



Dear Friends:

This month, Leon County WastePro customers saw their rate double despite continuing to get poor service. How can a company raise its rates and not increase its service quality? I'll try to lay out how we got here below.

**What we did to keep rates as low as possible**

Leon County went through two rounds of bid requests in hopes of getting a quality provider to offer lower rates than Waste Pro, but both times other bidders' rates were higher. Also, there is no guarantee other companies in this industry would perform better.

**Table #1: Residential Bid Rate Comparison**

	<b>Monthly Rate</b>	<b>Quarterly Rate</b>	<b>Annual Rate</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
<b>Current Rate</b>	\$ 15.03	\$ 45.09	\$ 180.36	
<b>Waste Pro</b>	\$ 23.17	\$ 69.51	\$ 278.04	54.2%
<b>FCC</b>	\$ 23.99	\$ 71.97	\$ 287.88	59.6%
<b>Waste Management</b>	\$ 28.18	\$ 84.54	\$ 338.16	87.5%

We have been getting a good deal since 2013 compared to the rest of Florida. The proposed rate of \$23.17 is still lower than the City pays (\$23.62) and lower than

the average County in Florida pays (\$26.38).

Before the February Commission meeting, I suggested that the County Administrator reduce the 5% franchise fee paid to the County to 3%. Then, we can pass the \$200,000 savings to customers' rates while being budget-neutral. I wanted the savings passed on to residential customers, but most Commissioners wanted to pass the savings on to commercial customers.

At the March Commission meeting, we approved Option B. This reduced commercial rates but not residential. Again, I would have preferred reducing residential rates for 30,000 customers. But instead, we decreased commercial rates for 400 customers.

**Table #3: Negotiated Options - Rates**

Franchise Fee	Current Rate	Waste Pro Bid	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
Franchise fee	5%	5%	5%	3%	3%	3%
Residential	15.03	23.17	23.17	23.17	24.17	25.17
2 Cubic Yard	92.80	146.79	139.86	131.20	117.78	104.61
4 Cubic Yard	185.59	293.57	279.72	262.40	235.55	209.23
6 Cubic Yard	278.39	440.36	419.58	393.60	353.33	313.84
8 Cubic Yard	371.19	587.15	559.44	524.80	471.10	418.45
95 Gallon Cart	25.27	41.95	36.95	36.95	36.95	36.95
Compactor	210.56	455.00	355.00	355.00	355.00	355.00

**What do we do about poor service?**

You have had service issues for years, and we have collected penalties from Waste Pro for many of those service failures. You can see the sharp increase in recent years in the table below.

*Table #1. Waste Pro Inquiries, Requests for Services, and Liquidated Damages Assessments 2019-2023*

Calendar Year	# Inquiries/ Grievance	# Requests for Service	# Liquidated Damages Legitimate Complaints	\$ Liquidated Damages
2019	4,064	21,074	2,245	\$201,780
2020	3,126	25,499	355	\$30,950
2021	3,696	24,390	573	\$50,115
2022	5,218	22,108	4,602	\$423,615
2023 <sup>1</sup>	4,124	14,862	2,427	\$220,480

<sup>1</sup> 2023 totals reflect January – August. August is tentative and not yet finalized. |

Our new **contract increases the penalties for service failures**. Keep contacting Waste Pro, Leon County, and me when you have issues so we can make sure we collect

all damages possible. I'm linking to the liquidated damages list in the new contract [here](#).

### What do I do now when I get poor service or no service?

1. Contact Waste Pro at 850-606-1899 or [www.wasteprousa.com/leon-county/](http://www.wasteprousa.com/leon-county/)
2. Then contact Leon County at 850-606-1800 or [www.leoncountyfl.gov/SolidWaste](http://www.leoncountyfl.gov/SolidWaste)
3. Please email me at [okeefed@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:okeefed@leoncountyfl.gov) so I can keep telling staff to add penalties.

### I don't want to use Waste Pro - what can I do instead?

You can responsibly bring garbage, yard waste, recycling, and bulky items to one of four **Rural Waste Centers**.

Site	Address	Days	Hours	Phone
Solid Waste Facility	<a href="#">7550 Apalachee Pkwy</a>	Mon - Sat	8am-5pm	850.606.1800
Woodville	<a href="#">549 Henry Jones Rd</a>	Fri Sat, Sun	9am-6pm 9am-5pm	850.488.9099
Ft Braden	<a href="#">2485 East Joe Thomas Rd</a>	Fri Sat, Sun	9am-6pm 9am-5pm	850.488.9119
Miccosukee	<a href="#">13051 Miccosukee Rd</a>	Fri Sat, Sun	9am-6pm 9am-5pm	850.922.0097

Unfortunately, by outsourcing waste pickup, we lost some control over how much it costs and the quality of the service. We are doing all we have the power to do to improve service and keep rates low.

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



## Shelter Pet of the Month

**Meet Shadow!** She is a spayed female and looks to be a domestic medium hair. The shelter staff thinks she's 2 years and 5 months old.

We love black cats here in the District 5 Office. In fact, Commissioner O'Keefe and his wife have two black cats of their own.

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

A flyer for an Eastside Community Meeting. The top half shows a blurred image of a large group of people seated in an audience. Below this, there is a circular portrait of Commissioner David O'Keefe, a man with glasses and a beard, wearing a suit. The text on the flyer includes: "BE PART OF THE DISCUSSION.", "EASTSIDE COMMUNITY MEETING", "COMMISSIONER DAVID O'KEEFE", "Leon County Commission, District 5", "MONDAY", "October 16, 2023" (with a calendar icon), "6:00PM - 7:30PM" (with a clock icon), and "Eastside Branch Library", "1583 Pedrick Road". The background of the flyer features a stylized illustration of a building and a road.

## Eastside Community Meeting

Join me on **Monday, October 16th**, for a community meeting to discuss the issues affecting District 5 in Leon County. The meeting will be an opportunity for us to hear from you about the issues that matter the most and share information with you. We encourage everyone to attend and participate in this important discussion. **[RSVP here.](#)**



County staff will also be in attendance to help answer your questions. I've heard from many of you about concerns related to area traffic, development issues and WastePro service.

I hope you will join me next Monday at the Eastside Branch Library from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

---

## Holocaust Education Resource Council's Remembrance Dinner

The Holocaust Education Resource Council (HERC) will host their 12th annual Remembrance Dinner to honor all Holocaust survivors; millions of men, women, and children who suffered persecution and horrific inhumanity. This year's Humanitarian Award Honoree is Ken Boutwell, co-founder of Capital Health Plan and former CEO of MGT of America. If you want to attend this important event, tickets are still available **online** or by calling HERC at (850) 443-9649.



---

## Oct. 10th County Commission Meeting Recap

- ✓ Approved the Leon County Housing Finance Authority to issue \$55 million in revenue bonds to construct 156 affordable housing rental units for low-income and extremely low-income households located on Kissimmee St.
- ✓ Approved leveraging the County's State Housing Initiatives Partnership allocations and Emergency Rental Assistance funding to apply for a \$10 million federal HUD grant

to increase the stock of affordable housing units.

✓ Adopted an ordinance requiring new residential subdivisions, including multi-family developments, to provide streetlights at school bus stops.

✓ Adopted an ordinance that increases the available land for residential infill development by allowing Accessory Dwelling Units in additional zoning districts.

---

## Upcoming Public Meetings

☐ **Oct. 24 at 1 p.m.:** Workshop on 2024 State & Federal Legislative Priorities, County Commission Chamber, County Courthouse.

☐ **Nov. 7 at 3 p.m.:** Blueprint IA Board Meeting, City Commission Chamber, City Hall.

☐ **Nov. 14 at 3 pm:** County Commission Meeting & Public Hearings, County Commission Chamber, County Courthouse.



## Worlds of Work Career Expo

Are you a high school student and wondering what's next after graduation?

Worlds of Work allows high school students to meet with employers at their own pace. A parent, guardian, or adult mentor must accompany students. During WOW students and parents will be able to participate in all the world experiences and explore options for after graduation. Students (and parents) who visit all of the worlds will be entered to win door prizes, and seniors will be entered into drawings for college scholarships!

Please **register** in advance for this event. Please bring the registration confirmation to check in at the WOW Event.

---

## September Blueprint Meeting

One of the big issues that we discussed at our recent Blueprint Meeting was a **\$1.8 million request** by a local developer for the **SOMO Walls Distillery** project. I opposed this developer giveaway because the return on our investment didn't add up. We gave them nearly \$1.8 million in return for only 35 permanent jobs.

When Blueprint gave \$2.5 million to attract an Amazon Fulfillment Center to locate in Tallahassee, the return on our investment was the creation of more than 1,000 jobs for our community.

Following the meeting, I clipped several videos highlighting my comments and questions for our staff. Click the image below to watch the videos.



Share this email:



emma<sup>®</sup>

[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove®

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

301 S. Monroe Street 5th Floor  
Tallahassee, FL | 32301 US

This email was sent to .

*To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.*