



The Leon County

LINK

Connecting Citizens with Leon County Services

April is Florida Volunteer Month



April is the time to promote the spirit of volunteerism by bringing to life the theme, Change Lives... Volunteer! The month of April is dedicated to increasing awareness about volunteer opportunities in Leon County, and engaging more citizens to make a difference in their community through volunteer

service. In addition, VolunteerLEON, the Leon County Volunteer Center, joins numerous organizations and individuals in celebrating and recognizing volunteers who are changing lives and strengthening communities throughout Florida.

Volunteering links individuals, schools, non-profit agencies, faith-based organizations, and businesses together. This results in a vibrant community where citizens can thrive and prosper. Studies have shown that people who volunteer are healthier, happier, and possess more marketable skills than those who choose not to volunteer. Also, organizations with employee volunteer programs report lower employee turnover rates, higher morale, and better community relations.

Volunteer - the life you change could be your own!

VolunteerLeon Presents Big Bend Youth Leadership Conference

On Saturday, April 16, VolunteerLEON is hosting a Youth Leadership Conference from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Leon County Library, located at 200 W. Park Ave., in Program Room A. Admission and lunch are FREE! Participants can earn five community service hours.



Youth between the ages of 12 and 18 can participate in fun and interactive leadership and team building activities. Youth will learn leadership skills, how to develop and plan service projects, solve community needs, set goals, develop action plans, and become a VOICE in their community!

To register, please call 921-3015 or e-mail tabahk@leoncountyfl.gov and provide your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and school you attend.

'Capital Area Flood Warning Network' Helps Warn of Flooded Areas

Many Leon County residents are aware of the dangers associated with tropical storms and hurricane events, and the rain and flooding that come with them. And, to improve awareness, as well as improve the ability to respond and warn residents of potential danger, the Leon County Board of County Commissioners, the Northwest Florida Water Management District, and the National Weather Service (NWS) have partnered to develop the Capital Area Flood Warning Network that provides real-time storm event information. The NWS receives the data directly from the 14 gauges scattered throughout the county. Leon County is posting the real-time data on the web at www.cafwn.org, allowing the information to be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by citizens and emergency managers. The website is also linked from www.leoncountyfl.gov.



The real-time rainfall data collection is helping identify potential flood conditions so that emergency response can be initiated. The network will eventually support stream and groundwater condition gauging to further improve the flood prediction capabilities of local, state, and federal emergency staff. These capabilities are crucial to providing adequate community warning of the potential need for evacuation of low-lying areas, as well as identifying potential flood areas.

There will be a Flood Warning feature on the website that will allow citizens to learn the current flood conditions in the county. In addition, citizens can check the website to see recent rainfall activity in their neighborhood or other areas of the county, or to perhaps make decisions on outdoor activities, or for gardening purposes. Call 488-8003 for more information.

Take Advantage of the County's Hazardous Waste Services

Wondering what to do with that old bottle of insecticide in the garage, maybe that old computer collecting dust in your office? These things, if disposed of improperly, can be a threat to both our health and our environment.



Leon County strives to make it easy for residents to dispose of these materials correctly. Residents can drop off their hazardous waste at the Hazardous Waste Center, located at the Solid Waste Management Facility, 7550 Apalachee Parkway, free of charge. The facility is open Monday through Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is a fee for businesses. For more information, please go to www.leoncountyfl.gov/hazardouswaste or call 922-0400.

It's Time to Sign Your Child Up for 4-H Camp Cherry Lake



Looking for a memorable camping experience for your youngster this summer? 4-H has just the answer - 4-H Camp Cherry Lake! Located at beautiful

Cherry Lake, 11 miles north of Madison, this camp is for children ages 8 to 18. Camp Cherry Lake will take place from June 20 to 24. The cost is \$155, which includes transportation to Cherry Lake, as well as all meals, lodging, and insurance. Space is limited, and registration is taken on a first come, first served basis. A \$10 non-refundable deposit is required to secure a spot. Activities include canoeing, swimming, archery, recreation, sportsfishing education classes, crafts, campfires, and singing. For more information or to register, please call 487-3009 or e-mail gaskinsj@leoncountyfl.gov.

Leon County Offers Summer Employment for Youth

Leon County is offering part-time employment for youths between the ages of 14 and 21 from June 20 through July 29. Pay is \$6.15 per hour. The jobs are designed to teach young persons the basics of successful



employment in a real work setting. Young workers can apply for a variety of jobs throughout Leon County, including park maintenance, shelving books, warehouse maintenance, internet assistance, lawn maintenance, and general clerical duties. Persons hired must live in Leon County. Summer Youth applications can be completed and submitted online at www.leoncountyfl.gov (look for the Summer Youth Employment Program link under *Spotlights*) beginning April 8. Applications are due by 5 p.m., May 6. For more information about the program, call 487-2220.

April 2005

Board of County Commissioners Schedule

- 12 Commission Meeting** 3 p.m.
Public Hearings 6 p.m.
Leon County Courthouse, Commission Chambers
- 21 Joint City/County Public Hearing on Comprehensive Plan Amendments** 6 p.m.
City Hall, Commission Chambers
- 26 Commission Meeting** 3 p.m.
Public Hearings 6 p.m.
Leon County Courthouse, Commission Chambers