



# The Leon County LINK

## Connecting Citizens with Leon County Services

### County Citizens Show Outpouring of Support: **Volunteers Still Needed for Ongoing Relief Effort**

With the devastation wreaked on the Gulf Coast by Hurricane Katrina, Big Bend residents can find volunteer opportunities by visiting [www.VolunteerLEON.org/VolunteerConnection](http://www.VolunteerLEON.org/VolunteerConnection) or contacting the American Red Cross, Capital Area Chapter, at [www.tallytown.com/redcross](http://www.tallytown.com/redcross).



Big Bend residents have already demonstrated overwhelming support to relief efforts in Mobile, Ala. by volunteering in these disaster areas over the next several weekends. The Leon County Commission sends its appreciation and gratitude to those who have offered a helping hand to our neighbors, and encourages continued assistance. This recovery effort will be long-term, and as additional needs are identified, volunteers from the Big Bend area will be called upon to help. For more information, call VolunteerLEON at 921-3015.

### Pet Owners Reminded to Secure Dogs



As the dog days of summer wind down and children head back to school, remember to keep your dog clear of bus stops and other pathways children use to get to school. The Leon County Animal Control Division is receiving an increased number of calls regarding unleashed dogs near school bus stops.

Richard Ziegler, Leon County Animal Control Director, stated, "Every year, during the first weeks of school, there is an increase in phone calls concerning dogs showing up at bus stops or following children to and from the bus stop."

Pet owners should take note that due to a bill approved during the 2005 Florida Legislative session, court costs assessed for Municipal and County Ordinance offenses increased by \$13, totaling \$23 per violation. Combined with the court costs, Leon County fines can range from \$53 to \$523 per violation.

### Boat Landing Opens at Lake Munson Park

The public can now use a new boat landing to access Lake Munson Park, located at 5800 Crawfordville Highway. The park has reopened after being closed to allow for the construction of the ramp. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission conducted the work.



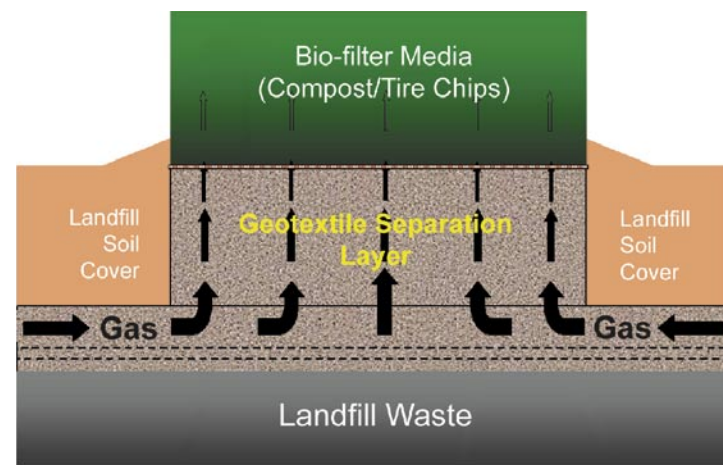
Lake Munson Park is open 24 hours a day. In addition to the new boat ramp, there are two picnic shelters, a restroom, and parking. The lake offers freshwater fishing for the experienced angler or the first-time fisherman. Leon County extends its appreciation to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for providing the funding for the construction of the new boat ramp. For more information on Lake Munson recreational opportunities or to learn more about the 2,800 acres of community parks, boat landings, campgrounds, and greenways in Leon County, call the Leon County Parks and Recreation Division at 488-0221.

### Bio-Filter Project Reduces Landfill Gas Emissions

Thanks to old tires, broken glass, and yard debris, Leon County's Solid Waste Management Facility (Landfill) will emit less odor, and waste disposal will be more environmentally friendly. The pilot project is designed to explore a low-cost alternative for treating methane and hydrogen sulfide gases. Waste materials will be recycled into landfill covers, called bio-filters, which sequester and scrub sulfur gas odors and methane – a potent greenhouse gas – from landfill emissions. The program is a partnership of Leon County Public Works, Florida State University Oceanography, and Florida A & M University/FSU College of Engineering. The project is scheduled to begin in late September and conclude by December 2006.

The bio-filter project is being funded through a 2005-06 grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection intended to help cities and counties increase recycling, reduce solid waste, and conserve natural resources.

"Leon County's goal is to be a better neighbor. The DEP grant and partnership with FSU and FAMU will help us do this," said Norm Thomas, Director of Leon County Public Works' Solid Waste Management Division. "We are acting locally to have a positive effect globally."



### Calling All Cellular Phones for Pollution Prevention Week

Wherever you might be "roaming" during Pollution Prevention Week, Sept. 18 to 24, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Leon County Recycling, and City of Tallahassee's Solid Waste Division encourage citizens to drop off extra or broken cellular phones at drop boxes throughout Leon County. The boxes will be located at all County Libraries, the County Courthouse, Tallahassee City Hall, the Renaissance Building, Leon County Sheriff's Office, and the Tallahassee Police Department.

Leon County is partnering with the Big Bend Victim Assistance Coalition and RMS Communication to accomplish the goals of Pollution Prevention Week. Usable phones are resold or donated to the 9-1-1 Phone Bank, a national service for victim advocacy groups and police departments. The Phone Bank will provide phones programmed to dial 9-1-1 without having active cellular phone service to groups in need. Unusable phones will be recycled. Please call Leon County Recycling with any questions at 414-9346.

## September 2005

### Board of County Commissioners Schedule

*Please note: The Board of County Commissioners will meet on the second and third Tuesday of September.*

**13 Commission Meeting** 3 p.m. **Public Hearings** 6 p.m.  
Leon County Courthouse, Commission Chambers

**20 Commission Meeting** 3 p.m. **Public Hearings** 6 p.m.  
Leon County Courthouse, Commission Chambers

*The Link is produced by Leon County Public Information, 488-9962.*