



THE LEON COUNTY LINK

Connecting Citizens with Leon County Services

PEOPLE FOCUSED. PERFORMANCE DRIVEN.

Building a Balanced and Fair Budget *Proposed Fee and Service Changes for Leon County*

During the past six years, Leon County government has done everything possible to streamline the budget. In fact, we have reduced our budget by over \$62 million since 2007 - that's more than \$850,000 a month in reductions and savings. We have made big cuts and big changes. However, while the County constrained spending to the absolute necessities and passed along millions in property tax savings over this time, we also recognized the need to make changes to ensure the long-term fiscal health of our County. In doing so, we will be reallocating some of the taxes and fees that you currently pay. We also want you to know that while we are making these changes, we continue to be focused on providing you top-notch service at the lowest cost possible.

Leon County exercised deliberate, necessary and reasoned focus that served to reduce or eliminate general revenue subsidies to Leon County's enterprise operations, specifically the transportation, solid waste and stormwater programs. These actions will also assist the County in its ability to reduce its reliance on the use of reserves to balance the budget.

We appreciate your feedback as we continue to build a balanced and fair budget. Please meet with us at one of the community meetings listed below.

Community Meetings

Wednesday, May 15 • 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Chaires Elementary School (Cafeteria), 4774 Charies Cross Road

Thursday, May 16 • 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Fort Braden School (Cafeteria), 15100 Blountstown Highway

Tuesday, May 21 • 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Montford Middle School (Cafeteria), 5789 Pimlico Drive

Please know that we remain committed to do everything possible to keep your taxes low and to keep your County government among the leanest, most efficient in the state, while continuing to deliver the high quality services you deserve.

If you have any questions about how Leon County is building a balanced and fair budget, please contact the Office of Financial Stewardship at **(850) 606-5100**, or email **Info@LeonCountyFL.gov**.



Domestic Partnership Registry

Leon County's domestic partnership registry opened for business May 1, 2013.

A crowd of attendees gathered for the opening day celebration in the plaza that leads into the Leon County Clerk of Courts' Official Records Office. With the opening of the domestic partnership registry, more than 7,500 unmarried-partner households in Leon County gain access to critical rights that protect and strengthen families. Approximately two dozen couples registered with the Deputy Clerk of Courts throughout the day.

Additional information, including answers to frequently asked questions, is available from Leon County's website at www.LeonCountyFL.gov/DPR. For more information regarding how to register, please contact the Leon County Clerk of Courts at **(850) 577-4000**.

Imagine Tallahassee

Imagine Tallahassee is an exciting initiative uniting the community to answer the question: **What is our story?**



Join one of the upcoming community open houses to share your insight:

Monday, May 20 • 5:30 p.m.

Bethel AME Church

Tuesday, May 21 • 2:00 p.m.

City Commission Chambers

Come join your fellow community members to embark on creating our vision for Tallahassee!

Additional information is available at www.LeonCountyFL.gov/ImagineTallahassee or find Imagine Tallahassee on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ImagineTallahassee.

Leon County to Offer After-Hours Building Inspections

Leon County Government understands that building projects, both big and small, happen day and night, weekdays and weekends. If a family needs electrical service repaired to power appliances or their heating and cooling, the work may occur after-hours or on the weekend.

Now Leon County employees from Development Support and Environmental Management can perform inspections at times not only convenient but necessary for county residents. Previously, single-family dwellings were only inspected during normal work hours and not on the weekend. Citizens can take advantage of this new service immediately.

For more information, contact **Ed Jarriel, Jr.**, Director of Leon County Building Plans Review and Inspections, at **(850) 606-1300** or JarrielE@LeonCountyFL.gov.

Capital Cuisine Restaurant Week

Mark Your Calendar... the second annual Capital Cuisine Restaurant Week is scheduled for **Thursday, May 16** through **Tuesday, May 28!**

The Leon County Division of Tourism Development (Visit Tallahassee) will showcase the area's unique restaurants, farm-to-table fare and culinary creativity. This year there is a new featured item: live music. Hear sweet sounds performed at venues all over Tallahassee during the 13-day celebration.



For more information, go to www.VisitTallahassee.com.

Honor Flight

Honor Flight - an organization with the sole mission of sending World War II veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices - will take its inaugural flight at **7 a.m. on Saturday, May 11.**



More than 80 veterans from North Florida and South Georgia have signed up to be transported to the nation's capital. Dollars have been raised to help offset the costs of airfare, buses, meals, wheelchairs, oxygen and additional support for the trip. However, the cost is free for each of the veterans. The Leon County Board of County Commissioners originally approved a \$10,000 contribution to Honor Flight in October 2012. Then, an additional contribution of \$5,000 was made to assist in making sure the nonprofit organization met its goals.

A Heroes' Welcome is also planned for **9:40 p.m. on May 11** at Flightline Group at compass Pointe Hangar, 3232 Capital Circle SW at the Tallahassee Regional Airport. Friends and Family will welcome the veterans home with music, handshakes and sincere thanks for their service to our country. Everyone is welcome to come out to welcome the veterans home!

Honor Flight has relied on public support for the men and women veterans who are being transported to Washington, D.C. Donations can be made at www.honorflighttallahassee.org/donate/ or **Honor Flight Tallahassee; P.O. Box 12033; Tallahassee, FL 32317.**

For more information, contact **1-888-881-1566** or info@honorflighttallahassee.org.

Celebrate Children's Book Week

Meet Local Children's Authors

Monday, May 13 • 6:30 p.m. • Main Library Program Room

Adrian Fogelin, Evelyn Coleman, Wayne Torbert, Laura Lascarso, and Jan Godown Annino join us to talk about their books and experiences writing for children.

Celebrate Children's Book Week by reading aloud or listening to someone reading!

Each afternoon, from **Monday, May 13 to Friday, May 17, 4 - 5 p.m.**, celebrate an hour of reading aloud in the Youth Services section at the Main Library, 200 West Park Avenue. Bring your family and come and read, or come and listen. If you'd like to read, please call **(850) 606-2708**.

For the Love of Pets & Parks

Saturday, June 1 • 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Miccosukee Greenway, 5600 Miccosukee Road at Edenfield Road entrance

Many of us love our pets and many of us also love our parks! Come out to celebrate responsible pet use in our local greenways in order to keep them a nice place for everyone. Many animal service organizations will be on site offering education and adoption services.

For more information, contact Leon County Parks and Recreation at **(850) 606-1470**.

Spring Open House & Plant Sale

Leon County Extension Office is holding its Annual Spring Open House on **Saturday, May 11** from 9 a.m. to noon at 615 Paul Russell Road, about a quarter mile east of the fair grounds. The event is free and open to the public.

Guided tours will meander through six demonstration gardens covering about one acre. Also, the Master Gardener Program and extension office departments will have educational booths or exhibits.

Come take a tour and find out first hand what your Leon County Extension Office has to offer.

For more information, contact **Kendra Zamojski** with the Leon County Extension Office at **(850) 606-5200** or ZamojskiK@LeonCountyFL.gov.



MAY 2013

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SCHEDULE

14 Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting*
3 p.m., County Courthouse, 301 S. Monroe St., 5th Floor, Commission Chambers

Board of County Commissioners Public Hearing*
6 p.m., County Courthouse, 301 S. Monroe St., 5th Floor, Commission Chambers

20 Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA)
11 a.m., City Hall, 300 S. Adams, 2nd Floor, Commission Chambers

Capital Regional Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA)
1 p.m., City Hall, 300 S. Adams, 2nd Floor, Commission Chambers

27 Memorial Day, Offices Closed

28 Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting*
3 p.m., County Courthouse, 301 S. Monroe St., 5th Floor, Commission Chambers

Joint City/County Adoption Hearing on Cycle 2013-1*
Comprehensive Plan Amendments
6 p.m., County Courthouse, 301 S. Monroe St., 5th Floor, Commission Chambers

*Live television broadcast available on Comcast Channel 16; webcast available anytime at www.LeonCountyFL.gov.