



The Leon County LINK

Connecting Citizens with Leon County Services

County Town Hall Budget Meeting Tonight

Citizens are invited to attend a Town Hall Meeting on the 2007/2008 Tentative Budget at 6 p.m. tonight, in the Commission Chambers, located on the fifth floor of the County Courthouse, 301 S. Monroe St. The Town Hall Meeting will also serve as the first public hearing on the budget, where citizens will have the opportunity to provide input on the preliminary budget before it is finalized. The second public hearing will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 18, at 6 p.m., at which time the Board of County Commissioners will adopt the final budget.



The Board of County Commissioners faced a unique challenge in crafting the preliminary budget. The new property tax reform law passed during the recent special session requires Leon County to "rollback" tax rates to the previous year, as well as reduce an additional three percent. The Legislature's property tax reform package also includes a constitutional amendment to be placed on the January 29, 2008, ballot for voter consideration. The amendment provides for a super homestead exemption, and, if passed, would result in substantial revenue loss for the County.

In anticipation of the property tax reform, the County Administrator recommended, and the Board approved, a hiring and travel freeze in February to prepare for further property tax reform. Those freezes have tentatively been extended through the next legislative session of June 2008.

For detailed information on the 2007/2008 Tentative Budget, please visit www.leoncountyfl.gov.

The Library: Your Most Valuable School Supply



School is back in session, and the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library is ready to help. In addition to a wonderful selection of books, students can also take advantage of a variety of online resources. Whether at a library or home computer, students have round-the-clock access to information for help with homework, projects, and test

preparation. Demonstrations of online resources will be available at all Library locations during a special Back to School Open House from Sept. 9 through 15.

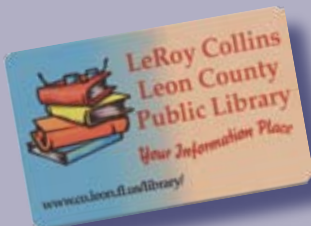
In the Homework Help section of the Library's Web site, students will find dictionaries, thesauri, science and history fair resources, biographies, encyclopedias, access to other databases, as well as links to Leon County schools. Just go to www.leoncountyfl.gov/library and click on Homework Help under Kids and Teens.

In addition to these great resources, the Library's Web site also offers a service called Learning Express. It features a wide selection of interactive practice tests and tutorial courses designed to help students and adult learners succeed on academic or licensing tests. Practice tests include selected portions of the FCAT, college entrance exams, military and civil service exams, real estate broker exams and many others. After completing a test, it can be scored instantly and correct answers can be reviewed online. To use Learning Express, click on the link Homework Help Web page. Enter your library card number as your "User Name," create a password, and you are ready to begin.

For more information about these or any other Library services, please contact the Main Library at 606-2665 or visit www.leoncountyfl.gov/library.

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month

It's the perfect time to make sure every student in your home has one. Cards are free to all Leon County residents. The Library will also be replacing damaged or lost cards for free through Sept. 31.



VolunteerLEON Connects Helping Hands with Needs of the Community

As the community's Volunteer Center, VolunteerLEON is the key resource for volunteer involvement in the Big Bend area. The Center, a division of the Health & Human Services Department, brings together individuals, non-profit organizations, governmental agencies, faith-based communities, and civic groups with community needs through a range of programs and services.

Last year, VolunteerLEON helped local service agencies connect with more than 25,000 volunteers who worked an estimated 800,000 volunteer hours, which saved the agencies more than \$14 million in estimated personnel wages. Additionally, Leon County government saved an estimated \$2,795,198 thanks to 5,651 volunteers in 2006.

If you would like to get involved in your community, VolunteerLEON has a great online resource called Volunteer Connection. Volunteers can go to www.volunteerleon.org, click on Volunteer Connection, and find volunteer opportunities across Leon County and the Big Bend area. No matter your skill level or interest area, there is a suitable volunteer opportunity for you. For more information, contact the Volunteer Center at 606-1970 or e-mail volunteerleon@leoncountyfl.gov.

Capture the Beauty of Leon County's Greenways



Calling all shutterbugs. Whether you are an experienced photographer or an amateur, you could be the winner of the 2007 Leon County Greenway Photo Contest. Residents and non-residents alike are encouraged to visit the J.R. Alford or the Miccosukee Canopy Greenway to capture that perfect image. The deadline for submissions is Oct. 31. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place.

All photos submitted for the contest will be posted on the Leon County Web site to display photographers' talents and the beauty of the County's greenways. For more information and contest rules, please visit the Parks & Recreation Web site at www.leoncountyfl.gov/parks. Submissions can be e-mailed to pio@leoncountyfl.gov.

Intergovernmental Agency Breaks Ground on Capital Circle Southeast

The Leon County - City of Tallahassee Blueprint 2000 Intergovernmental Agency broke ground on Capital Circle Southeast last week. This is the second expansion project on Capital Circle Southeast, and the project will span from just south of Tram Road to west of Woodville Highway. It will widen the existing undivided, rural road from two lanes to a six-lane divided urban roadway. The 2.2-mile project will include a sidewalk, meandering trail, bicycle lanes, a substantially landscaped median and border, a curb and gutter, as well as significant stormwater improvements. For more information, please contact the Public Information Office at 606-5300.



September 2007

Board of County Commissioners Schedule

- 4 Town Hall Meeting and First Public Hearing on the 2007/08 Tentative Budget, 6 p.m.
Leon County Courthouse, 5th Floor, Commission Chambers
- 11 Commission Meeting, 3 p.m.
Leon County Courthouse, 5th Floor, Commission Chambers
- 17 Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency Meeting, 3 p.m.
Intergovernmental Agency Meeting, 5 p.m.
City Hall, 300 S. Adams St., 2nd Floor, Commission Chambers
- 18 Commission Meeting, 3 p.m.
Second Public Hearing on the 2007/08 Tentative Budget, 6 p.m.
Leon County Courthouse, 5th Floor, Commission Chambers

The Link is produced by the Leon County Public Information Office, 606-5300.