



# COUNTY ADMINISTRATION: CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT SERIES

## MAKING CITIZENS CO-CREATORS OF OUR COMMUNITY

Leon County launched the Citizen Engagement Series in January 2012 as part of Leon County's "People Focused, Performance Driven" culture. Since that time, over 300 citizens have received a unique, in-depth experience about County government's efforts to balance economic, environmental and quality of life goals for the community. The Citizen Engagement Series includes immersive activities to educate citizens on government activities, such as balancing the budget or planning a subdivision.

Leon County "Let's Balance!™" Budget Exercise introduced citizens to the hard fiscal choices County leadership makes throughout the year. The "Emergency Medical Services: Preserving Life, Improving Health, Promoting Safety" session highlighted the operations and services of Leon County's award-winning EMS by training citizens on trauma response.

The "Leon County Solid Waste Management: Beyond the Curb, Where Does It All Really Go?" session focused on issues related to disposing and recycling of the community's waste. The community event included an interactive exercise on hard-to-recycle household products and discussions about the 17,000 tons of yard debris collected by staff and the 18,000 gallons of paint recycled in 2012 at the Solid Waste Management Facility and throughout Leon County. Other sessions included an introduction to Leon County library services and also Leon County's thriving tourism industry. The "Creating and Sustaining this Special Place: Visioning, Planning, and Developing Our Future" session focused on zoning, development, and the preservation of natural resources. Through an immersive, hands-on experience, citizens used the County's flexible zoning and building laws to create diverse solutions for simulated developments.

Since starting the series in January 2012, the Citizen Engagement Series has won two national awards for citizen participation from the National Association of Counties and the City-County Communications & Marketing Association.

### January 2012

Leon County Basics:  
Our Government, Our Community

### March 2012

Balancing Budgets and Exercising Fiscal Stewardship:  
Making Hard Choices in Challenging Times

### May 2012

Emergency Medical Services:  
Preserving Life, Improving Health, Promoting Safety

### August 2012

LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System:  
Inspiring A Love of Reading and A Life of Learning

### October 2012

Leon County Solid Waste Management:  
Beyond the Curb, Where Does It All Go?

### January 2013

Leon County Tourism Work\$:  
Attracting Visitors, Creating Jobs

### June 2013

Creating and Sustaining This Special Place:  
Visioning, Planning, and Developing Our Future



**OUR OPINION |**

## Get engaged

### County needs to hear your ideas

On Sunday, the Tallahassee Democrat's exclusive front-page story went in depth about plans for a major development in the northeast part of Leon County that surely will be the focus of much community discussion.

For some, future development at Welaunee Plantation will be welcomed, but certainly many will want to keep a close eye on plans to expand infrastructure for this project.

That likely will come up for public approval way before a new community is built on this historic property.

But what kind of growth is needed in Leon County? Where should it be focused? And what do taxpayers say about essential planning, development and, ultimately, the change of landscape in Leon County?

If this is of great interest to you or your business, Leon County officials are providing you with a forum to express your views at 6 p.m. Thursday at the main library downtown.

This is not tied directly to the Welaunee development, but rather is another installment in the Citizen Engagement Series created by County Administrator Vince Long and commissioners to bring more transparency to government operations. The idea is to get citizen input on how Leon County government operates and how to make it more in tune with what residents expect in government planning.

Thursday's topic is "Creating and Sustaining This Special Place: Visioning, Planning and Developing Our Future." Seats are still available, but you must register by 5 p.m. today

by calling (850) 606-5300 or by visiting [www.LeonCountyfl.gov/CES](http://www.LeonCountyfl.gov/CES).

During the session, residents will get a chance to be a part of the discussion on planning and development and environmental policies.

Previous series topics have included budgeting, health and safety, the public library system and tourism.

These community offerings are important on several fronts, and if you are interested in being a participant in government, they are worthwhile. The sessions not only allow residents to hear firsthand from local government planners, but also help residents understand what priorities government has in mind and how those choices fit in with the interests and vision of their own businesses or investments.

*Editorial from the Tallahassee Democrat*

# CREATING & SUSTAINING THIS SPECIAL PLACE

**CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT SERIES**

**Creating & Sustaining This Special Place**

**Visioning, Planning and Developing Our Future**

**WELCOME**

### Lego Lake Site Plan Game

**Object:** It is your task to reconsider the layout of the proposed development while considering preferences of nearby landowners, the legal rights of the developer, and the development regulations.

**Rules of the Game:**

- Two story maximum building height
- Vehicular interconnection is required if residential is developed next to existing residential
- Green Buffer is required if Commercial is located next to Residential
- For every 1 Commercial block (red) you need 2 Impervious blocks (parking)
- For every 3 Commercial (red) or Impervious blocks you need 1 Green Space block (green)
- For every 5 ground floor Commercial (red), Residential (yellow), or Impervious blocks you need 1 Stormwater Facility block (blue)
- Use Roads to show transportation connections

**Game Pieces:**

- Commercial Area
- Residential Unit
- Stormwater Facility
- Impervious Parking
- Green Space
- Green Buffer Area
- Roads

