



LEON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

**Rick Minor**

DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER



## June/July 2020 News & Updates

### Upcoming Meetings

**Thursday, July 9 -**  
*Blueprint IA*  
*Budget Workshop,*  
1:00 p.m.

**Thursday, July 9 -**  
*Blueprint IA*  
*Board Meeting,*  
3:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, July 14 -**  
*Board of County*  
*Commissioners*  
*Budget Workshop,*  
9:00 a.m.

**Tuesday, July 14 -**  
*Board of County*  
*Commissioners*  
*Regular Board*  
*Meeting, 3:00 p.m.*

**Tuesday, July 14 -**  
*Board of County*  
*Commissioners*  
*Public Hearing,*  
6:00 p.m.

**[CLICK HERE](#)** for a full list of all upcoming Leon County meetings

Hello,

I hope you and your family are doing well. Contained in this issue of our e-newsletter are the County's services schedule for the Fourth of July holiday, updated information about our COVID-19 response, the Welaunee Comp Plan amendments, and several other items we hope you'll find useful. In addition, I wanted to highlight two important issues:

**1) Leon County's mask mandate** - As you may know, last week the County Commission held a special meeting and unanimously approved a countywide mask mandate. Not everyone agrees with this emergency ordinance, but I am confident we made the right decision based on the local/state data and the feedback from health experts. For us, it was a choice between two undesirable options: 1) issuing a mask mandate in the hopes of mitigating the current and future spread, which in turn will likely increase the chance of the K-12 schools, FSU, FAMU and TCC opening in the fall, or 2) continuing with the status quo. If the schools don't open, our local economy — already reeling — will be further damaged.

These are very challenging times, and we're doing our best to make sound decisions based on science, data, and advice from experts. We've included details about the mask ordinance below, but if you have any comments, questions, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [MinorR@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:MinorR@leoncountyfl.gov). Thank you for everything you're doing to keep yourself, your loved ones, and others safe.

**2) Leon County Commission moving to once-a-month meetings?** - At the County Commission's June 16th meeting, a majority of Commissioners voted to change our twice-a-month meeting schedule to once-a-month. I strongly disagreed with the motion, said so during the meeting, and voted against it. In my opinion, the reduced meeting frequency undermines the public's access to their Commissioners, and it hinders the public's ability to provide feedback. For more information, please click on the agenda item **[HERE](#)**.

I respect my colleagues on the County Commission and I know they care about their constituents, but I strongly believe this decision was a mistake.

Unfortunately, this decision received little if any news coverage. If this issue is important to you, please click **[HERE](#)** to email the County Commission and share your thoughts. I want to rescind this policy and return to the original, 2-meeting-a-month frequency, but first we'll need to hear from you and others.

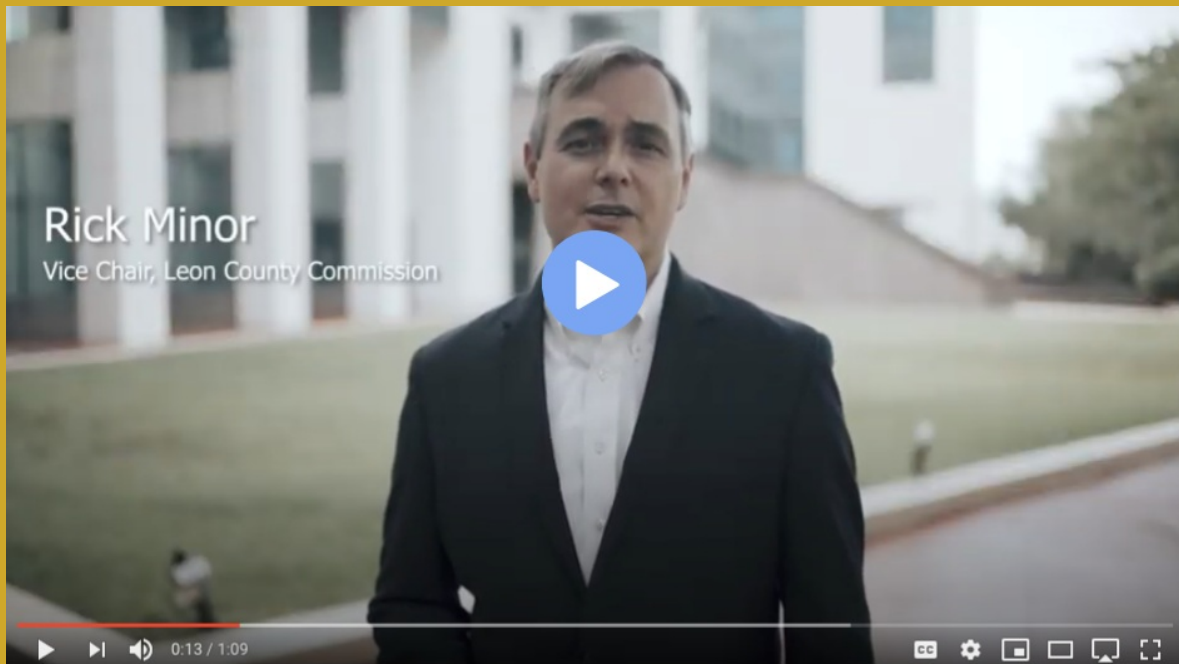
This Fourth of July weekend will be subdued for many of us -- my family plans to stay home, let our girls wave some sparklers, and then watch fireworks on TV. If you do venture out, please maintain physical distance from others and wear a mask.

Have a nice holiday, and stay safe!

**Rick Minor**  
Commissioner, Leon County District 3  
[MinorR@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:MinorR@leoncountyfl.gov)

P.S. If you have friends and family who might be interested in receiving this newsletter each month, please ask them to sign up at [www.LeonCountyFL.gov/RickMinor](http://www.LeonCountyFL.gov/RickMinor). Thank you!

## To Protect Public Health, County Requires Face Coverings



To mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and protect the public health of our community, our Commission last week approved an emergency ordinance requiring face coverings. As confirmed cases of COVID-19 continue to rise locally and statewide, the ordinance states that, in Leon County, individuals must wear face coverings while in business establishments.

A "business establishment" means a location with a roof overhead under which any business is conducted, goods are made/stored/processed or where services are rendered. It also includes locations where non-profit, governmental, churches and quasi-governmental entities facilitate public interactions and conduct business. Also, as part of the requirement, all businesses must post a notice visible to all customers that face coverings are required while indoors. An example of a sign for businesses can be found [HERE](#).

Facial coverings **are not required** to be worn by the following persons:

- Persons under the age of six years;
- Persons who have trouble breathing due to a chronic pre-existing condition or individuals with a documented or demonstrable medical problem. It is the intent of this provision that those individuals who cannot tolerate a facial covering for a medical, sensory, or any other condition which makes it difficult for them to utilize a facial covering and function in public are not required to wear one;
- Persons in their private rooms of a lodging establishment, such as a hotel, motel, or vacation rental—however, face coverings must be worn in all indoor commons areas of said establishment;
- Persons exercising while observing at least six feet of distancing from another person;
- Restaurant and bar patrons eating or drinking;
- Business owners, managers, and employees who are in an area of a business establishment that is not open to customers, patrons, or the public, provided that six feet of distance exists between persons.

The ordinance will remain in place until repealed. A copy of the ordinance and frequently asked questions will be posted to the Leon County Emergency Information Portal at [www.LeonCountyFL.gov/ei](http://www.LeonCountyFL.gov/ei).

The ordinance does not require persons to wear face coverings while outdoors. However, the County continues to strongly encourage residents to wear face coverings when unable to maintain a physical distance from others.

## Distribution of Free Cloth Face Coverings at County Libraries



Leon County is making thousands of free face coverings available for pickup at all County library locations listed below, during regular hours. Individuals may request one covering and may also pick up one for each immediate family member.

- Main Library (200 West Park Avenue)
- Dr. B.L. Perry, JR. Branch Library (2817 South Adams Street)
- Eastside Branch Library (1583 Pedrick Road)
- Jane G. Sauls Fort Braden Branch Library (16327 Blountstown Highway)
- Lake Jackson Branch Library (3840 North Monroe Street)
- Northeast Branch Library (5513 Thomasville Road)
- Woodville Branch Library (8000 Old Woodville Road)

All County branch libraries are open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. The County main library is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. These additional masks complement the County's ongoing efforts to distribute cloth face masks at faith-based organizations in southern Leon County, at the FAMU-Bond COVID-19 testing site at Bragg Memorial Stadium and at FDOH's mobile testing sites throughout the community.



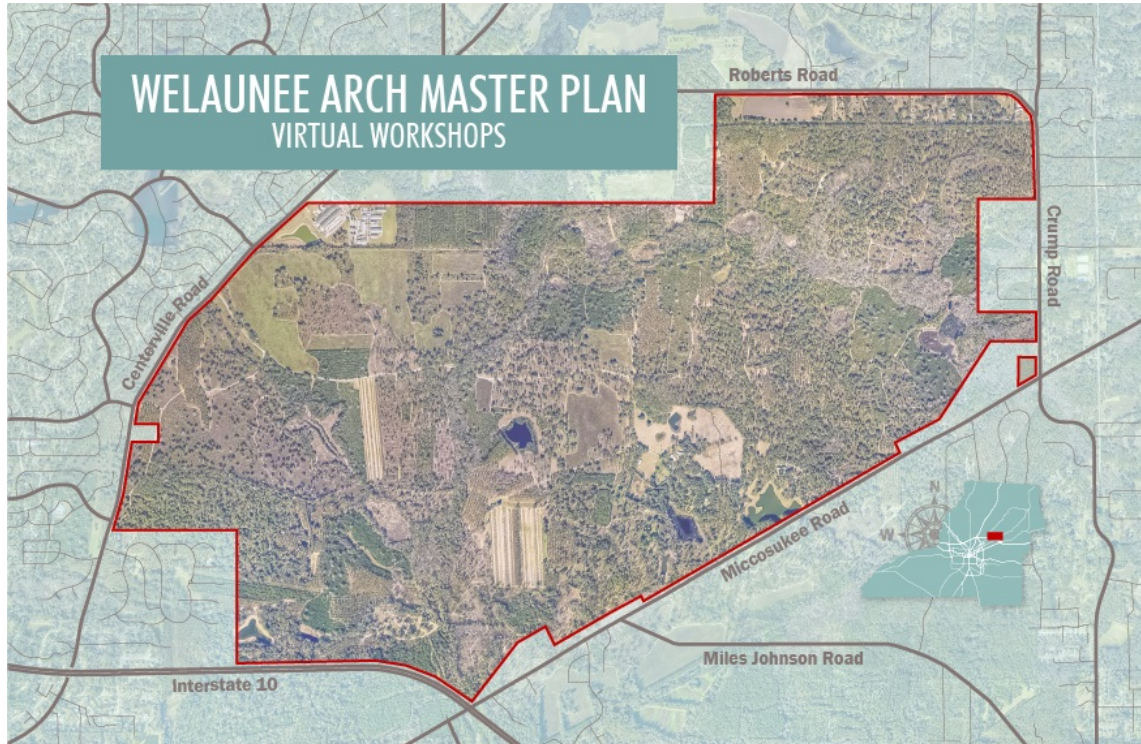
Our [Leon County Supervisor of Elections](#) encourages EVERY voter to request a vote-by-mail ballot for the 2020 elections!



Because we are unsure of how long the coronavirus will linger, voting by mail can protect our community's health and safety. You can request vote-by-mail ballots for the August 18th Primary and November 3rd General elections by going online at [www.LeonVotes.org](http://www.LeonVotes.org). It takes only a couple of minutes!

If you request a Vote-by-Mail ballot, you can still decide to vote in person at an early voting site or at your Election Day polling place, so long as you haven't already voted and can bring the ballot that was mailed to you.

Don't delay - please request your vote-by-mail ballot today!



The Welaunee Arch is an area of land located between Miccosukee Road and Robert Road and between Centerville Road and Crump Road. This privately owned property is the subject of a proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment. The proposed Master Plan for the Welaunee Arch generally outlines how the property will be developed over time, how urban services will be provided to the property, and what services and amenities will be provided to the public. The Master Plan is the first step in the development process and provides the broad parameters for how the property may be developed. Before development occurs, the Master Plan will be followed with one or more detailed Planned Unit Developments (PUDs). The PUDs would then be followed by even more detailed site plans.

At the May 26th Transmittal Hearing for the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment, the Board of County Commissioners and the City Commission voted to submit the proposed amendment to the State for review and directed staff to hold virtual charrettes and at least one in-person charrettes (if possible according to CDC and WHO guidelines). A "charrette" is an intensive, multi-disciplinary workshop with the aim of developing a design or vision for a project or planning activity.

There are currently two ways to participate in the Welaunee Arch virtual charrettes. The first part is a series of live video conferences and the second part is a virtual workshop. You can register for both of these and learn more [HERE](#).

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## Covid-19 Information Portal

As COVID-19 continues to spread globally, Leon County Emergency Management is committed to actively monitoring the disease and coordinating preparedness efforts with local health officials, healthcare providers, first responders, and other critical emergency response functions.



**Leon County COVID-19  
Information Portal**

Check out the County's [COVID-19 Information](#)

## County Closures and Service Changes for 4th of July Holiday

The following closures and service changes will occur in observance of the Fourth of July Holiday.

### Closed Friday, July 3

- Leon County Offices
- Leon County Animal Control

### Closed Saturday, July 4

- Leon County Solid Waste Facility, Rural Waste Service Centers and Household Hazardous Waste Center
- Leon County Libraries
- Leon County Animal Control

### Remain Closed Due to COVID-19

- Leon County Community Centers, Campgrounds, Playgrounds and Pavilions

### Remain Open for the Holidays

- Leon County Parks and Recreation Parks, Greenways and Boat Landings



### Additional Service Information

All Leon County Libraries will close on Friday, July 3 at 6 p.m. The LeRoy Collins Leon County Main Library will resume normal operating hours on Sunday, July 5 at 1 p.m. The LeRoy Collins Leon County Branch Libraries will resume normal operating hours on Tuesday, July 7 at 10 a.m. To learn more about curbside services and access online library services, visit [www.LeonCountyLibrary.org](http://www.LeonCountyLibrary.org).

The Leon County Solid Waste Facility, Rural Waste Sites and the Household Hazardous Waste Center will close Friday, July 3 at 5 p.m. and will resume normal hours on Monday, July 6 at 8 a.m.

In the event of an animal-related emergency, service is available by calling the Consolidated Dispatch Agency at (850) 606-5800. Leon County Animal Control encourages residents to only use this service to report dangerous or aggressive dogs, sick or injured domestic animals and animal cruelty. Injured wildlife calls will be forwarded to the St. Francis Wildlife Association at (850) 627-4151.

Programs and services may be subject to change due to COVID-19. For more information on available County services and programs, visit the Leon County Emergency Information portal, [www.LeonCountyFL.gov/EI](http://www.LeonCountyFL.gov/EI).

## Businesses and Nonprofits: We Want to Hear from You!

Businesses and non-profits, the [Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality](#) wants to hear from you!

Please take 5 minutes to complete the Business Impact Survey. The information you provide will be vital in guiding future technical assistance provided by their office. Give your response today by clicking [HERE](#).



## Covid-19 Scam Targeting Seniors

Unfortunately, another scam targeting seniors has prompted the Florida's Attorney General to issue



an alert.

The Attorney General's Office is receiving reports from seniors offered thousands of dollars in federal grant money to stay isolated at home to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



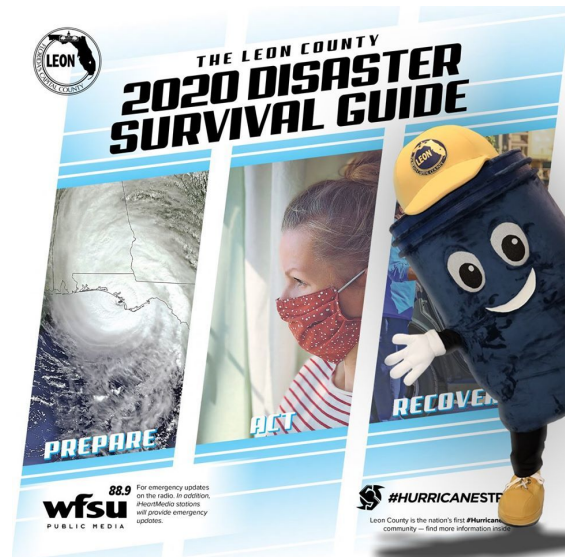
Scammers are contacting seniors via Facebook Messenger, email and text messages to offer these sham grants, and to request upfront payment as insurance for the expedited delivery of grant money. The scheme involved a mock website, since shut down, purporting to be hosted by the U.S. Department of Treasury. The site also included videos of seniors endorsing the sham grant program.

As part of its active and ongoing investigation, Attorney General Moody's Office has worked with law enforcement partners to have the fraudulent website removed. However, there are concerns that scammers will simply move the site to a new online location, so please beware of this scam and use caution *anytime* you are asked to submit personal information. For more details, click [HERE](#).

## 2020 Disaster Survival Guide

In preparation for the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season, please review Leon County's 2020 Disaster Survival Guide. Printed copies of the guide are available at local hardware stores, COVID-19 testing sites, and County and City facilities. An online version can be found at [www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Bucket](http://www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Bucket) and [www.HaveAHurricanePlan.com](http://www.HaveAHurricanePlan.com).

In addition, the County recently debuted its hurricane preparedness mascot, [Billy the Bucket](#), to help educate and inform families on critical disaster prep topics. Follow Billy on his journey to preparedness this hurricane season on Twitter at [@RealBillyBucket](https://twitter.com/RealBillyBucket).



## Annual Build Your Bucket Goes Virtual

As Leon County residents focus on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, it's still important to be prepared for the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season.

Leon County's annual **Build Your Bucket** event is one of the best ways to learn about disaster preparedness. This year, Build Your Bucket will be hosted virtually at [www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Bucket](http://www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Bucket).

The virtual Build Your Bucket experience features:

- Ways to learn about disaster preparedness from County departments, state agencies and community nonprofits who respond to disasters.
- Disaster preparedness resources including guidance on how to build a "bucket list" of critical disaster items like nonperishable food, medications, important documents, face masks, hand sanitizer, soap and more.
- Downloadable and printable version of the 2020 Leon County Disaster Survival Guide.
- Tips and tricks to stay safe from Billy The Bucket, Leon County's hurricane preparedness mascot.
- Information on how to stay connected and informed with the latest emergency information throughout hurricane season.



## Stay Connected During a Disaster with Leon County Citizens Connect

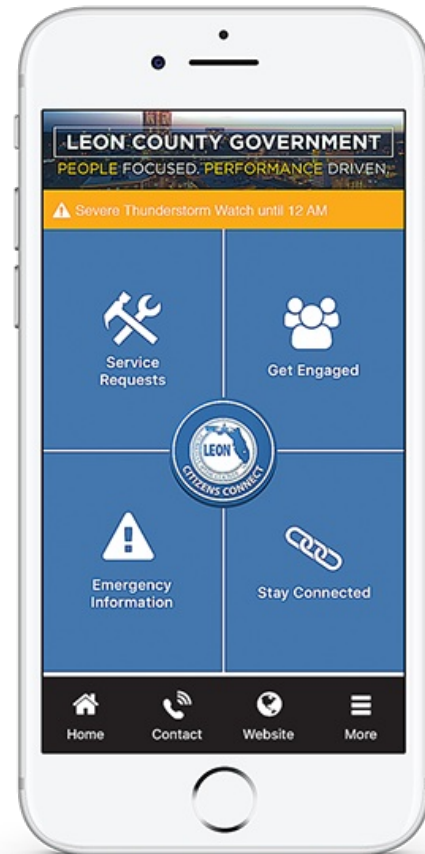
Download the Leon County Citizens Connect App, your best source of emergency news and alerts. The most critical information will be delivered by push notifications directly to your phone or tablet.

Available for [iPhone](#) and [Android](#) devices, Leon County's Citizens Connect App will put up-to-the-minute emergency information at your fingertips, such as weather alerts, road closings, sandbag locations, and so much more.

The Leon County Citizens Connect App provides a single source of emergency information verified by public safety agencies, emergency management professionals, and other crews in the field. Through the mobile application, citizens can also access Leon County's Facebook page, Twitter account, and other important resources.

If you are unable to use your smartphone, tablet, or computer, timely and critical updates will be provided by emergency management officials on 88.9 WFSU-FM radio. By partnering with WFSU, Leon County and the City of Tallahassee will help ensure that any citizen with radio access stays informed before, during, and after a disaster. Also, visit [Talgov.com](http://Talgov.com) for information and updates from the City of Tallahassee.

Additionally, iHeartMedia will also provide updates on the following radio stations: WFLA-FM 100.7, WFLF-FM 94.5, WTNT 94.9, KISS-FM 107.1, X-FM101.5, and The Beat-FM 105.3.



## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

If your business is looking for PPE, click [HERE](#) for a list of organizations in Tallahassee-Leon County that source, distribute and/or manufacture PPE: face masks, hand sanitizer, sneeze guards, clear partitions, and much more!

## Personal Protective Equipment



OFFICE OF  
**ECONOMIC  
VITALITY**

## Meridian Road Closure

As many District 3 residents know, Meridian Road between John Hancock Drive and Timberlane Road has been closed to reduce flooding in the area. You can learn more about the project - and sign up for e-mail updates about the closure [HERE](#). For further questions on the project, please email [RoadClosure@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:RoadClosure@leoncountyfl.gov) or call (850) 606-1500.



## Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

Major changes have been made to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) due to the PPP Flexibility Act. For more information on those changes, eligible lenders, and much more, visit <http://oevforbusiness.org/ppp/>.



**Paycheck  
Protection  
Program**

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## Leon County is one of the first in Florida to receive the SolSmart Gold Community Designation!

Through its continued focus on developing both commercial and residential solar energy, Leon County has been designated a SolSmart Gold Community!

Bestowed by The Solar Foundation and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), the gold designation is the program's highest honor, recognizing how local governments find innovative ways to make going solar faster, easier and more affordable.



Leon County earned this recognition by encouraging renewable energy companies to do business in the area, driving economic development and creating local jobs. The County's overall goal is to increase renewable energy capacity on County facilities by 30% by 2030.

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## The Supervisor of Elections Office is Now Hiring

The Supervisor of Elections is looking for sharp people to join the Leon Elections team through November 2020. Data entry and customer service positions. Fast-paced, team-oriented, meticulous work culture.

The positions are full-time with some overtime required. Health insurance available. Cubicle atmosphere with a good number of COVID-smart protections. Starting at \$12/hr, but higher is possible.

Visit [www.LeonVotes.org/Jobs](http://www.LeonVotes.org/Jobs) to review the Voter Services Support description and apply at the link provided.



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# NOW HIRING

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Voter Services Support

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*Full-time with some overtime required.  
Health insurance available. Starting at  
\$12/hr but higher is possible.*

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## It's Kitten Season!

The warmer months are often met with an influx of kittens in shelters and rescue groups. If you can, consider fostering or donating supplies to help. If you find stray kittens, it's important to follow the steps below:



# FOUND KITTENS! now what?

**Kittens are much better left with their moms until at least 8 weeks old.**

The shelter is **NO PLACE** for kittens unless it is absolutely necessary. They are very susceptible to getting sick when introduced to small spaces that house other cats as well.



## 1. OBSERVE

- Count the number of kittens, if possible.
- **Do Not** handle the kittens.
- **Leave the kittens where you found them**, mom is probably close. (unless they are in an unsafe high traffic area, you may move them close by, but very carefully).
- Watch from afar for mom making her visits.
- Put food and water out for mom but away from the kittens and remove it at night.
- If the kittens disappear mom has moved them, or is in the process of moving them, **don't panic!** This is completely normal.



## 2. ASK FOR HELP

- **If mom does not return**, kittens will need to be bottle fed. Bottle feeding foster parents are not always available but we can train you and provide you with the proper supplies.
- **If mom and/or kittens are showing signs of being sick**, injured, or threatened in some way, **ask for help!**
- **If mom and kittens are thriving** and are now old enough (8 weeks) to need further care such as vaccines, spay or neutering, and or adoption, resources are available to assist you.

## RESOURCES FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE



Tallahassee Animal Services  
talgov.com/animals  
850-891-2950



Leon County, FL  
AldridgeC@LeonCountyFL.Gov  
850-606-5400



It's Meow or Never  
itsmeowornevertally@gmail.com  
850-974-9596



Keeping our community cat population safe, happy, healthy, and less of a nuisance to the public starts with you!  
Be a part of the solution. Make a difference in the life of a deserving cat or kitten today by volunteering!

## Have you downloaded the Leon Library App Yet?

Did you know that The Leon County Public Library system has launched the Leon County Public Library mobile app for [Apple](#) and [Android](#)?

The app gives local users instant access to a wide range of services, and it doubles as your library card.

The app allows 24-hour access to many digital library services. Users can:

- Download eBooks, audiobooks and videos
- Access electronic services such as Learning

Express, Universal Class, Auto Repair Source and many others

- Watch movies, and read digital magazines or newspapers
- Search the entire library catalog of books
- Keep track of when borrowed items are due, reserve and renew them

Users can also connect with a librarian for help and get an answer to a reference question by email!

Local residents can also now sign up for a library card online at [LeonCountyLibrary.org](http://LeonCountyLibrary.org) or on the app. You will be able to use your library number immediately, and receive a physical card in the mail later.

# Download our Leon Library app today!



## Emerging City Champions

Have an idea to make Tallahassee more vibrant, equitable or resilient? Emerging City Champions offers \$5,000 and leadership training for public space, mobility or community engagement projects. Apply by July 12!

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.



## Free Adventure Bags from the Library!

Check out these great FREE adventure bags from the Library! Each bag celebrates a different fairy-tale theme, filled with fun and engaging crafts and activities for children and families - perfect for preschool and elementary age children. And the bag itself can be turned into a puppet or a scrapbook!

No library card is required. Just fill out the Request Form each week for a new bag [HERE](#).



## Free Kids Concert

Rock out with Tallahassee band "Hot Tamale." Perfect for the young - and the young at heart!

Stream it live on the [Library's Facebook homepage](#) at 6:30 p.m. on July 13.



## Virtual Babytimes, Storytimes and More from the Library

Join Lake Jackson Branch Librarian Christine as she



takes you to faraway places during Zoom Storytimes on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

For a full list of virtual Babytimes, Storytimes and more click [HERE](#).



## Race, Equality & Inclusion Resources at the Library

Librarians at the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library have compiled a wonderful list of resources for all ages celebrating diversity, and supporting education on matters of social injustice and racial equality.

The list includes books, videos and websites and can be viewed [HERE](#).



## Free Mobile Hot Spots

Did you know that you can use Wifi free from anywhere with the library's WiFi HotSpots?

Patron cards must be current and in good standing and checkout period is 14 days. One mobile hotspot per library cardholder. Mobile hotspots can be picked up from all library locations and can be returned to any branch of the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System.

For questions or more information, please call (850) 606-2665, or [place a Hold Here](#).



## In Our Own Voice

Please join us for "In Our Own Voice," a presentation to raise awareness for mental health conditions, presented by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

In Our Own Voice presentations change attitudes, assumptions and ideas about people with mental health conditions.

This presentation will provide a personal perspective of mental health conditions, as leaders with lived experience talk openly about what it's like to have a mental health condition. The goal of this presentation is to promote awareness of mental health conditions and recovery.

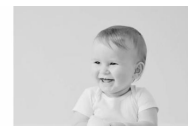
The event will be at **6:00 pm** on **July 9th**. To join, click on: <https://zoom.us/j/93985099809>

## IN OUR OWN VOICE

Presented by  
 NAMI Tallahassee  
National Alliance on Mental Illness

A personal perspective on mental health conditions.

zoom





The Leon County Sheriff's Office reminds us to make sure your vehicle is locked and your valuables and firearms are brought inside. Make it a habit to follow this [#9pmroutine](#) each day at... you guessed it... 9 p.m. It's easy to do and it can really deter thieves.

# LOCK IT OR LOSE IT



## Be Smart. Stay Safe.

- Always keep valuables out of sight or in the trunk.
- Never leave valuables in unattended vehicles.
- Always lock your vehicle.
- Notify the police of any suspicious activity.