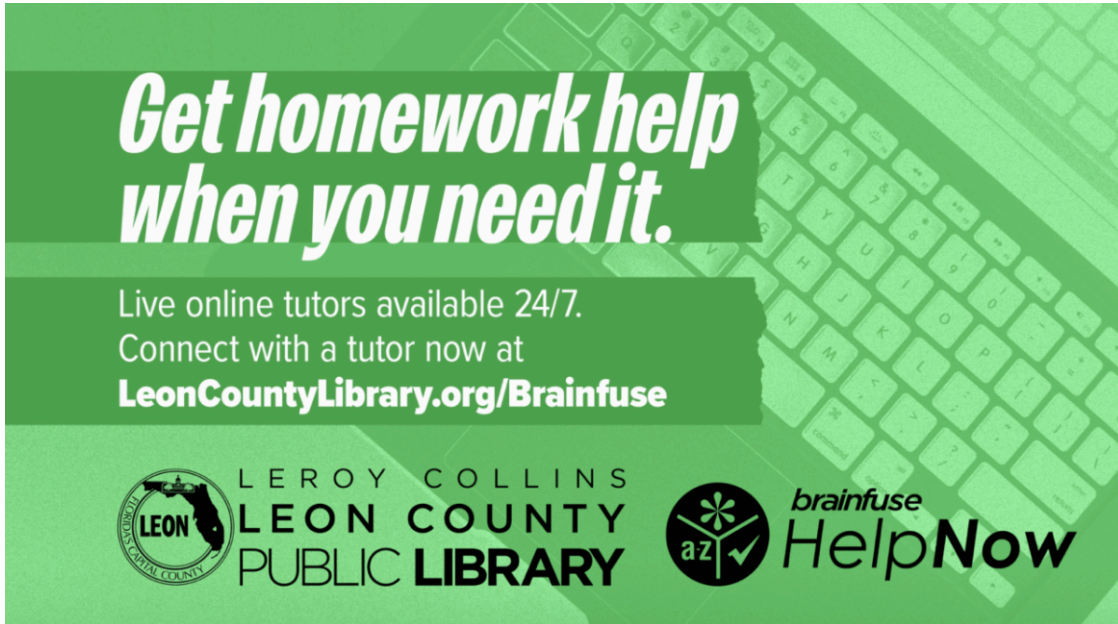


Litter and graffiti affect more than just the appearance of our community; they impact our parks, roads, neighborhoods, waterways, and overall environment. Leon County Government and the Leon County Sheriff's Office encourage everyone to do their part to keep our community clean and beautiful. Properly dispose of trash and recyclables, and

don't vandalize public or private property with graffiti. If you see excessive littering or graffiti, please report it to the Leon County Sheriff's Office at 850-606-3300.

Brainfuse HelpNow: Free 24/7 Online Tutoring

Available anytime with your library card

A green banner with a keyboard background. The text "Get homework help when you need it." is in large, white, italicized font. Below it, in smaller white text, is "Live online tutors available 24/7. Connect with a tutor now at LeonCountyLibrary.org/Brainfuse". At the bottom are the logos for Leon County Public Library and Brainfuse HelpNow.

***Get homework help
when you need it.***

Live online tutors available 24/7.
Connect with a tutor now at
LeonCountyLibrary.org/Brainfuse

 LEROY COLLINS
**LEON COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

 *brainfuse*
HelpNow

Start the school year strong with Brainfuse HelpNow, the library's free online tutoring and eLearning service. Students can connect with live tutors 24/7 for help with math, science, reading and writing, social studies, and more. Brainfuse also offers a 24-hour Writing Lab, test prep resources, and tools for adult learners and job seekers.

[Learn More](#)

Campaign Sign Recycling Program



Go Green this Election Cycle!

In 2026, Leon County Government, Leon County Supervisor of Elections, Marpan Recycling, the City of Tallahassee, and the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee are partnering to keep corrugated plastic campaign and business yard signs out of the landfill by offering recycling drop-off at a variety of locations during the fall election season. Drop-off collection will run from **Wednesday, August 19, until Friday, September 18**, and again on **Wednesday, November 4, until Friday, December 4**. Drop your campaign and business yard signs and their wire frames into the yellow bins at one of the following locations:

- The Leon County Elections Center, 2990-1 Apalachee Parkway
- Leon County Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Site, 1800 N. Blair Stone Road
- City of Tallahassee Beautification & Waste Management Facility, 2727 Major James Morgan Jr. Way
- Marpan Recycling, 323 Marpan Way

[Learn More](#)

The Latest Edition of the Voices of Leon Podcast: Making Leon Ready



Voices of Leon brings listeners behind the scenes of Leon County Government to meet the people, programs, and stories shaping our community. Each episode spotlights the work happening across the County—from major events and public safety to parks, libraries, public works, and more.

In this month's episode of Voices of Leon, Leon County Emergency Management Director Kevin Peters shares how Leon County works year-round to keep the community informed, resilient, and ready for whatever comes next.

From hurricanes and tornadoes to severe weather and unexpected emergencies, this conversation explores the tools, resources, and planning that help prepare residents before disaster strikes. Learn about [LeonReady.com](https://www.leonready.com), the Leon County Disaster Survival Guide, emergency alerts, Neighborhood Readiness programs, and simple steps every household can take to prepare.

Disaster preparedness starts long before a storm appears on the radar. This episode offers practical tips and valuable local resources to help residents prepare, act, and recover with confidence.

[Listen Here](#)

Limited Edition Library Card



To celebrate the U.S. Semiquincentennial, the Leon County Library invites you to be a part of history and join the commemoration with a specially designed limited-edition Leon County Public Library card — available while supplies last! This commemorative card not only unlocks a world of knowledge and resources but also serves as a treasured memento of this historic occasion.

New and current library card holders can receive the America250 card at no cost by visiting any Leon County Public Library location.

[Learn More](#)

Save the Date: Trunk or Treat



Get your costumes ready for Trunk or Treat on **Saturday, October 17**, from **10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the **Old West Florida Enrichment Center, 2344 Lake Bradford Road**.

Receive information about human services available in the community and enjoy fun for the whole family, including candy for all trick-or-treaters, music, snacks, and raffles with great prizes.

This event is brought to you by Leon County Government, the Children's Services Council of Leon County, United Way of the Big Bend, and United Partners for Human Services.

[Learn More](#)



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