

July 2009 News Releases

July 02

Delays on Miccosukee Road

Segment Between Martin St. and Georgia St. - Motorists will experience temporary delays along Miccosukee Road between East Georgia Street and Martin Street beginning Monday, July 6, as construction continues on stormwater / flood relief improvements in the area. Work will take place Monday-Saturday between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. Although Miccosukee Road will be reduced to one lane at times in the construction zone, two-way traffic will be maintained by flagmen during the workday.

Motorists should expect slight delays and are urged to use caution in the work zone. Weather permitting, work on Miccosukee Road should be completed and the road reopened to normal use by Friday, July 24.

July 02 - TPD

Police Fourth of July Safety Reminder

The Fourth of July is a time of celebration for our country and the Tallahassee community. The celebration is a great way for family and friends to enjoy the freedoms associated with being an American. Unfortunately, some of these celebrations end in needless tragedies because of firework related accidents and alcohol consumption. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, more fires are reported on July 4th than any other day of the year. In addition, more than 9,000 injuries are caused by fireworks Nationwide. In Florida, fireworks that explode or leave the ground are illegal. Sparklers burn at more than 1,000 degrees and can cause fires or serious injury in an instant. The Tallahassee Police Department encourages parents to closely supervise children of all ages and avoid fireworks that can cause burns. Instead, attend professional fireworks displays or use bubbles, non-flammable silly string, streamers, and other items that are less likely to cause injury.

In an effort to ensure the safety of our citizens, the Tallahassee Police Department will have additional officers available during the Celebrate America Event at Tom Brown Park. "Our goal is public safety. We want everyone to have a great Fourth of July celebration. Officers will be monitoring neighborhoods and roadways in an attempt to ensure illegal fireworks are seized and impaired drivers are arrested," said Chief Dennis Jones.

July 06

Gaines Street Groundbreaking Event Postponed

In an effort to have more community involvement, today's scheduled event marking the beginning of construction along Gaines Street has been postponed. Notice of the new date and time will be sent when an anticipated dry day has been selected. It is anticipated the event will occur later this week.

July 06 - 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, along with the Tallahassee Fire Department, Florida Highway Patrol, Florida State University Police, and Leon County EMS 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. A fire truck and police vehicles will be on hand for the kids to enjoy! Additionally, the Tallahassee Police Department's Community Relations Unit will be on hand to photograph and fingerprint your child using the Child ID Checkpoint.

The checkpoint will be held this Thursday, July 9, 2009 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-6:30pm. If you have any questions, please contact Inv. Joe Giangrosso at 891-4243.

July 06

Awards to Honor Senior Center Volunteers

The Tallahassee Senior Center will honor its volunteers with an ice cream social and presentation of Presidential Awards on **Monday, July 13, from 12:30 - 2 p.m.** The public is invited to step back in time and enjoy old-fashioned soda jerk treats, such as ice cream with sprinkles and root beer floats.

"The Presidential Awards recognize the commitment level of our volunteers who so generously give of their time to help others through our positive aging programs," Sheila Salyer, manager of Tallahassee Senior Services, said. "At our very heart, you find volunteers serving selflessly."

Receiving the Life Time Achievement award is Eleanor DeSalme, who served over 4000 volunteer hours.

Eddie Belk, Bruce Boone, Jean Colley, Paul Frohe and Rosa Parrish all volunteered 500 hours or more and will receive a Gold Award.

Silver Awards will be presented to Rosa Autery, Laura Blair, Violet Felber, Rosalyn Olsen, Martha Rodeseike, Henry Steel, Bob Taylor, Patricia Thomas and Phillip Welsh for volunteering 250-500 hours.

Bronze award winners include Jan Bayfield, Ann Bernstein, Maxwell Caskie, Eleanor Clemons, Mary Connell, Nan Currence, Doris Davis, Ed Dudas, Jean Dunnigan, Martha Farmer, Angela Gamon, Joan Guilday, Craig Hansberry, Dale Hiedeman, Jim Hinson, Rita Hodsdon, Mabel Huffman, Jan Jarrett, Jerry Jessup, Maxine Kendrick, Emily Lenz, William McMahon, John O'Farrell, Patty Parkhurst, Herb Salyer, Joseph Smith, Betty Soderholm, Lewis Spears, Dee Steverson, Alma Wilkey and Don Wilson. These volunteers donated 149-250 hours to the Tallahassee Senior Center.

"The senior center relies heavily upon volunteers, and we think they are each award winners. It's with their support, we are able to accomplish so much more," said Gena Varn, volunteer coordinator.

More than 300 individuals contributed nearly 21,000 hours in the past year as receptionists, class instructors, advisors, health assistants and other jobs for a value of \$376,918 to the Tallahassee Senior Center.

Sponsors of this popular event include Club 50 Fitness; Jonathan Walker, LMT; Desloge Home Oxygen; and Holiday Cruises.

July 06 - TFD

Vehicle Fire was Intentionally Set in the 1400 Block of South Monroe Street

Last night, around 9:30 p.m., Tallahassee firefighters responded to a vehicle fire involving a repossessed 2002 Chevy Monty Carlo. The fire spread to a 1997 Chevy S-10 pick-up that was parked next to the Monty Carlo. Today investigators from both the Tallahassee Fire Department and the State Fire Marshal's Office determined the fire to be arson. Both vehicles were a total loss and the investigation continues to determine who was responsible for setting the fire. No injuries were reported during the incident.

Anyone having information leading to the arrest and conviction of the subject(s) involved with this fire or any other fire may be eligible for a \$2,500 reward by contacting FACAP at (1-877-662-7766) or the Tallahassee Fire Department Hotline at 891-FIRE (891-3473).

July 07

Water Atlas Photo Contest Winners Announced

Local Natural Resources Promoted - The City of Tallahassee and Leon County are proud to announce the winners of the Water Atlas Grand Opening Photo Contest. The first-place winner was "Late Winter Miller Landing" by Betsey Kellenberger. She will receive a Wakulla River guided kayak trip for two from Wilderness Way. "Black Crowned Night Heron" by Ron Piasecki won the second-place prize of free gate admission and a riverboat tour for four at Wakulla Springs State Park. Honorable Mention goes to "Three In Flight" by Michael and Jennifer Chapman.

The photo contest was designed to help promote the joint Tallahassee-Leon County (TLC) online Water Atlas. Citizens were invited to submit their favorite photos of local natural resources, waterbodies and wildlife for posting on the Water Atlas website. Although the contest is over, the TLC Water Atlas will continue to accept photo submissions.

The online TLC Water Atlas provides a digital gateway to help citizens, educators, students and professionals access local data and information about local natural water resources. The Water Atlas website is loaded with an extensive collection of material and features user-friendly technology to view data, such as local lake and stream water quality reports and rainfall levels. The atlas includes information on virtually every known water body within Tallahassee and Leon County. It also offers information about recreational opportunities and a library of scientific and educational materials on water resource issues.

For more information, or to schedule a presentation of the TLC Water Atlas, please visit the [Atlas online](#), or call the City of Tallahassee's Water Resources Engineering Division/Stormwater Management at 850-891-6860 or Leon County's Engineering Services Division at 850-606-1500.

July 07 - TPD

ATM Bandit Causes Extensive Damage and Takes Cash

The Tallahassee Police Department is investigating three separate incidents involving local automated teller machines (ATM). The first incident occurred at 3516 Thomasville Road (Regions Bank) on Thursday, June 25th at approximately 1:00AM. Surveillance photos show a person attempting to use a grinder to gain access to the cash inside the machine. The second incident occurred at 459 West College Avenue (Pot Bellys) and was reported yesterday afternoon. The ATM was located outside the business in a small brick building specifically designed to house the ATM. Sometime between Sunday night and Monday morning the door of the building was removed. The entire ATM, weighing approximately 200 pounds, was stolen. A third incident occurred last night at 1997 Capital Circle Northeast (Wachovia Bank) at approximately 10:30PM. During the Wachovia Bank attempt, the suspect stole a backhoe from a nearby construction site. The suspect used the tractor's rear bucket in an attempt to pry open the ATM. In the Regions and Wachovia Banks incidents the suspect(s) activated alarms and fled without gaining access to the cash inside. The estimated damage caused during these crimes is approximately \$15,000.

Investigators continue to follow up on physical evidence located at the scene, but are asking for the public's assistance in identifying the suspect. Anyone with information about these crimes is asked to contact the Tallahassee Police Department at (850) 891-4200 or Crime Stoppers at (850) 574-TIPS (8477). Remember, Crime Stoppers does not want your name, just your information. You could be eligible for a reward up to \$1000.

July 09

New Date Set For Gaines Street Project Kick-off Celebration

Event Marks Start of Infrastructure Projects and Next Step to Corridor's Transformation - The City of Tallahassee is celebrating the start of construction on Gaines Street with a ceremonial groundbreaking and pipe-signing event. The event will be held Tuesday, July 14, at 10 a.m. in Doug Burnette Park, located at the corner of West Gaines Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The event was originally set to take place on Monday, July 6, but was postponed due to severe weather.

"This project is not only a reflection of the Tallahassee City Commission's commitment to revitalizing this critical part of our city, it's also a way to support local jobs and ensure that we have the infrastructure in place so that we are ready for redevelopment when the economy recovers," said Roxanne Manning, the City of Tallahassee's Community Redevelopment Agency program director. "In addition, in working with the local contractor, Jimmie Crowder Excavating and Land Clearing Inc., we are pleased to let businesses and drivers know that the vast majority of the work will be done at night to reduce the impact on the community."

The construction contract is already underway. During construction, portions of Gaines Street will be completely closed overnight between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. During weekday daytime hours, all four lanes will remain open, barring any unplanned circumstances. Weekend work, both daytime and nighttime, will occasionally occur. No work will take place on weekends of university home football games or commencement exercises.

Work to upgrade and relocate utility infrastructure is the first step in the transformation of Gaines Street into a pedestrian-friendly corridor with a blend of commercial, residential and cultural uses. This portion of the project will help maintain or create approximately 45 direct jobs in our community, not including the economic spin-off of the project.

Following the completion of the underground utilities work, the roadway will be paved and reconfigured from a 2-way, 4-lane road to a 2-way, 2-lane street with limited on-street parking from Woodward Avenue to Monroe Street. That phase of construction will also include the installation of new sidewalks, street features and landscaping. The overall cost of the project, including utility infrastructure work, road realignment and resurfacing and other costs associated with the project, is projected to be more than \$15 million.

The public is invited to join City, County and community leaders at the July 14 groundbreaking. In addition to the first turning of dirt by officials, the event will include a ceremony where local officials and dignitaries will place commemorative items in a time capsule, donated by the contractor. Items in the time capsule will reflect the current economic, social, political and physical state of Tallahassee, with contributions from groups involved in, and impacted by, the Gaines Street project. The time capsule will be buried in the park at a later date with plans to open it in 2029 to reflect the 20 years of progress that has taken place along Gaines Street and the community at large.

There will also be an underground utility pipe for attendees to sign that will be installed as part of the project. Finger paints will be available for children to make handprints on the pipe, and a photo of the children and pipe will be included in the time capsule. Free street parking will be available along Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. on the west side of Doug Burnette Park.

The Gaines Street project is part of the City Commission's goal to create an 18-hour, pedestrian friendly downtown. During the coming years, as the economy improves and development demand increases, this vital link between both area universities and downtown will redevelop into an urban corridor with public art displays, businesses and live/work spaces.

For more information on construction and the project's progress, please visit Talgov.com/Gaines. Visitors to the site will be able to sign-up to receive project updates via email. The City is also using social media options to help keep motorists informed. Citizens can receive updates by following GainesStreet on Twitter or by becoming a fan of Gaines Street on Facebook. Citizens can also contact the City via the Gaines Street hotline at 891-8010 or by emailing GainesStreet@talgov.com.

July 09 - TPD

Suspect on the Loose after Bank Robbery

This morning, shortly after 9:00AM, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to a reported bank robbery located at 3003 Mahan Drive (Bank of America). Upon arrival, officers discovered a black male suspect entered the bank lobby, implied he had a weapon and demanded cash from a teller. The teller complied with the suspect's demand after which the suspect fled on foot with an undisclosed sum of cash. No one was injured during the robbery. This is the twelfth bank robbery investigated by the Tallahassee Police Department this year. The same Bank of America branch was the scene of a robbery on May 1, 2009. The suspect in the May robbery was arrested shortly after the incident.

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

Suspect Description: Black male, 40-50 yoa, thin build, mustache with a goatee, wearing a long sleeve shirt, hat, glasses, and light

colored pants.



July 14 - TFD

Tallahassee Firefighters Respond to an Apartment Fire in the 3200 Block of Ginger Drive

Last night around 9 P.M., Tallahassee firefighters responded to a second story apartment fire in the 3200 block of Ginger Drive. The fire was located in an upstairs bedroom and it appears to be electrical in nature. The resident noticed sparks when he tried to plug in a charger for his I-Pod. Firefighters on scene, determined that the sparks ignited linen lying near the charger. The fire was contained to the bedroom and minimizing damage to the rest of the apartment complex.

Damage is estimated at \$10,000. No injuries were reported during the incident.

July 14

Construction Contract has Begun on Gaines Street

Road Closed During Overnight Hours - The City of Tallahassee has started underground utility construction on Gaines Street. During this phase of construction, portions of Gaines Street will be completely closed during overnight hours, between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. Monday through Friday, however, access to local businesses will be maintained at all times. All four lanes will remain open to traffic on weekdays, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., barring unforeseen circumstances. Alternate routes around the construction zone will be clearly marked. Motorists are asked to allow more time for their travels in the affected areas and exercise caution on all roadways.

Utility relocation and improvement work is the first phase of the project to convert Gaines Street between Monroe Street and Woodward Avenue to a pedestrian-friendly corridor with a blend of commercial, residential and cultural uses. Following the completion of the underground utilities work, the roadway will be paved and reconfigured from four lanes to two. That phase of construction will also include the installation of new sidewalks, street features and landscaping.

"We appreciate the community's patience and understanding as we move forward," said Roxanne Manning, Gaines Street project manager for the City. "While it may be hard to imagine now, this change is the beginning of a new look for Gaines Street and the community."

When Gaines Street is permanently reduced from four lanes to two, some motorists will begin using alternate routes, as the road currently services approximately 36,000 cars per day and will only have the capacity for approximately 16,000 cars per day when the project is completed. Motorists are encouraged to try alternate routes prior to the change to determine what corridor will work best for them and to get a feel for the available options.

As part of the Gaines Street Revitalization Plan, Gaines Street is being rebuilt from a 2-way, 4-lane road to a 2-way, 2-lane street with limited on-street parking from Woodward Avenue to Monroe Street. The work along Gaines Street is part of the City Commission's goal to create an 18-hour, pedestrian friendly downtown. During the coming years, as the economy improves and development demand increases, this vital link between both area universities and downtown will become an urban corridor with public art displays, businesses and live/work spaces.

For more information on construction and the project's progress, please visit Talgov.com/Gaines. Visitors to the site will be able to sign-up to receive project updates via email. The City is also using social media options to help keep motorists informed. Citizens can receive updates by following GainesStreet on Twitter or by becoming a fan of Gaines Street on Facebook. Citizens can also contact the City via the Gaines Street hotline at 891-8010.

July 16

Buford Boulevard Closed Saturday

Block Between Centerville Road and Care Drive - The City of Tallahassee will close Buford Boulevard between Centerville Road and Care Drive to motorists Saturday, July 18, beginning at 8 a.m., for sewer line repairs. The detour route will be clearly posted, and weather permitting, Buford Boulevard should be reopened to traffic by 4 p.m. Saturday afternoon.

July 17 - TPD

Local Business Owners Victim of Theft

On Wednesday, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to incidents involving the theft of expensive jewelry from two local businesses. The first incident occurred at approximately 5:30PM on Tuesday at 1415 Timberlane Road (Killearn Antiques Jewelry Store). The second reported incident occurred at approximately 6:00PM that same day at 1950 Thomasville Road (Roberts Jewelry and Design). During both incidents the suspects entered the business under the guise of being a paying customer. The suspects requested display of several pieces of expensive jewelry and as one suspect created a distraction, the other apparently stole some of the displayed items. The scheme was elaborate enough that the thefts were not discovered and reported until Wednesday afternoon.

Investigators believe it is possible that the above suspects may have been involved in a similar incident that occurred on December 29, 2008. During the December theft, two suspects entered 928 North Monroe Street (Lester & Company), distracted an employee and committed a similar theft. The combined value in these incidents is over \$50,000.

Anyone with information about these crimes, or the identity of the persons of interest in the attached photos 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.

Suspect Descriptions:



#1 Black female, 5'10"-6'0", approximately 300lbs.

#2 Black female, 5'10"-6-0", approximately 300lbs, with gold teeth. Tatoos on both shoulder/chest areas.

#3 Black male, no other information.

July 31

StarMetro Route Changes Effective August 1

Eight Routes Revised and Two New Routes Added - StarMetro, the City of Tallahassee's mass transit system, will change several routes effective Saturday, August 1. These include the addition of two new routes and revisions to eight existing routes. The changes also include the elimination of four routes, but by consolidating the overall system, passengers will be accommodated through use of the new or existing routes.

"With these service improvements, our patrons will experience increased efficiency and on-time performance, while also reaching new customers," said Ronald Garrison, StarMetro Executive Director.

Specific details on the route changes effective August 1 are available on the City's website at Talgov.com/StarMetro. A general summary of the changes follows:

- **Route 1** - revised to cover portions of discontinued route 9; revised route will include segment from Portland Ave. at Old Bainbridge Rd. to High Rd. at W. Tharpe St.
- **Route 3** - to be discontinued, but coinciding with new routes 53 and 54 that will provide improved service to Tallahassee Community College students and new service to the Ghazvini Learning Center and other offices along Blountstown Highway.
- **Route 9** - to be discontinued (see route 1 information).

- **Route 10** - to be discontinued, but coinciding with route 18 that will provide more direct service along Mahan Dr. and Capital Circle N.E.
- **Route 12** - extends service on Mahan Dr. to Weems Rd., to provide new park-and-ride options for Buck Lake and Fallschase area residents.
- **Route 18** - revised (see route 10 information), and will now operate Monday-Saturday.
- **Route 20** - revised to serve the High Magnetic Laboratory and adjacent offices in the Innovation Park complex; also adds an additional stop for Florida State University's Alumni Village.
- **Route 21** - revised to include service to W. Tennessee St., Capital Circle N.W. and Commonwealth Blvd. Discontinued service along Blountstown Highway and Mission Rd. to be absorbed by new routes 53 and 54.
- **Route 25** - revised from an hourly route to service every half-hour, including service to Governor's Square.
- **Route 26** - revised to add service along Paul Russell Rd., Orange Ave., Blair Stone Rd. and Old St. Augustine Rd.; will also discontinue service to Governor's Square and Winewood Complex.
- **Route 28** - revised to cover portions of discontinued route 35; will run along W. Pensacola St., Appleyard Dr., Jackson Bluff Rd. and Ausley Rd.
- **Route 35** - to be discontinued (see route 28 information).
- **Route 53** - new route (see route 3 information).
- **Route 54** - new route (see route 3 information).

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

July 27 - TPD

Two Men Shot During Confrontation

Last night, at approximately, 8:15PM, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to the 1600 Block of Mabry Street in reference to a shooting. Upon arrival, officers located two witnesses who provided information about the shooting. The witnesses explained that two vehicles stopped in the roadway, blocking the victims' vehicle. The witnesses observed at least one suspect exit a vehicle with a handgun and then heard a series of gunshots. The suspects and victims then fled the area.

The Leon County Sheriff's Office received a separate 911 phone call a few minutes after the above incident from an address located outside the city limit. Deputies responding to the 911 call discovered that two male victims had been shot. The Leon County Sheriff's Office and the Tallahassee Police Department quickly linked the two calls, launching an investigation into the shooting.

Investigator Mark Lewis from the Tallahassee Police Department's Violent Crimes Unit responded to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital in an effort to interview the victims. The victims provided limited information about the shooting. The victims explained that as they drove along Mabry Street, two vehicles stopped in their path of travel, essentially blocking the victims' vehicle. According to the victims, two suspects got out of the vehicle(s), demanded property at gunpoint, and then shot the two victims. The victims fled the area, driving to a nearby relative's home for help.

The motive for the shooting is unknown. Investigators are asking anyone with information about this crime to contact the Tallahassee Police Department at (850) 891-4200 or Crime Stoppers at (850) 574-TIPS (8477). Remember, Crime Stoppers does not want your name, just your information. You could be eligible for a reward up to \$1000.

July 27

Vaccination Saves Lives: Protect Your Pet

Free Rabies Vaccination Clinic to be Held This Saturday - The City of Tallahassee Animal Control Division, in cooperation with the Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center (ASC), will hold an emergency free rabies vaccination clinic in Myers Park, located at 912 Myers Park Drive, on Saturday, August 1, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

The Leon County Health Department issued a Rabies Alert for the Myers Park Area this past Friday due to a dramatic increase in the number of animals testing positive for rabies virus infection in Leon County. In the last few months, there has been a number of wildlife to human/pet exposure cases involving 59 victims (40 pets and 19 humans). The rabies virus is present in the wildlife population of our county, and domestic animals are at risk of contracting this potentially deadly disease if not properly vaccinated.

"It is critical to vaccinate pets against rabies to prevent the spread of the disease," said Dr. Rachel Reeves, Animal Services veterinarian.

This is the fifth clinic the Animal Control Division and ASC have held. To date, over 550 rabies vaccines have been successfully administered to domestic animals in order to provide much needed protection to our pets, our families and our community.

This Saturday's vaccinations (up to 500 of them) will be provided at no charge by Merial, an animal health company, which provides a comprehensive range of animal health, well-being and performance products in more than 150 countries worldwide. For more information on Merial, please visit their website at www.merial.com.

Free spay/neuter vouchers will also be available courtesy of the Animal Shelter Foundation Inc. For more information on the ASF and its commitment to Tallahassee's homeless animal population, please visit www.TallyASF.org.

Rabies is a disease of the nervous system and is fatal to warm blooded animals and humans. The only treatment for human exposure to rabies is rabies-specific immune globulin and rabies immunization. Appropriate treatment started soon after the exposure will protect an exposed person from the disease. To help protect yourself and your pets, all contact with wildlife should be avoided.

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 the importance of protecting your pets and yourself against rabies, call the ASC at 891-2950 or visit Talgov.com/animals.

July 28 - TPD TPD Announces 46th Citizens' Police Academy

The Tallahassee Police Department announces the 46th Citizens' Police Academy (CPA) that is scheduled to begin September 1, 2009. The CPA is an information process where students learn more about the inner-workings of TPD while participating in several police-related activities. The deadline for applications is August 3, 2009 and there is no cost to our citizens.

CPA class members receive information, instruction and demonstrations in areas such as police use of force, narcotics enforcement, the Tactical Apprehension and Control (TAC) Team, the Special Response Team, K-9, special operations, criminal investigations, crime laboratory and evidence processing and much more. Class members will also visit Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy for TAC Team and weapons demonstrations, and will participate in a ride-along with a TPD officer on a regular patrol shift.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- 21 years of age or older.
- Pass a criminal history check.
- Work or live in Tallahassee/Leon County.
- Be able to commit to attending all classes during the 10-week class period.

Citizens may [apply online](http://Talgov.com) at Talgov.com

For more information, please contact Officer Michele Yown via [email](mailto:).

July 28 Daytime Closure on Miccosukee Road

Segment Between Mitchell Ave. and Hillcrest St. - The City of Tallahassee will close Miccosukee Road between Mitchell Avenue and Hillcrest Street to motorists during daytime hours beginning Wednesday, July 29, at 9 a.m., for sewer line repairs. This project continues sewer replacement work on Miccosukee Road that began last week. The detour route will be clearly posted, and Miccosukee Road will be reopened to traffic each afternoon by 4 p.m. Weather permitting, the project should be completed by this Saturday, August 1.

The sewer repair project is not to be confused with a City flood relief project currently under construction that includes temporary delays on Miccosukee Road between East Georgia Street and Martin Street. Work on the Miccosukee Road portion of the flood relief project should be completed and the road completely free of delays by this Friday, July 31, though work on this project will continue on adjacent streets through August.

July 28 - TPD Missing Juvenile

Today, at approximately 9:50AM, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to the 3100 Block of Springhill Road in reference to a missing juvenile. Upon arrival, officers were informed that 16-year-old Demetrie Jones had not been seen since yesterday. Demetrie resides with his guardian and was given permission to go with friends to the Leon County Library (200 West Park Avenue). Demetrie was last seen at the library yesterday between the hours of 2PM-4PM. Demetrie is dependent on medication in order to maintain his health, as well as cognitive ability. Demetrie may be in the company of 19- year-old Deaunta Devall Kelly.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Demetrie Jones is asked to contact the Tallahassee Police Department at (850) 891-4200 or Crime Stoppers at (850) 574-TIPS (8477).

DESCRIPTION:



Demetrie Jones, B/M, 16 yoa, 5'3", 128 lbs., Short hair. Last seen wearing: Black and white shirt (unknown type), blue jeans, and black Addis shoes.

July 28 - TPD Internal Affairs Investigation Complete

Today Chief Dennis Jones announced the conclusion of a Department-directed internal affairs investigation regarding an incident where an officer used a TASER to subdue a 15-year-old juvenile that was resisting arrest. Chief Jones states that after a complete investigation, the findings of the Internal Affairs Unit concluded that Officer Ormerod followed policy and procedure as it relates to the use of force in this case.

On Monday, June 22, 2009 the mother of a local 15-year-old juvenile contacted the Tallahassee Police Department's Internal Affairs Unit requesting a review of the force utilized by Officer Chris Ormerod during the arrest of her son. Although any use of force by a Tallahassee Police officer is reviewed by supervisors and the Internal Affairs Unit, Chief Jones reviewed the complaint and the limited facts of the case that were available at the time. Based on the circumstances, Chief Jones placed Officer Ormerod on paid administrative leave and initiated an Internal Affairs review of the case. The Internal Affairs investigation revealed all of the facts surrounding the arrest.

The event in question occurred on June 19, 2009 when Officer Ormerod exited his marked patrol car because the individual committed a violation of Florida Statute by suddenly stepping in front of a moving vehicle (FS 316.130). Officer Ormerod stated, "I need to talk to you for a minute." At first the individual appeared to comply with Officer Ormerod's lawful order, but then began to walk away. Officer Ormerod again attempted to convince the individual to return, but he refused, stating, "NO!" after being told to stop. Officer Ormerod grabbed the individual by the arm to stop him. The individual began to resist and scream profanity, ultimately escaping from Officer Ormerod's grasp, committing the misdemeanor crime of resisting arrest without violence. As the individual began running toward a nearby home Officer Ormerod chased the individual and deployed his taser, activating it once, as the individual attempted to enter the home. The individual was subsequently arrested and charged with a pedestrian violation and resisting arrest without violence. The individual was not injured during his resistance.

"It is unfortunate anytime an officer has to use force to make an arrest. Police officers are here to help and protect people. A vast majority of arrests are made without the use of force, but we must remember that officers react to the actions of suspects. In this case the juvenile refused to identify himself, ran from the officer and was attempting to enter someone's home. During an event of this nature an officer has no way of knowing the individual's age, if the suspect knows the people in the home or if the suspect intends to harm those inside. If a suspect follows an officer's direction, force is not necessary. Our goal is to balance the safety of police officers with the safety of the citizens, including suspects who choose to resist arrest," said Chief Jones.

Chief Jones notified Officer Chris Ormerod of the result of the internal investigation. Officer Ormerod is scheduled to return to full-duty today.

July 31 Daytime Closures on Miccosukee Road Continue

The City of Tallahassee will continue temporary daytime closures along Miccosukee Road between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. for the next two weeks for sewer line repairs, as follows:

- August 3-7: Miccosukee Road closed between Hillcrest Street and Terrace Street
- August 10-15: Miccosukee Road closed between Terrace Street and Harbert Street

Miccosukee Road will be closed each morning at 9 a.m. and then reopened to traffic each afternoon by 4 p.m. The detour route will be clearly posted. Motorists are advised to exercise caution in the construction area and along the detour route.

This project continues sewer repairs on Miccosukee Road that began earlier in July. The sewer repair project is not to be confused with a City flood relief project currently under construction that includes temporary delays on Miccosukee Road between East Georgia Street and Martin Street. Weather permitting, work on the Miccosukee Road portion of the flood relief project should be completed and the road completely free of delays by Friday, August 7, though work on this project will continue on adjacent streets for several more weeks in

August.

July 31 - TPD

Two Arrested, Linked to Several Local Bank Robberies

The Tallahassee Police Department has been investigating a spree of local area bank robberies. During the bank robberies the suspects used a gun and threatened to kill the victims if they did not comply with their demands. During at least two of the robberies the suspects sprayed pepper spray inside the bank as they made their escape. Investigators Vinny Boccio, Scott Cherry, and Jeff Plattos from the Violent Crimes Unit began gathering evidence from the robberies, which began in early February 2009. Investigators began piecing together the possibility that the crimes were related based on the use of a gun, pepper spray, and the description of a smaller, possible Nissan vehicle as the getaway vehicle.

During the investigation, investigators received a Crime Stoppers tip that assisted in identifying the suspects involved in the robberies. After lengthy investigation and a DNA match from the scene of one of the robberies, investigators arrested 25 year old Jermaine Goodman and 29 year old Robert Dixon. The DNA identification was linked to Dixon after the February 9, 2009 robbery of the Sunshine Savings Bank located at 1533 South Monroe Street. The DNA was obtained from the exterior of the bank, after Dixon climbed onto the roof waiting to carry out the robbery.

Investigators presented their evidence to the State Attorney's Office and a Leon County judge, obtaining warrants for the arrest of Dixon and Goodman. Goodman was arrested on July 9th as he worked out at a local gym. Dixon was arrested on July 20th during a traffic stop. Both men were arrested without incident, but refused to admit their involvement in the robberies. With the arrest of Goodman and Dixon, the Tallahassee Police Department has investigated thirteen bank robberies this year, solving eleven.

The investigation continues and additional arrests are expected. Anyone with information about these crimes is asked to contact the Tallahassee Police Department at (850) 891-4200 or Crime Stoppers at (850) 574-TIPS (8477).

ROBBERIES SOLVED:

- Sunshine Savings Bank, 1533 South Monroe Street, February 9, 2009
- Hancock Bank, 2437 North Monroe Street, May 23, 2009
- Florida Bank, 1817 Thomasville Road, June 11, 2009
- Sunshine Savings Bank, 1700 North Monroe Street, June 25, 2009

ARRESTED:



Jermaine Goodman, B/M, 25yoa. Charges: Robbery with a Firearm, and Kidnapping to Facilitate a Felony



Robert Dixon, B/M, 29 yoa. Charges: Robbery with a Firearm, Kidnapping to Facilitate a Felony, and Grand Theft Auto.

July 01

Airport Receives \$2.9 Million In Federal and State Grants

Funds Earmarked for Improvements at Tallahassee Regional - Last month, U.S. Senator Bill Nelson's office announced the awarding of a \$2.4 million grant to the Tallahassee Regional Airport from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Yesterday, the Airport received further good news as it was notified of a \$500,000 grant award from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

Approximately \$2 million of the FAA grant will be spent on upgrades to the Airport's security system, while the \$500,000 FDOT award will be matched with an equal amount of Airport funds to enhance the Ivan Munroe Terminal Building. The remaining FAA funds will be used to conduct a condition analysis of the Airport runways, taxiways and other pavements to assist in planning for future repairs and enhancements.

"These grant funds will enable the Airport to continue making essential capital improvements during tough economic times," said Ken Austin, Director of Tallahassee Regional Airport. "Enhanced security measures will provide increased safety and efficiency for Airport passengers, while other planned upgrades will improve the functionality and aesthetics of the terminal facility. These capital improvements, coupled with the recent addition of new and expanded air service, positions the Airport for great things in the future."

As part of the City's Fast Track Program, the Airport has several ongoing improvement projects underway. These include the widening of Capital Circle Southwest to allow for turn lanes at Airport entrances and exits, rehabilitation of the internal roadway network, improvements at the Airport Facilities Maintenance Complex and new directional signage. Planned terminal improvements include automatic door replacements, roof repairs and floor furnishing upgrades.

The [Tallahassee Regional Airport](http://flytallahassee.com) is operated and maintained by the City of Tallahassee and is served by four major commercial air carriers including American Eagle, Continental Airlines, Delta Air Lines and US Airways Express. For more information on the Tallahassee Regional Airport, please visit the Airport's website at flytallahassee.com.

July 01

From Pipes to Progress: Work to Begin on Gaines Street

Event Marks Start of Infrastructure Projects and Next Step to Corridor's Transformation - The City of Tallahassee is celebrating the start of construction on Gaines Street with a ceremonial groundbreaking and pipe-signing event. The event will be held Monday, July 6, at 10 a.m. in Doug Burnette Park, located at the corner of West Gaines Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

"This project is not only a reflection of the Tallahassee City Commission's commitment to revitalizing this critical part of our city, it's also a way to support local jobs and ensure that we have the infrastructure in place so that we are ready for redevelopment when the economy recovers," said Roxanne Manning, the City of Tallahassee's Community Redevelopment Agency program director. "In addition, in working with the local contractor, Jimmie Crowder Excavating and Land Clearing Inc., we are pleased to let businesses and drivers know that the vast majority of the work will be done at night to reduce the impact on the community."

Construction begins Monday, July 6, and portions of Gaines Street will be completely closed overnight between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. During weekday daytime hours, all four lanes will remain open, barring any unplanned circumstances. Weekend work, both daytime and nighttime, will occasionally occur. No work will take place on weekends of university home football games or commencement exercises.

Work to upgrade and relocate utility infrastructure is the first step in the transformation of Gaines Street into a pedestrian-friendly corridor with a blend of commercial, residential and cultural uses. This portion of the project will help maintain or create approximately 45 direct jobs in our community, not including the economic spin-off of the project.

Following the completion of the underground utilities work, the roadway will be paved and reconfigured from a 2-way, 4-lane road to a 2-way, 2-lane street with limited on-street parking from Woodward Avenue to Monroe Street. That phase of construction will also include the installation of new sidewalks, street features and landscaping. The overall cost of the project, including utility infrastructure work, road realignment and resurfacing and other costs associated with the project, is projected to be more than \$15 million.

The public is invited to join City, County and community leaders at the July 6 groundbreaking. In addition to the first turning of dirt by officials, the event will include a ceremony where local officials and dignitaries will place commemorative items in a time capsule, donated by the contractor. Items in the time capsule will reflect the current economic, social, political and physical state of Tallahassee, with contributions from groups involved in, and impacted by, the Gaines Street project. The time capsule will be buried in the park at a later date with plans to open it in 2029 to reflect the 20 years of progress that has taken place along Gaines Street and the community at large.

There will also be an underground utility pipe for attendees to sign that will be installed as part of the project. Finger paints will be available for children to make handprints on the pipe, and a photo of the children and pipe will be included in the time capsule. Free street parking will be available along Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. on the west side of Doug Burnette Park.

The Gaines Street project is part of the City Commission's goal to create an 18-hour, pedestrian friendly downtown. During the coming years, as the economy improves and development demand increases, this vital link between both area universities and downtown will redevelop into an urban corridor with public art displays, businesses and live/work spaces.

For more information on construction and the project's progress, please visit Talgov.com/Gaines. Visitors to the site will be able to sign-up to receive project updates via email. The City is also using social media options to help keep motorists informed. Citizens can receive updates by following GainesStreet on Twitter or by becoming a fan of Gaines Street on Facebook. Citizens can also contact the City via the Gaines Street hotline at 891-8010 or by [contacting us through the website](#).

July 16 Buford Boulevard Closed Saturday

Block Between Centerville Road and Care Drive - The City of Tallahassee will close Buford Boulevard between Centerville Road and Care Drive to motorists Saturday, July 18, beginning at 8 a.m., for sewer line repairs. The detour route will be clearly posted, and weather permitting, Buford Boulevard should be reopened to traffic by 4 p.m. Saturday afternoon.

July 21 - TFD Tallahassee Firefighters Respond to Mobile Home Fire in the 600 Block of Darien Road

Around 8:30 P.M. last night, Tallahassee firefighters responded to the 600 Block of Darien Road for a mobile home fire. Firefighters arrived to find heavy smoke and fire showing through the roof of the home. The fire started in the kitchen and is under investigation. The occupant was not home at the time of the fire.

Damages are estimated at \$40,000. One firefighter suffered minor injuries to the neck and hand during the incident.

July 21 - TFD House Fire in the 5200 Block of Maddox Road

This afternoon around 1:20, Tallahassee firefighters responded to the 5200 Block of Maddox Road to a reported house fire. Firefighters found heavy smoke and a small fire in the kitchen of the residence. The fire was started from food left on the stove unattended. The resident stated that she went outside and forgot the food was still cooking.

Damages to the house are estimated at \$30,000. One person was treated and released on scene for minor burns to the arm.

July 22 Leon County, City of Tallahassee Sponsor Bidding Power Workshop

The Leon County Division of Minority/Women Small Business Enterprise (M/WSBE) and the City of Tallahassee's Minority Business Enterprise Office will sponsor a Bidding Power workshop on Thursday, July 30, from 9 a.m. to noon. The workshop is designed in part to empower local businesses to become competitive bidders with public-sector agencies.

Business owners will receive training on how to take part in the government bidding process and avoid making mistakes when submitting bids. Presenting organizations include Leon County, the City of Tallahassee and the Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University Small Business Development Center.

The workshop will cover:

- Key bid sections for prospective bidders
- Best practices when competing for projects
- Making responsible bid proposals
- Knowing when qualifications match the contract specifications

- Allocating enough time to meet deadlines

For more information, contact Iranetta Burnett, Director of the Leon County Division of Minority/Women Small Business Enterprise, at (850) 606-1660 or Ben Harris, Administrator of the City's Minority Business Enterprise Office, at (850) 891-6500.

July 23 Several Road Closures Announced

Daytime Closure on Miccosukee Road/Segment Between Crestview Ave. and Mitchell Ave - The City of Tallahassee will close Miccosukee Road between Crestview Avenue and Mitchell Avenue to motorists during daytime hours beginning Friday, July 24, beginning at 9 a.m., for sewer line repairs. The detour route will be clearly posted, and Miccosukee Road will be reopened to traffic each afternoon by 4 p.m. Weather permitting, the project should be completed by Wednesday, July 29.

The sewer repair project is not to be confused with a City flood relief project currently under construction that includes temporary delays on Miccosukee Road between East Georgia Street and Martin Street. Work on the Miccosukee Road portion of the flood relief project should be completed and the road completely free of delays by Friday, July 31, though work on this project will continue on adjacent streets through August.

East Sixth Avenue Closed July 27/Segment Between Gilchrist St. and Terrace St. - The City of Tallahassee will close East Sixth Avenue between Gilchrist Street and Terrace Street to motorists on Monday, July 27, beginning at 9 a.m. so crews may remove a large tree that currently poses a hazard to motorists and pedestrians. The detour route using Gilchrist Street, Beard Street and Terrace Street will be clearly posted. Weather permitting, East Sixth Avenue should be reopened to traffic by 4 p.m. Monday afternoon.

Railroad Avenue Closed July 29/Closure Due to CSX Railroad Crossing Work - Railroad Avenue between FAMU Way and All Saints Street will be closed to motorists on Wednesday, July 29, beginning at 9 a.m., as CSX Railroad crews perform track maintenance at the rail crossing. The detour route will be clearly posted and weather permitting, Railroad Avenue should be reopened to traffic by 5 p.m. Wednesday afternoon.

July 23 - TPD Police Investigate Two Overnight Robberies

Tallahassee Police Officers responded to 1360 Lake Bradford Road (University Laundromat) at 10:21PM last night after they received a 911 call that a robbery had just occurred. The victim reported to officers that she was seated in her car when a suspect armed with a knife approached her and demanded her purse. A witness asked the victim if everything was okay and she told him to call the police. As the suspect fled on foot, the witness chased the suspect on a bicycle. The victim was then able to call police on her cellular telephone. Officer J. Azevedo and Officer D. Keller located the suspect at the intersection of Lake Bradford Road and Gamble Street.

Arrested:



James A. Gardner, 40 years of age

Police are investigating another robbery that occurred at 3107 Mahan Drive (Burger King), just after midnight. The restaurant had closed shortly before the suspect approached an employee outside of the business and forced him back inside at gunpoint. Once inside the business, the suspect was able to obtain an undisclosed amount of cash before fleeing on foot.

No injuries were reported in either incident.

Suspect: Black Male, approximately 22-24 years of age, approximately 6'2 to 6'3 in height, and had an average build. The suspect was wearing a black mask, a black hooded sweatshirt or jacket, and black pants.

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.

July 23 - TFD

Second Story Apartment Fire in the 1800 Block of Halstead Boulevard

Last night around 8:30 P.M., Tallahassee firefighters battled heavy smoke and fire in a second story apartment fire located in the 1800 block of Halstead Boulevard. The fire appears to have started in the bedroom, sending smoke throughout the apartment. The fire spread from the bedroom to an adjacent room and to the balcony. The cause of the fire is still being investigated, but at this time the fire is not considered suspicious. The American Red Cross responded to the scene and assisted one family who was displaced as a result of the fire.

The occupant returned home to find heavy fire in his apartment and tried to rescue his pet. He received minor burns and suffered from minor smoke inhalation. He was treated and released on scene by Leon County EMS. Damage estimated at \$100,000.