



## The Latest from Your District 5 Office

Dear Friend,

Our community is in mourning for the two lives lost, the six people injured, and the many whose sense of safety was shattered during the mass shooting on campus last week. From the moment the shooting started, our community stepped up - FSUPD neutralized the threat within minutes, EMS and Fire enacted mass casualty plans, community partners expedited resources to support anyone needing help after the tragedy, and students are speaking up to reduce the chances of this happening again.

My heart goes out to the families of Robert Morales and Tiru Chabba, who lost someone special on Thursday. My heart also goes out to the five people injured and the many people who had to live through a terrifying shooting, not knowing if they would live that day, and to their families and friends who waited to hear from them with the same fear. Their lives are forever changed by this tragedy in a way no one should have to experience.

Every person in Tallahassee is affected by the tragedy in some way. No one needs to go through this alone. We have lots of resources for you to get help. You can call 2-1-1 24/7 for free and confidential support. You can call or text the National Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990. Everytown for Gun Safety is providing [this list of many resources](#).

I thank our local law enforcement for their fast and professional response. The FSU Police Department responded and eliminated the threat within minutes, with assistance from the Tallahassee Police Department, Leon County Sheriff's Office, and other law enforcement agencies. They train for this to prevent what was already an absolute tragedy from becoming much worse. Following the shooting, the FBI created an online tip submission portal at [www.fbi.gov/fsushooting](http://www.fbi.gov/fsushooting). They ask anyone with video, photos, or audio from the Student Union area to upload it to assist investigators.

I am proud of the Leon County team that responded immediately during the shooting. Leon County EMS affected our mass casualty response protocol and supported the unified command at the scene. The Leon County Emergency Operations Center was activated to help law enforcement and healthcare partners, and County Emergency Management Liaisons embedded with FSU to streamline coordination.

Your Leon County Commission will continue to do everything in our power to eliminate this senseless gun violence, especially at schools where students deserve to learn in a safe environment. In 2018, we adopted the "Gun Show Loophole" Ordinance, requiring a three-day waiting period and a national criminal history background check for all firearm transactions conducted on publicly accessible property in Leon County. Also, as part of our legislative priorities, we continue to support local universities and colleges in opposing concealed weapons on campus, as we have done since 2015. While the State of Florida has put significant limits on what local governments can do about gun safety, we continue to do everything in our power to eliminate mass shootings like this.

Many students at FSU and others are speaking up to officials, particularly at the state level, demanding action to make our schools safer. If you want to see what they are asking for, you can visit their websites:

[Students Demand Action](#)

[Moms Demand Action](#)

[Everytown for Gun Safety](#)

[March for Our Lives](#)


No one should have to experience the loss of a loved one from gun violence, students shouldn't live in fear on their school campus, and nobody should have to text their kids to see if they are locked down during an active shooting. But unfortunately, our community is tasked with responding to exactly that. As we have seen time and again, our Tallahassee-Leon County Community is strong, and we stand ready to support one another. Let's continue to do that now more than ever, check on each other, check on yourself, and I hope you feel comfortable asking for the help you need.

Sincerely,

- David

## Recent Votes at the County Commission

In our effort to keep you informed about the decisions we make on various issues, I am posting some of the key votes from our April 8, 2025, County Commission Meeting.

**4/8/2025    Votes**

Approved an anti-panhandling Ordinance for the County's unincorporated areas, which imposes a civil fine of \$250 for panhandling or any other physical interaction in a median that is 6 feet or smaller.

**PASS**

<b>YES</b> Cummings, Welch, Caban, Proctor, Minor, Maddox	<b>NO</b> O'Keefe
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Not Present:

Abstained:



4/8/2025

Votes

I requested an agenda item with information on the current timeline and the cost of repairing the county roads surrounding the Washington Square project, including all legal options to pursue all available remedies to collect money due to the County for the repairs.

**PASS**

**YES**

Cummings, Welch,  
Caban, Proctor,  
Minor, O'Keefe,  
Maddox

**NO**

Not Present:

Abstained:



4/8/2025

Votes

Approved having an Ordinance drafted to implement an automated speeding detection and enforcement program within school zones for vehicles exceeding the speed limit by more than 10 miles per hour.

**PASS**

**YES**

Cummings, Welch,  
Caban, Proctor,  
Minor, O'Keefe,  
Maddox

**NO**

Not Present:

Abstained:



4/8/2025

Votes

Added six (6) parcels to the County's inventory list of properties deemed appropriate for affordable housing.

**PASS**

**YES**

Cummings, Welch,  
Caban, Proctor,  
Minor, O'Keefe,  
Maddox

**NO**

Not Present:

Abstained:

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**Shelter Pet of the Month - Delilah**



I am a spayed female & I look like a American Staffordshire Terrier mix and the shelter staff think I am 5 years old.

I am a playful and confident 50-pound girl who can't wait to be living the life in my new home! I was found as a stray at a local ballfield, but no one ever came looking for me. Car rides are a favorite of mine, and I walk well on a leash, even when people and dogs pass by—they're interesting, but sniffing is the real fun.

By Appointment: Daily: 10:00a - 6:00

Walk-in Kennel Viewings: Wed., Sat. and Sun.: 1:00p - 5:00p  
Phone: 850-891-2950  
Shelter Address: 1125 Easterwood Drive

Shelter Adoption Information

## Upcoming Changes to the Comprehensive Plan

Thank you for sharing your thoughts on the Comprehensive Plan update. Your input is invaluable and helps guide our community's growth.

Keep letting all of your commissioners know what you want to see in the plan for our future. Your continued feedback ensures that the Comprehensive Plan reflects our shared values.

### [Upcoming Public Hearings](#)

#### Leon County Commission Transmittal Hearing

**Date:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Location:** County Commission Chambers, 5th Floor, Leon County Courthouse, 301 S. Monroe Street

**Public Comment:** Citizens may speak in person during the hearing. Each speaker is typically allotted up to 3 minutes.

#### City of Tallahassee Commission Transmittal Hearing

**Date:** Wednesday, May 14, 2025

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Location:** City Commission Chambers, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 300 S. Adams Street

**Public Comment:** Citizens may speak in person during the hearing. Each speaker is typically allotted up to 3 minutes.

At these meetings, commissioners will decide whether to send the proposed plan to the state for review.

### [Explore the Proposed Changes](#)

Main Comprehensive Plan Update Website: [www.CompPlanTLC.com](http://www.CompPlanTLC.com)

Draft Future Land Use Map: [View the Map](#)

Visit the main website to learn more, view proposed changes, and submit your input.

### [My Role in the Comprehensive Plan Update](#)

As your Leon County Commissioner, I participate in shaping our community's growth through the Comprehensive Plan. Here's what I vote on:

**Shared Decisions with the City Commission:** I vote on overarching goals, objectives, and policies that guide development across both the city and unincorporated areas.

**Unincorporated Area Land Use Changes:** I vote on land use and zoning changes for properties in unincorporated Leon County.

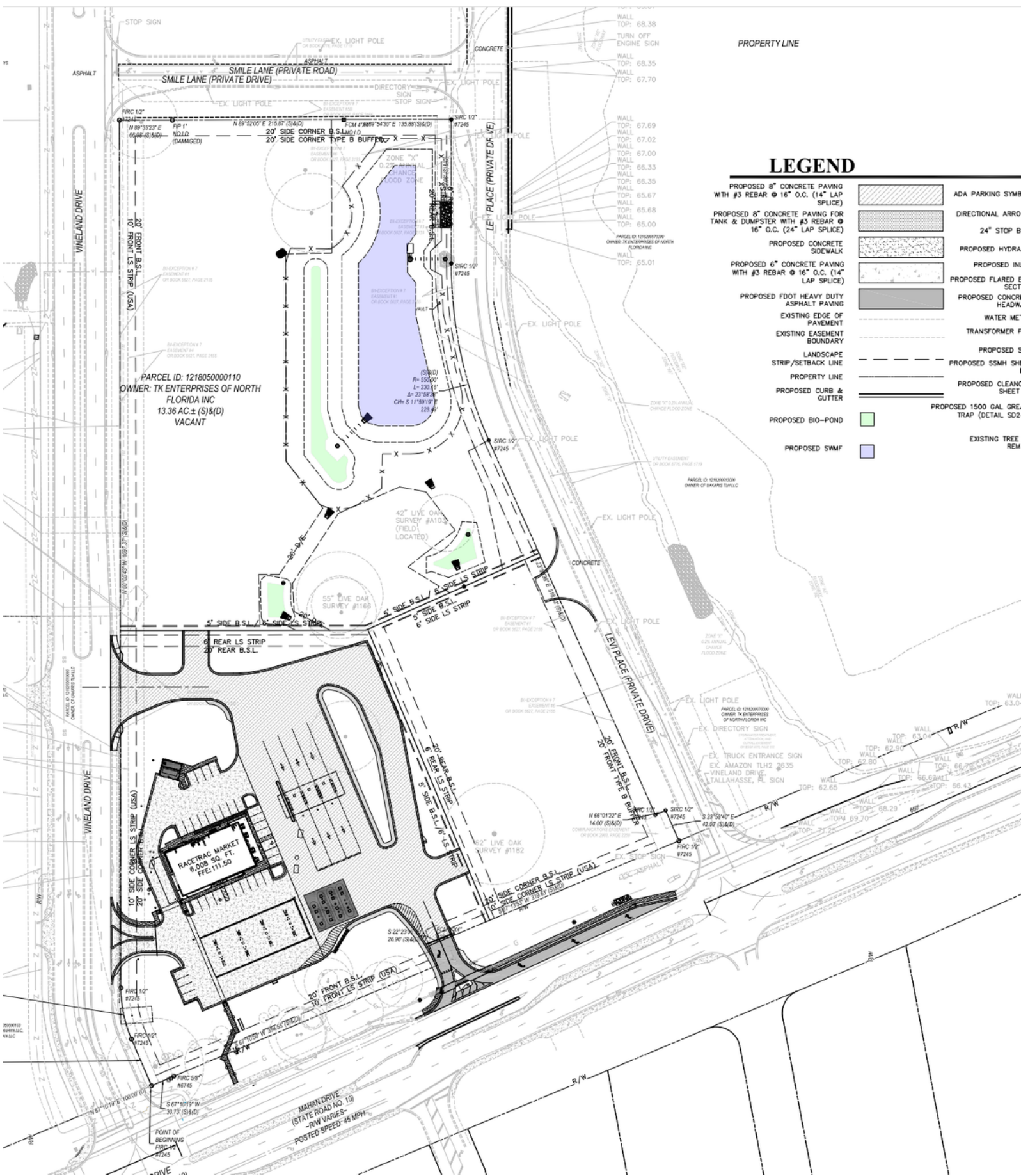
**County-Specific Housing Policies:** I vote on housing policies specific to unincorporated areas, while city-specific housing policies are decided by the City Commission.

If you have questions about how these decisions may affect your neighborhood, feel free to reach out. I'm here to ensure our community's growth aligns with our shared values and needs.

Your input is crucial in shaping a Comprehensive Plan that reflects our community's needs and aspirations.

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## **RaceTrac Gas Station Intersection of Mahan Dr. & Vineland Dr.**



A RaceTrac gas station is proposed for the northeast corner of the intersection of Mahan Drive and Vineland Drive. The gas station would include a 6,008 SF convenience store, 16 fueling positions (8 pumps), and 4 semi-truck fueling positions. On February 28, 2025, 37 direct mail notices were sent to property owners within 600 feet of the site as well as, Homeowners' and Property Owners' Associations within one mile.

The first public meeting, an Application Review Meeting (ARM), was held on March 12, 2025. At the meeting County staff identified a number of deficiencies in the site and development plan and recommended a second public ARM meeting which will be held on April 30, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. ([2nd Floor Conf. Rm. - 435 N. Macomb St.](#)).

The image above is a portion of the master site plan showing the location of the gas station on the site.

## April is Autism Acceptance Month

April is a time to celebrate neurodiversity, amplify autistic voices, and embrace the beauty of different ways of thinking, feeling, and experiencing the world.

Let’s move beyond awareness and into **acceptance**, where understanding and inclusion lead the way. Together, we can create spaces where everyone is valued for exactly who they are. ☐☐

Now more than ever we say to our autistic friends, family members, and community: **you belong, you matter, and you make the world brighter.**



## New Dog Park Coming to District 5 at Apalachee Regional Park

Join Leon County Government  
for the opening of the

# APALACHEE REGIONAL PARK DOG PARK

**Tuesday, May 6**

**10 a.m. • 7550 Apalachee Parkway**

**Learn more at [LeonCountyFL.gov/ARP](http://LeonCountyFL.gov/ARP)**



**Snacks for people and pups will be available, along with an opportunity for pet adoption. See you there!**



On Tuesday, May 6th at 10am, Leon County will celebrate the opening of the [Apalachee Regional Park Dog Park](#) located at 7550 Apalachee Parkway. This will be the County's **largest off-leash space** with dog-agility features and a wash station for the dogs and shade for their humans.

All dogs are invited, large or small! Bring your pet to explore, play, and even train on the dog-agility course! Snacks for people and pups will be available, along with an opportunity for pet adoption from the Leon County Humane Society. I hope to see you there!

**The new 2-acre dog park will include:**

- ☐ Separate play areas for large and small dogs
- ☐ Four shaded pavilions
- ☐ Two convenient dog wash stations
- ☐ Interactive signage to help first-time visitors
- ☐ A full agility course including the Rover Jump Over, Paws Table, Hoop Jump, King of the Hill, Weave Posts, Stepping Paws, and Doggie Crawl—perfect for both beginners and seasoned agility pros



**LeMoyne Chain of Parks Art Festival**  
**April 26 & 27, 2025**



# Chain of Parks

## ART FESTIVAL

# April 26 & 27, 2025

This year [LeMoyne Arts](#) is celebrating 25 years of the [Chain of Parks Art Festival](#) in downtown Tallahassee's "Chain of Parks." The festival is **FREE** and open to the public!

Consistently ranked among the Top 100 Fine Art Festivals by Sunshine Artist Magazine for the past decade, the Festival has been recognized as Florida's #1 Fine Art and Design Festival multiple times. **I hope to you there!**

## SATURDAY, APRIL 26

### MAIN STAGE

10:00 - 10:20 AM  
Young Actor's Theater

10:50 - 11:40 AM  
Mas N Steel

12:00 - 1:00 PM  
Ben Banks & the Back-Ups

1:30 - 2:15 PM  
Saylor Dollar

2:45 - 3:30 PM  
Tuesday Supper Club

4:00 - 5:00 PM  
Thursday Night Music Club

### CHALK ART OASIS

11:00 - 11:30 AM  
In Step Studio

12:00-1:00 PM  
Hot Tamale

1:30 - 2:30 PM  
Elsinore Sewing Club

### CHILDREN'S PARK

11:00 - 11:45 AM  
Strings of Light

1:00 - 2:00 PM  
Tallahassee Capoeira

2:00 - 5:00 PM  
Local Heritage Booth Performers

## SUNDAY, APRIL 27

### MAIN STAGE

10:00 - 10:15AM  
Seminole Tap Troupe

10:20 - 10:40AM  
Tallahassee Ballet

11:00 - 11:45AM  
Two Guys with Guitars

12:00 - 12:45PM  
SAST Jam Band

1:15 - 2:15 PM  
Boom Chick Ramblers

3:00 - 4:00PM  
LCP

### CHALK ART OASIS

12:00 - 1:00PM  
Saylor Dollar Duo

1:00 - 2:00PM  
Lauren Mullinax

### CHILDREN'S PARK

11:45 AM - 12:30PM  
Strings of Light

12:50 - 1:30PM  
Hot Tamale

1:45 - 2:45 PM  
Un Poquito de México  
*A Little Bit of México*

3:00 - 4:00 PM  
Local Heritage Booth Performers

## Washington Square Update



At our April 8th County Commission meeting I received unanimous support from my fellow Commissioners to have our staff bring us back information on a **timeline and costs that it will take to repair the County roads** (Calhoun & Gadsden Street) surrounding the failed Washington Square project. A part of my request also included all legal options we can pursue to collect the money we now have to spend to fix the surrounding roads.

This city-approved project came to a abrupt halt in 2019 and the site remains dormant, blocking sidewalks and right-of-way. Based on the updates provided at our meeting, the developer has no remaining assets and is facing over \$400,000 in accumulated fines and violations.







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