



FDOT took the paint, but not our community's values.

Dear Neighbor,

Last week, neighbors at Westminster Oaks made headlines when they drove their golf carts out and even lay down in the street to **block crews from removing the painted crosswalk by W.T. Moore Elementary. They weren't standing up for "political art."** They were standing up for a safety project they helped create with students, teachers, and local partners.

When our community, including our children, painted these colorful crosswalks, they were not a political statement. **They were about safety, community values, and adding a touch of beauty to everyday life.** Local data shows they worked. *Cars slowed down. More drivers stopped. Seniors and kids had safer ways across busy streets.*

But their removal is political. This started as the State of Florida's hateful attack on PRIDE and other social issue crosswalks. To justify it, the state expanded the order to every painted crosswalk, even those built purely for safety. That choice turned our schools, our neighborhoods, and our seniors into collateral damage. **The result is not safer streets. The result is an attempt at erasing our community's voice.**

While families are facing real problems, the State of Florida is wasting time on a political stunt of erasing colorful crosswalks. *Home insurance is out of control. Housing costs keep going up. Schools are underfunded. Climate threats are growing.* **That tells you everything about their priorities and why communities like ours are left to pick up the pieces.**

Despite our County teams meeting with and providing safety data that showed the effectiveness of our non-political artistic crosswalks, the FDOT ordered the removal of every artistic crosswalk and threatened to pull funding if we didn't comply. That's not just a few hundred thousand dollars. **It includes more than \$100 million in active and future projects like roads, sidewalks, and bridges that our community depends on.** Losing that would do more harm to the safety of our streets than the current political stunt masquerading as safety policy.

That's why the County complied. But we also need to be honest about what this sets up for the future. If the state can use funding as a weapon over colorful crosswalks, what happens when it's housing, health, or disaster recovery? *At some point, the threats themselves will cause more harm than the dollars we could lose.* Every local government will face that choice sooner or later.

Even as we complied this time, we can still choose resilience. These crosswalks showed that art, safety, and neighborhood pride belong together. If the state takes the color out of our streets, we can respond with murals, sculptures, festivals, and other forms of public art in places where their reach does not extend. **Erasing the colors from our streets will never erase who we are.**

Sincerely,

David

Washington Square Update



Some significant updates have happened since my last update to you on this stalled downtown project:

On **August 18**, the site's engineer submitted a restoration plan for the streets and sidewalks surrounding the site, and staff were able to provide feedback on the plan. The final plan is expected to be completed later this week.

On **August 26**, a performance bond was signed by the site owner, guaranteeing that the project will be completed on time and on budget. This performance bond is significant because restoration work at the site cannot begin until the County has these assurances.

The site owner is required to complete the work within 60 days. An extension may be requested, but it will only be granted upon verification of clear, measurable progress on the work by the owner.

Winner's Market Food Pantry Opening



Earlier this month, we helped celebrate the opening of the [Winner's Market Food Pantry](#) that provides food security options for residents on the east side of Leon County and beyond. This project was spearheaded by the Victory House Community Resource Center and the Shady Grove 1 Church.

Unlike traditional food pantries that distribute pre-packaged food boxes, at Winner's Market, individuals and families can select their own food based on dietary restrictions, cultural preferences, and household needs.

The Winner's Market Food Pantry is open on Thursday and Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., located at [1478 Chaires Cross Road](#).

□ Learning from Jacksonville's Housing Success



This month, I joined local leaders in Jacksonville to see how other communities are tackling affordable housing.

At Historic Eastside CDC, we saw how they are building affordable homes while protecting history in one of Florida’s largest historically Black neighborhoods on the National Register.

I also toured the Lofts at Murray Hill, a high-quality affordable housing development built on the site of an old bank building. Nearly every unit is income-limited for working families, with 15% reserved for very low-income households.

9/11 Annual Day of Service



Last week, I worked alongside over 70 county staff members and community volunteers to help spruce up homes in the Appaloosa Run neighborhood near Lake Jackson. For the last 14 years, the County's Annual Day of Service has honored 9/11 victims, survivors, and others who rose in service in response to the attacks.

With assistance from the Council of Neighborhood Associations, the County's [Office of Human Services and Community Partnerships](#) identifies neighborhoods in Leon County in need of beautification.

It's great to help neighbors in one of our other county districts, and I'm looking forward to them joining us in District 5 in the future.

Kearney Center Medical Unit Opening



Last week, the [Kearney Center](#) opened a new medical clinic at its facility through a partnership with Doctors United Group. Doctors United will now provide on-site primary healthcare, mental health services, addiction treatment, and more to our most vulnerable community members. **This is a big step forward in making healthcare more accessible for our neighbors in need.**

Shelter Pet of the Month - Sir



I am a **neutered male**, and I look like an **American Staffordshire Terrier**. The shelter staff thinks I am about **6 years** old.

I love walks on our trails, and I'm really good on a leash. I can't wait to find an active and affectionate family in a quiet home where I can feel safe and loved. I'm the perfect size for couch cuddles, car rides, and strolls through the neighborhood.

WCTV recently featured me on their Furry Friday segment, so be sure to check out my [video](#).

By Appointment: Daily, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Walk-in Kennel Viewings: Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

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Attended the grand opening of The Kearne...

170 views

Upgrades coming to Pedrick Pond Park!

247 views

Field Trip - Affordable Housing

150 views

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Leon County Fire Service Fee Recap

4 views · 2 weeks ago

Volunteer Tour Tally Spay

18 views · 7 months ago

Pedrick Pond Flooding Update

35 views · 1 year ago

Greenway Vote Recap

12 views · 1 year ago

FEMA Money for Leon County from May Tornadoes

12 views · 1 year ago

Updated TRIM Notices/Fire Services Fee



2025 NOTICE OF **PROPOSED** PROPERTY TAXES AND
PROPOSED OR ADOPTED NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA TAXING AUTHORITIES

DO NOT PAY
THIS IS NOT A BILL

**TAX COLLECTOR WILL MAIL
TAX BILLS IN NOVEMBER**

August 21, 2025

**REVISED FIRE ASSESSMENT:
County Commission Voted to Not Increase**

Unincorporated Leon County Resident

TAXING AUTHORITY	PROPERTY APPRAISER VALUE INFORMATION				THIS YEAR (2025)			
	LAST YEAR (2024)				MARKET	ASSESSED	EXEMPTION	TAXABLE
	MARKET	ASSESSED	EXEMPTION	TAXABLE				
COUNTY								

► [Learn more at LeonCountyFL.gov/OMB](#)

Residents in unincorporated Leon County will receive a reissued Truth in Millage (TRIM) notice in the mail to reflect the most recent action by the Leon County Commission at our August 12th Special Meeting.

At that meeting, we voted **not to increase** the Fire Services Assessments for the upcoming fiscal year. We also voted to hire a financial consultant to conduct a review of city records to determine why the City proposed an increase.

The initial TRIM notice is prepared and mailed by the Property Appraiser each August; therefore, residents should prepare to receive an updated TRIM notice with estimates that match the County Commission's decision.

Upcoming Meetings

[Blueprint IA](#)

- Sept. 11, 2025, at 3 p.m. - Board Meeting
- Sept. 11, 2025, at 5 p.m. - Budget Public Hearing

[Leon County Commission](#)

- Sept. 15, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. - Board Meeting
- Sept. 15, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. - First Public Hearing on Tentative Millage Rates & Tentative Budgets
- Sept. 23, 2025 at 6 p.m. - Second Public Hearing on Final Millage Rates & Final Budgets

Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency

Sept. 16, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.





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