



*From the Desk of Andrew D. Gillum*  
City Commission, Seat 2



☞ **HAPPY NEW YEAR** ☞

This past year’s economic situation challenged many aspects of life, including local government operations. Like many of you, we adapted in ways that didn’t just help us get through 2009. We are better prepared to serve and grow to scale in the future.

We confronted the status quo of “business as usual” by exploring new ways of operating like: increasing collaborations with partner organizations, streamlining our personnel functions and reorganizing programs. We will maintain our momentum by identifying additional means of efficiency and substantially reducing costs. It will take a concerted effort by public officials, City employees, and the Tallahassee community to combat the forecasts of doom and gloom for 2010. We made it through a tough 2009, and the future looks bright. I declare this year to be a better year. Let’s do it!!!

**You Can If You Think You Can!**

If you think you are beaten, you are,  
If you think you dare not, you don't.  
If you like to win, but you think you can't,  
It is almost certain you won't.  
If you think you'll lose, you're lost,  
For out in the world we find,  
Success begins with a fellow's will.  
It's all in the state of mind.  
If you think you are outclassed, you are,  
You've got to think high to rise,  
You've got to be sure of yourself before  
You can ever win a prize.  
Life's battles don't always go  
To the stronger or faster man.  
But soon or late the man who wins,  
Is the man who thinks he can.

~ C. W. Longenecker ~

☞ **Good Neighbor Program** ☞



The January 2009 newsletter spotlighted a program that offers 25% credit to electric service (as long as funds are available) to help customers during the peak heating and cooling months of the year. This

Good Neighbor Program has assisted 676 customers since the creation of the program in December 2008. Customers have received free energy audits to identify ways to save and \$182,823 in direct financial assistance. On average, customer bills have been reduced by \$39 per customer per month.

The Good Neighbor Program is scheduled to continue through March 2010. Contact [Capital Area Community Action Agency](#) at 222-2043 for applications and program information. The following customers are eligible to apply for this assistance.

- 1) Low-income senior citizens age 65 and older,
- 2) Low-income families with children under the age of five, and
- 3) Disabled persons living independently.

The City’s “Energy Smart Plus” program also offers ideas to help customers use less energy. Learn more at [www.tal.gov/you/eplus.cfm](http://www.tal.gov/you/eplus.cfm). Call 891-4968 and use the prompts below for electric utility services.

Electric Utility Services	Call 891-4968, Then Press
Account Information	2, then 1, then 2
Audits, Energy Loans, Rebates	4, then 2
Connect/Reconnect	2, then 1, then 3
Payment Extension	2, then 1, then 1
Power Outages	1, then 3
Street Light Repair & Installation	3, then 1, then 2, then 1
Tree Trimming	3, then 1, then 2, then 2

“Serving is Leading”

## ↻ Constituent Inquiries ↻

As an open government, we provide our constituents with access to their elected officials. We know that in order for us to be effective, we must remain aware of the issues that matter to our constituency. Although our primary role as the City Commission is policymaking for efficient government operations, hearing from you helps us to keep a pulse on your concerns. Staying connected also provides impetus for us to explore appropriate and feasible policies that address your needs.

City staff is charged with providing services and fine-tuning the details of approved policies. However, constituents will often reach out to our office seeking intervention. When appropriate, inquiries are forwarded to staff to investigate, recommend options for resolve, and facilitate a response to the constituent. The staff keeps us apprised of findings, recommendations and/or action taken. Some inquiries are unique, and impact an individual party, while other inquiries provide helpful information for the common good of the community. I thought the following frequently asked questions might be of interest to you.

### ***Inquiry: How can I request to rename a street?***

*Response:* Official street naming and renaming requests should be made through Leon County Growth and Environmental Management to the Joint Addressing Steering Committee (ASC). The ASC is comprised of representatives from the City and County Growth Management Departments; as well as representatives from Leon County Schools, Leon County E-911, the US Postal service, the Fire and EMS Chiefs, Tallahassee/Leon County GIS, Traffic Engineering and Planning.

Visit the [County Addressing Program website](#) for information on renaming application procedures, which includes: 100% approval of all abutting property owners and an application fee. Once an application has been received, approval or denial is based on existing addressing policies, as set forth by the ASC. The policy only allows naming in recognition of an individual sequent to their death.

### **Inquiry: How do I report an inoperative parking meter?**

*Response:* Provide the following information so that staff can identify the correct meter.

1. Pole Number – a 5 digit number displayed on the street side of the meter pole and meter housing
2. Street Name
3. Time Limit – of that particular meter as indicated on the colored sticker on the top of the meter
4. Detailed Description of the Problem

If a parking ticket was issued, the customer may contest the ticket by calling the phone number on the ticket. The hearing officer will then notify the City's Parking Meter Shop.

### **Inquiry: How do I request resurfacing for Paul Russell Road?**

*Response:* Based on a 2004 examination, Paul Russell Road was scheduled to be resurfaced by 2013. After receiving this constituent inquiry, staff again inspected and evaluated the condition of the road to determine if the previous evaluation remained accurate.

As a result of the current inspection, some segments of Paul Russell Road will be placed on the 2011 list for resurfacing. The requirement to coordinate with any planned underground utility upgrades may impact this advancement. The schedule was adjusted to address the recent increase in degrading of the roadway, which staff attributes to heavy loads from construction and commercial traffic in the area since the previous inspection.

The roadway evaluation process is based on inspections and a mathematical formula that considers factors such as the road's physical condition (extent of cracking, rutting, pavement edge condition, number of patches, etc.), the average number of daily trips on the roadway, and vehicle wheel loading. Roadways with heavy commercial vehicle loads deteriorate faster than roadways with lighter vehicle loads. The evaluation results in an Overall Condition Index value that is then used to develop a long-range schedule for roadway resurfacing. This process seeks to be objective and impartial to road location in the community.

## ☞ Constituent Inquiries ☞

(Continued)

### ***Inquiry: How do I request Sidewalk Clearing for Paul Russell Road***

**Response:** Sidewalk clearing (edging of vegetation, removal of sediments and trimming of overhanging tree limbs) is usually performed on an "as requested basis" in response to citizen calls. In response to the Paul Russell Road request, an inspector was sent to examine the sidewalk condition along the road. Maintenance and repair tasks will be performed as needed.

### ***Inquiry: What is the status of the City's efforts to mitigate pedestrian accidents on Tennessee Street near the FSU campus?***

**Response:** We are continuing to foster an environment for multi-modal transportation with safety in mind. Immediate, intermediate and long term solutions were developed. Since Tennessee Street is still under the jurisdiction of the FDOT, most of the solutions would require their approval. Immediate suggestions for solutions consisted of: modifying traffic signals at Dewey Street to improve pedestrian crossing safety, changing Raven Street from one-way northbound to one-way southbound, modifying the synchronization of the signals at Copeland and Dewey streets to reduce traffic speeds in this block of Tennessee Street, and establishing a taxi cab stand in the vicinity of Tennessee Street.

Proposed intermediate solutions, such as the reduction of the number of lanes on Tennessee Street at night when traffic volumes are low, would take longer to implement and would be more capital intensive.

Long-term solutions would be consistent with the City's overall transportation planning policies, goals, and objectives. Those suggestions would likely be capital intensive and may include permanent reduction in the number of traffic lanes in this block of Tennessee Street, lower speed limits, sidewalk width enhancements, and other changes that create a comfortable, safe, attractive environment for walking, cycling and the use of transit.

## ☞ United Way Luncheon Winners ☞



Rachel Reeves and Joshua Hartstein, two Animal Service Center employees, were treated to lunch with Mayor

John R. Marks, III, and me on December 9, 2009. The luncheon was a raffle prize from the Parks & Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs United Way campaign.

## ☞ Palmer Munroe Youth Center ☞

The [December 2009 1:12](#) edition of this e-newsletter spotlighted the initiative to convert Palmer Munroe Community Center into a youth center, which includes a restorative justice element. The proposal was presented at the [December 9, 2009 City Commission meeting \(see agenda item #8\)](#). A follow-up discussion will be held during the January 27, 2010 City Commission meeting, 4:00 p.m. at City Hall.

## ☞ January Calendar Events ☞

"Subject to Change"

Date	Time	Event
6	9 am - 4 pm	Office Appointments
9	8:30 am	FAMU Way Community Breakfast @ Walker Ford Community Center
11	10:30 am	CRA @ CHC
11	1 pm	CRTPA @ CHC
12	8:30 am	Digital Harmony @ Nims
13	9 am	FVIG @ CH
13	10 am - 2 pm	Office Appointments
13	2:30 pm	Charter Review @ CHC
13	4 pm	CC Meeting @ CHC
18	Holiday	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
20	9 am - 4 pm	Office Appointments
23	8:30 am	Digital Harmony Rollout
27	9 am - 4 pm	Office Appointments
27	4 pm	CC Meeting @ CHC

### **Code:**

CC – City Commission

CH– City Hall

CHC – City Hall Chambers

CRA – Community Redevelopment Agency

CRTPA – Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency

HHS – Health & Human Services Target Issue Committee

"Serving is Leading"