

February 2009 News Releases

February 03 - TFD

Tallahassee Fire Chief Cynthia Dick Selected as a Finalist for the Glass Ceiling Award

The Florida Federation of Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc. is pleased to announce five finalists for the Glass Ceiling Award 2009. The award, established in 1991 and presented by the BPW Florida Executive Committee, recognizes women who have successfully broken through the barrier of advancement in professions in fields generally dominated by men. Congratulations to the following five finalists:

Karen M. Sharp, President, CEO and Director, First State Bank of the Florida Keys; Val B. Demings, Chief of Police, Orlando Police Department, Orlando; Ana Viamonte Ros, MD. MPH, first woman in Florida to become state surgeon general; Cynthia Dick - Fire Chief, Fire Department of Tallahassee; Gloria Pugh, President and CEO of AMWAT Moving and Warehousing, Tallahassee

The 2009 honoree will be recognized at the upcoming BPW Florida annual state conference being held at the Doubletree Grand Key Resort in Key West, Florida June 11-14, 2009. BPW Florida's goal is to be the leading advocate for working women. The mission is to achieve equity for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education and information.

February 04 - TFD

Basic Life Support Competition Team Wins National Invitational Champion's Award

On January 30th, the Tallahassee Fire Department Basic Life Support Team put their skills to the test at Fire Rescue East, in Daytona Florida. Basic life support teams from across the country gathered to compete and showcase their skills for saving lives. Firefighters Kurt Hindle, Seth Blessing, Mike Sorrell and Thomas Wright comprised the Tallahassee team, which took first place in the competition.

"This award represents the high level of skill and dedication that these firefighters exhibit on a daily basis," said Fire Chief Cindy Dick. Please join us in congratulating some of Tallahassee's bravest.

February 04

City Promotes Energy Efficiency at North Florida Home Show

As a part of the Energy Smart Plus (e+) program, City of Tallahassee Utilities will have a booth at the 17th annual North Florida Home Show this weekend, Feb. 6-8. Attendees will learn ways to conserve energy and water through informative displays, demonstrations and interactive games. There will also be e+ giveaways and the chance to win prizes.

"This is a great opportunity to learn first hand about energy conservation, new technology and the City's wide variety of cost-saving energy programs," said David Byrne, the City's director of Energy Services.

The Home Show will take place at the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center from 1 to 7 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

This community education outreach has been made possible through a joint partnership between the City and several local businesses. Sam's Club provided an Energy Star refrigerator and clothes washer; Rinnai Corporation contributed a tankless water heater; Honeywell International donated two programmable thermostats; and 14 ceiling insulation coupons were offered by Allweather Insulation Co., Brown's Insulation Co. and Southern Insulation LLC.

"Our goal is to help customers save energy, water and money by changing their everyday behaviors and using simple, inexpensive measures that can lower their utility costs," Utility Marketing Administrator Sandra Manning said.

The City's e+ program offers residential ceiling insulation and energy retrofit grants, free energy audits, natural gas and Energy Star appliance rebates, Energy Star heat pump/air conditioning and solar water heater rebates, solar net metering, discounted Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) and low-interest loans for energy efficiency.

The [City Utilities](#) booth will be located in spaces 150-151 at the Civic Center. The Home Show is co-sponsored by Tallahassee Builders Association, Tallahassee Democrat, Home & Design, WCTV-Channel 6 and WTNT-FM. For more information, please call Jay Johansen with the City's Utility Marketing office at 891-6150 or visit Talgov.com/YOU.

February 04 - TPD

Traffic Crash Ends in Fatality

This morning, at approximately 9:40AM, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to a reported traffic crash near the intersection of Apalachee Parkway and Idlewild Drive. Upon arrival officers discovered that 58 year old Van Caston succumbed to injuries received during the crash. Investigator Zack Lyne of the Tallahassee Police Department's Traffic Homicide Unit responded to the scene. The preliminary investigation indicates that Mr. Caston was driving his 1986 brown 2 door Cadillac westbound on Apalachee Parkway. Mr. Caston's vehicle appears to have had a mechanical issue causing him to stop in the outside lane of travel. Mr. Caston exited his vehicle and while near the

rear of his vehicle, a 2004 gold 4 door Lexus SUV crashed into the rear of the Cadillac. The gold Lexus was driven by 32 year old Corie Jones.

The cause of the crash is still under investigation and charges may be pending. Investigators do not believe speed or impairment were factors in the crash.

February 04 Prepare for Cold Weather!

Helpful Tips for Saving Energy, Avoiding Frozen Pipes and Using Space Heaters Safely - The City of Tallahassee is urging citizens to take the following precautions for below freezing temperatures forecasted for this week.

Use Electricity and Natural Gas Wisely!

- City electric and natural gas customers should have adequate supplies during this cold snap, but customers are advised to contact Your Own Utilities at 891-4YOU (4968) if there are any problems with service. As always, customers are urged to conserve energy resources whenever possible.
- Electric customers in eastern and northeastern areas of Tallahassee, however, should be prepared to conserve energy during the early morning hours, when temperatures are expected to be coldest. Heavy electric demand, particularly in these areas, could cause supplies to approach capacity. Expanded electric facilities are being built that will help alleviate these capacity concerns in the future.
- If you do experience an electric power outage, turn the thermostat for your electric furnace or heat pump to the off position until electric service is restored. This will help protect your equipment and speed the restoration of electric service by reducing the immediate load requirement.
- Set your home heating thermostat carefully and accurately. The recommended daytime indoor temperature in winter is 68 degrees. The nighttime setting, meanwhile, depends on the type of equipment you're using.

Electric heat pump: At night, reduce the setting to 65 degrees (or lower if you have a programmable thermostat). If you drop the overnight temperature much lower than 65, raise it slowly the next morning (only 2-3 degrees at a time) to minimize operation of costly supplemental electric heat strips. Operating costs can triple when the strips are on. Look for a small light on the thermostat that signals strip operation.

Gas or oil furnace: At night, dial your furnace down to 60 or 55 degrees overnight. A gas or fuel oil furnace will reheat the house quickly in the morning.

Electric resistance "strip" heating: Lower the temperature to 60 or 55 degrees overnight. Electric strip heating is the least expensive central heating system to install, and the most expensive to operate. Set your thermostat low at night to avoid high costs.

Set your thermostat's FAN selection to AUTO, not to ON to minimize high heating bills. Avoid the ON setting, which operates your indoor-air distribution fan nonstop - doing so increases costs and reduces comfort.

If you have a heat pump, be sure your thermostat is not accidentally set to EM HEAT or EMERGENCY HEAT. Operating costs can triple in the Emergency Heat mode.

Avoiding Frozen Water Pipes

- Tremendous property damage may result if water pipes burst as a result of freezing temperatures. The City's Underground Utilities offers this advice to water customers:
- Protect pipes, especially if they are exposed or the house insulation is insufficient. Homes with crawl spaces are particularly susceptible to wind and freezing temperatures, so outdoor pipes should be protected from the elements.
- Run all water faucets, both hot and cold lines, at a thin stream. Also, secure the water meter covers so the meter and surrounding pipes are not exposed.
- Insulate or cover exposed backflow prevention devices on fire lines and irrigation systems.
- Commercial water customers should also wrap any fire lines in their buildings. Disconnect any outside water hoses from spigots, as water trapped inside can freeze and crack the hose.

If pipes do freeze, customers can use the valve inside their meter to shut off the supply of water to the house.

Be Safe When Using Supplemental Heating

The Tallahassee Fire Department advises residents to be extra careful when using plug-in space heaters, kerosene heaters, and fireplaces: Make sure all combustible materials such as drapes or chairs are at least three feet away from any heating unit.

- Avoid using flammable liquids to start fireplaces and do not leave a fireplace unattended.
- Plug your electric-powered space heater directly into an outlet with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord.
- Most importantly, check your smoke detector to make sure it is working properly.

For more information on cold weather pointers, please visit the City's website at Talgov.com. Winter energy efficiency tips are featured at

Talgov.com/you/energy/tips.cfm#tips , while heating equipment safety tips are available at Talgov.com/fire/fpheat.cfm

February 05

Weekday Closures on Mitchell Avenue Begin Feb. 10

Segment Between Betton Road and Seventh Avenue - The City of Tallahassee will begin weekday closures of Mitchell Avenue between Betton Road and Seventh Avenue Tuesday, Feb. 10 for a sanitary sewer construction project. Work on the sewer upgrade will require that a portion of Mitchell Avenue be closed to through traffic weekdays between 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m. Mitchell Avenue will reopen to the public each afternoon by 5 p.m., barring any unforeseeable problems that might occur during construction, and remain open until the next weekday morning when it will be closed again to through traffic. The detour route will be clearly posted, and the weekday closure of Mitchell Avenue will remain in effect until the project is completed in June.

The project is necessary due to problems with the sewer line that currently runs under Mitchell Avenue. City Underground Utilities staff have set the closure hours in recognition of school start times in the area and in an effort to reduce the impact on local residents, traffic, and the use of Winthrop Park.

The exact closure area on any given day will depend on where construction is taking place on Mitchell Avenue. Work will begin next week in the vicinity of Winthrop Park, and officials anticipate the phase of construction adjacent to the park to be completed by mid-March. Work will then continue on Mitchell Avenue between Anne Street and Seventh Avenue until the project is completed. No weekend closures will take place as part of the project.

Mitchell Avenue residents and their contractors/visitors will be allowed access to and from their homes, but through traffic will be detoured around the project. Limited access to and from Winthrop Park for park patrons will also be allowed, up to the point where the construction zone begins. The City is working closely with neighborhood interests; the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Department; and nearby schools to ensure affected parties are aware of the project and its impacts.

Weather permitting, the project should be completed and Mitchell Avenue completely reopened to traffic by June.

February 06

City Names New Animal Services Manager

The City of Tallahassee today announced the appointment of Alan Davis as the new Animal Services Manager of the Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center (ASC). Davis brings 20 years of animal care experience as the former director of Broward County (Florida) Animal Services, and will begin his new duties with the City on February 9.

Davis will report directly to Dee Crumpler, director of the City's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Department, which includes administrative oversight of the Animal Service Center. The center includes a staff of 35 employees and a budget currently allocated at \$2.29 million (FY 2009).

"I'm pleased that Alan Davis has joined our team at the Animal Service Center," said Crumpler. "His proven leadership and solid animal welfare background will serve us well, as we continue to enhance the comprehensive array of animal services offered to those animals and citizens we serve."

Crumpler further noted "Davis will continue to lead the Animal Service Center toward its goal of creating a world-class facility." As the incoming manager, Davis will be responsible for all center operations including animal care, animal control, humane education, and veterinary services including an in-house surgical unit for shelter animals.

The Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center is located at 1125 Easterwood Drive. The facility is open Tuesday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. For more information on the Animal Service Center and to view animals that are currently available for adoption, please visit Talgov.com.

February 09 - TPD

Armed Bank Robbery

This morning at approximately 7:15AM, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to the Sunshine Savings Bank at 1533 S. Monroe Street in reference to a bank robbery. Upon arrival, officers learned that an armed man jumped from the drive-thru rooftop as two employees were unlocking the bank door. The masked suspect was armed with a handgun and forced the employees inside the bank. The suspect then had the employees access the bank vault, and he fled the scene with an undisclosed amount of cash. The employees suffered minor injuries.

The suspect took one of the employee's vehicles, a black Ford Focus, which was later discovered abandoned at the intersection of Melvin Street and W. Harrison Street. The suspect was dressed in dark clothing and was described as a light-skinned male, possibly white, who had a medium build and was 5'5" to 5'6" tall.

The Tallahassee Police Department is asking the public for any information leading to the arrest of the suspect. Anyone with information about this crime is asked to contact the Tallahassee Police Department at (850) 891-4200 or Crime Stoppers at (850) 574-TIPS (8477).

Remember, Crime Stoppers does not want your name, just your information. You could be eligible for a reward up to \$1000.

February 10 - TPD Bank Robbery

This morning at approximately 10:11AM the Tallahassee Police Department responded to a bank robbery at the State Employees Credit Union at 2711 Blairstone Road. Upon arrival, officers learned that the suspect drove into the parking lot and parked in front of the bank. When the suspect exited the driver's door, he was wearing a mask over his face and was armed with a handgun. The suspect entered the bank, displayed the firearm, and was given an undisclosed amount of cash by the teller. The suspect then exited the bank, re-entered the driver's door of the car, and drove northbound on Blairstone Road. No one was injured during the robbery.

The suspect vehicle is described as an early 2000 model grey four-door Kia. The first three characters on the Florida license plate are K29. The suspect was described as a black male, 6'00" to 6'02", and approximately 185 to 195 pounds. He was dressed in a grey hooded sweatshirt, dark ball cap, dark mask, dark jeans, and dark gloves.

The Tallahassee Police Department is asking the public for any information leading to the arrest of the suspect. Anyone with information about this crime is asked to contact the Tallahassee Police Department at (850) 891-4200 or Crime Stoppers at (850) 574-TIPS (8477). Remember, Crime Stoppers does not want your name, just your information. You could be eligible for a reward up to \$1000.

February 10 Leon County, City of Tallahassee Celebrate Opening of Ox Bottom Road/Kerry Forest Roundabout

Leon County Board of County Commissioners Chairman Bryan Desloge and City of Tallahassee Mayor John Marks, along with representatives from the City and County, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony this morning at the newly constructed roundabout at Ox Bottom Road and Kerry Forest Parkway.

"This is an excellent example of a public-private partnership that provides very real benefits to our community," said Mayor John Marks. "We appreciate the patience of the neighbors and are delighted to have finished the work in a month."

The roundabout, part of the joint Leon County-City of Tallahassee Kerry Forest Parkway Extension Project, was constructed to create a safer, more efficient roadway for motorists.

"Due to a great collaborative effort between Leon County and the City of Tallahassee, this project was completed under budget and ahead of schedule," said Chairman Bryan Desloge, an avid cyclist who biked to the ceremony and gave his remarks from atop his bicycle. "We're confident that this roundabout will provide a safer, more efficient route for motorists, as well as pedestrians and cyclists like myself."

The roundabout, constructed around a large oak tree, was built to efficiently move traffic through intersections, and it is considered safer and less expensive over time compared to typical intersections.

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, there was a ceremonial "first trip" through the roundabout led by Chairman Desloge and other local bicyclists, followed by the Leon County Sheriff's Office, Leon County Emergency Medical Services, the Tallahassee Police Department and the Tallahassee Fire Department. The route opened at noon.

For more information on the Kerry Forest Parkway Extension Project, please contact Mike Scheiner with City Public Works Engineering at (850) 891-8473.

February 11 Tallahassee Becomes First Gold Certified Green City in Florida!

City Goes From Silver to Gold in Less Than a Year - Today, the City of Tallahassee was honored by the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) as a Gold Certified Green City. Tallahassee is the first city in Florida to be awarded a Gold Designation under the FGBC Green City Local Government Standard.

The City was able to accomplish the move from Silver to Gold in under a year with innovative programs like Demand Side Management; organization-wide policies to reduce water, energy and waste; Environmentally Preferable Purchasing practices; and the creation of the Environmental Policy and Energy Resources (EPER) Department, which manages the City's sustainability efforts.

"Last January, when we accepted the Silver Certification, I said we were going for the Gold, and to achieve this in less than a year is a true testament to the City's commitment to operating in an environmentally friendly manner and practicing what we preach," said Mayor John Marks.

The FGBC is an independent non-profit organization established in 2000 to promote green building construction practices in the state of Florida. Its mission is to provide a statewide green building program that defines, promotes and encourages sustainable efforts with environmental and economic benefits. The FGBC Green Local Government Standard designates Green Cities and Green Counties for outstanding environmental stewardship.

The ceremonial presentation of the award to the City was made today in Doug Burnette Park by Suzanne Cook, FGBC Executive Director.

On display were several examples of the initiatives that helped the City reach its goal of gold, such as an electric vehicle, green landscaping practices and paperless payroll.

"City staff is passionate in our pursuit of environmental excellence," said Cynthia Barber, director of EPER. "We are continually looking for ways to conserve our resources and save money in the process. This certification is the icing on the cake for our efforts to green our City government."

The official presentation of the Gold Certification will take place this afternoon during the regular City Commission meeting held in the City Commission Chambers, located on the second floor of City Hall, 300 S. Adams St. The City Commission meeting begins at 4 p.m.

For more information on the [City's green initiatives, please visit Talgov.com](#).

February 12

Weekday Closure of East Tharpe Street Next Week

Segment Between N. Monroe and N. Meridian - The City of Tallahassee will close East Tharpe Street between North Monroe Street and North Meridian Road between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. for street resurfacing Monday through Friday, Feb. 16-20. East Tharpe Street will reopen to the public each afternoon by 4:30 p.m., and remain open until the next morning when it will be closed again to through traffic.

The detour route using Glenview Drive and Seventh Avenue will be clearly posted, with only local traffic permitted in the work zone - local access will be permitted via Moss Street off Lake Ella Drive. Weather permitting, the entire project should be completed by 4:30 p.m. Friday afternoon, Feb. 20.

February 12

City of Tallahassee Utilities' SmartBill Helps Customers Save Time, Reduce Waste

New "Goodmail CertifiedEmail Adds New Level of Security to SmartBill - In just the first three months since the City of Tallahassee Utilities introduced the SmartBill, over 6,000 residential and business customers have signed up to receive their monthly utility bill electronically. The SmartBill is conveniently delivered each month to the customer's preferred email address and has all the information of the traditional paper bill but without the waste of paper.

In addition to saving time and money for customers as well as the city, the SmartBill provides a significant reduction in environmental impact. These 6,000 customers will save approximately 2.5 tons of paper, 45,500 gallons of water, 8,000-kilowatt hours of energy and reduce greenhouse gases by more than 12,000 pounds annually. The first year goal of the program is to enroll 7,200 customers. With the widespread adoption of the SmartBill, that number could easily top 10,000 customers in the first year.

Beginning February 13, Your Own Utilities has been certified to add the Goodmail CertifiedEmail service to the SmartBill. CertifiedEmail is the ultimate defense against phishing: A blue ribbon envelope icon, unique to CertifiedEmail messages, lets recipients know that the email really is from the sender it appears to be from and can be trusted. CertifiedEmail is built directly into the recipient's email application, with no downloads or plug-ins required and is available only to senders with the best email practices and consumer reputation. The CertifiedEmail service is currently available to customers using Yahoo and AOL with AT&T, Comcast, RoadRunner, Telus, and Verizon scheduled to roll out the service this year.

Benefits

- Easier to identify messages that are safe to open and act upon
- CertifiedEmail blue trust seal and security strip are exclusive CertifiedEmail messages
- Easy to use
- No software or plug-ins to install
- Available to trusted senders only
- All CertifiedEmail senders must go through a strict accreditation process
- Convenience
- Easy to see at a glance which emails are from legitimate senders

For more information on the [SmartBill](#) or the [Goodmail CertifiedEmail](#) service, please call Lee Stillwell with the City's Utility Marketing office at 891-6168 or visit [Talgov.com/YOU](#).

February 12

City's Public Works Department Receives Acclaim

Award Given for Doug Burnette Park Enhancement - The City of Tallahassee's Public Works Department recently won a first-place award for the Doug Burnette Park Enhancement project. The \$250,000 project was selected as winner in the Beautification Category from the Big Bend Branch of the American Public Works Association (APWA) at a regional awards banquet held earlier this month.

Providing an aesthetic and user-friendly facelift to a historic central Tallahassee park space, the project was completed almost entirely in-house and featured extensive collaborative efforts between Public Works, Parks/Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs, other City

departments, and the American Consulting Engineers of Florida. Among the amenities added to the site were sidewalks, benches, water fountains including one pet-friendly fountain, accessibility for disabled patrons and additional landscaping to complement the existing canopy of live oak trees. Doug Burnette Park is located between Gaines and Madison streets just south of the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center, and will be maintained by the City's Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Affairs Department.

Public Works also received two Honorable Mention certificates in the Beautification Category. The department was honored for the Governors Square Boulevard Widening project and for the soon-to-be-opened Orange Avenue Extension project.

The Public Works Department is responsible for the design, construction and maintenance of significant citywide infrastructure, including streets, sidewalks, traffic control, stormwater and flood control drainage systems and landscaping/tree maintenance programs. The department oversees the operation of Administrative, Engineering, Project Management, Traffic Engineering and Streets and Drainage divisions. For more information on the Public Works Department, please visit Talgov.com.

February 13

Give a Homeless Pet a Second Chance at Love

Animal Service Center hosts "Adopt-a-Sweetheart" Pet Adoption Event - This Saturday, February 14, the Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center is encouraging citizens to think beyond traditional Valentine's Day gifts of chocolate and roses and express their love by adopting a lifelong furry friend during their "Adopt-a-Sweetheart" event.

The event will be held at the Animal Service Center, located at 1125 Easterwood Drive, by Tom Brown Park, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

"This is a wonderful outreach program that helps to get these homeless pets out of the shelter and into permanent homes," said Alan Davis, Director for Animal Services. "Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate love, and we're hoping that many of our four-legged residents will be able to give love a second chance."

During the event, all adoptions are half priced! If two or more animals are adopted at a time, one of the adoption fees will be waived (sterilization fees will still apply). New pet owners will also receive a pet starter kit that includes free Hill's Science Diet pet food and tips on caring for your new cat or dog.

The [Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center](#) is operated and maintained by the City's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Department. For more information on the Animal Service Center and to [view animals that are currently available for adoption](#), please visit Talgov.com.

February 16

Closure of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

Weekday Work to Affect Two Segments of the Road - The City of Tallahassee will close Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. between Fourth Avenue and Sheppard Street between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 17. From Wednesday to Friday, February 18-20, the street will be closed during the same hours along the segment between Fourth Ave. and Sixth Ave.

February 16 - TFD

House Fire on Manor Drive

A house fire that occurred at 7:03am at the 8000 block of Manor Drive was contained to a third of the structure. Estimated damage cost is \$35,000. The cause of the blaze was reported to be electrical. The time of extinguishment was 5 minutes after the arrival of the first TFD unit.

There were no injuries except for the family house pet. Lt. Harvey with the Tallahassee Fire Department rescued Tigger, a yorkshire terrier. Tigger was unconscious and barely breathing when Paramedic Lt Jason Byrd immediately administered medical aid. A special animal oxygen recovery mask was used to resuscitate him on scene. Tigger is reported to be doing well and will be monitored for 24 – 48 hours at the hospital.

February 17 - TPD

Police Investigate Shootings

Yesterday, at approximately 4:00PM, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to a reported shooting at 810 Wadsworth Drive (Campus Walk Apartments). Upon arrival, officers discovered that a 19 year old black male had been shot near the pool area of the apartment complex. Witnesses reported hearing gunshots and observing a silver Dodge Magnum or BMW vehicle fleeing the scene. Investigators determined that the victim possibly arrived at the apartment complex in what is described as a candy apple red box style vehicle. The motive for the shooting is still under investigation, but is believed to be drug related. The victim was transported to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and is currently in serious condition.

Investigator Mark Lewis from the Tallahassee Police Department's Violent Crimes Unit was in the area of Springhill and Springsax Roads at approximately 6:40PM conducting followup investigation related to the shooting on Wadsworth Drive. Investigator Lewis was driving an unmarked vehicle and observed 19 year old Justin Martinez chasing an unknown black male. Investigator Lewis observed Martinez holding

a handgun and shoot at the unknown black male victim as he fled the area. Investigator Lewis quickly captured Martinez after a short foot pursuit.

A short time later, Investigator Lewis was notified that a separate incident involving Martinez had occurred at 2621 Springhill Road (K&S Food Store). During this event, Martinez was identified by an 18 year old black male victim as the person who had just attempted to kill him by shooting at him. The victim explained to Investigator Lewis that he accepted a ride from an acquaintance and that Martinez was the front seat passenger. Upon arrival at K&S Food Store, the victim explained he exited the vehicle and Martinez stated, "You're dead, You're dead." Martinez then brandished a handgun and shot at the victim as he ran inside the store for safety. The victim was not harmed during the shooting. Investigator Lewis arrived shortly after the shooting incident.

Both shootings remain under investigation and are believed to be drug related. Anyone with information on these crimes is asked to contact the [Tallahassee Police Department](#) at (850) 891-4200 or Crime Stoppers at (850) 574-TIPS (8477). Remember, Crime Stoppers does not want your name, just your information. You could be eligible for a reward up to \$1000.

Arrested



Justin A. Martinez, B/M, 19 yoa. Charges: Attempted Homicide and Violation of Probation (warrant) from Miami Dade County for Carrying a Concealed Weapon.

February 18

Delta Intrastate Service to Tallahassee Restored

The City of Tallahassee announced today that Delta Air Lines will reinstate non-stop intra-Florida service between Tallahassee Regional Airport and Fort Lauderdale, Tampa and Orlando beginning on April 1, 2009. Delta will provide the new service using its 32-seat SAAB turbo-prop aircraft.

"This initiative reinstates Delta service that was lost back in October 2008, and prepares our community for a successful legislative session, and beyond" said Tallahassee Mayor John Marks. The Mayor acknowledged the efforts of government officials and the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce in working on air service issues. The Chamber has also offered assistance with regional marketing efforts prior to flights resuming on April 1, to promote the use and accessibility of the Tallahassee Regional Airport.

"Suitable intrastate air service is a vital economic contributor to this community, to its growth and stability and to our way of life," added Leon County Commission Chairman Bryan Desloge.

Delta will be providing two flights each weekday and one on Saturday and Sunday to Fort Lauderdale, Tampa, and Orlando. Delta is one of five major commercial air carriers servicing the Tallahassee market, including American Airlines, Continental Airlines, Northwest AirlinK, and US Airways Express. Tickets for Delta service can be purchased online at www.delta.com or by calling Delta Air Lines at (800) 221-1212 or your local travel agent.

The Tallahassee Regional Airport is operated and maintained by the City of Tallahassee. For more information on the Tallahassee Regional Airport, [please visit the Airport's website](#).

February 19

City's Electric Crews Assist with Outages in Thomasville

South Georgia City Hard Hit by Overnight Storm - Ten employees from City of Tallahassee Utilities will soon depart to assist the City of Thomasville's Utilities Department with electric restoration efforts as a result of the overnight severe storm that struck the south Georgia city. The contingent includes three pieces of equipment, nine electric line construction personnel and one line supervisor. They expect to arrive in Thomasville by 10:30 a.m.

"We have a mutual aid agreement with City of Thomasville Electric and other electric utilities in the region, whereby we provide assistance

following weather-related impacts, and they reimburse us for the actual costs," said Gary Oberschlake, Manager of Electric Transmission and Distribution for City of Tallahassee Utilities. "Our assistance is in the long-term best interest of our customers as it also means that if we're in a similar situation we can count on other public power electric utilities to help us."

The crews will be supplying the mutual aid as long as they are needed. Other public power utility crews from cities in south Georgia will also provide restoration assistance in Thomasville.

February 19

Tennis and Tails Event to Raise Money for Fitness Equipment

PRNA Divisions Team Up to Better Serve the Community - The City's Tennis Division, in partnership with the Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center (ASC), is hosting its first annual Tennis and Tails event to help raise money for new fitness equipment. The event will be held on Saturday, February 21 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Forestmeadows Athletic Center, 4750 North Meridian Road.

PRNA Divisions Team Up to Better Serve the Community - The City's Tennis Division, in partnership with the Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center (ASC), is hosting its first annual Tennis and Tails event to help raise money for new fitness equipment. The event will be held on Saturday, February 21 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Forestmeadows Athletic Center, 4750 North Meridian Road.

The feature of the event is a tennis social round robin tournament, which begins at 11:30 a.m. The cost for the round robin is \$25 per person and includes court fees, lunch and a t-shirt.

Visitors to the event will also be able to visit with adoptable pets from the ASC on site, receive coupons for special discounts on pet services, receive a free child ID from Tallahassee Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit and participate in the silent auction beginning at 10 a.m., where patrons can bid on such items as a HEAD tennis racquet, bottle of Dom Perignon, weekend stay at the Homewood Suites, grilling set and gift certificates to various local restaurants.

Food and other refreshments will be available for sale. [Applications for the round robin tournament](#) (PDF) are available on Talgov.com, as well as at City tennis locations. More information on this event is also available by calling the Forestmeadows Athletic Center at 891-3920.

The [Tennis Division](#) and [Animal Service Center](#) are both operated and maintained by the [City's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Department](#). For more information on either department, including regular hours of operation, please visit the City's website at Talgov.com.

Contact: Glen Howe, Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Affairs, 891-3920; or Lizzy Kelley, Communications Department, 891-8533

February 20

Regional Transportation Agency Holds Special Meeting

The Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) will hold a special meeting Monday, Feb. 23, to review an amendment to the FY 2009-2013 Transportation Improvement Program to include projects eligible for federal stimulus funding. The meeting will take place immediately following a meeting of the Blueprint 2000 Intergovernmental Agency that begins at 3 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the City Commission Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 300 South Adams Street.

*Sent on behalf of the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA)
by the City of Tallahassee*

February 23 - TPD

Investigators Solve Shooting

On Monday, February 16th, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to 810 Wadsworth Drive (Campus Walk Apartments) in reference to a reported shooting. Upon arrival, officers discovered 19 year old Michael Jerger lying in the parking lot, the victim of two gunshot wounds. Investigator Mark Lewis and Investigator Bert Wester from the Tallahassee Police Department's Violent Crimes Unit responded to the scene of the shooting and continued the investigation. During the investigation 28 year old Johnnie Floyd was identified as the person who shot Jerger.

Investigators developed probable cause and obtained a warrant for the arrest of Floyd. Floyd was located and arrested by U.S. Marshals in Biloxi, Mississippi at approximately 11:00PM, on Friday, February 20th. Floyd refused to speak to investigators, but the investigation indicates Floyd met with Jerger on February 16th in an effort to complete a drug deal. The drug deal took place inside Floyd's 2007 silver BMW, along with two other men, Taylor Dunn and Charles Richardson. Investigators obtained a search warrant for Floyd's home located at 1462 Grey Fox Run. A subsequent search of the home revealed a loaded handgun which was possibly used in the shooting.

The investigation indicates additional charges could be filed as investigators continue to unravel the facts related to this case.

Arrested



Johnnie Floyd, B/M, 28 yoa. Charges: Attempted Murder, and Robbery with a Firearm.

February 23 - TPD Three Wounded in Separate Shootings

This morning, at approximately 3:00AM, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to two shootings. The first shooting occurred in the parking lot of 2785 South Monroe Street (Lindy's Chicken) and the second shooting occurred in the parking lot of 2525 Texas Street (Sunrise Apartments). The 21 year old black male victim from the South Monroe Street shooting was taken to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital by a friend. There were two victims involved in the second shooting, a 19 year old black male and a 31 year old black male, who were taken to separate hospitals by friends (Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and Capital Regional Medical Center). All victims in the above shootings are expected to survive their injuries.

Investigators continue to examine physical evidence and witness statements in an effort to determine if the shootings are related. Anyone with information about these crimes is asked to contact the Tallahassee Police Department at (850) 891-4200 or Crime Stoppers at (850) 574-TIPS (8477). Remember, Crime Stoppers does not want your name, just your information. You could be eligible for a reward up to \$1000.

February 23 Orange Avenue Extension Opens

Roadway Provides Key East-West Corridor in Southside - The new Orange Avenue Extension between Blair Stone Road and Capital Circle Southeast will open to all traffic tomorrow morning, Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 9 a.m. The \$5.5 million City of Tallahassee project includes a new four-lane roadway, complemented by sidewalks, bicycle lanes, curb and gutter, stormwater treatment facilities and landscaping. The project also required the realignment of Paul Russell Road.

The opening of this roadway completes Orange Avenue to Capital Circle Southeast and enhances an important east-west corridor for the community. The project is a key component to the City's Southern Strategy and thus provides additional economic development potential to the southern areas of Tallahassee.

The original expected completion date for the project was January 14. The slopes adjacent to the road, however, suffered serious damage during Tropical Storm Fay. The additional work required delayed the opening of the roadway by approximately 6 weeks.

For more information on City road construction projects, visit Talgov.com.

February 23 - TPD Update - TPD Looking For Suspect in Shooting

This morning, at approximately 3:00AM, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to 2785 South Monroe Street in reference to a shooting. The 21 year old victim was taken to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital prior to officers arriving on scene. Investigator Mark Lewis from the Tallahassee Police Department's Violent Crime Unit responded to the hospital and obtained information from the victim who assisted in identifying the suspect.

This afternoon, Investigator Lewis obtained a warrant for the arrest of 20 year old Dante L. Davis, Jr. Davis is from Tallahassee and may be driving a 2 door 1997 red Chevrolet Monte Carlo, with a temporary Florida tag of ACW6354. Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Dante L. Davis, Jr. is asked to contact the Tallahassee Police Department at (850) 891-4200 or Crime Stoppers at (850) 574-TIPS (8477). Remember, Crime Stoppers does not want your name, just your information. You could be eligible for a reward up to \$1000.

WANTED:



Dante L. Davis, Jr., B/M, 5'8", 160lbs, 21 yoa. Charge: Attempted Murder, and Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon.

February 24
Delays on Blair Stone Road

Traffic Signal Upgrade at Phillips Road Intersection - Motorists will experience temporary delays along Blair Stone Road at the intersection with Phillips Road this Wednesday and Thursday, February 25-26 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., while crews install foundations for new mast arm traffic signals at the intersection. One lane for both northbound and southbound traffic will be open while work is occurring, but motorists should prepare for brief delays on Blair Stone Road as they approach Phillips Road.

This advance foundation work is in anticipation of the actual mast arms, poles and traffic signals being installed at the intersection during the week of March 9. Motorists are urged to use caution in the area and obey flag signals from construction personnel.

February 24 - TPD
DNA Leads Investigators to Suspect in Two-Year Old Robbery

On November 25, 2006, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to a reported robbery at 1060 West Tennessee Street (Burger King). According to the victim, a black male suspect entered the store after closing and demanded cash at gunpoint. The suspect forced two employees to lie on the floor and forced the manager into the freezer before running away on foot. Officers located a beanie style hat with eye holes cut out, \$63 in cash strewn about the 1300 Block of Hancock Street and a black baseball cap nearby. Officers never located the suspect, but impounded the suspected evidence in hopes of identifying a suspect. No one was injured during the robbery.

On February 23, 2009 the Florida Department of Law Enforcement notified Investigator Jeff Mahoney, with the Violent Crimes Cold Case Unit, that DNA retrieved from the baseball cap belonged to Titus Ross. Investigator Mahoney discovered Ross was on probation and wanted for an unrelated theft charge. Further investigation revealed Ross was arrested near Franklin Boulevard and West Tennessee Street on September 13, 2008 when Officer Scherri Bryant stopped a 4 door dark green Chevrolet Lumina for an expired tag. Ross was a passenger in the Chevrolet and was arrested due to an outstanding warrant for failing to appear for a non-moving traffic violation. During the September 13th arrest, a handgun and marijuana were found in Ross' possession.

Investigators Jeff Mahoney, Craig Isom, Vincent Boccio, and Scott Cherry located and arrested Ross without incident at his home on Belle Vue Way late yesterday afternoon. Ross when interviewed by Investigators Cherry and Boccio confessed he committed the robbery at Burger King on November 25, 2006. According to Ross, the firearm he used in the robbery was seized during his arrest on September 13, 2008.

Arrested:



Titus Ross, B/M, 24 yoa. Charges: Robbery with a Firearm, False Imprisonment, Grand Theft (warrant), and Fraud (warrant).

February 24

Construction Continues on New Electric Line

Includes Brief Closure of Centerville Road Thursday - Progress on the Eastern Transmission Line continues. The City of Tallahassee is building the new transmission line to help ensure reliable electric service for the fast-growing eastern and northeastern areas of the community. The next phase of construction includes ground clearing activities along the transmission line route from the site of a new electric substation to be built on the east side of Centerville Road just south of the intersection with Shamrock South, to I-10.

This Thursday, February 26, construction activities will begin as crews unload equipment at the Centerville Road entrance to the substation site, with clearing work to begin shortly thereafter. This work will require a brief closure of Centerville Road between Gardenview Way and Shamrock South, beginning at 9 a.m. Thursday and lasting for only two hours. The detour route will be clearly posted.

The City has worked closely with nearby neighborhoods to help ensure a buffer remains between their homes and the route of the transmission line. Ongoing communications between the City and interested citizens have included public open houses, on-site visits and e-mail updates.

Citizens may register for regular e-mail updates on the Eastern Transmission Line via the [Talgov.com E-Services page](#). Additional [detailed information on the project is available](#) at Talgov.com/you.

February 25

City / County Reach Proposed Agreement on Functional Consolidation of Fire/EMS

Commissions to Consider Agreement This Week - Leon County Chairman Bryan Desloge and Tallahassee City Commissioner Andrew Gillum today announced an interlocal agreement has been crafted to functionally consolidate Fire and EMS Services to increase efficiency. The proposed agreement will be presented to the City and County Commissions this week. The two elected leaders were appointed by their respective commissions to evaluate and recommend how services could be provided when the current contract for fire services ends on June 30, 2009.

The City provides fire services countywide, under a contract with Leon County, and the County provides Emergency Medical Services countywide.

"This community has asked for decades that we work together more efficiently from both the city and county perspectives," said Gillum. "This week our commissions will hear the details of an agreement that recommends we make that a reality in terms of how we provide fire and ambulance services countywide."

"We believe we have crafted a common sense agreement where we will offer even stronger services in the unincorporated areas of the county, as well as use existing stations and technology for both fire and EMS," said Desloge.

Under the terms of the proposed interlocal agreement, one additional firefighter / Emergency Medical Technician per shift would be added at each of the five rural fire stations. Currently two personnel are assigned to these stations per shift. An additional firefighter would allow full utilization of all equipment at the station. Currently, the fire engine / water tanker cannot be deployed when an emergency medical call comes in as such calls require both of the existing personnel to respond.

Under the recommended functional consolidation, the Fire and EMS offices would be at the future public safety complex where joint dispatch would be located, staff would use the same software to control the system, as well as the same communication frequencies, ambulances and fire units would be able to communicate directly with each other and ambulances would be co-located at existing fire stations. The agreement would help to bring about greater efficiency and integration within the two services.

In conjunction with the discussion of functional consolidation, a countywide cost of services study was conducted to determine the level of funding needed in the future. The fees will be based upon an evaluation of the call volumes and will be finalized as part of the budget process for both governments.

"The city would utilize the same structure we've had in place for the existing fire services fee," said Commissioner Gillum. "For most city residents the proposed fee will mean paying \$1.25 to \$2.85 cents more a month than they currently do, for fire protection service." The cost for fire services has not increased over the last five years, and under the agreement the proposed costs would remain the same for the next five years.

"For unincorporated county residents, this means we will receive even better response from fire services. Effectively, we are adding 18 new firefighters in the rural areas of the county. The Board of County Commissioners will also be evaluating ways to help offset these costs where possible," said Commissioner Desloge.

The agreement specifies that unincorporated county residents who receive any city utility service will be billed on their monthly utility bill, as is the case with city residents. Unincorporated residents that are not city utility customers will receive a separate bill. The new rates would take effect on October 1, 2009.

The City Commission will consider the proposed interlocal agreement at its meeting today, at 4 p.m., and Leon County will consider it at its meeting on Thursday, Feb. 25. The rates are preliminary at this time, but are not expected to change significantly. The final rates will be included in both governments' budget process for 2010, upon approval of the agreement.

Facts About Fire Services Fees

- Currently the city charges its residents a fire services fee of \$13 a month for single-family households and \$7 a month for multi-family. Businesses pay a fire services fee based upon type of business and square footage.
- Leon County pays the city for the provision of fire and basic life support services in the unincorporated area for an annual fee, adjusted annually by the consumer price index.
- The fees have not increased for five years and an increase would be necessary this year to cover costs.
- Under the proposed functional consolidation, a countywide fire services fee would be utilized based on a two-zone system.
- Zone 1 would include all businesses and residences within five miles of two or more core fire stations, which is predominately in the areas closest to the urban core of the city.
- Zone 2 would include all other properties.
- For Zone 1, the cost would be less than \$17 (currently proposed at \$15.83) a month for single-family residences and less than \$13 (currently proposed at \$11.58) for multi-family.
- In Zone 2, the cost would be less than \$16 (currently proposed at \$14.25) a month for single-family residences and less than \$5 (currently proposed at \$3.83) a month for multi-family.
- The fees are based upon an evaluation of the call volume within the zones and will be finalized as part of the budget process for both governments.
- The cost for commercial structures is based on the type of business and the square footage of the facility.

February 26 - TFD

Tallahassee Fire Department Firefighter Ceremony

Today at 10 am, the Tallahassee Fire Department will hold an Orientation Ceremony inside the Commission Chamber at City Hall. The event will recognize six new employees who have completed the orientation process, as well as recently promoted employees. The department will also recognize their Honor Guard and ALS/BLS teams for their efforts in recent events. The event is open to the public and refreshment will be served following the ceremony.