

## **May 2009 News Releases**

**May 27**

### **Delays on Killarney Way**

#### **Update**

All resurfacing work on Killarney Way has been completed. Utility crews are raising manhole covers and valves that were lowered during the milling and resurfacing phase of the project. Once this work is completed, Traffic Engineering crews will add permanent striping, including the installation of 'sharrows,' indicating motorists should share the roadway with bicyclists.

#### **April 30**

*Resurfacing Project Begins May 4* - Motorists will experience temporary delays along Killarney Way beginning Monday, May 4, while the City of Tallahassee mills and resurfaces the roadway between Shamrock West and Thomasville Road. Work crews will maintain two-way traffic on Killarney Way during the project, but motorists should prepare for brief delays.

The project will also include the designation of Killarney Way as a 'shared roadway,' requiring motorists to share travel lanes with bicyclists. Signage will be installed along Killarney Way advising motorists to be cautious of bicycle traffic in the area, and crews will also install "sharrows," special pavement markings indicating bicyclists are sharing travel lanes. Shared lanes are being established as Killarney Way is not wide enough where medians exist to support the designation of a separate bicycle lane.

Milling (grinding off layers of the old asphalt which is later recycled into new asphalt) and resurfacing work will take place on Killarney Way, beginning at Thomasville Road and proceeding east to Shamrock West. Work will take place as follows:

- Weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Weekends between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Motorists are urged to use caution in the area and obey flag signals from construction personnel. Weather permitting, the work should be completed by late June.

**May 01**

### **Your Own Utilities Continues Smoke Testing of Sewer Lines**

To enhance wastewater infrastructure and improve operational efficiency, the City of Tallahassee's Underground Utilities will conduct smoke testing of the sewer system in two east Tallahassee areas from Saturday, May 2, through Wednesday, May 6. Similar testing has been conducted successfully in neighborhoods such as Myers Park, Frenchtown, Waverly Hills and Lafayette Park.

It is not necessary for property owners to be in the premises during the test, which takes about 15 minutes. Notification has been provided via door hangers to the homes, offices and businesses included.

City crews, assisted by the contractor United Sealing Services, will perform this routine and safe preventative maintenance work, weather permitting. The main project area scheduled for the weekend lies east of S. Monroe Street, west of S. Gadsden Streets, south of E. Carolina Street and north of E. Bloxham Street. It will be followed by work in the area east of S. Gadsden Street, south of Apalachee Parkway, north of Myers Park Drive and west of Marvin Street.

"The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends this process, and it has been used extensively throughout the country," Wastewater Treatment Division Manager Joe Cheatham said.

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.

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

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

**May 01 - TPD**

### **Suspect Flees with Handgun**

This morning at approximately 9:45AM, Officer Chris Haley observed a young white male walking east near the 700 Block of East Georgia Street. Officer Haley attempted to ascertain whether or not the young male was a truant student. As Officer Haley approached, the male grabbed the front waistband area of his pants and a handgun fell to the ground. The male quickly picked up the firearm and fled south on

Gunter Street, where he disappeared into a wooded area.

The Tallahassee Police Department immediately notified the Leon County School Board and the Leon County Sheriff's Office in an effort to lockdown nearby schools due to the potential danger of an armed suspect in the neighborhood. The Tallahassee Police Department and the Leon County Sheriff's Office combined resources, including officers, investigators, canine units, and air support in an effort to locate the suspect.

As of 11:45AM law enforcement utilized all available resources and were unable to locate the suspect. Nearby schools have transitioned from lockdown status and law enforcement will remain in the area throughout the day.

Anyone with information about this crime is asked to call 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.

Suspect Description: White male, short red hair, 16-19 yoa, 5'8", 160 lbs, last seen wearing blue jean shorts, and a short sleeve blue and white horizontally striped polo style shirt.

#### **May 01 - TPD Suspect Arrested**

This morning at approximately 9:45AM, Officer Chris Haley observed a young white male walking east along East Georgia Street. Officer Haley attempted to determine if the male was a truant and exited his patrol vehicle to talk to the male. As Officer Haley began to exit, the male grabbed the front waistband area of his shorts and a handgun fell to the ground. The male suspect then grabbed the handgun and fled south along Gunter Street into a wooded area adjacent to Leon High School. Officers canvassed the area and local schools were placed on lockdown as law enforcement attempted to locate the suspect. Officers continued the search throughout the day, as the suspect continued to elude police.

Officer Chris Haley continued to receive information from the public, which eventually led Officer Haley to 503 Terrace Street. Officer Haley identified Loren Sharp as the suspect with the gun from East Georgia Street. Sharp was taken into custody without incident. Sharp admitted to Officer Haley that he fled from officers, but claimed he only dropped a cell phone. Sharp was arrested and taken to jail.

Arrested:



Loren Sharp, W/M, 18yoa. Charges: Carrying a Concealed Firearm, Trespass on School Grounds While Armed, and Resisting Arrest Without Violence.

#### **May 04 - TFD Fire Damages Home in the 5300 Block of Pembridge Place**

Last night around 9pm, Tallahassee Firefighters responded to a reported house fire in the 5300 Block of Pembridge Place. The fire appears to have started in the crawl space under the home and spread through the floor into the home. The crawl space was being used for storage at the time of the fire. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Fire damage was estimated at \$110,000. No injuries were reported during the incident.

#### **May 04 - TPD Update - Suspect's Gun Located**

Last Friday, at approximately 9:45AM, Tallahassee Police Officer Chris Haley observed a white male walking east on East Georgia Street near Gunter Street. Officer Haley attempted to ascertain whether or not the male was a truant. The male, later identified as Loren Sharp, grabbed his front waistband area and a handgun fell to the ground. Sharp retrieved the gun and fled on foot eluding law enforcement. At

approximately 4:30PM, officers located Sharp hiding out at a residence located at 503 Terrace Street. Sharp was arrested without incident. Sharp admitted he fled from Officer Haley, but claimed he dropped a cell phone.

This afternoon, Deputy Brendan Brunner with the Leon County Sheriff's Office contacted Officer Haley and provided information received from a citizen indicating the location of the handgun Sharp was carrying. Officer Haley and Deputy Brunner responded to the 1200 Block of Devils Dip and located the handgun hidden inside a culvert. The gun was impounded along with other items of evidence. The evidence will be processed by the Tallahassee Police Department's Forensic Unit.

## **May 05 - TPD**

### **TPD Offers Free Child Seat Installation**

The Tallahassee Police Department will host a child seat safety checkpoint. Statistics indicate that approximately 95% of all child seats are installed incorrectly. In an effort to protect the lives of children, the Tallahassee Police Department will check the installation of your child restraint and assist you in the proper installation. The service is FREE of charge and no appointment is necessary.

The checkpoint will be held this Thursday, May 7th in the parking lot of the Tallahassee Mall (2415 N. Monroe Street), near the John Knox Road entrance. The checkpoint hours of operation will be 3pm-5pm. If you have any questions, please contact Investigator Joe Giangrosso at 891-4243.

## **May 05**

### **City Public Works Wins Project of the Year**

APWA Florida Chapter Recognizes Extraordinary Work on Welaunee Blvd. - The City of Tallahassee Public Works Department recently won the award for the Project of the Year in the transportation category for the Welaunee Boulevard Roadway Improvement Project. The award from the Florida Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) was presented on April 30, 2009, at their annual meeting held in West Palm Beach.

"Providing meaningful professional services to our local community is usually sufficient, especially when we see the continuous and enthusiastic public use of our infrastructure," said Gabe Menendez, director of the City's Public Works Department. "However, it certainly is icing-on-the-cake when our efforts are recognized by our industry's major professional organization. It's confirmation of the first class product and services that the City of Tallahassee's Public Works Department continues to provide our citizens and visitors."

The Welaunee Boulevard Project included building a new 3,500 linear foot, divided 4-lane roadway from Capital Circle Northeast to Fleischmann Road, and was completed in 2008. This east-west corridor was designed in part to preserve two canopy roads (Centerville Road and Miccosukee Road) and other environmental features. Ultimately, it will continue through the Welaunee Plantation and connect to Interstate 10 at a future interchange.

Project of the Year entries were judged based on the following criteria: use of good construction management techniques and completion of the project on schedule, safety performance and a demonstrated awareness of the need for a good overall safety program during construction, community relations, demonstrated awareness of the need to protect the environment during the project, unusual accomplishments under adverse conditions and additional conditions deemed important by the public works agency such as quality control or money-saving techniques employed.

Established in 1960, the Florida Chapter of APWA's mission is to provide leadership, education, training, direction and support on public works issues to its members, elected officials and the public.

For more information of the City's Public Works Department and its services, please visit [Talgov.com](http://Talgov.com).

## **May 05 - TPD**

### **Police Arrest Bank Robbery Suspect**

Last Friday, May 1, 2009, at approximately 1:30PM, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to a reported bank robbery at 3003 Mahan Drive (Bank of America). Upon arrival, officers discovered that two black male suspects had entered the bank and demanded cash at gunpoint from the teller. The teller complied with the demand and the suspects fled with an undisclosed amount of cash. The suspects abandoned some of the stolen cash due to a red dye pack (security device) exploding as the suspects fled. Several customers were inside the bank during the robbery, but no one was injured.

An observant citizen watched as the suspects fled in a red Toyota Rav4. The citizen noted the tag number of the suspect vehicle, which led investigators to a local rental car company. Further investigation revealed the renter of the vehicle was Wayne Moore. Investigators Burt Wester, Jeff Mahoney, and Mark Lewis from the Tallahassee Police Department's Violent Crimes Unit compiled a photo lineup and Moore was identified as one of the suspects involved in the bank robbery.

Investigators obtained a warrant for the arrest of Moore. Officer Brian Johnson took Moore into custody without incident Sunday morning at approximately 1:30AM, as Moore attempted to enter a local nightclub. Moore admitted to investigators that he was at the Bank of America on the day of the robbery, but explained he had nothing to do with the robbery. The investigation is ongoing as additional suspects are being sought by the Tallahassee Police Department.

## Arrested



**Wayne Moore**, B/M, 23 yoa. Charges: Robbery With a Firearm.

## May 05 - TPD

### TPD Searching for Person of Interest

Last Sunday, May 3, 2009, at approximately 2:45AM, officers with the Tallahassee Police Department were notified of a shooting incident. The driver of a 2007 white Monte Carlo explained he and a passenger in his vehicle had been shot. The driver suffered a non-life threatening grazing wound. The passenger suffered a more serious wound and is currently hospitalized. According to the victims they stopped at a convenience store at 5702 West Tennessee Street (Shell-Circle K). While exiting the store parking lot, the victims explained a newer model white Chevrolet Trailblazer, occupied by several people, "cut them off."

The victims stated there was an exchange between the occupants of each vehicle, when suddenly someone from the Trailblazer began shooting. The victims continued east on West Tennessee Street until they located a Tallahassee Police officer for assistance. Investigator Jeff Mahoney from the Tallahassee Police Department's Violent Crimes Unit obtained surveillance footage from a local business, which may depict the suspect vehicle and an occupant.

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.



## May 06

### FAMU Way Closed Tuesday-Friday

*Road Closed 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. for Electric Line Work* - The City of Tallahassee will close FAMU Way between Wahnish Way and South Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. to motorists during weekday hours beginning Tuesday, May 12, for electric transmission line upgrades. The closure will be in effect between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, May 12-15. The detour route using Gamble Street will be clearly posted, and weather permitting, FAMU Way should be completely reopened to traffic by 4 p.m. Friday, May 15.

## **May 08**

### **Hernando Drive Closures Begin May 11**

*Sanitary Sewer Upgrade Project* - The City of Tallahassee will begin closures of Hernando Drive between Lake Bradford Road and Mike Street on Monday, May 11 for a sanitary sewer construction project. Work on the sewer upgrade will require that a portion of Hernando Drive be closed to through traffic Monday through Thursday between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Hernando Drive 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 workday morning when it will be closed again to through traffic.

The project is necessary to replace an older sewer line that runs under Hernando Drive. The exact closure area on any given day will depend on where construction is taking place on Hernando Drive. No Friday or weekend closures will take place as part of the project.

Given that Hernando Drive is a residential street, residents and their contractors/visitors will be allowed access to and from their homes, but through traffic will be detoured around the project. Hernando Drive residents have been advised of the project, and signage will be in place to alert motorists of the work zone. Weather permitting, the project should be completed and Hernando Drive completely reopened to traffic by October.

## **May 08**

### **First City Fast Track Projects Underway**

*Program Speeds Public Project Permitting/Construction* - Construction on the first City of Tallahassee 'Fast Track' projects has begun. The program approved by the City Commission in March expedites permitting of City public infrastructure improvements

The Tallahassee Regional Airport has two projects started that used the fast track permitting process. Improvements are being made to the airport entrances along Capital Circle SW as well as the general aviation access road. Next week, a third project involving improvements to the Facilities Maintenance Complex improvements that also used fast tracking will begin.

Other City projects currently underway that used fast tracking include improvements along Lipona Road between Pepper Drive and West Pensacola Street, including installation of curb and gutter, bike lanes and sidewalks along both sides of the road, and an improvement project along McKeithan Street and Hayward Street that entails paving of both roads, installing curb and gutter and installing sidewalks along one side of each road. Construction crews will also be improving stormwater systems along both McKeithan and Hayward streets as part of the project.

With a focus on creating jobs locally during the current economic downturn, as well as providing needed infrastructure improvements for the community, the goal of the new Local Economic Emergency Fast Tracking Program for Public Sector Projects is to expedite the construction of public projects so that the work will stimulate jobs in Tallahassee.

"Internally, we have made a major commitment to expediting all reviews, and with the City Commission's approval, we've worked to streamline the process while still staying vigilant to making sure everything is done right," City Manager Anita Favors Thompson said.

As of last week, approximately \$3.6 million has been released in contracts into the community, and a total of 34 projects are currently going through the fast tracking process. Of those 34, ten have completed the permitting process and are currently in the procurement phase. Five of these ten used an accelerated procurement process, with two completing procurement in 13 days. The total of these ten projects is estimated to be at least \$9 million.

The City's Growth Management Department is charged with reviewing and permitting projects inside the city limits, including government construction projects. As such, Growth Management staff recommendations approved by the Commission for streamlining the review process for fast track public projects included the following:

- Public sector projects will still require compliance with the Land Development Code, but will not require formal application and/or permits;
- Revise the review process to allow City Manager approval of project variances regarding certain conservation and preservation features - this allows the process to move faster since formal City Commission approval will not be required, while still adhering to the City's high community environmental standards (a "net environmental benefit" is still required for project approval);
- Allow City Manager approval authority for environmental variances, in such areas as stormwater, tree debits/credits, urban forest and landscaping;
- Clarifies the net environmental benefit through allocating a defined percentage of the total project cost to a fund to be used for purchasing environmentally sensitive lands;
- Staff will conduct a preliminary environmental review of each fast track project site and prepare variance requests, as needed, allowing for design around environmental features prior to the permitting phase.

The other policy area streamlined to allow fast track projects to begin quickly involves the City's Procurement Services office that oversees processes related to project bidding, contracting and firm selection. Staff recommendations approved by the City Commission related to expediting various internal processes and procedures designed to awarding construction bids, with a focus on bid awards to area companies to help boost the local economy and provide jobs for local residents.

For more information on City initiatives, visit [Talgov.com](http://Talgov.com).

## **May 12 - TPD**

### **National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial Day**

You hear the siren or you see the emergency lights flashing along the side of the roadway. It is easy to take for granted the safety and security that we have in the Tallahassee community. We go about our daily lives, making sure our children arrive on time for school or other related activities, grocery shopping, or that drive home everyday. One thing that is easy to forget is the sacrifice each law enforcement officer and their family make to ensure the safety of a community. Sometimes tragedy strikes and a law enforcement officer gives the ultimate sacrifice to keep us safe. This is when we realize how fragile the balance of life and the reality of what our law enforcement officers accomplish becomes all too clear.

May 10-16, 2009 is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Week, with May 15th set aside as National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial Day. The Memorial Day recognizes the sacrifice of those who bravely and courageously gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community.

The Tallahassee Police Department will honor all fallen heroes in a ceremony this Friday, May 15th at 1:30PM. The ceremony will take place in front of the Police Department at the Rose Garden. Members of media and public are invited to attend.

## **May 12 - TPD**

### **Police Searching for Shooting Suspect**

Last night, at approximately 10:00PM, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to the 1900 Block of Holton Street in reference to a reported shooting. Upon arrival, officers discovered a 32 year old black female victim had been shot. The victim was transported to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. The victim's injury does not appear life threatening and is expected to recover. Investigator Scott Beck from the Tallahassee Police Department's Violent Crimes Unit responded to the scene. Witness statements and physical evidence have been collected. The investigation continues and a motive for the shooting has not been established. The preliminary investigation indicates the victim was a bystander and may not have been the target of the shooting.

Investigators are asking for assistance from the public in solving this crime. 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.

## **May 13**

### **Tallahassee Seniors - Enjoy An Active Lifestyle!**

Active Living Expo Takes Place This Week - The Tallahassee Senior Center and Foundation, along with the Area Agency on Aging for North Florida Inc., are hosting the 11th annual Active Living Expo this Thursday and Friday, May 14-15, at the Senior Center, 1400 North Monroe St. More than 80 exhibitors will provide health screenings and information on recreation, housing, technology, fitness, health services and more.

A welcome reception begins at 5 p.m. in the second floor auditorium on Thursday to kick off the festivities. The evening runs until 8 p.m. Ample refreshments will be served, so working seniors and boomers, as well as caregivers, can swing by on their way home and enjoy the evening.

Friday's events run from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. This year's grand prize drawing is for a trip for two on July 31 to August 1 to Atlanta. The prize includes dinner at the Varsity, tickets to a Braves baseball game, tickets to the Georgia Aquarium, transportation, lodging and more.

The Expo is open to the public. The \$2 admission ticket is good for both days, and complimentary valet parking is available.

Some of the screenings available include:

- Glaucoma Screenings & Blood Pressure Checks by Capital Health Plan
- Stroke Screenings by HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital
- Eye Exams & Glaucoma Checks by Nature Coast Eye Care Institute
- Range of Motion test and Joint Muscle Integrity Screening by R&R Physical Therapy
- Memory Screening by The Alzheimer Project
- Spinal Checks & Weight & Posture Analysis by University Family Chiropractic
- Massage by Jonathan Walker, Licensed Massage Therapist
- Visual Impairment Simulation Goggles
- Interactive Art and Clay Demonstrations by various TSC for the Arts classes
- Real Estate Advice & Consultations by Estate Services Team, Armor Realty
- Financial Advice by Steve Halsell Prudential Financial

This year's Expo is sponsored by the Tallahassee Democrat and Humana and is supported by FTRI Inc., Jamestown Woods Apartments and Tallahassee Orthopedic & Sports Physical Therapy.

The Tallahassee Senior Center is operated and maintained by the City of Tallahassee's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Department. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 891-4000 or visit the City's website at [Talgov.com](http://Talgov.com).

### **May 13 City Fleet Goes Green by Going Electric!**

Fleet Staff Unveil Truck Converted to All-Electric - Employees from the City of Tallahassee's Fleet Management Department today unveiled a 1994 Ford Ranger pickup truck they completely converted to an all-electric vehicle. The 'green' vehicle, literally and figuratively, was displayed at a media event held in front of City Hall. City Commissioner Debbie Lightsey appeared at the event, noting the conversion program is a perfect fit with the City's "Go Green Tallahassee" initiative.

[The pickup truck](#) (PDF) was due for replacement, following 15 years of wear and tear and increased maintenance costs. As part of the City's comprehensive green initiative and in keeping with their own environmentally responsible practices and policies, Fleet Management employees engaged in hands-on training to convert the standard combustion-engine pickup to one powered entirely by electricity. Fleet staff did the job so well that an additional half-dozen older vehicles will be converted to all-electric.

The 'final' product results in a pickup with a substantially reduced carbon footprint over similar gasoline-powered trucks. This vehicle even has less of a footprint than a Toyota Prius hybrid car! It has a driving range of approximately 60 miles, and then be completely recharged (using a standard electric outlet!) in approximately 10 hours. And the all-electric truck has an equivalent gasoline gallons mileage rating of 100 miles per gallon - versus 17 miles per gallon in its old life as a gasoline-powered truck. Details are available in the attached document.

The City's Fleet Management Department operates an automotive maintenance and repair facility that services an array of City-owned vehicles. The facility has been operating for approximately 30 years and currently services up to 700 vehicles per month, including fire trucks, police cars, tractors, backhoes, garbage trucks and light utility trucks.

Go Green Tallahassee was developed by the City of Tallahassee as an initiative to promote and encourage environmental responsibility in our community. The comprehensive initiative ranges from expanding the residential recycling program, installing energy-efficient measures in all City facilities, promoting mass transit; Fleet Management's biodiesel fuel production facility; and the Tram Road Reuse Facility which provides reclaimed water for public irrigation. The initiative's umbrella also includes a variety of energy-efficiency programs for City utility customers and incentives allowing customers to save energy, save water and save money through the Energy Smart Plus (e+) program.

For more information on the City's green initiative, visit [Talgov.com](http://Talgov.com) and click on the "Go Green Tallahassee" link.

### **May 14 Your Own Utilities Continues Smoke Testing of Sewer Lines**

To enhance wastewater infrastructure and improve operational efficiency, the City of Tallahassee's Underground Utilities will conduct smoke testing of the sewer system in downtown Tallahassee over the weekend of May 16-17. Similar testing has been conducted successfully in neighborhoods such as Myers Park, Frenchtown, Waverly Hills and Lafayette Park.

City crews, assisted by the contractor United Sealing Services, will perform this routine and safe preventative maintenance work, weather permitting. The main project area scheduled for the weekend lies east of Monroe Street, west of Gadsden Street, south of East Carolina Street and north of East Bloxham Street.

It is not necessary for property owners to be in the premises during the test, which takes about 15 minutes. Notification has been provided via door hangers to the homes, offices and businesses included.

"The U.S. Environmental Protection agency recommends this process, and it has been used extensively throughout the country," Wastewater Treatment Division Manager Joe Cheatham said.

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.

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

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

### **May 14 - TFD Grill Malfunction Determined as Cause of Hastings Drive House Fire**

Around 6pm last night, Tallahassee Firefighters responded to a reported house fire in the 2700 block of Hastings Drive. The resident reported that her son started their gas grill, located on the porch of the home, and left it unattended for a few minutes. By the time he

returned the hose, that attaches the gas tank to the grill, had ruptured and fire was spreading towards the house. The fire was contained to the area, but smoke and heat caused damage to the interior of the home.

Damage contained to 30% of the home value. No injuries were reported during the incident.

#### **May 14 - TFD**

##### **Dumpster Fire Behind the Woodville Dollar General Determined to be Arson**

Yesterday around 5pm, Tallahassee Firefighters responded to a dumpster fire behind the Woodville Dollar General. The fire was determined to be arson and is under investigation.

No injuries were reported during the incident.

#### **May 18**

##### **City Breaks Ground on Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility**

*New Process Will Reduce Nitrates, Protect Environment* - On Wednesday, May 20, at 10 a.m, the City of Tallahassee is hosting a groundbreaking ceremony for a new advanced wastewater treatment facility at T.P. Smith Water Reclamation Facility. The new plant is the result of the city's \$220+ million commitment to significantly improve its treatment process. It is part of an ongoing effort to reduce nitrates in the treated wastewater distributed at the city's sprayfield, in order to lessen any impact on Wakulla Springs and other areas.

The facility is located at 3805-B Springhill Road (south of intersection with Capital Circle SW). Enter at the second entrance on the left on Springhill Road. Note the sign for the T.P. Smith wastewater plant. The gate will remain open for the duration of the event. Tours of T.P. Smith will be available following the groundbreaking.

Mayor John Marks, City Commissioner Debbie Lightsey, City Manager Anita Favors Thompson, Director of Underground Utilities Mike Tadros and Janet Llewellyn, Division Director of Water Resource Management at Florida Department of Environmental Protection, along with other representatives from the region will be in attendance.

#### **May 18 - TPD**

##### **Holton Street Shooting Suspect Arrested**

At approximately 10:00PM on Monday, May 11, 2009 the Tallahassee Police responded to the 1900 Block of Holton Street in reference to a shooting. Upon arrival, officers discovered that a 32 year old black female victim had been shot. The victim was transported to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and is currently recovering from wounds that do not appear life threatening. Investigator Scott Beck from the Tallahassee Police Department's Violent Crimes Unit responded to the scene. Investigator Beck obtained statements from witnesses identifying the shooting suspect as Tyranny Scott. Investigator Beck obtained a warrant for Scott's arrest. Members of the U.S. Marshal's Violent Fugitive Task Force arrested Scott without incident this morning at approximately 8:00AM.

##### **Arrested:**



**Tyranny E. Scott**, B/M, 23 yoa. Charges: Aggravated Battery with a Deadly Weapon, and Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon.

#### **May 19 - TPD**

##### **Attempted Murder Suspect Arrested**

Yesterday, at approximately 3:45PM, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to a reported burglary at 1839 Miccosukee Road (Double Crown Apartments). Upon arrival, officers discovered a 28 year old black female victim stabbed several times. The suspect, later identified as 27 year old April Graham, phoned police and complained of an asthma attack. Graham was located in a parking lot near Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and was taken inside for treatment.

Officers and investigators continued the investigation eventually discovering that Graham, who is four months pregnant, broke a bedroom window and climbed through in an effort to confront the victim. The violence appears to involve the victim, Graham, and a male acquaintance. Once inside the apartment, Graham is believed to have attacked and stabbed the victim multiple times. The victim was taken to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and underwent surgery to repair damage caused by the stab wounds. The victim is expected to recover from the attack.

**Arrested:**



**April Graham**, B/F, 27yoa. Charges: Attempted Murder, and Burglary with a Person Assaulted.

**May 20 - TPD**

**TPD Announces Graduation Ceremony for D.E.F.Y. Class**

The Tallahassee Police Department is pleased to announce the graduation of its 6th Class of the DEFY (Drug Education for Youth) Program. Thirteen young adults will graduate this Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 6:00 pm in a ceremony to be held at the Tallahassee Police Department. State Representative Alan Williams will be on hand to deliver a special message to the graduating class.

DEFY is a 10-month program consisting of two phases. The first phase is a Summer Leadership Camp. The children participate in a structured learning environment covering topics such as self-management skills, conflict resolution, drug resistance, and how to deal with peer pressure. The second phase of the program consists of a monthly meeting and an activity with their police mentors to enhance and reaffirm what was covered in phase one. Additional topics covered in the second phase include gang resistance, Internet safety, study skills and community service

**May 22**

**Partial Lane Closures On Capital Circle Begin Tuesday**

*Sanitary Sewer Line to be Repaired* - Beginning on Tuesday, May 26, the City of Tallahassee Underground Utilities will establish partial lane closures along Capital Circle Northeast/Southeast between approximately Easterwood Drive and Apalachee Parkway for sanitary sewer work. Construction will be taking place at five locations along the roadway, and as crews work at each area, the innermost lanes near the median will be closed to through traffic (one southbound, one northbound). All lanes will remain open between 7-9 a.m. and 4-6 p.m.

Crews will be completing exploratory sanitary sewer work as the first phase in the Capital Circle Sewer Upgrade Project. The work should be completed in two weeks, pending no unforeseen circumstances or incimate weather. Construction on the actual sewer line replacement will begin later this summer.

The Capital Circle Sewer Upgrade Project includes a replacement of the sewer main underneath Capital Circle that was damaged during Tropical Storm Fay. The damage caused by Tropical Storm Fay has the potential to cause sewage spills. Although the work may at times disrupt traffic, it is required to protect the environment.

For more information, please visit [Talgov.com](http://Talgov.com) or contact Underground Utilities at 891-6156.

**May 27**

**Summer Wheels Pass Goes on Sale**

Monday, June 1, StarMetro will begin selling the Summer Wheels pass for \$33. The Summer Wheels pass allows children 17 and younger unlimited trips on StarMetro's service during the months of June, July and August for a reduced rate.

"The goal of the Summer Wheels Pass program is to offer children a means of transportation during the summer," said Ron Garrison, executive director of StarMetro. "Ultimately, the Summer Wheels pass gives independence to kids and freedom to parents."

The pass, which is valid June, July and August, costs \$33 no matter the purchase date.

"Essentially, if a child purchases the pass in June; then, he/she will be getting three months of unlimited service for less than the price of a

one-month unlimited pass," said Garrison. "Likewise, even if a child waited until August 1 to purchase their Summer Wheels Pass, that child would still save money versus paying for a one-month unlimited pass."

StarMetro will offer the pass until August 15. Children may purchase the pass at C.K. Steele Plaza and/or StarMetro's office, located at 555 Appleyard Drive.

For more information, please call (850) 891-5200 or visit [Talgov.com/starmetro](http://Talgov.com/starmetro).

### **May 26 - TPD Police Arrest Robbery Suspect**

On Friday, May 22, 2009 at approximately 11:30PM, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to a reported robbery in the 1300 Block of Constitution Court. Upon arrival, officers discovered that three white males were robbed at gunpoint. According to the victims, they were parked along Constitution Court and were walking to a nearby party. While walking, two black male suspects approached, demanding cash while brandishing a handgun. The victims complied and the suspects fled in a gray Chevrolet Impala. No one was injured during the robbery.

Officer Robert Adams and Sergeant Frank Arias conducted the initial investigation Friday night and located the suspect vehicle abandoned in the 2500 Block of Eddie Road. Investigator Vincent Boccio of the Tallahassee Police Department's Violent Crimes Unit continued the investigation ultimately leading to the positive identity of 18 year old Anthony D. Graham as one of the suspects. At approximately 5:15PM today, Graham was arrested without incident at 2592 Eddie Road. The investigation continues in an effort to identify the second suspect involved in the robbery.

### **May 15 Partial Lane Closure On Capital Circle Southeast**

The City of Tallahassee Underground Utilities will establish a partial lane closure along Capital Circle Southeast between East Park Avenue/Conner Boulevard and Highland Oaks Terrace for sanitary sewer work. The work begins on Monday, May 18. The innermost lanes near the median (one southbound, one northbound) will be closed to through traffic at the construction site. All lanes will remain open between 7-9 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. Motorists are urged to use caution in the area and obey directions provided by work crews and signage.

For more information, please visit [Talgov.com](http://Talgov.com) or contact Underground Utilities at 891-6156.

### **May 15 City Commission Meets in Executive Session**

The Tallahassee City Commission will meet in an executive session at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 18, to discuss fire contract negotiations. Based on last year's three-year contract, negotiations are being reopened and will focus on salaries and pension benefits. As allowed by state law, the session is closed to the public, but the media is being notified per the City's desire to keep local media informed of such meetings. The session will be held in the Tallahassee Room on the second floor of City Hall.

### **May 20 City Breaks Ground on State-of-the-Art Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) Facility**

*New Process Will Reduce Nitrates, Protect Environment* - The City of Tallahassee today broke ground on a new, state-of-the-art Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility, located at T.P. Smith Water Reclamation Facility. Mayor John Marks, joined by representatives from state, local and regional agencies, continued the City of Tallahassee's commitment to protect the regions vital water resources, including Wakulla Springs.

The \$220+ million project is the City's most significant environmental project and represents a partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Northwest Florida Water Management District and local stakeholders; it is also one of the few AWT projects in the region and reflects the City's steadfast dedication to environmental protection.

"This new facility represents our City's ongoing commitment to make our treatment system one of the cleanest in the state," Mayor Marks said. "AWT is generally regarded as the 'gold standard' when it comes to treating wastewater."

"Advanced Wastewater Treatment is an investment in the future health of our region's water," said Janet Llewellyn, Division Director of Water Resource Management at Florida Department of Environmental Protection. "DEP is proud to be partnering with the City, Northwest Florida Water Management District and others to ensure the success of this project, which affects everyone in our community."

Prior to making this investment, the City commissioned a study with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to track ground water flow and characteristics. The USGS study demonstrated a link between the City's wastewater operations and regional water bodies, including Wakulla Springs.

Tallahassee City Commissioner Debbie Lightsey noted that the goal of moving to AWT is to reduce the flow of nutrients into surrounding water bodies and protect our area ecosystems.

"Reducing nitrogen and phosphorous levels by more than 75 percent will bring levels down to no more than three parts per million. By comparison, our current drinking water standards are no more than 10 parts per million," Commissioner Debbie Lightsey said.

In addition to reducing nitrogen and phosphorous, the T.P. Smith plant will receive a number of modifications, including the following:

- New Primary Clarifiers, Primary Effluent and Primary Sludge Pump Stations
- Conversion of individual Secondary Treatment Trains 2, 3 and 4 to a "single sludge" 4-stage biological nutrient removal process; aeration blower building expansion; new secondary clarifier and sludge pumping, and retrofit of existing secondary clarifiers
- New Deep Bed De-Nitrification Filters and Chlorine Contact Basins
- Effluent Pump Station upgrades (replace all pumps and electrical equipment)
- New Sodium Hypochlorite Storage and Pumping System to replace chlorine gas disinfection system
- New Chemical Facilities
- New Gravity Belt Thickening facility
- New Anaerobic Digestion facilities, including digested sludge storage
- New Sludge Dewatering and Thermal Drying facilities
- New odor control facilities

Not only is this project representative of the City's ongoing commitment to make its water treatment system one of the cleanest in the state, but it also provides our community with an economic boost.

"While we are witnessing record unemployment rates in our state, I'm happy to say that this project will provide more than 200 new jobs to our community with 20 jobs already in place," Mayor Marks said.

For more information about the construction at [T.P. Smith and the City's Water Utility](#), visit [Talgov.com](#).

## **May 20 City Service Changes for Memorial Day Holiday**

The City of Tallahassee's administrative offices will be closed for the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 25. Following are schedule changes for the week of May 25 for StarMetro, solid waste customers living inside the Tallahassee city limits, and the Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center.

### **StarMetro Schedule Changes**

[StarMetro](#), the City's mass transit system, will change its operations for the Memorial Day holiday, as follows:

**Fixed Route Services** - On Monday, May 25, StarMetro will operate on a Sunday schedule.

**Dial-A-Ride Services** - Also available on Monday, May 25, operating within the standard Sunday coverage area (rides must be confirmed by Friday, May 22).

For more information, visit [Talgov.com/starmetro](#) or call 891-5200.

### **Solid Waste Schedule Changes**

**Garbage / Recycling / Yard Waste (blue week) / Bulky Items (blue week)** - during the holiday week, all customers will receive service one day later than their regularly scheduled service:

- Monday customers will have service Tuesday, May 26
- Tuesday customers will have service Wednesday, May 27
- Wednesday customers will have service Thursday, May 28
- Thursday customers will have service Friday, May 29
- Friday customers will have service Saturday, May 30

**NOTE:** Saturday bulky item (blue week) customers will remain on Saturday.

Garbage and recycling containers should both be rolled to the curb by 6:30 am. Customers are reminded to separate yard waste piles from any bulky items set out for pickup. Customers needing more information may view solid waste schedules at [Talgov.com/you](#), or may contact City of Tallahassee Utilities at 891-4YOU (4968).

### **Animal Service Center Closed**

The [Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center](#) is normally closed to the public on Mondays, and thus the facility will be closed on May 25. Normal hours will resume on Tuesday, May 26, with the Center opening at 10:30 a.m. Customers needing more information, including photos of animals available for adoption, may visit [Talgov.com](#), or contact the Animal Service Center at 891-2950.

## **May 20 - TPD TPD Announces New Program: T.A.C. Students**

The Tallahassee Police Department is proud to announce a new student leadership program: T.A.C. Students. This program is designed to prepare high school students to be leaders in every phase of their lives. It is a program that was inspired by and is led by members of both the Chaplain's Unit and the Tallahassee Police Department's Tactical Apprehension and Control (T.A.C.) Team.

The T.A.C. Students program originated in the Tallahassee Police Department because officers saw a need to reach out to our community to help mold the leaders of tomorrow. The idea is not to recruit future law enforcement officers, but rather to have a positive influence on students who will work in all areas of our community. Students who apply, compete and are accepted to the T.A.C. Students team will attend four challenging classes: Decision Making, Defining Relationships, Planning for the Future, and Becoming a Leader. In addition, the students will experience events that are community focused and emphasize team-building.

Police department tactical teams, like T.A.C. and S.W.A.T., are specialized groups of officers highly trained in the control of volatile situations. When the Tallahassee Police Department's T.A.C. Team receives a call-out, the officers never know exactly what they are going to face. It is through training, skill, and teamwork that they have the confidence to overcome any situation. These men and women are the best at what they do because they prepare.

The acronym in T.A.C. Students represents: Training, Achievement, and Confidence. The goal of the program is to prepare students to have the skills and knowledge to be leaders now and in the future. Students never know exactly what they are going to face in life. It is through training and achievements that students develop the confidence to overcome any situation. Becoming a part of this team is challenging, but the experience students receive is one of a kind.

There are only a limited number of openings on the upcoming T.A.C. Student's fall team, and the process is competitive. Any interested high school students or parents of interested students, should contact Inspector Danny Jeter at 891-4208 or [visit the T.A.C. Students web page](#).

### **May 27 - TPD Safety Check Point Scheduled**

The Tallahassee Police Department along with the Leon County DUI Strike Force will conduct a safety checkpoint on Friday, May 29, 2009. The Checkpoint will begin at approximately 8:30PM and terminate at approximately 12:00AM. The checkpoint will be conducted along the 3100 Block of Thomasville Road. The purpose of the checkpoint is to detect drivers who are too impaired to operate a motor vehicle, detect vehicles with faulty equipment, and those operating a vehicle without a driver license.

In 2007, Florida had 22,823 alcohol related crashes and a total of 1,244 alcohol related fatalities. Approximately one-third of all traffic fatalities were alcohol related. The Tallahassee Police Department investigated fourteen (14) traffic fatalities in 2008. Six (6) of the fourteen (14) fatalities were alcohol related.

These check points will be well marked by signage, marked patrol vehicles and uniformed officers. The checkpoints are designed to have minimal impact on traffic flow and to save lives. Anyone with questions about the planned checkpoints is asked to contact Investigator Joe Giangrosso at 891-4243

### **May 28 Disc Golf Tournament Spins into Town**

PRNA Hosts Tallahassee Open 2009 - Get out your driver and putter, of the 'disc' variety, and prepare to flick your way to victory! Join the City of Tallahassee Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Department (PRNA) June 6-7 for the Tallahassee Open Disc Golf Tournament 2009. Fees vary depending on skill level. The last day for registration is Friday, June 5.

While the weekend officially kicks off on Saturday, the event begins with a bonus doubles tournament on Friday, June 5, at 3 p.m. at Jack McLean Park (700 Paul Russell Road). Participants will meet at the top of the hill. Directional signs will be posted. Dinner will be provided for participants.

For the official Open event, check-in begins at 8 a.m. each day, and lunch is provided for players.

On Saturday, June 6, the tournament will take place at McLean Park. The mandatory player meeting begins at 8:45 a.m., and play begins at 9:30 a.m. On Sunday, June 7, the tournament moves to Tom Brown Park. The mandatory player meeting begins at 8:30 a.m., and play begins at 9 a.m.

In keeping with the City's focus on being environmentally friendly, recycled fiber t-shirts from Florida Tee's will be included in every player's packet. This is the first time recycled fiber shirts have been used for a PRNA event.

For more information on the tournament, please call Bob McCormick, tournament director, at 668-4062 or visit [Talgov.com/parks/](http://Talgov.com/parks/).

### **May 28 - TFD Arrest Made in Connection with the Arson Fire in the 2600 Block of Mission Road**

On March 13, 2009, Tallahassee Firefighters responded to a mobile home fire in the 2600 block of Mission Road. Investigators from the Tallahassee Fire Department and The Florida State Fire Marshal's Office later determined the cause of the fire to be Arson. The mobile

home fire, which started in the bedroom, caused an estimated \$5000 in damages.

"The occupants were out of town at the time of the fire," said Tallahassee Fire Investigator Frank Mohr.

Yesterday, Tallahassee Fire Investigator, Florida State Fire Marshal's Office, Leon County Sheriffs Office and the United States Marshals Fugitive Task Force arrested Patricia A. Domineck and charged her with Arson and Burglary of the mobile home. A domestic dispute between Miss Domineck and the resident escalated and is believed to be the motive for her actions. Miss Domineck was transported to the Leon County Jail.

## **May 28**

### **Tal.gov.com to be Temporarily Down for Maintenance**

Due to upgrades being performed on the City's website, tal.gov.com, the site will be down for minor maintenance today between 5:30 and 6:00pm. The upgrades are necessary to prepare for our Disaster Recovery Project. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

## **May 28**

### **Duval Street Entrance to Kleman Plaza Parking Garage Closed for Two Weeks**

Patrons to Use Bronough Street Entrance - Driveway construction work will temporarily close the Duval Street entrance to the Kleman Plaza parking garage for approximately two weeks, effective at 7 a.m. on Monday, June 1. During this period, all parking patrons entering the garage must use the Bronough Street entrance.

Detour signage will direct motorists to the Bronough Street entrance of the Kleman Plaza parking garage. Flagmen will also be stationed at the Duval Street entrance to assist in directing motorists to the Bronough Street entrance to the parking garage. The City is notifying current monthly parking patrons and downtown businesses of these changes.

Once inside the parking garage, motorists will still be able to exit via Duval Street, as well as use the Bronough Street exit. Work on the entrance lanes should be completed by Monday, June 15. Construction will then begin on repairs to the Duval Street exit lanes at the parking garage, requiring those lanes to be closed for approximately two weeks. The City will provide another update on Kleman Plaza parking garage closures by June 12.

For more information please contact the City's Facilities Management Department at 891-8222 or visit the City's website at Tal.gov.com.

## **May 29**

### **City Celebrates 100 Years of Superior Water Service**

Voted the Best-Tasting Drinking Water in Florida - The City of Tallahassee is hosting a "Water Fun Day" celebration to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of its water utility and its recent recognition by the American Water Works Association as having the Best-Tasting Drinking Water in Florida.

The celebration is being held on Saturday, May 30, at Lake Leon in Tom Brown Park, from 9 a.m. until noon. The event is free and open to the public.

"This should be a day of fun for all," said Mike Tadros, General Manager of the City's Underground Utilities. "This year marks the 100th anniversary of Tallahassee's municipal water services. We're proud that we can continue our efforts to be an environmental leader and award-winning water utility."

The "Water Fun Day" celebration will include bouncing machines, slip-n-slides, games, refreshments and giveaways.

For more information about this event, contact Lorin Pratt at 891-6106. For information about Underground Utilities, visit Tal.gov.com/you.

## **May 29 - TPD**

### **Update: Waverly Hills Residential Burglary**

On May 15th, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to a residence in the Waverly Hills neighborhood in reference to a burglary. A surveillance camera captured three suspects burglarizing the home and subsequently carrying a large flat screen television out of the residence and placing it in a waiting light colored sedan.

The Tallahassee Police Department released the videos and photos to the media, and within two days the Police Department and Big Bend Crime Stoppers received numerous telephone calls. One of the suspects was successfully identified as Bryce Johnson of Madison, Florida. Investigator Marcia Rodriguez conducted the investigation and obtained warrants for Johnson.

The Tallahassee Police Department, the Leon County Sheriff's Office, and FDLE are part of the Gang and Habitual Offender Strike Team (GHOST), a multi-agency task force that targets criminal organizations. Johnson was believed to be in Madison County, so on May 22nd, members of GHOST located and arrested Johnson in Madison County.

The Tallahassee Police Department is asking the public to review the video and photos to help identify the remaining suspects. (Note: The date and time on the video is inaccurate.) The remaining unidentified suspects are described as follows:

Suspect #1: Black male, white t-shirt, possibly jean shorts (checkered boxers), black cap, black tennis shoes and white socks. He appears to have a goatee and sideburns.



Suspect #2: Black male, wearing a camouflage hat, black t-shirt, large stud earring (possibly a diamond), and he had a goatee.



ARRESTED: Bryce Johnson, B/M, 19YOA



CHARGES: Criminal Mischief, Possession of Burglary Tools Grand Theft, and Burglary of a Dwelling

Anyone with information concerning this crime is asked to call the Tallahassee Police Department at 891-4200 or Crime Stoppers at 574-TIPS (8477) or 1-888-876- 8477.