



The Leon County LINK

Connecting Citizens with Leon County Services

County Budget Includes Tax Cut, Funding for Community Centers, Military Grant, and More

The Leon County Board of County Commissioners recently approved its \$211 million budget for fiscal year 2005-06. The spending plan includes a reduction of .1 mills in the overall tax rate, while providing funding to continue the high levels of services to Leon County citizens. One mill equals \$1 for every \$1,000 of property value. That means that the owner of a \$200,000 home taking a \$25,000 homestead exemption would pay \$1,603 in County taxes.

The budget includes funds to make improvements at the County's community centers, including the expansion of the Dorothy C. Spence Community Center in Chaires-Capitola, and the purchase the Fort Braden center. In addition, the Board allocated initial funding toward the construction of a new center in Miccosukee.

The Board also unanimously approved continued funding for the military grant program that provides property tax relief to deployed military men and women. Leon County residents who have been mobilized and deployed in support of current military campaigns qualify for the grant. The grant is equal to the greater of either pro-rated Leon County ad valorem property taxes or \$600. This year's grant is for service performed from October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005. Grant applications should be submitted to the Veteran Services Division before December 31, 2005. For more information, call the Veteran Services Division at 488-8462, or visit www.leoncountyfl.gov/vets.

In addition, there is funding in the approved budget for sewer system design and construction, improvements at the Leon County Solid Waste Management Facility (landfill), and more. You can view the 2005-06 budget from Leon County's Website at www.leoncountyfl.gov.

Leon County Pays Tribute to America's Military Personnel



The Leon County Board of County Commissioners proudly supports America's military personnel and veterans. The Board approved sponsoring the annual Veterans' Day Parade again this year. The parade will take place Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. and proceed along Adams St. to Pensacola St., ending at the Civic Center.

All local and regional veteran groups and other interested parties are invited to participate in the parade. The application is available at www.leoncountyfl.gov/vets/parade.asp and must be submitted to the Leon County Veteran Services Division by the end of October. The material can be printed and faxed to 922-3080, or mailed to Leon County Veterans Services Division, Leon County Courthouse, 301 South Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32301. Applications can also be delivered to the Veterans Services Division at the Amtrak Building, 918 Railroad Avenue. Last year's participants will be sent an application package. For more information, call 488-8462.

Minority Businesses Can Learn How to 'Make it Happen' During MED Week

Leon County is partnering with state and local agencies to recognize local entrepreneurs who have made outstanding contributions to their community as part of Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week, which is observed Oct. 9 through Oct. 14.

This is the 13th year Leon County has celebrated MED week, which aims to recognize the outstanding achievements made by minority businesses and government and business leaders for their support toward minority business development. In addition, participants can network with other business owners and attend educational seminars. The theme of this year's program is, "The Art of the Deal: Making it Happen."

Leon County Minority/Women Business Enterprise Director Agatha Muse-Salters said, "There are several programs throughout the week that showcase successful businesses, help boost the confidence of future business owners, and give them the tools they need to get started."

For MED Week events and more information, visit www.leoncountyfl.gov/MBE.

Meet Your Volunteer Firefighters at the Fire Truck Round-Up



Leon County Volunteer Firefighters are rounding-up fire trucks, demonstrating rescue techniques and the "Jaws of Life," and announcing the 2005 Leon County Volunteer Firefighter of the Year on Saturday, Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Home Depot on Capital Circle Northwest, for the 8th Annual Fire Prevention Week Fire Truck Round-Up. The Firefighter of the Year will be announced at 11:30 a.m.

The Earl Bacon Agency sponsors the Leon County Volunteer Firefighter of the Year award. "Volunteer firefighters provide critical support to our paid firefighters in protecting the unincorporated areas of Leon County. They are often first on the scene of an emergency and provide much of this support at their own expense," said Bobby Bacon, President of Earl Bacon Agency.

Citizens are invited to join the volunteers to learn about fire prevention and enjoy free refreshments. For more information, please contact Miccosukee Fire Chief Jack Harron at 893-1177.

You're Invited to BookFest Community BookRead with Award-Winning Author Ann Patchett

Imagine a book club that involves the entire community and culminates in two personal appearances from an award-winning author. The Leon County LeRoy Collins Public Library, in partnership with FSU English Department, brings "BookFest Community BookRead," which includes the reading and discussion of "Autobiography of a Face" by Lucy Grealy, and "Truth and Beauty" by Ann Patchett.



At the main library on Oct. 20 at 12:15 p.m., there will be a book discussion, "Booked for Lunch," where the public will have the opportunity to learn about and discuss the books. The highlight of this communitywide read-a-thon is two appearances by author Ann Patchett on November 1 at 6 and 8 p.m. Participants will have the opportunity to meet Ann Patchett and have their books signed.

For more information about the BookFest Community BookRead and Ann Patchett's visit, visit www.leoncountylibrary.org or contact the main library at 487-2665.

October 2005

Board of County Commissioners Schedule

- 11 Commission Meeting 3 p.m. Public Hearings 6 p.m.**
Leon County Courthouse, Commission Chambers
- 19 Joint City/County/School Board Meeting 5:30 p.m.**
City Hall, City Commission Chambers
- 25 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.