



LEON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

**Rick Minor**

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER



## September - October 2024 News & Updates

### Upcoming Meetings

#### Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA)

- Tuesday, October 15 at 1:30pm
- Tallahassee City Commission Chambers
- The agenda will be posted [here](#) on or about October 8th.

#### Board of County Commissioners Workshop on Legislative Priorities

- Tuesday, October 22nd at 1pm
- County Courthouse
- The agenda will be posted on or about October 15th [here](#).

#### Board of County Commissioners Workshop on the Comp Plan

- Tuesday, October 22nd at 3pm
- County Courthouse
- The agenda will be posted on or about October 15th [here](#).

#### Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency

- Thursday, November 14 at 3pm
- Tallahassee City Commission Chambers
- The agenda will be available on or about November 7th [here](#).

#### Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting, Installation of Newly-Elected Commissioners and Reorganization of the Board

- Tuesday, November 19 at 3pm
- County Courthouse
- The agenda will be posted on or about October 12th [here](#).

Hello Rick,

Needless to say, it's been a stressful couple of weeks. Hurricane Helene was expected to hit Leon County directly, and then veered ever so slightly in the final hours. For the most part, our community was spared but many Floridians to the east -- as well as people in several Southeastern states -- felt the full fury of the storm.

And just yesterday, Hurricane Milton barreled through Central Florida. While Leon County wasn't affected, many of us have been greatly concerned for our family and friends living in that area. My in-laws came up to Tallahassee to wait out the storm, and they just learned that, fortunately, their home is undamaged.

One of the things I love most about this community is that we have big hearts. We go out of our way to help those in need, and many citizens have asked how they can assist those affected by Helene and Milton. The Tallahassee Democrat has a great list of businesses and organizations that are organizing supply drives and other assistance. Click [HERE](#) for more information, and thank you for anything you can do.

Storms aside, there's a lot going on, and this newsletter captures some of the news. Not one but TWO District 3 neighborhoods have won awards! We also have the Leon County 2024 annual report, updates on North Monroe and Lake Jackson, and some great upcoming events. I hope you'll find this information helpful, and please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any suggestions, comments, questions or any community issues.

Thank you once again for the incredible honor of representing you at the Leon County Commission.

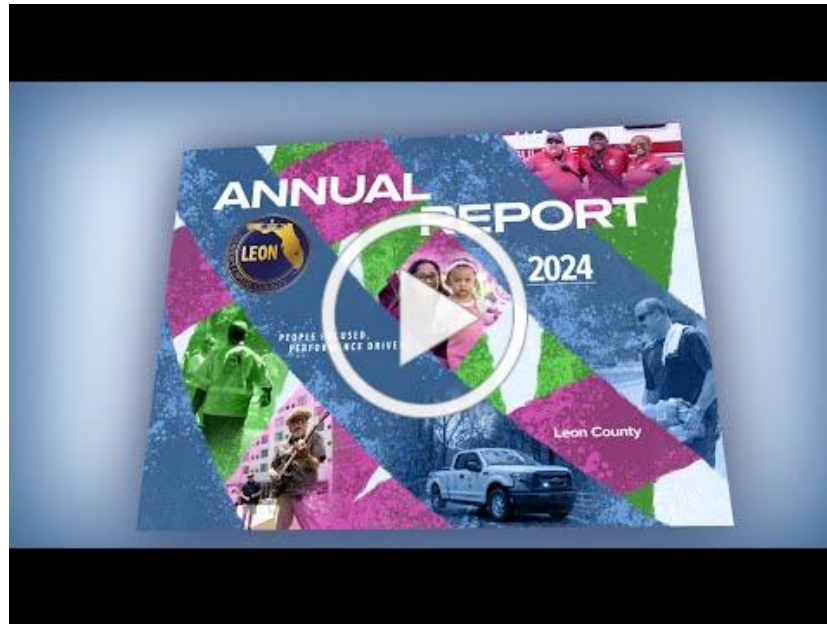
All the best,

**Rick Minor**  
Commissioner, Leon County District 3  
[MinorR@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:MinorR@leoncountyfl.gov)

P.S. If you have friends and family who might be

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## Leon County's 2024 Annual Report



In 2024, Leon County continued to make great progress and serve our citizens while embracing big challenges and always striving to set the standard for performance, fiscal stewardship, and best practices for local governments everywhere.

While addressing the critical needs of our community, we stayed committed to our long-term strategy of building and diversifying our economy, resulting in Leon County being named the nation's strongest economy in 2024 by Area Development magazine.

As one of the South's best destinations, 2024 was another record-breaking year for our local tourism economy. From concerts to festivals to sporting events and more, local tourism generated more than \$1.3 billion in economic impact and more than 2.5 million visitors. In 2024, our community celebrated its Bicentennial year with events and programs focused on 200 years of history and progress. Throughout the year, the County led Bicentennial planning efforts, resulting in more than 200 themed events.

And we did this and more in 2024, staying focused on our ambitious targets and bold goals for the organization and the community, including growing our local tourism economy, addressing pressing issues like affordable housing, protecting our precious environment, and so much more.

Through the vision and leadership provided by our County Administrator and the hard work of our dedicated County employees, we at Leon County remain committed to listening to the people we serve, addressing the challenges we face together, and striving to be a place like nowhere else.

Please learn more about all of Leon County's efforts this year on behalf of and alongside our community in the [2024 Leon County Annual Report](#).

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## Hurricane Helene Relief Effort



Many thanks to the many partner agencies - including the State and the Federal Government, who worked alongside Leon County Government to ensure that Leon County residents were well-cared for before, during and after Hurricane Helene.

In addition to assisting Leon County residents, Rick recently participated in a Hurricane Helene supply drive for residents of hard-hit Madison and Taylor Counties.

Along with the Leon County Sheriff's Office, Costco, United Partners for Human Services, The Greg Tish Show, state Rep. Allison Tant, state Sen. Corey Simon and J.H. Dowling Inc., Rick helped with the drive that collected canned goods, diapers, toilet paper, water and much more. The generosity of Leon County residents never ceases to amaze us!

By the end of the drive, residents had donated enough supplies to fill up two 28-foot truck bays! Later that day, these supplies were trucked to Madison and Taylor counties.

## District 3 is the Place to Be!



*Rick with Camellia Gardens neighborhood leaders upon receiving their Neighborhood of the Year award from the Leon County Commission.*



*Rick with leaders of Town & Country at the neighborhood meeting celebrating their Neighborhood of the Year award*

Recently, both Leon County and the City of Tallahassee recognized their Neighborhoods

of the Year -- and **neighborhoods in District 3 were big winners!**

On the County side, Leon County Government and the Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA) recognized our community's outstanding neighborhoods and neighbors through the 43rd Annual Neighborhood Recognition Program. This year's winners were recognized for going above and beyond in the last year to make our community a better place to live, work, and play.

The Small Neighborhood of the Year Award (200 homes or fewer) went to a District 3 neighborhood - the **Camellia Gardens Neighborhood Association** for, among other things, enhancing their neighborhood by transforming an underutilized area into a beautiful recreation space where the community could engage, rest, and play.

And on the City side, District 3 neighborhood **Town & Country** was recognized as the City of Tallahassee's 2024 Neighborhood of the Year!

Congratulations to both of these District 3 neighborhoods, as well as the neighbors and neighborhood leaders who make them such wonderful places in which to live.

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## Federal Disaster Assistance



FEMA

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### Where you affected by Hurricane Helene? Here's how to Apply for FEMA Assistance

Residents affected by Hurricane Helene can apply for FEMA disaster assistance, which can include help with immediate needs, temporary lodging, home repairs, and other disaster-related expenses.

#### Ways to apply:

- Visit [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://DisasterAssistance.gov)
- Use the **FEMA App**
- Call **800-621-3362** from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. ET daily (multilingual operators available)

Please have the following information ready when applying:

- A current phone number where you can be contacted
- Your address at the time of the disaster and your current address
- Your Social Security number
- A general list of damage and losses
- Banking information for direct deposit
- Insurance details, including policy numbers, agent, and company name if applicable

If you have homeowners, renters, or flood insurance, file a claim as soon as

possible. FEMA cannot duplicate benefits for losses covered by insurance, but if your policy doesn't cover all expenses, you may be eligible for additional federal assistance.

For an accessible video on how to apply for assistance, visit [FEMA's YouTube page](#).

Stay updated on Florida's recovery at [FEMA.gov/Disaster/4794](https://www.fema.gov/Disaster/4794), or follow FEMA on X (formerly Twitter) at [X.com/FEMARegion4](https://x.com/FEMARegion4) or on [Facebook.com/FEMA](https://www.facebook.com/FEMA).

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## Update on the North Monroe Safety Grant Application



Earlier this year the [Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency \(CRTPA\)](#) and its transportation consultants worked tirelessly over many months to submit a *Safe Streets for All* (SS4A) federal grant application for North Monroe. To review key aspects of the application and the North Monroe Street Safety Implementation Plan, go to agenda item 6E [here](#).

In September the CRTPA's was awarded \$198,618 for North Monroe median improvements. We're very grateful for this funding, but of course it won't fully address the high rate of fatalities and injuries that occur on Tallahassee's #1 gateway. Much more must be done.

To that end, Rick and the CRTPA recently met with a representative from the U.S. Department of Transportation, who was very positive about our application and suggested that we reapply next year. Accordingly, Rick will advocate for the CRTPA to reapply and for Blueprint to maintain its commitment to the required 20% matching amount of \$4.2 million.

The safety issues on North Monroe are significant and well-documented, so we're hopeful that a resubmitted application will lead to full funding.

We're thankful to the CRTPA staff and the transportation consultants for getting us to this point, and we're most grateful to all of you who attended meetings, signed the [MonroeMakeover.com](https://www.monroemakeover.com) petition, and expressed your views on the importance of improving North Monroe. We will continue to push forward!

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## Recognizing Barbara Boone Day



On October 8, 2024, Rick presented a proclamation to Barbara Boone -- the Executive Director of the Leadership Tallahassee program and a Vice President of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce -- recognizing that day as "Barbara Boone Day".

Members of nearly every Leadership Tallahassee class attended the presentation, which honored Ms. Boone's 25 years of servant leadership and commitment to empowering others. The proclamation, signed by all of the County Commissioners, stated that Ms. Boones is "one of Leon County's most beloved community leaders."

Thanks to everyone who was able to attend the County Commission meeting and support Barbara! To learn more about Leadership Tallahassee and to learn how to apply to this program, [click here](#).

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## Repaired Railroad Crossing

**Repaired railroad crossing  
near the Tharpe St. / Mission Rd. intersection**

**BEFORE:**



**AFTER:**



**Thanks to Leon County's Public Works Department!**

If you've driven over the railroad crossing at Tharpe Street and Mission Road recently, you've no doubt noticed the repairs that have been done. Thanks to the many neighbors who reached out to our office raising concerns about this railroad crossing and to the Leon County's Public Works Department for making the repairs. As you can see from the comparison photos above, the difference is striking.

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## Campaign Sign Recycling Program



Leon County Government has partnered with the Leon County Supervisor of Elections Office, Marpan Recycling, and the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee to facilitate the recycling of old campaign signs. Large recycling bins are stationed throughout Leon County in the weeks after each election to allow campaigns and voters easily recycle campaign signs. This helps to beautify our community as well as recycle the signs and wire stands into usable materials.

### **What Can I Recycle?**

You can recycle plastic campaign signs as well as the metal wire stands. Please separate the sign from the stand before placing both parts into the designed recycling bin.

### **Where Are the Recycling Spots?**

Sign recycling bins will be available at each Leon County Branch Library as well as several other locations throughout Leon County after each election. The recycling bins are located in the parking lot of each facility, allowing for easy unloading of signs from your vehicle into the bin.

- Dr. B.L. Perry Branch Library - 2817 S. Adams St
- Eastside Branch Library - 1583 Pedrick Rd
- Jane G Sauls Fort Braden Branch Library - 16387 Blountstown Hwy
- Lake Jackson Branch Library - 3840 N Monroe St
- Bruce J. Host Northeast Branch Library - 5513 Thomasville Rd
- Woodville Branch Library - 8000 Old Woodville Rd
- Leon County Elections Center - 2990-1 Apalachee Pkwy
- Leon County Hazardous Waste Drop Off Site - 1800 N Blair Stone Road
- Marpan Recycling Facility - 6020 Woodville Highway

### **When Are the Recycling Bins Available?**

The bins will be available at the Leon County libraries for one week after the election, November 6 - 13, 2024.

The bins located at the Elections Center, Hazardous Waste Drop off, and Marpan Recycling will be available for four weeks after the election, November 6 - December 5, 2024.

The bins are open and accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week during these dates.

### **Additional Questions**

If you have questions about the campaign sign recycling program please contact Leon County's Office of Resource Stewardship at [sustainability@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:sustainability@leoncountyfl.gov).

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## **Update from Friends of Okeehoopkee at Lake Jackson Aquatic Preserve**



The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) began conducting mechanical aquatic plant management on Lake Jackson on August 13, 2024. This will continue into 2025.

Management will target nuisance floating tussocks (including Cuban bulrush, an invasive species) primarily within Meginnis and Ford's Arms. Work will be scheduled so as not to interfere with waterfowl hunting season.

The goal of this project is to restore open water habitat, promote native aquatic plants, and enhance access. Habitat management using mechanical shredding will also allow desired emergent and submersed aquatic vegetation to expand, enhancing fish and wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.

For more information about the FWC's Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Restoration projects, please visit [MyFWC.com/AquaticHabitats](https://MyFWC.com/AquaticHabitats).

For general waterbody information, fishing forecast, virtual tours, schedules and annual workplans, boat ramp information, and more, visit the "What's Happening on My Lake" website at [MyFWC.com/Lakes](https://MyFWC.com/Lakes).

And to keep up-to-date with the Friends of Okeehoopkee, follow them on Facebook [here](#).

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## **Unlocking the Door to Homeownership**



# Unlocking the Door to Homeownership



Ready to take the first step toward homeownership? Hosted in partnership with the Tallahassee Lenders' Consortium and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, this session will provide information on a variety of local and federal programs for first-time homebuyers. Refreshments provided.

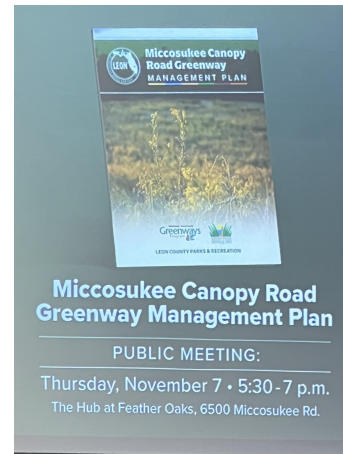
Date: Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Location: 615 Paul Russell Road, Tallahassee, FL 32301

[Register here.](#)

## Public Meeting - Miccosukee Canopy Road Greenway Management Plan

Join us on Thursday, November 7th for a public meeting on the Miccosukee Canopy Road Management Plan.

The meeting will run from 5:30 - 7:00 pm at the Hub at Feather Oaks, 6500 Miccosukee Road.



## Listen to Rick on the Greg Tish Show

On September 30th, Rick was the guest on the Greg Tish show, where they covered topics ranging from Hurricane Helene to bringing passenger rail to Tallahassee - and so much more.

[Listen here.](#)



## Lake Jackson Clean-up

Rick and his family recently joined

Keep Tallahassee Beautiful, the Friends of Lake Jackson and the Lake Jackson Aquatic Preserve management team for the 2024 Shoreline Clean.

Thanks to all of the organizers and volunteers for another great year of cleaning the shorelines in Leon County!



## The Pickle Pad

Rick recently attended the ribbon cutting of one of District 3's newest businesses - The Pickle Pad.

The Pickle Pad, located at 1925 N. Monroe St., is an indoor pickleball and entertainment experience featuring multiple courts, spectator seating and a full-service, chef-inspired restaurant.

For more information visit <https://www.thepicklepad.com/>.



## Leon County News and Alerts

Don't miss out on crucial updates from Leon County!

Subscribe to Leon County news and alerts for the latest info on County programs and services.

Sign up [here](#).



## In Memoriam: Pam Ridley



It is with deep sadness that we recognize the passing of Pam Ridley, owner of Sentry Self Storage and a champion for youth, women and small businesses. Pam was a pillar in our community and was a 2008 honoree of the Tallahassee Democrat's "25 Women You Need To Know". She also founded Club 25, a non-profit alumni association of the honorees.

Pam's leadership in and dedication to our

*Photo credit: Tallahassee Democrat*

community will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to have known her.

Leon County Commission, District 3 | 301 S Monroe St | Tallahassee, FL 32301 US

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