



The Leon County

# LINK

Connecting Citizens  
with Leon County  
Services

The Link is published the first Wednesday of each month in the local section of the Tallahassee Democrat.

## County Receives \$480K Grant to Create 'Net-Zero' Building Facility to Generate as Much Energy as it Consumes

The Leon County Board of County Commissioners recently announced that it has received a Florida Clean Energy Grant that will provide Leon County with more than \$480,000 toward alternative energy enhancements.



The grant, part of the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), will fund energy efficiencies at the County's Cooperative Extension building, located at 615 Paul Russell Road.

The Clean Energy Grant will fund the largest solar photovoltaic (solar panel) system in Leon County – 60kW – surpassing the current largest known system, which is 50kW. The solar panels are anticipated to be installed as a ground-mounted parking structure, which will provide shaded parking and will also be easily visible for educational tours.

County Administrator Parwez Alam said the final result will be a 'net-zero' energy building, meaning the facility will generate as much energy as it consumes.

In addition to the solar panels, the grant will also fund 17 tons of geothermal closed-loop ground units, a system that uses the ground's relatively constant temperature to more efficiently provide heating, cooling and hot water for the building.

For more information, please contact the Leon County Office of Sustainability at (850) 606-5300.

## Prescribed Burns on the Greenways

Leon County will be performing prescribed burns at J. R. Alford, Miccosukee Canopy Road and St. Marks Headwaters Greenways from now until the end of May. On days that a burn occurs on the greenways, the park will be closed to the public for safety reasons. These burns are to help reduce exotic plants and fuel load on the ground and to improve the ecosystem for the wildlife. Please do not go out on the greenways during one of these burns.



For more information, call Leon County Parks and Recreation at (850) 606-1470.

## Leon County Breaks Ground on New Water Recycling Unit



The Leon County Board of County Commissioners broke ground on a new rainwater recycling system Wednesday at the Cooperative Extension Office, located at 615 Paul Russell Road, which will soon house a 40,000 gallon rainwater capture cistern that will allow diverted rainwater to irrigate the County's demonstration gardens.

This will be the largest known system of its kind in the region and will also serve as a unique learning opportunity for both the community in the area of stormwater reuse and water conservation. By safely using rainwater, nearly all of the facility's irrigation needs can be offset, resulting in approximately 400,000 gallons of conserved water annually collected in four massive 10,000-gallon cisterns.

For more information, please contact the Leon County Office of Sustainability at (850) 606-5300 or the Leon County Public Information Office at (850) 606-5300.

## Neighborhood Recognition Program Application Deadline

The annual Neighborhood Recognition Program offers each neighborhood an opportunity to be formally recognized for its active involvement and community service. Neighborhood representatives are asked to complete and deliver applications to the Leon County Public Information Office on or before the deadline: **Thursday, March 17, 2011, at 5 p.m.** Late submissions will not be considered.

If you have any questions, please contact the Leon County Public Information Office at (850) 606-5300 or email [pio@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:pio@leoncountyfl.gov). We look forward to another exciting year for all of Leon County's neighborhoods.

## Electronics, Household Hazardous Waste Collection Announced

Leon County announces the next monthly Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Collection, which will take place on Saturday, March 5, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Public Works Operations Center, 2280 Miccosukee Road.



When discarded, many household products can pollute and pose a health risk, so Leon County holds these free events for Leon County residents. Businesses and other agencies must call (850) 606-1816 to make an appointment to drop off their items. Some fees will apply.

Citizens may bring up to 50 lbs. of hazardous waste, in addition to their electronics. Propane tanks must weigh less than 40 lbs., and there is a limit of one tire per participant. Medical sharps, medicines and radioactive waste cannot be accepted.

The Leon County Hazardous Waste Center, located at 7550 Apalachee Pkwy., is open Monday through Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call the Hazardous Waste Center at (850) 606-1803 or visit [www.leoncountyfl.gov/HHW/collection](http://www.leoncountyfl.gov/HHW/collection) for the complete collection schedule.

## March 2011

### Board of County Commissioners Schedule

- 15 Board of County Commissioners Workshop on Social Media** 12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., County Courthouse, 5th Floor, Commission Chambers
- Board of County Commissioners Workshop on Honest Services** 1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m., County Courthouse, 5th Floor, Commission Chambers
- Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting** 3 p.m., County Courthouse, 5th Floor, Commission Chambers
- Board of County Commissioners Public Hearing** 6 p.m., County Courthouse, 5th Floor, Commission Chambers
- 17 Board of County Commissioners FY 2012 Budget Workshop** 12 p.m., County Courthouse, 5th Floor, Commission Chambers
- 21 Community Redevelopment Agency Meeting (CRA)** 12:30 p.m. - 1 p.m., City Hall, 300 S. Adams, 2nd Floor, Commission Chambers
- Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA)** 1 p.m., City Hall, 300 S. Adams, 2nd Floor, Commission Chambers
- 23 Florida Association of Counties Legislative Day** Tallahassee, FL