



David O'Keefe
LEON COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 5

Dear Friends:

Let's talk about the role of skilled trades in our community's future. Skilled trades are essential for our community, as they keep infrastructure running smoothly. Without skilled tradespeople, we wouldn't have functioning electricity, plumbing, or roads to drive on.

Skilled trades also contribute to the growth of local businesses and help to build and maintain our infrastructure, which is crucial for economic growth.

Choosing a career in skilled trades offers many benefits, including good pay and job security. In fact, skilled tradespeople are in high demand. You can start earning a good wage right away, without taking on student debt. **Don't take my word for it:**

- [NYT: These Job-Training Programs Work, and May Show Others the Way](#)
- [Washington Post: Building a Future: Why Skilled Trade Professions Are a Wise Investment](#)
- [Washington Post: Top Paying Traditional Trades to Consider When Choosing a Career](#)

So, if you're looking for a rewarding and lucrative career that benefits both you and your community, consider working in a skilled trade. With the right training and experience, you can make a real difference. **You can get tuition-free training in Construction Technologies and Drone Technology from Tallahassee Community College in as little as eight weeks! Learn more at their [Rebuild Florida page](#).**

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**Tallahassee
Community
College**



**GET CERTIFIED IN AS LITTLE AS
8 WEEKS**

CHOOSE YOUR PROGRAM:

CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGIES

- NCCER CORE CERTIFICATION
- NCCER LEVEL 1 CARPENTRY CERTIFICATION
- NCCER LEVEL 1 PLUMBING CERTIFICATION
- NCCER LEVEL 1 ELECTRICAL CERTIFICATION

DRONE TECHNOLOGY

- AGRICULTURE ASSOCIATE AEST CERTIFICATION
- UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS IN AGRICULTURE SPECIALIST AEST CERTIFICATION



Skilled trades are an essential part of our community, and choosing a career in this field can be both fulfilling and financially rewarding. At the first **North Florida Worlds of Work (WOW) event**, more than 3,000 high school students experienced 100s of skilled trades careers. The purpose of WOW is to create awareness of the many high-demand, high-wage job opportunities in North Florida early enough in high school that students may plan their pathway and graduate with a plan in place and well on their way to college or career.

We have some great programs that offer a pipeline to these careers, like the Tallahassee chapter of the **National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC)**. We need to expand these programs to meet the needs of our community now and into the future.

I hope we can bring an all-around comprehensive program like the Year Up program highlighted in the NYT article, which has been so successful.

I would love to hear from you if you have ideas to help this effort.

As always, if there are other issues you would like to discuss, contact me at **(850) 606-5375** or okeefed@leoncountyfl.gov. You can also see all of our account links [here](#).

Sincerely,





Shelter Pet of the Month

Meet Pringles! She is a spayed female who resembles a Tennessee Treeing Brindle Hound mix. The shelter staff thinks she's about 6 years old. She's about 50lbs and is really excited about finding her new family.

Pringles has proven herself to be potty-trained and has seamlessly adjusted to a life outside the shelter. She's enjoyed peaceful sleepovers in multiple home settings, with plenty of naps, snoodle sessions, and lots of toy time. She's also a pro at snogging, ready to shower you with love and appreciation!

You can meet this amazing pooch at the shelter's open kennel days every Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday from 1PM to 5PM. If those times don't work for you, adoption appointments are available 7 days a week from 10AM to 6PM.

[Find out how to adopt Pringles!](#)

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Temple Israel's Invite Your Neighbor Event

Please join me at an extraordinary event on **Friday, Jan. 26** at 7pm. Rabbi Paul Sidlofsky invites the community to a special Shabbat Service at Temple Israel to learn more about Jewish traditions and customs. Enjoy an evening of outreach and friendship with others from our community and the members of Temple Israel.


The 5 P's of Cold Weather Preparedness


Since our area will be affected by unusually cold temperatures with wind chills in the teens through this weekend, Leon County government is urging residents to take action to ensure their safety, the protection of their homes, and the well-being of their pets. Learn more about the 5 P's of cold weather preparedness [here](#).

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Upcoming Public Meetings

 **Jan. 22 at 9 a.m.:** County Commission Annual Retreat, FAMU Grand Ballroom. The Retreat is the Board's annual review and update of the County's **FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan**. The Retreat is also an opportunity for the Commission to adopt additional strategic initiatives reflecting new community challenges and opportunities. You can watch the Retreat live on Comcast Channel 16, and on the County's **Facebook** page, **YouTube** channel, **Twitter** and the County **website**.

 **Jan. 23 at 3 p.m.:** County Commission Meeting & Public Hearing, County Commission Chamber, 5th Floor of the Leon County Courthouse. View the Jan. 23rd agendas **here**. You can watch all Commission meetings live on Comcast Channel 16, and on the County's **Facebook** page, **YouTube** channel, **Twitter** and the County **website**.



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Leon County Commission, District 5 | 301 S. Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301

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