



## July 2024 District Update

Dear Friend,

I have news to share on an issue near and dear to my heart. But first I have two favors to ask of you.

[First, take this one-word survey to tell us one thing you would change in District Five.](#)

Second, please send in your pictures from the Miccosukee Greenway to be put in our new greenway management plan document. You can email them to me **by August 6th** at [okeefed@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:okeefed@leoncountyfl.gov).

It is no secret how much I care for our rescue dogs and cats. For example, you see an animal highlighted each month. You should know that my wife chooses the adoptable pet that she wants us to adopt each month. I would love to, but we have a full house.

Thanks to the US Humane Society reaching out to me, we voted to consider an ordinance prohibiting the retail sale of certain pets in Leon County. We would be following 85 local municipal ordinances in Florida.

This ordinance is a significant step towards ensuring the humane treatment of animals, protecting consumers, and supporting local animal shelters and rescues. Your support can make a real difference in our community.

To those considering adding a furry friend to their family, I strongly urge you to adopt from a shelter or seek out a reputable breeder. The sale of pets through third-party financing and predatory lending practices perpetuates the harm caused by puppy mills and pet stores, ultimately impacting unsuspecting buyers. This unethical and inhumane practice has many damaging aspects. Please take a stand by supporting a ban on the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits.

Thanks for taking the time to fill out the survey and submit a picture. Your participation is crucial for our community. We appreciate your support and hope you'll stay involved with your county government.

Sincerely,

-David

[Take our One Word Survey](#)  
**Click below**

## Shelter Pet of the Month: Aztec



Meet Aztec. This sweet boy is a 7-year-old unaltered male, and the shelter staff thinks he is a Border Collie and Alaskan Husky mix. He's a friend to all, gets along well with other dogs, and shows a sweet nature towards his human friends. With eyes that speak volumes and a heart full of hope, he's waiting for his forever family to take him home.

Adopt Aztec

## Federal Disaster Assistance - Due 8/19/24

Homeowners and renters in Leon County affected by the severe storms, straight-line winds, and tornadoes on May 10 may apply for FEMA disaster assistance. Disaster assistance can include financial help with immediate needs, temporary lodging, home repairs, and other disaster-related expenses. **Applications must be submitted by August 19th!**

Disaster Recovery Center

LeRoy Collins Leon County Library

200 West Park Avenue

Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday through Sunday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

In addition to visiting a center, people can apply by:

Going online to [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.DisasterAssistance.gov)

Using the [FEMA App](#)

Calling 800-621-3362 from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. ET.

## New Animal Ordinance to be Considered

At our July 9th Commission Meeting, we directed our staff to bring back information about creating a new ordinance related to puppy mills. Eighty-five cities and seven counties throughout Florida have ordinances protecting local reputable breeders.

Earlier this summer, I met with the staff from the United States Humane Society about this idea, and I want to thank them for their advocacy on this important issue—it is the right thing to do!

## Are you a User of the Miccosukee Greenway?

Later this year, we will present an updated Management Plan for the Miccosukee Greenway to the State of Florida for their approval. In our plan, we would like to include photos taken by Greenway users. If you or someone you know have any images we should include in our final plan version, email them to me at [OkeefeD@LeonCountyFL.gov](mailto:OkeefeD@LeonCountyFL.gov).

## Pedrick Pond is Now Open

Following several months of heavy rainfall and severe weather, we are happy to share that the trail at Pedrick Pond Park opened to the public on July 18th. Watch our video covering Pedrick Pond flooding on our [YouTube channel](#).

We appreciate your patience throughout this process. County staff worked diligently to ensure the trail was safe and enjoyable for all visitors.

## Leon County Seeks Nominations for Neighborhood Recognition

Leon County Government invites residents to nominate their outstanding neighborhoods and neighbors for the 43rd annual Neighborhood Recognition Program.

Applications are now being accepted in the following categories:

- ◆ **Small Neighborhood of the Year** (200 homes or fewer)
- ◆ **Large Neighborhood of the Year** (more than 200 homes)
- ◆ **Unincorporated Neighborhood of the Year** (Neighborhoods outside city limits)
- ◆ **Neighbor of the Year** (Recognizing residents who lend a helping hand in service to their neighbors and neighborhood)

The application deadline is 5 p.m. EST on Wednesday, July 31, 2024.

Winners will be recognized during an upcoming Leon County Board of County Commissioners meeting.

[Submit Nominations Here](#)

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