



A New Town



*College Town Artist Rendering
Expected to open in Fall 2013*

College Town, located between S. Madison Street and Gaines Street, will feature an urban style, mixed-used living, dining, shopping, and entertainment district.

This \$17 million project will create 400 construction jobs and when completed, generate between 600 and 800 full-time and part-time jobs. It's projected to have a \$30 million annual economic impact on our community. College Town is a public-private partnership of the City and County Commission, the Seminole Boosters, Inc., Florida State University, Hooper Construction, Inc., private investors, and the citizens of Tallahassee coming together to revitalize Gaines Street. *(Michael Parker, City Economic and Community Department, contributed to this article.)*



*Gillum and City Manager
Anita Favors Thompson
1/17/12 Groundbreaking*

A New Business



*1/24/12 Ribbon Cutting of
Tallahassee Florida Blue Center*

Tallahassee Florida Blue Center offers an interactive environment where visitors obtain basic health screenings, have face-to-face consultations, learn about health care options, and purchase health insurance.

This Blue Cross Blue Shield facility is a successful example of the City's Temporary Economic Emergency Concurrency Relief program. The City and the developer partnered on a concurrency reduction agreement, which reduced the transportation concurrency mitigation from approximately \$90,000 to \$42,000 in an effort to incentivize the redevelopment of the site (2116 Apalachee Parkway) and create jobs. Visit Florida Blue Center at <http://floridablue.com/>. *(Karen Jumonville, City Growth Management Department, and Zoe Sharron, Ron Sachs Communication, contributed to this article.)*

A New Home



*Left:
Ms. Mann's
family in
front of
home.
Right:
Gillum and
a happy
Ms. Mann*



The Bethel Community Development Corporation (CDC), an affiliate ministry of the Bethel AME Church, kicked off 2012 with a "like new" home for Mattie Mann. Major repairs were needed to bring it up to code and to weatherize it to lower her utility bills. Through the City of Tallahassee's (COT) owner occupied rehab program, semi-retired Ms. Mann was income eligible for nearly \$40,000 in improvements to mitigate the structural issues of her home. Nearly \$250,000 has been made available to working class families through the Bethel CDC/COT's public-private partnership to provide rehab and weatherization services. *(Darryl Jones, Bethel CDC, contributed to this article.)*

A New Friend



Curtis E. Rush, II

Curtis Rush, Relay Engineering Technician with the City of Tallahassee Electric Department accepted the challenge to volunteer to be a mentor. Curtis signed up to be a mentor because when he was young someone encouraged him to always try to reach back and help someone else experience life better.

More than 70 City employees attended the January "See Something, Say Something, Do Something" Kickoff of the City's mentoring program. The City will partner with Leon County Schools to connect a mentor to a student in elementary, middle, or high school. Mentors are asked to commit a minimum of one hour a week to meet with and befriend their mentee. While the mentoring initiative seeks to help reduce juvenile delinquency, its ultimate purpose is to fan the flame in our youth to set, pursue, and achieve goals for advanced education; to excel in performance; and obtain marketable skills for self-development and a better society.

⌘ A Time To Reflect ⌘

A Time to Move Forward



*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Freedom Leader*



*Traveling Exhibit from the
Museum of Tolerance
Featured at TCC
January 17 – 30, 2012*

The City’s 15th Annual Day of Dialogue commemorated the MLK Holiday with a focus on Dr. King’s philosophy of “A Beloved Community – Redefining What it Means to Belong.” One constituent lamented that it’s past time to stop singing “We shall overcome”, explaining that America is late on fulfilling the dream of each person experiencing the “unalienable rights” of “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

I was also reminded of the reality of oppression and suppression when I attended the Museum of Tolerance’s “[The Courage to Remember](#)”, an educational exhibition on the Holocaust of 1933-1945. Tallahassee Community College’s and the Foundation of California’s presentation of this historical account of hatred against Jews, political dissidents, homosexuals, the mentally ill, and others was coupled with the plea for individual citizens to have the courage to remember, educate themselves of the tragedy, and commit to prevent such crimes from happening again.

Persecution and racism comes in different ways, shapes, and forms. Its incitement can be the color of one’s skin, region of their country, sexual orientation, level of education, or their standing in society. When it goes unnoticed or ignored terrible things can happen.

Educational inequalities, criminal justice inequalities and a range of other issues that exist helped provoke the recent activism of the Occupy Wall Street movement. Educators, students, professionals, and common laborers united in a January “Rally Tally” on the steps of the Florida State Capitol to protest against proposed legislation that would further increase their struggle to survive. Mayor John Marks, III took a bold step to end disparity by recently signing the “Freedom to Marry Statement” thus, demonstrating support for the progressive efforts “for the freedom to marry and build a nation where all loving couples who want to make the life-long commitment can share in the joy and respect of marriage”.

People are seeking "hope and change" in a very real way. It doesn’t have to be broadcast on CNN or the networks; yet, the work needs to continue to happen in all corners of the country where the grassroots people are.

⌘ Narrowing Tennessee Street ⌘

The [Multi Modal Transportation District \(MMTD\)](#) seeks to improve the urban fabric of the Capital City through an increased emphasis on urban design and the public realm, thereby creating a pedestrian-friendly and transit-supportive district. The MMTD Master Transportation Analysis is looking at the entire network of roads in the MMTD and how they should function in the future when the downtown is all built out. This includes analyzing everything from changing existing one-way streets to two-way pairs and facilitating traffic calming measures where traffic friction is required to slow vehicles in high pedestrian areas.

Another aspect is to consider alternative transportation approaches such as a street car system. The City received a grant to study this component of the Analysis. The study area runs from Orange Avenue to Tharpe Street and from Magnolia Drive to Appleyard Drive.

We are in the public input stage of the Tennessee Street Corridor proposal of the MMTD Master Transportation Analysis and we anticipate an update at the February 22nd City Commission meeting. Staff will present feedback received regarding creating bus lanes on Tennessee Street and what engineering data reveals about the impact. A summer launch is projected if the Commission approves moving forward with the pilot project. (*Jay Townsend, Assistant City Manager-Development and Transportation, contributed this article.*)

⌘ Special Announcement ⌘

V. P. Joe Biden will be in Tallahassee, Monday, February 6th at the Challenger Center.

For ticket information and event details contact:

Andrew@andrewgillum.com.



*President Barack Obama and
Vice President Joseph Biden*

⌘ February Calendar Events ⌘

“Subject to Change”

A listing of upcoming City Commission meetings can be found at <http://www.tal.gov.com/commission/calendar.cfm>. My office appointments are usually held on Wednesdays. Other key events for my office are noted below.

Date	Time	Events
2/1	8:30 am	City Commission Retreat
2/9	7:30 am	StarMetro bus ride
2/14	11:45 am	Northeast Business Association
2/15	9 am	Health & Human Services meeting
2/15	Various	Various school visits
2/25	Noon	FAMU Collegiate 100 Black Men

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“Serving is Leading”