



# The Leon County LINK

## Connecting Citizens with Leon County Services

### County Increases Building Fees

In order to continue to maintain the highest level of service established by the Board of County Commissioners and demanded by the public, and to protect the safety of Leon County's buildings and their occupants, the County is raising its building fees incrementally, beginning March 1, 2007. Building Inspection services are funded completely by user fees that cover all of the division's budget expenditures. Leon County's fee schedule has remained unchanged since 1995 despite increases in the number of state mandated inspections and costs associated with the provision of this service, including the rising cost of fuel, insurance, salaries and technology.

The first increase will average 34 percent. The second increase, effective Oct. 1, 2007, will be 22 percent and the final increase, effective Oct. 1, 2008, will be 7 percent.

During FY 05, the Board retained the Maximus Consulting Group to analyze the actual cost of providing the various services rendered by the Building Inspection Division and recommend fees designed to fully recover that cost. Maximus determined that in some areas the recommended fee was actually less than the current fee, while in other areas the current fee was inadequate to recover today's cost of providing the service.



The Board of County Commissioners appointed a citizens' committee to review the consultants' recommendations. The committee consisted of representatives from the industry, including: the Tallahassee Builders Association, a commercial contractor, a residential contractor, an architect, a realtor and County staff. The committee made targeted adjustments to ensure equitability and unanimously recommended approval. The Board of County Commissioners subsequently adopted the ordinance following a public hearing on Jan. 23, 2007.

The new fee schedule is available by visiting [www.leonpermits.org](http://www.leonpermits.org) or the Growth and Environmental Management Office, 3401 W. Tharpe St. Please note, the Growth and Environmental Management Office will relocate to the 2nd floor of the Renaissance Center, located at 435 North Macomb St., in early March.

### Your Neighborhood Could be the Next Leon County Neighborhood of the Year

The Leon County Board of County Commissioners believes that strong and united neighborhoods are the foundation of our community, and Leon County, in collaboration with the City of Tallahassee and the Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA), established the Neighborhood Recognition Program to celebrate the accomplishments and successes of our great neighborhoods.

This year, Leon County will recognize outstanding neighborhoods in four categories: Small (200 or fewer homes), Large (more than 200 homes), and Unincorporated Area (outside the city limits), with an additional category for Neighbor of the Year. Winning neighborhoods will receive a sign to display at their entrance and the prestige of having been selected as Leon County's 2007 Neighborhood of the Year.



The Vineyards won the 2006 Neighborhood of the Year Award in the Unincorporated Category.

The application for the Leon County Neighborhood and Neighbor of the Year Awards can be found at [www.leoncountyfl.gov](http://www.leoncountyfl.gov) and must be completed and submitted to the Leon County Public Information Office by Friday, March 23, at 5 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact the Leon County Public Information Office at 606-5300 or e-mail [pio@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:pio@leoncountyfl.gov).

### Leon County Celebrates Black History Month

The LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System invites you to celebrate Black History Month at the many Library events honoring African-American history. Throughout the month of February, the Library is hosting fun and engaging discussions, crafts, book club meetings, and presentations on African-American history. Events range from discussing the role quilts played in the Underground Railroad to a "Booked for Lunch" with a local civil rights activist and novelist, Patricia Stevens Due, who organized the nation's first "Jail-In" in 1960. For more information, visit [www.leoncountyfl.gov/library](http://www.leoncountyfl.gov/library). Learn about our rich African-American history at one of these events:



- Wednesday, Feb. 7, 6:30 to 7:45 p.m., Northeast Branch Library / Bruce J. Host Center: Gus Ferguson from the Riley House will present "Hidden in Plain View," a program about the role quilts played in the Underground Railway.
- Thursday, Feb. 8, 3 p.m., Ft. Braden Branch Library: Special Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. craft project as part of the After School program.
- Tuesday, Feb. 13, 6:30 p.m., Dr. B. L. Perry, Jr. Branch Library: Gus Ferguson from the Riley House will present "Hidden in Plain View."
- Tuesday, Feb. 13, 4 p.m., Lake Jackson Branch Library: Museum of Florida History presents "The African American Experience in Florida."
- Thursday, Feb. 15, 12:15 to 1:15 p.m., Main Library: "Booked For Lunch" with Patricia Stevens Due. Lifelong civil rights activist and co-author, Patricia Stephens Due, will discuss *Freedom in the Family: A Mother-Daughter Memoir*.
- Thursday, Feb. 22, 5 p.m. at the Lake Jackson Branch Library: An intergenerational book discussion of *Remember: the Journey to School Integration* by Toni Morrison.

### "Make a Difference, Tallahassee"



2006 "Make a Difference, Tallahassee" volunteers.

VolunteerLEON and community partners are hosting the "Make a Difference, Tallahassee" event on Saturday, Feb. 17, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Lincoln Neighborhood Service Center, located at 438 W. Brevard St. The event is intended to bring together community members and students and to provide volunteer opportunities for the day so people can see the difference they can make. Approximately 300 volunteers are expected to attend this event. Attendees will have the opportunity to work with the non-profit agency of their choice.

For more information, call Jeri Bush, Director of VolunteerLEON, at 606-1970 or visit [www.volunteerleon.org/madt](http://www.volunteerleon.org/madt).

## February 2007

### Board of County Commissioners Schedule

- 13 Workshop on Performing Arts Center, 12 p.m.**  
**Commission Meeting, 3 p.m.**  
**Public Hearings, 6 p.m.**  
Leon County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, 5th Floor
- 26 Intergovernmental Agency Meeting, 3 p.m., City Commission Chambers, 300 S. Adams St.**
- 27 Workshop on Economic Development Issues, 12 p.m.**  
**Commission Meeting, 3 p.m.**  
**Public Hearings, 6 p.m.**  
Leon County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, 5th Floor

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