

April 2009 News Releases

April 01

Intrastate Airline Service Launched Today

Local Officials Discuss Partnership With Delta - Tallahassee community leaders today joined together to formally welcome the resumption of intra-state airline service from the Capital City on Delta Air Lines. Delta initiated non-stop service between Tallahassee Regional Airport (TLH) and Fort Lauderdale (FLL), Tampa (TPA) and Orlando (MCO) beginning today. Officials gathered this morning at City Hall to discuss the collaborative efforts that led to Delta resuming intra-state service to and from Tallahassee.

Mayor John Marks was joined at this morning's announcement by state House Representatives Alan Williams and Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda, Leon County Commission vice-chairman Bob Rackleff, and Glenda Thornton, chair of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce. Mike Doil, a representative from Delta's headquarters in Atlanta, also spoke about the new service.

Officials emphasized the ability for local government, the state of Florida and Tallahassee's business community to craft a partnership creating guaranteed funding to Delta to ensure the routes are profitable. They also urged local citizens and visitors to utilize the new air service, as Tallahassee Regional Airport is one of only a few to actually gain additional flights during the current economic downturn.

The schedule for new service follows (all times local):

TLH to TPA (2 new flights)

Flight No.	Departs	Arrives
5775	7:00am	8:05am
5777	5:25pm	6:30pm

TPA to TLH

Flight No.	Departs	Arrives
5776	8:30am	9:35am
5778	6:55pm	8:00pm

TLH to FLL (2 new flights)

Flight No.	Departs	Arrives
5767	10:00am	11:45am
5769	5:55pm	7:40pm

FLL to TLH

Flight No.	Departs	Arrives
5766	6:30am	8:21am
5768	3:00pm	4:51pm

TLH to MCO (2 new flights)

Flight No.	Departs	Arrives
5771	8:45am	10:00am
5773	2:00pm	3:15pm

MCO to TLH

Flight No.	Departs	Arrives
5772	10:30am	11:45am
5774	3:40pm	4:55pm

Note: All flights are subject to change and vary slightly from day to day. For the most current flight information please visit flytallahassee.com.

Delta is one of five major commercial air carriers servicing the Tallahassee market, including American Airlines, Continental Airlines, Northwest Airlinck, and US Airways Express. Tickets 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 at flytallahassee.com](http://flytallahassee.com).

April 02

Protecting Our Pets, Families and Community

Free Rabies Vaccination Clinic This Saturday - The City of Tallahassee Animal Control Division, in cooperation with the Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center (ASC), will hold a free rabies vaccination clinic at the Smith-Williams Neighborhood Center, located at 2295 Pasco Street, on Saturday, April 4, from 10 a.m. to noon.

"We saw this as an opportunity to team up with local area veterinarians to provide a life saving service to the community and their pets," said Dr. Rachel Reeves, Animal Services veterinarian. "It is critical to vaccinate pets against rabies to prevent the spread of the disease."

Our community has seen a dramatic increase in the number of animals testing positive for rabies virus infection in Leon County. In the last four months alone, there have been 28 wildlife to human/pet exposure cases involving 36 victims (24 pets and 12 humans).

Florida Law requires all dogs and cats be vaccinated for this disease. Pets must be at least three months old to be vaccinated. At the clinic, cats must be in a pet carrier, and dogs must be on a leash.

Free say/neuter vouchers will also be available courtesy of Treatment Resources and Education for Animals in Temporary Shelter Inc. (T.R.E.A.T.S.) and the Animal Shelter Foundation Inc.

This is the fourth clinic the Animal Control Division and ASC have done. At the event held in October 2008, 182 vaccinations were successfully administered in two hours.

While there is no cost to have your pet vaccinated, a suggested donation of \$5 is encouraged to help cover the cost of the vaccination and future clinics.

The Animal Control Division and the ASC are operated and maintained by the City's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Department. For more information on the Animal Service Center, located at 1125 Easterwood Drive next to Tom Brown Park, and to [view animals that are currently available for adoption](#), please visit Talgov.com.

April 02 City Responding to Storm

Response Efforts for Heavy Rain/Severe Weather - The City of Tallahassee's Emergency Management Team continues to closely monitor the current weather situation, and City departments are responding as needed. The primary concern is very heavy rain today, adding to rainfall from the past several days. Rain is forecasted to continue into the night, with a continuing possibility of severe weather. City crews from the Electric Utility, Public Works, Police and Fire have initiated response efforts. These include:

Lake Talquin dam - Electric Utility staff at the C.H. Corn Hydroelectric Facility are working with the Leon County Sheriff's Office on notifying residents living on Crooked Road along the Ochlockonee River downstream from the dam as the river will rise above flood stage later today. Electric Utility staff will attempt to delay the river going above flood stage until the residents are notified and have had some time to evacuate.

Electric service - the Electric Utility has extra staff at the Electric Control Center on duty, with additional on-call repair crews ready for response efforts, as needed. Only one major outage has been reported today, affecting approximately 2130 customers in the northwest area of the city (High Road, Continental Avenue, Alabama Street, Colorado Street). That outage was restored within 25 minutes. Currently approximately 180 customers are without power, with the majority being along Coleman Street in southwest Tallahassee. Crews are on-scene and hope to have power restored soon. Tallahassee Electric Utility customers may report power outages to 891-4YOU (4968).

Road closures - within the city include Lake Ella Drive, and southbound Franklin Boulevard south of Tennessee Street. High water is also reported at the Killarney Way/Shamrock roundabout.

Sandbags - remain available at the corner of Mabry Street and Bellevue Way. Citizens must bring their own shovels and be prepared to fill bags on their own. Public Works staff will closely monitor this location in the morning to determine if additional sand and bags will be needed.

Public Works response - barricades have been placed in locations prone to flooding in case streets need to be closed quickly. Extra on-call Public Works crews are in place to respond to reports of downed trees or localized flooding. Within the Tallahassee city limits, citizens may report flooded streets and downed trees to the Public Works Streets & Drainage Division at 891-5300 (through 5 p.m.; after 5 p.m. contact the Tallahassee Police Department at 891-4200 to report flooded streets and downed trees).

Tallahassee Police Department response - personnel are ready for weather-related response efforts, as needed, including closing streets due to flooding.

A word of caution to motorists who must be on the road during heavy rain - do not drive on streets where water covers the surface. There could be deep water or potholes caused by the flooding. Police officers will issue citations to drivers ignoring road barricades.

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- Lake Talquin dam - Electric Utility staff at the C.H. Corn Hydroelectric Facility continue to work with the Leon County Sheriff's Office on notifying residents living on Crooked Road along the Ochlockonee River downstream from the dam, as the river is now at flood stage. Electric Utility staff at the dam will constantly monitor upstream flows coming into Lake Talquin, and adjust the amount of water being released downstream from the dam as needed.
- Electric service - the Electric Utility has extra staff at the Electric Control Center on duty, with additional on-call repair crews ready for response efforts this evening and overnight, as needed. No major outages are reported at this time. City of Tallahassee Electric Utility customers may report power outages to 891-4YOU (4968).
- Road closures - the only current road closed within the city is Lake Ella Drive.
- Sandbags - remain available at the corner of Mabry Street and Bellevue Way. Citizens must bring their own shovels and be prepared

to fill bags on their own. Public Works staff are monitoring this location to determine if additional sand and bags will be needed.

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- Tallahassee Police Department response - personnel are ready for weather-related response efforts, as needed, including closing streets due to flooding.

A word of caution to motorists who must be on the road during heavy rain - do not drive on streets where water covers the surface. There could be deep water or potholes caused by the flooding. Police officers will issue citations to drivers ignoring road barricades.

Motorists are also reminded that when approaching a signalized intersection where traffic lights are not working due to a power outage, they must regard the intersection as a FOUR-WAY STOP. Citizens may report malfunctioning traffic signals to the Tallahassee Police Department at 891-4200.

April 03

Your Own Utilities to Conduct Smoke Test on Sewer Lines

Testing Begins April 6 - To enhance wastewater infrastructure and improve operational efficiency, the City of Tallahassee's Underground Utilities will conduct smoke testing of the sewer system in the Myers Park and Lafayette Park neighborhoods and adjacent commercial areas beginning on Monday, April 6. Similar tests were recently conducted successfully in Tanglewood Mobile Home Park, the Waverly Hills and Piedmont Park neighborhoods and some portions of the Frenchtown neighborhood.

The boundaries for this smoke test are south of Beard Street, east of Monroe Street, west of Magnolia Drive and north of Jennings Street. This phase of testing should be completed within two weeks, weather permitting.

City crews, assisted by the contractor United Sealing Services, will perform this routine and safe preventative maintenance work weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., weather permitting. Residents do not need to be home during the testing, expected to take about 15 minutes. Notification along with detailed information has been provided via door hangers to the affected homes and businesses.

"This is the most efficient and cost effective means to identify the source of leaks and infiltration into the sewer system," said Wastewater Treatment Division Manager Joe Cheatham. "It will reduce the amount of stormwater that enters the lines which causes unnecessary volume, stress and operational costs for the system."

The testing consists of forcing safe, vegetable oil-derived smoke into the sewer lines and observing where it escapes in order to determine the location of leaks and defects. Odorless and safe, the smoke leaves no residuals or stains and has no adverse effect on people, plants or animals.

As recommended by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, smoke testing has been used extensively throughout the country.

While smoke can be expected to billow from manhole covers and vent stacks on roofs, it should not enter homes. To reduce the likelihood of it entering a building, the City recommends that residents in affected areas pour 2-3 gallons of water into seldom-used sinks and floor drains, where the smoke could arise due to lack of water pressure.

For more information, please call 891-4YOU (4968) or visit online at Talgov.com/you.

April 06 - TFD

Saturday's Fire in the 500 Block of Copeland Street Caused by Unattended Cooking

Firefighters were alerted of a house fire in the 500 Block of Copeland Street, while extinguishing a vehicle fire at Georgia and Copeland Street. Firefighters stated that they had the fire out on a Limo Bus owned by Classic Limos, when a man alerted them that the kitchen was on fire in a house less than a block away.

"We ran towards the house with extinguishers, thinking that it was a grease fire. Once we approached the house we could see fire showing from the rear of the home," said Acting Lieutenant Jay Kessinger.

The fire, which occurred around 9:45 Saturday night, took 30 minutes to bring under control. Firefighters reported that unattended cooking was the cause of the fire. The fire started in the kitchen and quickly spread to the living room and into the attic.

Damage estimated at \$150,000. No injuries were reported during the incident.

April 06

Precautionary Boil Water Notice for City Water Customers

Notice Affects Customers in Southwest Area of Tallahassee - Due to a broken water main, the City of Tallahassee is issuing a precautionary boil water notice for a small area in southwest Tallahassee. The streets affected by this notice include Woodhaven Dr., East

and West Bellarose St., and Madrone Ave.

During the afternoon hours Monday, routine work by a third-party contractor caused soil beneath a water line to collapse causing the water line to break. As a result of the line break, a precautionary boil water notice is required, affecting approximately 100 City water customers. Water service in this area is expected to be restored by 7 p.m. tonight, however the City is required to issue a boil water notice for those customers in this area.

The City is asking customers in this area to take precautionary steps before preparing food or using water for drinking purposes. To use water for cooking or drinking purposes, bring water to a boil. A rolling boil for one minute is sufficient to render the water safe for use. Be sure to let the water cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, bathing, washing dishes, and preparing food until further notice. This is especially important for immuno-compromised individuals, infants, or the elderly. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water. Another advisory will be issued when the boil water notice is canceled.

Alternatives to boiling the water include the use of bottled water or other disinfectant chemicals. The tap water may be disinfected using unscented household bleach (4-6% active ingredients) following these directions:

- 1) Add 8 drops of bleach to each gallon of water;
- 2) Mix the water;
- 3) Allow it to stand for a minimum period of 30 minutes.

Other approved chemical disinfectants are available at stores that sell camping and hiking supplies.

Public drinking water systems are required to maintain a disinfectant residual between 4.0 and 0.2 mg/L to inactivate disease-causing organisms associated with waterborne illnesses. Untreated drinking water is at risk for contamination by disease-causing bacteria and other organisms. Symptoms caused by these organisms may include diarrhea, cramps, nausea, and possibly jaundice, and any associated headache and fatigue. Water containing harmful organisms such as E. Coli bacteria, can be considered safe for drinking and cooking after vigorously boiling the water for one minute. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set enforceable drinking water standards for E. Coli to reduce the risk of these adverse health effects. Under this standard all drinking water must be free of these bacteria.

The City's Underground Utilities apologizes to customers in this area for the inconvenience. Water Quality Laboratory staff have collected samples in the area with results expected by Tuesday morning. Customers outside this area are not affected by this notice.

For more information, please contact Underground Utilities at 891-4YOU (4968).

April 07 Ride, Reload and Save Dough!

StarMetro reduces monthly fare and implements \$3 service charge - Beginning Monday, April 13, StarMetro will implement new changes to its fare structure. The monthly fare is being reduced to \$38 from \$41.25, and a new \$3 service charge is being implemented for the purchase of all new reloadable fare cards.

Previously, a StarMetro rider could purchase four 7-day passes at a lower price than purchasing one monthly pass," said Brian Waterman, StarMetro planning administrator. "With the new reduced monthly fare, that is no longer the case."

"What we found is that riders would purchase a reloadable 7-day fare card, then throw it away at the end of seven days," said Samuel Scheib, StarMetro senior planner. "The next week that same rider would purchase another reloadable 7-day fare card, which caused StarMetro to incur higher costs."

The reloadable fare cards are hard plastic cards with a computer chip built in, which cost \$3 each. During FY 2008, StarMetro spent nearly \$40,000 on the purchase and printing of new reloadable fare cards. The new \$3 service charge will cover the cost that was previously assumed by StarMetro.

By implementing the new service charge, StarMetro hopes to steer riders toward reloading fare cards versus disposing of them. This will conserve resources and provide a dedicated funding source to the purchase and printing of new fare cards. Those riders currently carrying and reloading their fare cards will not pay the \$3 service charge, which applies only to new purchases of the reloadable fare cards.

In addition to the fare change and the service charge, the reloadable cards will now be strictly for monthly fares. By switching from purchasing four 7-day passes to one monthly pass, riders will save time and money. They will only have to visit the booth at C.K. Steele Plaza once a month, instead of four times.

"While not a huge savings, riders who pay the monthly fare will end up saving 25 cents the first month, unless they already have a reloadable fare card, and \$3.25 every month after that," said Scheib.

For more information, please contact StarMetro at 891-5200 or visit Talgov.com/StarMetro.

April 07 - TPD

Police Capture Suspect after Chase

Last night, at approximately 10:30PM, Officer David McKenna observed a green 4 door Chrysler traveling west on West Tharpe Street that had been reported stolen on Sunday afternoon. Officer McKenna attempted to conduct a traffic stop, but the driver, later identified as 18 year old Shawntavius Washington accelerated and fled in an effort to avoid officers. Washington stopped the vehicle near the intersection of Talco Hills Drive and Darnell Circle and ran away on foot. Canine Officer Vincent Capece responded to the scene with his canine partner "Justus" and began a search of the area in an effort to locate Washington.

Justus lead officers to Washington a short time later. Washington was arrested without further incident. Additionally, Washington was found to be in possession of cannabis.

Arrested: Shawntavius D. Washington, B/M, 18 yoa. Charges: Grand Theft Auto, Fleeing and Eluding, Possession of Cannabis less than 20g, Resisting Arrest without Violence, and Driving with no Valid Driver License.

April 07

Cancellation of Precautionary Boil Water Notice for City Water Customers in Southwest Area

The City of Tallahassee is pleased to report that results from yesterday's water sampling efforts were satisfactory and thus the Precautionary Boil Water Notice for customers in the southwest area of Tallahassee has been cancelled. Routine work by a third-party contractor caused soil beneath a water line to collapse, in turn causing the water line to break. City water customers on Woodhaven Dr., East and West Bellarose St., and Madrone Ave. were advised to take precautionary steps in using water. Laboratory results indicate remedial efforts taken by the City's Underground Utilities have ensured the water supply is safe and citizens no longer need to boil water.

Approximately 100 City water customers were affected by this incident. A precautionary notice was issued, per state Department of Environmental Protection direction, so customers could take remedial steps if they chose to. A mandatory boil water notice would indicate a far more serious concern, and in that case immediate action would be taken to notify customers through door-to-door canvassing efforts.

The City's Underground Utilities apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused and thank customers for their patience. For more information, please contact Underground Utilities at 891-4YOU (4968).

April 07 - TFD

Fire Damages Mobile Home in the 2100 Block of Stallion Avenue

Today around 1 pm, firefighters responded to the 2100 block of Stallion Avenue to a mobile home fire. The resident was not home at the time of the fire, but neighbors reported seeing smoke and flames through the living room window. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Damages are estimated at \$20,000. No injuries were reported during the incident.

April 08

City Launches Graffiti Abatement Initiative

Targeting graffiti as a serious crime impacting the entire community, the City of Tallahassee today launched a new citywide Graffiti Abatement Initiative. Mayor John Marks was joined today by Tallahassee Police Chief Dennis Jones, local business partners and neighborhood representatives to unveil details of the initiative. Following brief remarks, City officials and community volunteers worked together to paint over graffiti on the Blair Stone Road bridge.

Removing graffiti and repairing the damage is costly, not to mention property is devalued and business owners potentially lose customers due to the negative image that graffiti represents. Graffiti on government-owned property and facilities is also costly as resources must be applied to remove it and repair any property damage. The presence of graffiti may send a message that a neighborhood is in decline or over-ridden with crime, and ultimately, result in a potential loss of quality of life for the community.

To provide a mechanism for reporting graffiti, the City has established a Graffiti Abatement Hotline at 891-4500. Citizens may also [report instances of graffiti online](#) via the City's website at Talgov.com. In addition to efforts led by the Tallahassee Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit, other City departments are directly involved in the initiative, including Public Works, all Utility departments, Code Enforcement and Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Affairs.

"We know that citizens value the quality of life we enjoy in Tallahassee," said Assistant City Manager Jay Townsend. "We are partnering with local businesses, neighborhoods and citizens to send the message that graffiti is not something we are willing to tolerate or accept in our community."

Townsend added that the City has committed to painting over graffiti within three business days of it being reported to the hotline or website and to aggressively work with property owners on the removal of graffiti on the private parcels.

In just four years the Tallahassee Police Department reports a 133 percent increase in the number of graffiti-related calls or citizen

complaints (62 in 2004 vs. 145 in 2008). Research shows that cleaning or painting over graffiti immediately or as quickly as possible, helps deter future incidents. Most graffiti is not gang-related as many people tend to believe, but actually the product of a "tagger" leaving their mark to gain notoriety among other graffiti artists.

More than just a law enforcement issue, however, the City of Tallahassee has developed a program to help combat the presence of graffiti painted throughout the community. Various City departments will lead by example through the removal of graffiti affixed to City property such as utility boxes, light poles, retaining walls and street signs. Meanwhile, community partners Sherwin-Williams Company and Keep Tallahassee-Leon County Beautiful are committed to attacking graffiti, by donating resources and volunteers. Sherwin-Williams has employed a nationwide campaign to help communities all across the U.S. to remove graffiti. Other local paint companies have also expressed an interest in participating and volunteering their services.

To further provide the community with the means to remove graffiti on private property, business owners and homeowners unable to remove graffiti from their property may obtain leftover paint supplies from the City. Citizens may use the phone hotline or website to request paint, available as supplies last.

For more information on the [City's Graffiti Abatement Initiative](#), visit [Talgov.com](#).

April 08 - TPD Cops and Lobsters

Members of the Tallahassee Police Department would like to invite our citizens to join us for a lunch and dinner at Red Lobster (2583 North Monroe Street) on Friday, April 10 from 11:00am - 11:00pm. Officers from the Tallahassee Police Department will volunteer their time waiting tables during the lunch and dinner hours, all in an effort to raise money for the Special Olympics. The mission of the Special Olympics is to "provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community."

This is your chance to tell a cop what to do! Join us at Red Lobster as your Tallahassee Police officers trade their badges for aprons in honor of this worthwhile cause, continuing their commitment to our community. All tip proceeds go directly to Special Olympics to assist in funding uniforms, travel, food, and lodging for athletes. Come out and help us make dreams come true for our Special Olympians.

April 09 StarMetro Holds Listening Session for Possible Route Changes

On Wednesday, April 15, StarMetro will conduct a Listening Session at the Florida Department of Corrections Building, located at 2601 Blair Stone Road, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Listening Session will allow the public to provide input and ask questions about StarMetro's service. The session will also allow StarMetro patrons to discuss possible route changes slated for August. The routes up for restructuring include: 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, 12, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 35.

"These listening sessions are an opportunity for us to share our ideas with the community, but they are more for hearing from citizens than for us [StarMetro Planners] to talk," said Samuel Scheib, senior planner for StarMetro. "Some of our best ideas come from citizen input."

For more information, please contact StarMetro at 891-5200 or visit [Talgov.com/starmetro](#).

April 09 April is Fair Housing Month

Workshops Held Next Week - As part of the national recognition of Fair Housing Month, the City of Tallahassee is sponsoring three workshops next week examining fair housing issues and lending practices. When it comes to housing these days, words like collapse, crisis and failure spill from news reports to an extent not seen in decades. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Census Bureau, Tallahassee's foreclosure rate is 3.8 percent, which translates into approximately 6,764 people being forced out of their homes.

This means that more individuals and families are seeking new housing options. Additionally, potential homebuyers are hesitant. The sheer level of anxiety and the changing housing landscape present the potential for a flood of new issues for housing providers, including a heightened number of complaints.

Many homebuyers and renters may be unaware of their rights as well. The goal of this week's workshops is to inform homebuyers, renters, housing providers, realtors, attorneys and anyone else involved in the housing market about fair housing and lending practices, laws and more.

All three workshops will be facilitated by Avery Friedman, a civil rights lawyer, law professor, CNN weekend legal analyst and America's best known fair housing authority.

The workshops are listed below.

- "Fundamentals of Fair Housing: Don't Be a Victim" will be held on Thursday, April 16, from 6-8 p.m. at the Plaza Hotel at Capitol Hill (formerly Holiday Inn Select), 316 W. Tennessee St. This workshop is free and open to the public.
- "Litigating Fair Housing and Fair Lending Cases" will be held on Friday, April 17, from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn - Seminole Room, 1330 S. Blair Stone Road. This workshop costs \$100 and is recommended for attorneys and law students.
- "Fair Housing/Lending Policy: Signs of Change" will be held on Friday, April 17, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn - Seminole Room, 1330 S. Blair Stone Road. This workshop costs \$25 and is recommended for housing providers.

Registration fees are payable by check, cash or purchase order.

Topics to be discussed include subprime interest rates, occupancy standards, credit scores, penalties, examples of housing discrimination, updated case law, Americans with Disability Act (ADA) physical and mental structural accessibility, tax exemption, foreclosure and much more.

For more information, contact the City's Equity and Workforce Development Department at 891-8290 or visit Talgov.com. These events are co-sponsored by Tallahassee Lenders Consortium, Tallahassee Board of Realtors, Tallahassee Housing Authority, Florida Commission on Human Relations and Southside Affordable Housing and Investment Showcase.

April 09 Short-term Garage Closures Downtown

Bronough Street Entrance to Kleman Plaza Parking Garage Affected - The South Bronough Street entrances to the Kleman Plaza and Florida League of City/Tallahassee Center garages will close temporarily for construction work. Two separate closures are scheduled for the installation of signage and pavers at the garage entrance, respectively.

Tonight, April 9, the closure begins at 6 p.m. and is expected to last 4 hours. Tomorrow, April 10, the closure will begin at 6 p.m. and will last approximately 24 hours.

Additional single lane closures are expected periodically next week for final entrance repairs, but the Bronough Street entrance will remain open.

All vehicles entering or exiting the Kleman Plaza garage during these temporary closures must use the South Duval Street entrance. Patrons using the Florida League of Cities/Tallahassee Center garage must also use the Kleman Plaza garage entrance via South Duval Street.

April 09 Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency to Host Community Meetings for the Regional Mobility Plan

The Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) is developing a Regional Mobility Plan, which will impact the future of transportation in Gadsden, Leon, Jefferson and Wakulla counties. Traditional mobility plans have focused primarily on techniques to move area vehicles quickly and efficiently. While transportation problems were successfully addressed using that approach, unintended, long-term implications were often overlooked. The new Regional Mobility Plan being developed seeks to move beyond a singular focus and consider transportation issues from a broad perspective that incorporates community values and needs as well as transit.

In order to fully incorporate transit in the planning process, the CRTPA has formed a partnership with StarMetro, the City of Tallahassee's mass transit agency. To present information regarding various transportation initiatives in the region, a Transportation Forum will be held on Monday, April 13 at 9:00 am at the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center. The forum will also detail how the various initiatives are coordinated and connected. In order to fully incorporate community values and needs, the CRTPA will also solicit citizen input at a series of four community visioning sessions.

The community meeting schedule is:

Tuesday, April 14, 2009 5:00 - 7:00 PM

- Jefferson County
First Presbyterian Church of Monticello
290 East Dogwood Street, Monticello, FL 32344
- Leon County
Faith Presbyterian Church
2200 N. Meridian Road, Tallahassee, FL 32308

Thursday, April 16, 2009 5:00 - 7:00 PM

- Gadsden County
East Gadsden High School
27001 Blue Star Highway, Havana, FL 32333
- Wakulla County
Shadeville Elementary School
45 Warrior Way, Crawfordville, FL 32327

For additional information, contact Jack Kostrzewa, CRTPA, 891-6800 or Ron Garrison, StarMetro, 891-5200, or visit the project website at: www.CapitalLegacyProject.com.

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

April 10 Community Open House on Lafayette Park/Old Town Flood Relief Projects

The City of Tallahassee's Stormwater Management Division will host an open house event to provide citizens with information on two capital improvement projects proposed to address flooding in the Lafayette Park and Old Town neighborhoods. The event will take place on Monday, April 13, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Sue Herndon McCollum Community Center at Lafayette Park, 501 Ingleside Avenue.

The first project is the East Georgia at Meridian Flood Mitigation Project. This primarily involves construction to upgrade storm drains on several streets in the Lafayette Park neighborhood, to channel larger amounts of stormwater during heavy rain events. Construction on this project is expected to begin in June.

The second is the Lafayette Park Stormwater Outfall Flood Relief Project. The primary goal with this project is to reduce flooding in the vicinity of Williams Street, McDaniel Street, Martin Street and Miccosukee Road, all south (downstream) of Lafayette Park. During heavy rain events, flooding occurs in several properties in the Lafayette Park neighborhood, with some homes experiencing as much as three feet of yard flooding. In addition, flooding can also occur in parts of Lafayette Park itself. This project is in design phase.

To ensure key stakeholders are well informed on the projects, City Stormwater Management staff have already held early meetings with neighborhood officials, property owners, nearby schools and the City's Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Affairs Department. Monday's open house event will allow other interested citizens to provide input and ask questions.

The April 13 event will be held in an 'open house' format, with no formal presentation, so citizens may come by at their convenience to view displays, ask questions, and provide input on the flood relief projects. Staff from the Stormwater Management Division will be present to discuss the project and answer questions. For more information please contact the City's Stormwater Management Division at 891-6860 (please refer to Lafayette Park/Old Town Flood Mitigation Projects).

April 13 Utility Bill Payment at Remote Locations Offers Easy Way to Pay

City Partners with Local Businesses for Convenient Payment Option - Your Own Utility (YOU) customers now have another option for paying their monthly utility bill. The City has teamed up with several local businesses to provide remote location payment services.

The new remote payment initiative offers customers a more convenient, cost-effective payment option. This new option offers convenient neighborhood locations, no transaction fees, quick payment and posting and extended hours, including evenings and Saturdays at some locations.

To pay a City of Tallahassee utility bill at a remote location, customers must bring their utility bill or account number. Cash or check is accepted. Bills paid before 4 p.m. will be posted the same day. Those paid after 4 p.m. will be posted during the morning of the following business day. YOU customer service representatives will be able to verify payments at remote locations in real time, even if the payment is not posted until the following day, should the need arise. Customers paying at remote locations will receive a receipt noting the location of payment and YOU customer service number. Customers are encouraged to keep this receipt should there be any discrepancy on their account.

The list of [current remote payment locations and an interactive map](#), which includes hours of operation and addresses, is available on Talgov.com/YOU. As more locations become available, the online list and map will be updated. Through the Utilities' IVR phone system, customers can key in their zip code, and a list of all the payment locations in their zip code will be tabulated. If no location exists in their zip code, it will suggest nearby locations.

The following is a list of the current locations available for remote payment.

- Quick N Save, 416 East Tennessee Street
- Don's Food Mart, 720 West Orange Avenue
- UPS Store, 400 Capital Circle SE
- Pak Mail, 3539 Apalachee Parkway
- Woodville IGA, 9019 Woodville Highway
- FSU Credit Union, Evening Rose Branch, 1612 Capital Circle NE
- FSU Credit Union, Main Branch, 2806 Sharer Road
- FSU Credit Union, Campus Branch, 832 West St. Augustine Street
- FSU Credit Union, Maclay Branch, 3534 Thomasville Road
- FSU Credit Union, Crawfordville Branch, 2655-C Crawfordville Highway

The City's Renaissance building, located at 435 North Macomb Street, is still available for payments for customers who have additional

Customer Service needs or concerns. A [complete list of utility bill payment options, including free online SmartBill payments](#), is available on Talgov.com/YOU.

Clerks at remote payment locations will not be able to look up a customer's account by any data other than the account number. They will also not be able to answer questions about a customer's utility account (bill date, turn-on time, etc.). For more information on Your Own Utilities, please visit Talgov.com/YOU or call 891-4YOU (4968).

April 13 - TPD National Public Safety Telecommunications Week

"Hello, 911 what is your emergency?" We hear this phrase over and over on television and in movies. It is easy to take for granted the importance of the public safety professionals who "day in and day out" answer our citizens' calls for help.

Officers respond to these emergencies and provide care and protection when needed, but have you ever stopped to think what would happen if the officers never received the information from the public safety communications operator? The Tallahassee Police Department appreciates the hard work and dedication of all public safety telecommunication operators. In fact, this week is National Public Safety Telecommunications Week. Last year, these heroes helped save lives, apprehend criminals and protected property by answering over 400,000 calls. Of those over 113,000 were placed on the emergency 911 lines.

"Whether through a headset, a telephone, or a radio, the Public Safety Communications Officer serves as the emergency services responders' support system and the voice of help for people who are injured, in danger or in crisis," stated Chief Dennis Jones. "Their commitment and service touches the lives of countless people throughout our city, they are heroes."

The United States Congress has designated April 12-18, 2009, as Public Safety Telecommunications Week in recognition of the men and women whose dedication and professionalism help keep us safe.

The Tallahassee Police Department's Public Safety Communications Center serves as the consistent point for dispatching police officers and firefighters. In addition to answering emergency calls for service, Public Safety Communication Officers contact family members during a crisis, arrange towing services for stranded motorists, coordinate road crews and public works departments, as well as notification for specialized response teams such as on call investigative units. "This week we are expressing our appreciation for the hard working men and women who staff this Center and provide a vital service each and every day," Jones added.

This year in addition to being recognized, the Tallahassee Police Department's Public Safety Communications Center is conducting a food drive for the Big Bend Second Harvest Food Bank. Public Safety Communications Officers will be donating canned goods and other non-perishable items. This is just another example of how the Tallahassee Police Department's Public Safety Communications Officers give to the Tallahassee community.

April 13 - TPD Shooting Suspect Arrested

Last Saturday night, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to a reported robbery in the 200 Block of Rivoli Road. Upon arrival officers discovered that the victim had been shot during the robbery attempt. Officers quickly arrested 15 year old Brandon Stedman shortly after the shooting. Stedman admitted to being present during the robbery and attempted homicide, but denied shooting the victim. Investigator Vincent Boccio from the Tallahassee Police Department's Violent Crimes Unit responded to the scene and began evaluating evidence in an effort to identify the shooting suspect.

Investigator Boccio received information identifying 19 year old Justin Grantsteadman as the suspect that shot the victim. Investigator Boccio arrested Justin Grantsteadman at approximately 3:45PM today at a local apartment complex in the 2600 Block of Mission Road. Grantsteadman was positively identified by the victim as the person who shot him during the attempted robbery. Grantsteadman refused to speak to investigators and was taken to jail.

Arrested:



Justin Grantsteadman, B/M, 19 yoa. Charges: Attempted Homicide, Attempted Robbery, and Civil Contempt (3 outstanding warrants).

April 14 - TFD

Firefighters Respond to Mobile Home Fire in the 5600 Block of Caribou Lane

Firefighters responded to Deertree Hills Mobile Home Park, in Southwest Leon County, to find a singlewide mobile home engulfed in flames. The fire, which started in the living room of the home, apparently started when the resident left her cigarette lit and turned on a portable oxygen tank. The fire was contained to the living room of the home, but the smoke and heat from the fire has left the home a total loss.

Damages estimated at \$25,000. The resident was treated and release on scene.

April 15

Cash For Trash Program Expands Savings Choices

Energy-Saving Light Bulbs Offered Saturday! - With an option to receive up to \$150 in energy savings, customers may once again take part in the City's biannual 'Cash for Trash' event this Saturday, April 18, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cash for Trash allows City residential utility customers to bring large trash items too large to fit in their 96-gallon garbage container.

At Saturday's event, customers will have the option to receive two 20-watt (75-watt equivalent) Energy Star compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL), allowing them to save even more money on their electric costs. The two bulbs have a retail value of around \$7, and customers will see an additional energy savings of around \$150 over the life of the two CFL bulbs. The City has expanded the program as part of its commitment to our environment, sustainability, and energy efficiency. In lieu of the light bulbs, customers may still choose to receive a coupon worth \$5 off their City utility bill.

Though the City encourages residential customers to use their every-other-week bulky item collection service for disposing large items at curbside, the Cash for Trash program provides an alternative system - especially important for apartment dwellers or anyone with a number of large items to dispose. Items customers may bring include old furniture, large and small household appliances, large toys, and tires (limit of four per customer).

Residents may also bring household hazardous waste items and electronic items (including all computer parts) to Cash for Trash for disposal/recycling by Leon County's Solid Waste Division. However, no household garbage, construction/demolition debris or yard waste will be accepted!

To receive the CFL light bulbs or utility bill coupon, residential customers utilizing the program must present a City utility bill before unloading material. Customers can make multiple trips, however only one set of two CFL bulbs or one coupon per utility bill will be distributed. This allows customers disposing items for their neighbors to do so and assist them in reaping the benefits of the Cash for Trash program.

Customers taking part in Cash for Trash should bring items to the City's Solid Waste Services facility, located at 2727 Municipal Way (just off West Pensacola Street near the Messer Field softball complex). For more information please visit the City's website at Talgov.com/YOU or call Your Own Utilities at 891-4YOU (4968).

April 15 - TPD

Tallahassee Police Apprehend Burglary Suspects

Today, at approximately 12:30PM, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to Premier Bank (2780 West Tennessee Street) in reference to a possible financial fraud. Investigators with the Tallahassee Police Department's Financial Crimes Unit and Burglary Unit have been following up on at least twenty burglaries. The burglaries appeared to have been part of a trend as identified by the Tallahassee Police Department's Crime Analysis Unit. Investigators believe a group of thieves have been operating in Tallahassee since approximately

April 1st. The group may be involved in as many as twenty burglaries, taking wallets and purses as unsuspecting victims left the items unattended while purchasing gas or inside fitness centers.

The thieves used the burglary victims' financial information in order to steal money from their bank accounts. Investigators alerted local financial institutions of the possible pending frauds and established a notification protocol in the event a fraud was attempted. The tip from Premier Bank lead officers to a blue Nissan Pathfinder near Meridian and Southridge Road. Two suspects fled the vehicle on foot and hid nearby. One of the suspects hid in an area of dense foliage and was apprehended by Investigator Mike Goldwich. The second suspect was located hiding in an old deep freezer by canine Officer Doug Kutchera and his canine partner Kimbo in the 400 Block of Northridge. Both suspects were arrested without incident. A third female suspect was also apprehended. The investigation continues as the identities of the suspects are confirmed.

April 16 - TFD

TFD Responds to Multi-Residential Fire

Around 6 pm last night, firefighters responded to a multi residential fire in the 3200 block of Miccusukee Rd. The fire started in the living room and was caused by smoking material.

The fire was contained to two of the apartments within the quad-plex. One resident was transported to Shands Hospital in Gainesville with 2nd and 3rd degree burns. One firefighter was treated for minor burns to the hand. Damages estimated at \$100,000. American Red Cross assisted other residents within the quad-plex.

April 17

City Celebrates Earth Day All Week

Events Help Showcase City's Green Initiatives - This April 22, like every April 22, people around the world will be celebrating Earth Day. The City of Tallahassee is going a little farther than that, taking part in Earth Day celebrations for an entire week from April 18-25.

"Earth Day is meant to bring awareness to and appreciation for the environment and world we live in," said Cynthia Barber, Director of the City's Environmental Policy and Energy Resources Department. "The City of Tallahassee aims to do that every day internally. This week is a chance for us to take that passion for conservation, sustainability and environmental stewardship to the community."

The City will be participating in the following events in recognition of Earth Day.

Saturday, April 18

- Cash for Trash at Solid Waste Services, 2727 Municipal Way, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

2009 Earth Day Jam at the Bradfordville Blues Club, 7152 Moses Lane, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Celebrate the importance of the Earth Day observance in today's world at this musical festival and environmental exhibition.

Monday, April 20

- Capital City Kiwanis Club meeting at Golden Corral, 1630 N. Monroe Street, 12:30-1 p.m. A City representative from EPER will speak about "Earth Friendly Environment for the Workplace."

EPER's Green Thumb Project from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. at Lake Ella. EPER will participate in planting butterfly bushes and pruning of existing plantings.

Wednesday, April 22 (Earth Day)

- Earth Day at the Capitol in Waller Park (west side of the Capitol building facing S. Duval Street), 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is hosting this event to educate teachers and students on ways to green their schools. The event is expected to draw approximately 1,000 students.
- Earth Day at SouthWood at the Capital Circle Office Complex, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Earth Day at SouthWood will be an educational event to promote living "Green" for state employees.

Meals on Wheels at Elder Care Services, 2518 W. Tennessee Street, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. A City representative from EPER will speak about "Earth Friendly Environment for the Workplace."

Thursday, April 23

- Sustainability Planning and Reporting Kit (SpaRK) Training at the Challenger Learning Center, located on Kleman Plaza at 200 S. Duval Street, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sustainable Florida will host a training session titled, The Business Guide to Sustainability and SpaRK.

Friday, April 24

- Florida Department of Education (DOE) Conservation Committee at the DOE Lobby, 325 W. Gaines Street, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. DOE is hosting an energy and environmental exhibition for its employees.

Saturday, April 25

- Compost Bin Sale in the Tallahassee Mall parking lot near the Ross Store, 2415 N. Monroe Street, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Free Community Shredding Event at the Tallahassee Police Department (234 East 7th Avenue) from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Shred-it Tallahassee will be hosting a free community-wide shred event. Please contact their office at 309-1996 for additional information.
- Paper or Plastic? I'll take neither! Reusable Bag Campaign from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Downtown Farmers' Market, located at the Chain of Parks in Downtown Tallahassee, to promote waste reduction through the use of reusable bags.

For more information on the specific events, please contact the City's Environmental Policy and Energy Resources Department at 891-2476. Information on the City's Green Initiatives is also available on Talgov.com.

April 17 - TPD

Alcohol Operation Nets Six Arrests

Yesterday, members of the State Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco and the Tallahassee Police Department's Community Policing Unit conducted "Operation Safe Prom and Graduation 2009." Officers utilized adults under the age of 21 to enter various retail establishments in an attempt to purchase alcoholic beverages. During the operation, officers visited a total of 38 retail alcohol establishments throughout Tallahassee. As a result of the proactive enforcement, six store clerks were arrested and charged with sale of alcohol to a person under 21 years of age (FS 562.111).

"I am proud of our partnership with the State Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco. Together we will continue keeping our children safe and avoid tragedies associated with consuming alcohol under the legal drinking age. We will continue our law enforcement partnership and we will arrest those who choose to place our children and community at risk," said Chief Dennis Jones.

This effort is another example of how the Alcohol Compliance Team (Florida A&M University Police Department, Florida Highway Patrol, Florida State University Police Department, State Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, Tallahassee Fire Department, and the Tallahassee Police Department) proactively keeps our community safe. The intent of these operations is to identify employees who sell to underage persons and to provide a strong deterrent as well as encourage through identification during alcohol purchases. If a retailer has any doubt about a person's age they should not complete the alcohol purchase.

Arrested

- Calesta Jo Manasco, W/F, 23 yoa.; Location: Walgreens (2913 Mahan Drive)
- Deana King, W/F, 61 yoa. Location: Circle K (2037 Thomasville Road)
- Servio Wilches, H/M, 26 yoa. Location: CVS (3479 Thomasville Road)
- Jeri Duckworth, W/F, 40 yoa. Location: Kangaroo Express (1458 CCNW)
- Hjren Kumar Patel, W/M, 21 yoa. Location: A and B Discount (2752 West Pensacola St.)
- Ludene Dorsainvil, B/F, 21 yoa. Location: Express Lane (1602 West Tharpe St.)

April 20 - TPD

TPD and You Breakfast

As part of our ongoing commitment to provide personalized service to our neighborhoods, Police Chief Dennis Jones invites you to join him in a morning forum to discuss current issues impacting your community. This popular event is offered to the community and held several times each year to give citizens the opportunity to meet with Chief Jones and his staff to discuss issues taking place in your neighborhoods.

Chief Jones and his staff will host the "TPD and You" Breakfast on Saturday, April 25, 2009, 9:00AM at the Lincoln Neighborhood Service Center (438 West Brevard Street). Coffee and a light continental breakfast will be provided.

Our upcoming "TPD and You" Breakfast will feature a review of past and current issues impacting your neighborhood and comments from the Chief. Crime Prevention Officers, District officers, and representatives from the City of Tallahassee Neighborhood and Community Services Department will be present to address any and all of your specific concerns.

All community residents and neighborhood associations are encouraged to attend.

Please RSVP by calling the Crime Prevention Hotline at (850) 891-4251.

April 20

Airport Earns National Award for Training Excellence

For the sixth consecutive year, the Tallahassee Regional Airport (TLH) has been recognized nationally for Excellence in Airport Training.

The designation by the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) recognizes TLH for providing its employees and first responders with web-based video training and testing.

Tallahassee Regional Airport provides employees and first-responders with ongoing training covering airport-related issues such as: Police, Safety, Security, Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF), Administration, Operations, Maintenance, Customer Service, Environmental, Planning and more. Participants in these programs earn credits for each course completed.

"This award demonstrates the professionalism and dedication of our employees and first responders as we continually strive to ensure that we operate a safe, secure, efficient and customer friendly airport," said David Pollard, Superintendent of Airport Operations.

The Airport has received an Award of Excellence plaque and is also recognized on the Airport News and Training Network (ANTN) website (www.antndigicast.com) as a 2008 Airport Awards for Excellence winner.

The Tallahassee Regional Airport is operated and maintained by the City of Tallahassee. For more information on the Tallahassee Regional Airport, including current flight schedules, please visit www.flytallahassee.com.

April 21 - TPD

TPD and Crime Stoppers Offer Free Shredding

This Saturday, April 25th from 9:00AM until Noon, the Tallahassee Police Department and Crime Stoppers will partner with Shred-it, a local document shredding company, in an effort to reduce the potential for identity theft and continue our community effort to recycle. Identity theft and financial crimes are an ever increasing issue facing law enforcement. Identity theft is usually perpetrated to facilitate other crimes, such as credit card fraud or check fraud. The thief is cunning and uses a variety of methods to obtain the victim's personal information, such as rummaging through discarded trash that may contain a social security number or other information. The more brazen criminals will commit a home or vehicle burglary to obtain personal information to facilitate a wide variety of fraud.

When: Saturday, April 25th, 9a - 12 noon

Where: Tallahassee Police Department, 234 East 7th Av.

Cost: Crime Stoppers will accept donations, but the service is free! Please limit shredding to personal material only.

Anyone needing additional information about this event is asked to contact David McCranie at (850) 556-1726.

April 21 - TPD

Early Morning Motorcycle Crash Fatal

This morning, at approximately 5:45AM, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to a reported crash at the intersection of Meridian and John Knox Roads. Upon arrival, officers discovered that a black 2005 Triumph motorcycle collided with a red Toyota Camry. The motorcycle was driven by 61 year old Larry Taylor and the Toyota was driven by 54 year old Carla Richardson, both of Tallahassee. The investigation is ongoing, but the preliminary investigation indicates that Taylor was traveling south on Meridian Road approaching John Knox Road. Richardson was traveling north on Meridian Road and attempted to turn left onto John Knox Road. During the above vehicle movements, Taylor collided with the front of the Toyota causing him to be thrown from the motorcycle.

Taylor succumbed to injuries received during the crash at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital; he was not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash. Investigators do not believe speed or impairment were factors in the crash based on witness statements and physical evidence. The investigation continues and charges may be pending.

April 22 - TPD

Tallahassee Police Arrest Two in Recent Robbery

Last Saturday, at approximately 4:10PM, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to a reported robbery at 1505 Governors Square Boulevard (Alltel Store). Upon arrival, officers discovered that two suspects entered the crowded store and at gunpoint ordered customers and employees to lie on the floor. The suspects proceeded to threaten the lives of the victims as they stole cash from several registers. No one was injured during the robbery and the suspects fled on foot with an undisclosed sum of cash. Investigators Craig Isom and Kim McCollum responded to the scene and began gathering physical evidence, along with victim statements in an effort to identify the suspects.

Investigators reviewed the store security video discovering that Jarkyce Williams and Lonnie Williams were inside the store the morning of the robbery using a self service kiosk for a pre-paid account. A victim positively identified Lonnie Williams as one of the robbery suspects. Jarkyce Williams and Lonnie Williams, who are biological brothers, were arrested last night without incident at their home located in the 300 Block of Weatherbine Way. Investigators seized cash, ammunition and clothing from the residence that is believed to have been used during the robbery. Both Williams denied involvement in the crime.

"I am angry that a suspect would use a gun and threaten to kill an innocent person. What troubles me most is that the suspects in this case are 16 and 17 years old. We as a community, especially as programs for youth are being considered for elimination or reduction, must mentor to our children and make sure they understand the consequences of their actions. I am thankful that no one was injured or killed, but

we must not tolerate or accept violent acts in our community," said Chief Dennis Jones.

Arrested:

Lonnie C. Williams, B/M, 17 yoa. Charges: Robbery with a Firearm, Aggravated Assault With Intent to Commit a Felony.

Jarkyce D. Williams, B/M, 16 yoa. Charges: Robbery with a Firearm, Aggravated Assault With Intent to Commit a Felony.

April 22

Wade Wehunt Pool Reopens Tomorrow

Pool Improvements Benefit Community and Environment - The City of Tallahassee Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Affairs Department (PRNA) is pleased to announce that Wade Wehunt Pool at Myers Park will reopen tomorrow, Thursday, April 23. The facility closed its doors in October 2007 for renovations.

"I believe the community is going to be very happy with all the upgrades," said Leslie Adams, Aquatics Supervisor with PRNA. "The bathhouse is now climate controlled. The pool deck has been renovated, and there are suit dryers in the bathrooms, among other improvements."

The renovation project utilized many sustainable/green strategies. Most areas of the bathhouse are day lighted, hot water for the showers is provided by on-demand natural gas heaters and low flow toilets and waterless urinals were installed in the restrooms. Other green upgrades include the addition of the photovoltaic (PV) panel system atop the new shade canopy and the solar thermal panel application. The PV panel system will be tied into the electric service to further reduce the facility's electric load. The solar thermal panel system will be installed in the green space on the north side of the facility. It will be used to supplement the natural gas pool heater and defray the cost of gas. These two projects are currently still in process and will be completed over the next few months.

The public is invited to come enjoy the renovated facility on opening day free of charge. The pool will open at 7 a.m. tomorrow.

Until May 29, regular hours will be 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. The daily entrance fee is \$3.25 for adults, \$1 for children and \$2.25 for seniors. There are also 15-visit, 30-visit and annual passes available at discounted prices.

Some of the programs to expect throughout the year at Wade Wehunt are lap and fitness swimming, recreation swimming, swim teams, summer camps, baptisms and birthday parties. Water aerobics will be offered at 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday -Friday, and 11:30 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays. Water aerobics last for approximately one hour. All classes are move at your own pace and welcome to all age groups.

An official "Welcome Back to Wade Wehunt Pool" celebration event will be scheduled soon. For more information about Wade Wehunt Pool or the City's various aquatics offerings, please call 891-3985, visit Talgov.com or feel free to stop by the pool!

April 24

CSX Rail Bridge Painted Over Tomorrow

Effort is Part of Citywide Graffiti Abatement Initiative - The City of Tallahassee's Graffiti Abatement Initiative receives a big boost tomorrow when the graffiti defacing the CSX Railroad bridge over South Monroe Street is painted over. Paint crews will begin work at 7 a.m. Saturday and should have the job completed within 2-3 hours. Motorists using South Monroe Street tomorrow morning may experience slight delays as police officers direct traffic around the paint crews.

Targeting graffiti as a serious crime impacting the entire community, the City launched a new Graffiti Abatement Initiative earlier this month. The program involves a partnership including City departments, local business owners and organizations and neighborhood representatives. Citizens may report instances of graffiti by calling the Graffiti Abatement Hotline at 891-4500 or online via the City's Talgov.com website. Over 100 reports have been received since the program's launch on April 8.

Removing graffiti and repairing the damage is costly, not to mention property is devalued and business owners potentially lose customers due to the negative image that graffiti represents. Graffiti on government-owned property and facilities is also costly, as resources must be applied to remove it and repair any damage. The presence of graffiti may send a message that a neighborhood is in decline or over-ridden with crime and ultimately, result in a potential loss of quality of life for the community.

The City continues to paint over graffiti on City facilities and equipment within three business days of it being reported to the hotline or website and works closely with property owners on the removal of graffiti on private businesses and homes. Research shows that cleaning or painting over graffiti immediately, or as quickly as possible, helps deter future incidents. Most graffiti is not gang-related, as many people tend to believe, but actually the product of a "tagger" leaving their mark to gain notoriety among other graffiti artists.

To further provide the community with the means to remove graffiti on private property, business owners and homeowners unable to remove graffiti from their property may obtain leftover paint supplies from the City. Citizens may use the phone hotline or website to request paint, available as supplies last.

For more information on the [City's Graffiti Abatement Initiative](#), visit [Talgov.com](#).

April 24

Start Backyard Composting with a New Earth Machine

Leon County Recycling and City of Tallahassee Solid Waste Services are hosting a truckload sale of Earth Machine backyard composters on Saturday, April 25, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Tallahassee Mall in front of Ross. On this day only, you can purchase a composter for just \$30, a significant savings from the \$100 retail price. Experts will also be on-hand to help educate buyers on the benefits of composting.

Earth Machines help reduce more than 600 pounds of organic yard and kitchen materials per household per year. The Earth Machine composts fruits, vegetables, crushed eggshells, tea bags, coffee grounds and filters from the kitchen. Garden mulched leaves, dried grass, garden plants, old potting soil and soft stem plants can be composted as well. After about six to eight weeks, these materials are naturally broken down into humus that homeowners can use to enrich the soil in their gardens.

Leaves, grass and kitchen scraps represent 30 percent of the amount of garbage going into landfills. By reducing this waste, harmful greenhouse gases are reduced. Not only are Earth Machines friendly to the environment, they are friendly to your wallet by providing naturally moistened soil that results in a savings on water bills. Earth Machines can be purchased by cash or check.

For more information on this event, contact Leon County Recycling at (850) 606-1823 or City of Tallahassee Utilities at (850) 891-4968.

April 24

City/County Communication Efforts Win Top Honors

The City of Tallahassee and Leon County have received the top honor in a regional communications competition, being awarded the Grand All Image Award. Their entry focused on their joint efforts in communicating with citizens about the necessary closure of Ox Bottom Road in order to create a transportation solution that would enhance traffic safety and help reduce congestion. The project resulted in a new roundabout (loop), as well as the extension of Kerry Forest Parkway. At the 2009 Image Awards, sponsored by the Capital Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA), the two governments proved that working together pays off.

Working in tandem, the City of Tallahassee and Leon County won three awards. "Communicating Short Term Pains for Long Term Gains" won the Image Award in its category, Public Relations Program - Public Service, and also took home the Grand All Image Award, the top honor for entries that recognizes the best of the best. A second joint entry, "Sharing the Fruits of Our Loop," submitted in the Printed Tools - Specialty Item category, won an Award of Distinction. The efforts included passing out fruit to motorists, mailers to local residents and a grand opening celebration at the roundabout where the two roads now connect.

City Communications Department Spreads the Honors

The City's web team took home an Image Award in the Audio/Visual Tools of Public Relations - Web Site category for its entry "Fly Tallahassee: Enhancing Website Visibility & Services for Air Travelers," based upon the City's updates to the Tallahassee Regional Airport's web pages. Utilizing input from citizens on the Airport Advisory Committee, the City's web team increased the number of visitors to the airport's website by more than 500 percent in one year.

Additionally, the City's television station, WCOT, Comcast cable channel 13, took home an Award of Distinction in the Printed Tools - Video - Institutional category for its Experience Tallahassee video, a promotional video showcasing everything Tallahassee has to offer for both visitors and residents, which is aired on WCOT and at the Tallahassee Regional Airport.

County Annual Report Anything But Average

Leon County won a separate Award of Distinction in the Printed Tools of Public Relations - Annual Report category for its entry "Leon County 2008 Annual Report." The full-color, magazine-format publication describes the County's accomplishments during fiscal year 07/08. It was redesigned with easy-to-find facts about the government's service offerings, along with a cover featuring imagery representative of Leon County's diverse and natural beauty.

For more information on the City of Tallahassee and its services, please visit [Talgov.com](#).

For more information on Leon County and its services, please visit [LeonCountyFL.gov](#).

April 27

Take Your Tail to the Trail to Support Shelter Animals

Annual Run Held This Saturday - Grab your sneakers, bring your competitive edge and feel the burn at the eighth annual Tails and Trails 5K, 10K and 1-mile fun runs this Saturday, May 2. The racecourses loop through the scenic trails of Tom Brown Park, beginning and ending at the Animal Service Center (ASC), where after the race you will be able to enjoy music, feed your hunger and, as always, meet some adorable adoptable animals.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. at the ASC, and the race officially begins at 8:30 a.m. Until April 30, the entry fee is \$12. On race day, the

fee is \$15. All Tails and Trails registrants receive a goodie bag and t-shirt. There is also an \$8 no t-shirt option. Proceeds from the race benefit the Animal Shelter Foundation (ASF), the non-profit providing direct support to the 400+ homeless animals at the ASC. The ASF aims to make a positive difference in the lives of homeless animals while increasing awareness about pet overpopulation. Proceeds will go toward specialized veterinary care and heartworm treatments for Shelter animals, spay/neuter surgeries and community education efforts.

This year, the 5K portion of the race has been selected as a Grand Prix event of the Gulf Winds Track Club.

Advanced registration forms are available at www.TallyASF.org and at the ASC. Participants are asked to please leave their own dogs at home so the Animal Service Shelter can highlight homeless pets. For more information, contact Kate MacFall at 508-1001 or kmacfall@comcast.net.

The [ASC](#) is operated and maintained by the City's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Department. For more information on the Animal Service Center, located at 1125 Easterwood Drive next to Tom Brown Park, and to [view animals that are currently available for adoption, please visit Talgov.com](#).

April 27 - TFD

Trash Fire Spreads to Three Abandoned Mobile Homes in the 8900 Block of Red Wing Trace

Around 2pm this afternoon, Tallahassee Firefighters responded to a reported trash fire. The fire spread to three mobile homes that were being disassembled for scrap metal. Firefighters found the three mobile homes fully involved in fire upon their which threaten the nearby wooded area. Firefighters were able to quickly bring the fire under control.

No injuries were reported during the incident.

April 28 - TPD

Police Arrest Shooting Suspect

Yesterday, at approximately 12:15PM, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to a report of gunshots in the area of 1505 West Tharpe Street (Seminole Grand Apartments). Upon arrival, officers were initially unable to locate evidence of a crime, but soon located witnesses to the crime. A citizen explained to officers that two groups of males exchanged gunfire near the west gate area of the complex and fled after the violence. Officers issued a description of a newer white Land Rover to all local law enforcement agencies. The vehicle was observed by three plain clothes detectives with the Leon County Sheriff's Office in the 1600 Block of Dale Street a short time later.

Detective Jimmy Estes observed Jakevious Gunn exit the SUV and walk toward a home holding a handgun. Detective Estes was accompanied by Detectives Brain Pearson and David Teams. Gunn observed the detectives and fled on foot. After a brief foot pursuit Gunn was located hiding in the back yard of a home near the 1600 Block of Kelly Street. Detectives recovered a .22 caliber handgun that Gunn dropped during the chase.

Investigators Jeff Mahoney and Scott Cherry from the Tallahassee Police Department's Violent Crimes Unit responded to the area during the chase and assumed a primary role in the investigation of the events leading to the arrest of Gunn. Investigators obtained physical evidence, witness statements, and an admission from Gunn that he did indeed shoot at a group of males while at Seminole Grand. Gunn claimed that the group of males shot at him first and that he exited his vehicle, returning gunfire. The investigation continues, but investigators have not located any other potential victims or suspects in this case.

Jakevious Gunn is a validated gang member dating back to 2004. Investigators believe the motive for the shooting is related to a dispute involving a female acquaintance. 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 cash reward.

Arrested



Jakevious Gunn, B/M, 18 yoa. Charges: Possession of a Firearm by Delinquent, Carrying a Concealed Firearm, Discharge of a Firearm in Public, and Resisting Arrest Without Violence.

April 29 - TPD
Home Invasion Suspects Arrested

Yesterday, at approximately 4:30PM, the Tallahassee Police Department received a 911 phone call reporting a home invasion robbery in the 2100 Block of Cambridge Drive. According to the 20 year old victim, he was inside his home with his 19 year old roommate, when several suspects entered their home brandishing firearms. The victim stated he jumped through a closed bedroom window, shattering the window. The victim ran from the home, used his cell phone to call police and provided a suspect vehicle description.

Officer Beth Bascom was responding to the scene when she observed a vehicle matching the suspect vehicle description (silver Chevrolet) traveling east on Belle Vue Way, approaching Lipona Road. Officer Bascom turned around, at which time the suspect vehicle fled at a high rate of speed, eventually crashing at the intersection of Hayden Road and Belle Vue Way. After the crash, four suspects exited the vehicle and fled on foot.

Additional officers responded and cordoned off the area in an effort to apprehend the fleeing suspects. Within minutes, officers located and arrested all four suspects near Hayden Road. Inside the suspect's vehicle officers discovered an Xbox, controllers, a Playstation 2, and several DVD's belonging to the victims. Additionally, officers discovered five handguns and a shotgun used during the home invasion robbery.

Arrested:

Brian Asbey, B/M, 17 yoa. Charges: Home Invasion Robbery, Kidnapping, and Commission of a Felony with a Firearm.

Jacob Manning, B/M, 17 yoa. Charges: Home Invasion Robbery, Kidnapping, and Commission of a Felony with a Firearm.

Johnathan McCaskill, 17 yoa. Charges: Home Invasion Robbery, Kidnapping, and Commission of a Felony with a Firearm.



Joshua Russell, 20 yoa. Charges: Home Invasion Robbery, Kidnapping, and Commission of a Felony with a Firearm.

April 30
North Duval Street Closed Saturday

The City of Tallahassee will close North Duval Street between West Fifth Avenue and West Sixth Avenue to motorists Saturday, May 2, beginning at 8 a.m., for sewer line repairs. This closure will affect both northbound and southbound traffic. The detour route will be clearly posted, and weather permitting, North Duval Street should be reopened to traffic by 5 p.m. Saturday afternoon.