



Dear Friends:

Since 1949 we observe Mental Health Awareness in May. 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year, and more than half did not receive any treatment in the last year. You can find local resource for you and your loved ones at [NAMI Tallahassee](#).

Make sure to check out our first shelter pet of the month. He is downright presidential. If there is something you want to suggest for our next newsletter, please let us know.

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](#).

P.S. You're receiving this newsletter because you previously inquired about government services. Please click "Opt Out" at the bottom of this email if you do not want to receive future newsletters.

Sincerely,

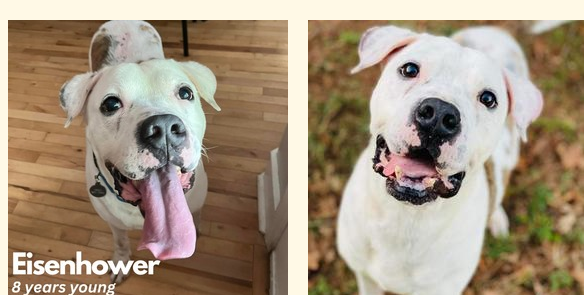
David T. O'Keefe

Workshop to Address Homelessness

On **Tuesday, May 23rd at 1pm** the County Commission will hold a workshop to discuss strategies to address homelessness. Representatives from the Kearney Center, the Big Bend Continuum of Care, the Leon County Sheriff's Office and other local homeless service providers and community partners will attend to provide updates on wrap-around programs and services currently employed.

There is no doubt this is one of the biggest issues facing our community. At this point we need to be adopting new approaches that have proven effective elsewhere. I plan to bring many of these approaches to the workshop discussion.

View the Workshop agenda [here](#) (when it's available).



Shelter Pet of the Month

Meet Eisenhower! He's an 8-year-old neutered male and likely a Boxer mix. He's 65lbs but weighed much less when he entered the shelter. He's a really sweet and affectionate boy who spent some time in a foster home (the foster family was allergic so he was only there for a week). His foster family says he's reliably housetrained and enjoys his walks.

Eisenhower was recently selected to be in the FAMU Farm Program, a unique partnership that provides advanced veterinary care to animals that the shelter might not otherwise be able to provide, as well as additional behavioral information about how the animals behave outside of the chaotic shelter environment.

While at the Center he was treated for heartworm disease (and is at the end of his recovery now) so he is all ready to start his life with a new family!

His likes: Walks and naps
His dislikes: Cats

[Click here to learn more about adopting Eisenhower or another furry friend](#)

Major Developments & Construction Projects Portal

Did you know that the County and City maintains a [website](#) where you can access a variety of information using interactive maps and applications? One of the maps available lists all of the major development and construction projects in Leon County. The map allows you to view site and development plans, plats and PUD Concept Plans.

Click the links below to see the maps for each:

[Residential Developments](#)
[Commercial Developments](#)

Touring the Providence Neighborhood

Recently I had the pleasure of visiting with Walt McDonald, President of the Providence Neighborhood Association. Walt took me on a walking tour of the neighborhood showing me all of the incredible community work that is happening in the area. Some of the sites I saw were the community garden along Stuckey Ave., the community center which is currently closed and heard about some of the projects being planned.

Congratulations to the entire HOA for investing the time and passion in to creating such a vibrant neighborhood.



Upcoming County Commission and Blueprint Agendas

Tuesday, May 9th at 3pm: County Commission Meeting in the Commission Chamber located on the 5th Floor of the Leon County Courthouse.

Tuesday, May 9th at 6pm: County Commission Public Hearings in the Commission Chamber located on the 5th Floor of the Leon County Courthouse.

Thursday, May 11th at 1pm: Blueprint IA Board of Directors Budget Workshop in the Tallahassee City Commission Chamber at City Hall.

Thursday, May 11th at 3pm: Blueprint IA Board of Directors Meeting in the Tallahassee City Commission Chamber at City Hall.

You can view the agendas [here](#).



Mental Health Awareness Month

May is Mental Health Awareness Month so let's break the stigma and raise awareness about the importance of mental health. Remember, it's okay to not be okay and seeking help is a sign of strength. Let's support each other and prioritize our mental well being.

The Tallahassee Chapter of the National Alliance of Mental Health (NAMI) maintains a list of mental health and crisis services in the Leon County/Tallahassee area.

[See a list of local resources here](#)



Old Town Neighborhood Assn. Food Drive

The Old Town Neighborhood Association (my very own HOA) is organizing a food drive from **May 6-14**. Both the Leon High School and Cobb Middle School food pantries are in constant need of restocking. **Drop-off** non-perishable, read to eat & easy to make items to **Uptown Cafe** (1325 Miccosukee Rd.) or **Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church** (653 Miccosukee Rd.)

Childhood hunger is more prevalent that you can imagine and Leon county is ranked 3rd in the hungriest counties in our state.

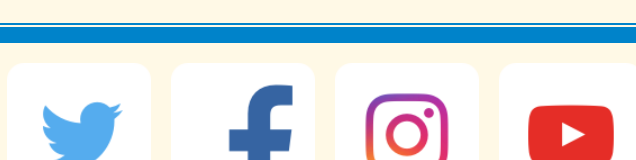
Truths about Homelessness

Truth: The large majority of people experiencing homelessness in a given area are either from the community in which they're experiencing homelessness, or had been living there for multiple years before they lost housing.

Truth: The relationship between homelessness and mental illness and substance use disorders is complex, and many people experiencing homelessness have neither type of condition. Moreover, mental illness and substance use do not predict homelessness at the community level. The best predictor of homelessness is a lack of affordable housing.

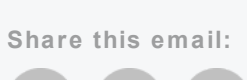
Truth: Homelessness is not a choice. Many people experiencing homelessness are employed or actively seeking employment and would move inside if housing responsive to their needs were available.

Learn more at: [Community Solutions - Affirming Truths about Homelessness](#)



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

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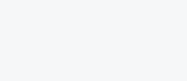


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