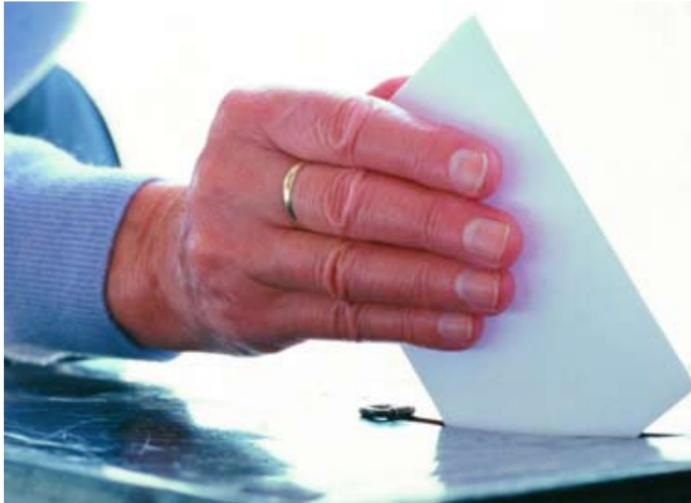




The Leon County LINK

Connecting Citizens with
Leon County Services

Board Opposes Property Tax Amendment on Jan. 29 Ballot



At the Dec. 11 Board of County Commissioners meeting, the Board voted to oppose the proposed constitutional amendment on property tax reform and adopted a resolution with the following proclamations:

1. The State of Florida continues to provide an obsolete tax structure for its citizens and political subdivisions.
2. The proposed amendment will exacerbate the current property tax inequities that can only be corrected through the Florida Constitution.
3. The State of Florida does not recognize the challenges of Florida's local governments to provide services to an aging population, maintain deteriorating infrastructure, and bear significant increases in operational and capital costs.
4. The State of Florida has disguised the proposed amendment for January 29, 2008 as property tax reform but it does not address, mitigate, or resolve the inherent inequities in Florida's tax structure.
5. The proposed amendment offers a one size fits all approach for local governments and school districts without taking in to consideration the needs of the local citizenry.
6. The proposed amendment restricts local citizen involvement and flexibility in shaping government to best meet the County's unique and changing needs.
7. The proposed amendment is estimated to reduce the County's tax base by \$10.7 million, threatening some of the services that Leon County citizens depend on.
8. A reduction in services could significantly jeopardize the quality of life in Leon County which has been a proud distinction of many County residents.

The Board encourages citizens to be educated on the proposed property tax amendment and, if passed, the consequences the amendment would have on local government. To view the resolution in its entirety and to learn more about the constitutional amendment, visit www.leoncountyfl.gov. For more information, please contact the Public

Household Hazardous Waste Roundup

In an effort to promote health and safety within our community, the Leon County Solid Waste Management Division collects potentially harmful materials, or household hazardous waste (HHW), for proper disposal.

The Solid Waste Management Division is holding a HHW & Electronics Roundup from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 2, at the Tallahassee Mall, 2415 N. Monroe St., in the back parking lot behind Goody's.

HHW includes items such as: aerosol cans, antifreeze, rechargeable batteries (alkaline batteries may be placed in household garbage), bleach, cleaning products, paint, gasoline, oil, and prescription drugs. Electronics include items such as TVs, stereos, computers, and telephones. There is a 50-pound limit per household. Please note that electronics do not include appliances, such as vacuum cleaners, electric can openers, fans, and microwaves.

Also, you can drop off your HHW and electronics at the Leon County Solid Waste Management Facility, located at 7550 Apalachee Parkway, Tuesday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, please contact the Leon County Solid Waste Management Division at 606-1803.

Leon County to Offer Discount Prescription Drug Program

The Leon County Board of County Commissioners will soon be introducing a discount card program to help consumers cope with the high price of prescription drugs. During the late summer, the County signed a contract to make free prescription drug discount cards available under a program sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo) that offers average savings of 20 percent off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs.

The cards, which will be available in February, may be used by all county residents, regardless of age, income, or existing health coverage. Many of the County's pharmacies will accept the NACo card, and a national network of more than 57,000 participating retail pharmacies will also honor the card.

There will be no cost to County taxpayers for NACo and Leon County to make these money-saving cards available to residents. A future announcement will specify how and when residents may obtain cards.

In addition to the benefits available to our residents, pet owners may also take advantage of the cards. If your pet has been prescribed a medication, you may receive a discount on the medication by taking the prescription to a participating retail pharmacy. The discount card program is administered by Caremark Rx, Inc. For more information, please contact the Health & Human Services Division at 606-1900.



Library Provides E-Media Service for Your MP3 Player or Computer

The Leon County Library System is now offering its latest online service – OverDrive – just in time to use with that new MP3 player or computer. While you are perusing the Internet and downloading MP3s, be sure to visit www.leoncountyfl.gov/library to download best-selling, digital audiobooks and videos free of charge.

Audiobook files can be transferred to your MP3 player for listening on-the-go. Selected titles, which are marked with a flame icon, can be burned to a CD. Digital videos can be "checked out" and include a variety of genres such as children's, documentary, and instructional.

"It's important that the Library System's resources remain current and compatible with what people are using. OverDrive is one service that keeps us on the brink of popular technology," stated Library Director Helen Moeller.

To use this service, look for a special link on the Library's Web site called "Audio and Video E-media Downloads." OverDrive, Inc. digital materials are accessible to anyone with Internet access and a valid library card, which is free to all Leon County residents. Please note that this service is not compatible with Apple iPods. For a complete list of compatible devices, please visit www.overdrive.com/resources/drc/.

January 2008 Board of County Commissioners Schedule

- 1 Offices Closed, New Year's Day
- 15 Board of County Commissioners Meeting, 3 p.m.
Public Hearings, 6 p.m.
Leon County Courthouse, 5th Floor, Commission Chambers
- 21 Offices Closed in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 28 Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency Meeting, 1 p.m.
City Commission Chambers, City Hall, 300 S. Adams St.
- 29 Board of County Commissioners Meeting, 3 p.m.
Public Hearings, 6 p.m.
Leon County Courthouse, 5th Floor, Commission Chambers

The Link is produced by the Leon County Public Information Office,
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