

August 2009 News Releases

August 03 - TPD

America's Most Wanted Fugitive Arrested in Tallahassee

Members of the Tallahassee Police Department and the U.S. Marshal's Office arrested fugitive Shannon McLaughlin in an apartment on John Knox Road. McLaughlin was listed as a wanted on the website of the television show, America's Most Wanted.

Tallahassee Police Officer Gina Maddox developed information leading to the location of McLaughlin, who was wanted for several felony warrants from Pennsylvania. The warrants were for crimes committed in Pennsylvania including Criminal Solicitation to Statutory Sexual Assault, Unlawful Contact with Minors, Corruption of Minors, Identity Theft, Theft of Services, and Bad Checks. Members of the Tallahassee Police Department and the U.S. Marshal's Florida Regional Fugitive Task Force responded to the residence where McLaughlin was hiding, and took him into custody. No one was injured during the arrest.

The Florida Regional Fugitive Task Force continues to search for McLaughlin's wife, Indigo McLaughlin. She has warrants for crimes related to her husband's charges, and is listed on the America's Most Wanted web site as well.

Anyone with information about the location of Indigo McLaughlin can call the Tallahassee Police Department at (850)891-4200 or Big Bend Crime Stoppers at (850)574-TIPS.

August 03 - TPD

National Night Out: America's Night Out Against Crime

In 1984, the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) hosted the first National Night Out. This event was held on the first Tuesday in August and has become a traditional annual event. The first year, 2.5 million Americans in 400 communities in 23 states participated. Today, participation is at 34 million people in over 10,000 communities from all 50 states.

What is National Night Out and what is it designed to do? National Night Out:

- Heightens crime and drug prevention awareness
- Generates support for and participation in local anti-crime programs
- Strengthens neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.
- Sends a message to criminals that neighborhood are organized and fighting back.

The Tallahassee Police Community Relations Unit has celebrated National Night Out since the early nineties. In the past, we've assisted local communities in hosting neighborhood block parties and sponsored citywide parties at Tom Brown Park and the North Florida Fairgrounds. We've encouraged neighborhoods to turn on their lights and "give crime a going away party."

On Tuesday, August 4, 2009, the Tallahassee Police Department will be celebrating the 26th Annual National Night Out in a very traditional way. Rather than taking citizens out of their neighborhoods leaving their homes susceptible to burglary and other crimes, members of the Community Relations Unit will be making the rounds visiting those neighborhoods hosting NNO events. Several neighborhoods are hosting cookouts, flashlight walks, and holding their monthly Neighborhood Watch meetings. Officers will be distributing goodie bags with Community Relations Unit supervisor Sergeant Rhonda Scott says, "Celebrating National Night Out is a great reason for neighbors to get outside and meet each other, while showing unity and cohesiveness against those who threaten the safety of their neighborhood."

Tomorrow night on-duty Tallahassee Police officers will be riding through neighborhoods as calls for service allow, with their overhead lights on to show criminals that we're fighting back against crime. We request neighbors do the same by turning on their porch lights and helping to give crime a "going away party!"

For more information about National Night Out contact Sgt. Rhonda Scott at 891-1867.

August 03 - TFD

Late Sunday Trash Can Fires Determined to be Criminal Mischief

Around 11:30p.m. Sunday night, Tallahassee firefighters responded to the area of Falcon Drive and Shoreline Drive to 3 garbage cans and 2 recycle bins on fire. According to Tallahassee Fire Department Investigator Frank Mohr, "the fires involved criminal mischief." Damage is estimated at \$400. No injuries were reported during the incident.

Anyone who may have information regarding the fires should call the Tallahassee Fire Department Hotline at 891-FIRE (891-3473).

August 04 - TPD

Police Make Arrest After Dispute During Card Game Leads to Shooting

The Tallahassee Police Department responded to a call for help from the victim of a shooting on Monday, August 3rd, at approximately 6:00PM. The victim said he had been shot in the 100 block of Americana Street by a person with whom had been playing cards.

Subsequent investigation led to identifying the shooter as John Alfred Gibson (B/M 3-1-1942). Officer Doug Kutchera located Gibson at his residence, standing next to the truck he used to flee the incident. Gibson was arrested and transported to the Tallahassee Police Department. The gun used in the shooting was located in the truck, both of which were seized as evidence.

The victim was shot in the chest, but is in stable condition and expected to recover. There were no other injuries related to this incident.

August 04

Come Celebrate Bradfordville's Inaugural Senior Day

Fun, Food and Fellowship Abound on the Second Wednesday of Every Month - Wednesday, August 12, the public is invited to come celebrate Bradfordville's inaugural Senior Day. Held from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Wildwood Presbyterian Fellowship Hall, located at 100 Ox Bottom Road, Senior Day offers fun, food and fellowship.

This event features Anna Johnson, former TV news anchor and local celebrity, who will present "Positive Aging." Her presentation exemplifies the attributes that can help seniors age gracefully, with dignity and a sense of purpose.

Attendees will also have access to services, resources and information to help them remain in their homes and live healthy, independent and purposeful lives. Senior Day events actively engage participants and provide good social interaction. There will be a host of exhibitors, health screenings, entertaining presentations and a great lunch.

There is no charge for the event; however, a \$6 donation toward lunch is appreciated.

"We have a great time at our Senior Days," said Susan Davis, coordinator of Leon County Senior Outreach. "I don't know what is most valuable: the services and information we provide or the fun and fellowship we share."

While this is the inaugural installment of Senior Day for the Bradfordville area, the northeast section of our community already enjoys programs sponsored by Leon County Senior Outreach. Classes include a lifelong learning series, exercise class and art classes and are held at the Bradfordville Historic Schoolhouse. The schoolhouse is home to the regular offerings of the Outreach program, but a larger venue was needed to host this event. The fellowship hall is handicap accessible and offers free on-site parking.

Bringing senior services to all of Leon County is one of the goals of Leon County Senior Outreach. The Leon County Commission and the Tallahassee Senior Foundation fund the program. Presently, Senior Days are held in additional Leon County communities that include Woodville, Fort Braden, Miccosukee, Woodville, Chaires and Tallahassee's south side. The Bradfordville Senior Days will be held on the second Wednesday of every month.

For more information on Senior Services, please visit Talgov.com/seniors. You can also stop by the Tallahassee Senior Center, located at 1400 North Monroe Street, for more information on this and other events, classes and programs.

August 05

Calhoun Street Closed Saturday

Segment Between Thomasville Rd. and McDaniel St. - The City of Tallahassee will close Calhoun Street between Thomasville Road and McDaniel Street to motorists Saturday, August 8, beginning at 8 a.m., for sewer line repairs. The short detour route using Monroe Street will be clearly posted, and weather permitting, Calhoun Street should be reopened to traffic by 4 p.m. Saturday afternoon.

August 07 - TPD

Police Arrest Off-duty Sheriff's Deputy for Battery at Local Swimming Pool

Tallahassee police officers responded to a report of a battery at the pool of the Verandas Apartments, located at 3700 Capital Circle Southeast. As the officers were responding, they were notified the arrestee identified himself as an LCSO deputy and was cursing and making racial epithets towards people in the pool. Upon arrival, they spoke with victims and witnesses, all of whom identified LCSO Deputy Sheriff Andrew Taylor, still present, as the person who had been belligerent and physical with others. Several people described him as "drunk."

Officers learned arrestee Taylor pushed and shoved several people, after coming to the pool area and ordering the occupants to leave. Arrestee Taylor reportedly told the victims and witnesses to get out of "his" pool. He identified himself as a law enforcement officer during the altercation, made several demands for them to leave, and at one point threatened to leave and get a gun. The incident became physical when Taylor approached one of the victims in a "threatening manner" and then pushed several of the people.

Taylor was charged with battery and disorderly intoxication and transported to the Leon County Jail. Additional charges are pending.

Arrested: Andrew William Taylor, W/M, DOB: 04/12/1972

August 07

Partial Lane Closures On Capital Circle Begin August 21

Sanitary Sewer Line to be Repaired - Beginning on Friday, August 21, the City of Tallahassee Underground Utilities will establish partial lane closures along Capital Circle Southeast between approximately Dick Wilson Boulevard and Apalachee Parkway for sanitary sewer work. Construction will be taking place mostly in the median and northbound lanes. Motorists should expect delays and temporary restrictions during working hours at the intersection of Dick Wilson Boulevard and Capital Circle SE. During weekdays lanes will remain open between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. Crews will work around the clock over weekends from 7 p.m. Friday through 6 a.m. Monday.

Crews will be completing sanitary sewer work as the second phase in the Capital Circle Sewer Upgrade Project. The work should be completed in approximately eight weeks, dependent on weather and conditions encountered. Construction on the third and final phase of the sewer line replacement will begin later this fall.

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 by installing the new sewer line.

For more information, please visit Talgov.com or contact Underground Utilities at 891-6156.

August 10 - TFD

Tallahassee Firefighters Respond to a Kitchen Fire in the 1900 Block of Crosby Court

Around 1p.m. Sunday afternoon, Tallahassee firefighters responded to an apartment fire in the 1900 block of Crosby Court. Firefighters located the fire in the kitchen and were able to contain it to that room. The occupant reported that she left food cooking on the stove for a few minutes while she checked on her daughter, who was upstairs at the time. When she returned the kitchen was full of smoke and fire. The occupants requested and received assistance from The American Red Cross.

Damages are estimated at 10,000. No injuries were reported during the incident.

August 11 - TPD

Beware of Check Cashing Scams

The Tallahassee Police Department would like to remind the public of the problems concerning counterfeit check cashing scams. These criminal solicitations are meant to lure unsuspecting people into cashing fraudulent checks and then sending funds back to the solicitor. The methods used to convince the public are often heart wrenching stories, promises of lucrative financial opportunities, or even a winning lottery check.

The Tallahassee Police Department's Financial Crimes Unit has some tips to help avoid these scams:

- If you receive an unexpected "Winning Lottery Check" in the mail, do not cash it.
- If you receive an e-mail directing you to cash a check and wire the money elsewhere, do not cash the check or wire any money.
- Do not answer any job advertisements instructing you to cash a check, keep a percentage of the money, and then wire the remaining money elsewhere.
- Avoid giving any of your personal information to anyone over the phone or the Internet.

Here is a good rule of thumb when a representative from a financial institution calls inquiring about a financial account: Ask for the name, identification number, and telephone number of the caller and tell them you will call them back. Then, call your local financial institution (looking in the phone book for the number) and verify whether or not the call was valid. A legitimate financial representative will never ask for your credit card numbers, banking account numbers, or PIN (Personal Identification Number).

Many of the recent scams are based in other countries and that presents a problem for investigative and prosecution purposes. Furthermore, once the money is wired outside of the United States it will likely never be recovered. It is important to note, if a person cashes a fraudulent check then he or she may be held responsible by the financial institution for repayment of the money.

August 12 - TPD

Residential Burglary Arrest

This morning at approximately 8:39AM, the Tallahassee Police Department's Communication Center received a 911 call in reference to a burglary in progress at a residence in the 3700 block of Lifford Circle. A thirteen-year-old female was in her home, along with her dog, when she heard something downstairs. As the dog barked, the teenage resident saw an unknown person at the rear of the house.

The teenage resident locked herself in a bedroom, called her parents, and then called 911. The police dispatcher kept her on the phone during the entire incident. When the Tallahassee Police Department arrived, officers and investigators began to coordinate entry into the house. At that point the suspect exited the back door carrying stolen items. Once police confronted the suspect in the backyard he was arrested without further incident.

The teenage resident stayed on the phone during the incident and provided valuable information to the dispatcher who, in turn, relayed the information to police officers on the scene. The teenager remained calm on the phone and was quoted by the dispatcher as doing a "good job."

Arrested: Hunter Daws W/M 19YOA

August 12

Airport Anticipates Service to DC in 2010

US Airways to begin service between TLH and DCA - US Airways announced today a transaction with Delta Air Lines, Inc. that will allow US Airways to expand service at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA). Once the transaction is complete, US Airways plans to provide daily nonstop service from DCA to 15 new destinations, including Tallahassee Regional Airport (TLH). The schedule for the new DCA service will be announced at a later date once the transaction is complete and the schedules are finalized. Although a start-up date for the new service has not been established, the Airport anticipates the new service will begin during the first or second quarter of CY2010.

"This new service will offer Tallahassee area citizens non-stop service to DCA and even more connections to eastern destinations. The DCA route has been highly sought after by the City of Tallahassee and Aviation Department officials and we are extremely pleased that it is finally on the horizon." said Mayor John Marks.

"We are very excited about today's announcement which presents an excellent opportunity to strengthen our network while bringing more jet air service to smaller communities from our nation's capital," said US Airways Chairman and CEO Doug Parker. "This transaction will improve US Airways' near and long-term profitability to the benefit of our employees, our customers, the communities we serve, and our shareholders." Following completion of the transaction, US Airways will obtain 42 pairs of Delta's slots at DCA and acquire the rights to expand to Tokyo, Japan and Sao Paulo, Brazil. US Airways estimates the transaction will improve profitability by more than \$75 million annually.

US Airways currently provides nonstop jet service (4 daily flights) between Tallahassee and Charlotte. US Airways along with US Airways Shuttle and US Airways Express operates more than 3,200 flights per day world-wide and serves more than 200 communities in the U.S., Canada, Europe, the Middle East, the Caribbean and Latin America. US Airways is one of five major commercial air carriers servicing the Tallahassee market, including American, Continental, Delta, and Northwest. For more information or to view flight schedules, go to www.usairways.com.

The Airport encourages the regional community to take advantage of air travel opportunities to promote the stability of new and established air service to generate the demand for new and enhanced service for Tallahassee.

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

August 13 - TFD

Fire in the 5700 Block of Fox Bridge Way Started From a Lighting Strike

Around 5:30 P.M. Tallahassee firefighters responded to a reported house fire in the 5700 block of Fox Bridge Way. Firefighters found smoldering and charred insulation throughout the attic of the residence. The lightning struck a tree near the home and spread along a dog chain, then ran up an aluminum porch post, then it followed a gas line that was located in the attic. Firefighters spent 3 hours carefully combing through the attic insulation to ensure the smoldering embers were completely out.

Damage is estimated at \$25,000. No injuries were reported during the incident.

August 14

Lane Closures On Capital Circle Begin August 20

Sanitary Sewer Line to be Repaired - Beginning at 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 20, the City of Tallahassee Underground Utilities will establish partial lane closures along Capital Circle Southeast between approximately Dick Wilson Boulevard and Apalachee Parkway for sanitary sewer work. Construction will be taking place mostly in the median and northbound lanes.

For the first 24 hours, beginning at 7 p.m. Thursday, August 20, the innermost northbound lane of Capital Circle Southeast (beginning north of Apalachee and south of Dick Wilson Boulevard) as well as the adjacent left turn lane at the intersection of Capital Circle SE and Dick Wilson Blvd. will be closed. The two remaining northbound lanes of Capital Circle SE will remain open during this portion of construction.

Beginning Friday, August 21, at 7 p.m. and continuing through the weekend, the middle northbound lane of Capital Circle SE will also be closed, leaving only one northbound travel lane open for motorists.

On Saturday, August 22, the intersection at Capital Circle SE and Dick Wilson Blvd. will be closed. East-west travel through the intersection as well as left turns from the northbound/southbound lanes will be blocked. Motorists are urged to exercise extreme caution in this area, as there will be crews and heavy machinery present.

During the following week, lanes will remain open on weekdays between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. Crews will work around the clock over weekends.

Crews will be completing sanitary sewer work as the second phase in the Capital Circle Sewer Upgrade Project. Construction on the third

and final phase of the sewer line replacement will begin later this fall.

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 by installing the new sewer line.

For more information, please visit Talgov.com or contact Underground Utilities at 891-6156.

August 14 City Commissioner Allan Katz Resigns

Tallahassee City Commissioner Allan Katz today has announced his resignation from elected office in a letter to Mayor John Marks. His resignation is effective today.

Commissioner Katz met with appointed officials and key City staff this morning to say goodbye. "He explained his desire to spend more time with his family as being paramount in his decision," said City Manager Anita Favors Thompson. The City Manager thanked Commissioner Katz for his seven years of service to the Commission and the Tallahassee community. "Commissioner Katz is a person of strong convictions who advocates avidly for what he believes in, and he has served our community well in his seven-year tenure as a City Commissioner."

During his tenure, Commissioner Katz's noted accomplishments include the Neighborhood Enhancement Capital Improvement Plan, a comprehensive program providing badly needed roadway and sidewalk improvements to older neighborhoods. He also initiated the Charitable Contribution Preference Program, in tandem with City Commissioner Andrew Gillum, allowing vendors bidding on City projects to make donations to local worthy organizations as part of the City's formal bidding process. Since the Charitable Contribution Preference Program's inception in 2007, over \$1.7 million has been provided to organizations. He also was a determined advocate for the Community Human Services Partnership, a tri-party initiative including the City, Leon County and United Way of the Big Bend that oversees funding allocations to local human and social service organizations.

Per City Commission policy 144, the vacant Commission seat will be noticed via an advertisement available through local media, on the City's Talgov.com website, on WCOT, the City's government access channel (Comcast Cable channel 13) and via the City's email subscription list. The notice will advise qualified citizens of the opportunity to fill the Commission seat on an interim basis, by mailing resumes and a cover letter for consideration, with an application deadline of noon on August 25, 2009. The Office of the City Treasurer-Clerk will compile the applications, which will then be sent to the City Commission to review and create a short list of their top candidates. That information will then be sent back to the Treasurer-Clerk, who will tally points assigned to the top candidates. Finally, the list of top candidates will be delivered to the City Commission for a formal vote and appointment. [The City Commission is required to hold a special meeting](#) to fill the vacant Commission seat, and that meeting will take place at noon on Monday, August 31, 2009 in the City Commission Chambers on the second floor of City Hall.

August 17 - TPD 500th RADAR Session

In June 1998, The Tallahassee Police Department and the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice formed a partnership called RADAR (Responding Against Delinquency and Recidivism). The RADAR program's mission is to provide intensive supervision and intervention for juveniles under probation and aftercare sanctions. In 2007, RADAR expanded program partners to include DJJ contract providers AMIkids Tallahassee and the Henry and Rilla White Youth Foundation, Inc. The first RADAR session was held on July 2, 1998, and this past Saturday the program partners celebrated the 500th RADAR session.

The RADAR program joins juvenile probation officers or case managers from the 2nd Judicial District, with Tallahassee police officers to conduct home-visits with probationary juveniles and their families. On a random basis each month, two teams conduct evening home-checks to assess the juveniles' progress and probationary status, home environment, adequacy of supervision in the home, and any need for drug testing. RADAR teams assess the juvenile's probationary compliance in an effort to reduce the number of juveniles on probation who re-offend.

Since the inception of the program, almost 10,000 home-checks have been completed. Of the 504 home-checks conducted in 2008, a majority of the 114 juveniles in the program were found to be abiding by their curfew and sanctions. If juveniles are found to be in violation of their sanctions, their assigned juvenile probation officer or case manager can issue additional sanctions such as: warnings, essays, letters of apology, curfew time reductions, community service hours, or assessment for violation of probation filings.

The RADAR Program is a successful tool for effectively monitoring and assessing juvenile behavior and probation status, while placing an emphasis on family involvement, prevention and intervention services.

August 17 City Releases Proposed FY2010 Budget

Despite economic downturn, City service delivery remains top priority - City Manager Anita Favors Thompson today released her recommended \$716 million fiscal year 2010 budget for review by the Tallahassee City Commission. The proposed amount is \$122.4 million

less than the current year budget. Her proposed budget provides for the continued delivery of high-quality municipal services to citizens, within limitations resulting from extremely difficult economic conditions.

The City Commission will hold its final budget workshop on Monday, August 24 at 9 a.m., to be followed by the first public hearing on the proposed FY 2010 budget Wednesday, August 26, at 6 p.m. to receive additional citizen input. Both the workshop and public hearing will take place in the City Commission Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 300 South Adams St.

With a projected \$7.5 million deficit in the City's FY 2010 General Fund, the recommended budget offers a blend of proposed service consolidations, reductions and cuts in certain areas of the organization. It also includes a series of measures designed to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness throughout the organization and starts to restore fund reserves that have fallen significantly below policy levels. A total of approximately \$8.4 million in reductions and cuts are proposed citywide.

"Crafting the proposed FY2010 budget has been a difficult process, to say the least," said Favors Thompson. "Public officials are most assuredly cognizant of the turbulent times we live in, from an economic standpoint. Our primary task was to balance the budget given severe financial constraints, while not compromising our essential mission of providing excellent services our citizens deserve to receive."

However, the realities of the current economic situation have forced Tallahassee officials to join municipal governments statewide to compensate for soaring reductions in property values. In Leon County alone, for instance, nearly \$1 billion in property value has been lost. The City thus continues to experience declines in state revenue sharing, along with revenue shortfalls in certain City programs (recreation, building inspections and utility payments) and lingering impacts from statewide property tax reforms.

As part of the recommended FY 2010 budget, the following cuts/reductions are proposed (approximate projected savings follow each description):

- 105.6 positions eliminated with a payroll impact of \$5.8 million
- two furlough days for all non-union employees with a salary of \$33,000 or higher (\$661,700)
- no salary adjustments for all non-union employees (Fire and Police unionized employees receive adjustments due to collective bargaining contracts)
- elimination of 11 police officer positions (\$701,000)
- elimination of three fire lieutenants and one fire department administrative position (\$302,000)
- closure of Palmer-Munroe Community Center (\$211,000)
- consolidation of management at four other community centers, resulting in the elimination of 5.5 positions (\$269,000)
- reorganizing the Public Works Department and contracting out construction activities, resulting in the elimination of 18 positions (\$890,000)
- reconfiguration of StarMetro routes and the elimination of two administrative staff positions (\$230,000)
- revising and renegotiating existing license and maintenance agreement for information systems contracts (\$613,700)
- reduction in funding for outside agencies, such as Tallahassee Memorial Hospital Trauma Center, grant funding, etc. (\$357,000)
- restructuring of municipal golf course operations, resulting in the elimination of four positions (\$125,600)

To further reduce the projected FY 2010 deficit, the City Commission tentatively approved an increase in the City property tax millage rate by one-half mill (3.2 to 3.7). The average tax increase for a home valued at \$200,000 would be 19 cents a day, or \$74 annually. Increases have also been proposed for certain fees (tennis, gymnastics, building inspection, City-owned parking garage daily/monthly fees and downtown parking meters).

Favors Thompson noted that budget increases over the last few years have been almost exclusively due to soaring fuel costs, primarily used by our utility plants. Because of carefully planned fuel purchase agreements by utility officials, fuel acquisition costs have decreased significantly from the current fiscal year budget. One result of these adjustments is lower electric rates for utility customers.

More positive news comes via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Federal ARRA funds will allow the Police Department to reduce proposed staffing cuts. ARRA funds will also provide StarMetro with operational support as well as the purchase of new buses. The federal funds are also helping with improving citywide infrastructure, including road construction and the installation of new sidewalks.

After the Commission's budget workshop on August 24 and initial public hearing on August 26, two additional public hearings will take place on September 10 and 23. The September 10 date is a Thursday because the Commission had to move their normal Wednesday meeting to avoid conflicts with budget public hearings by both the Leon County Commission and Leon County School Board. The new fiscal year begins October 1.

The [FY 2010 proposed budget is available on the City's Talgov.com website](#). City Commission meetings are broadcast live on WCOT (Comcast Cable channel 13) and also streamed live on Talgov.com.

August 18 - TPD

TPD Launches Back-To-School Safety Blitz

With students returning to Leon County schools, the Tallahassee Police Department is initiating a back-to-school educational and enforcement program designed to improve the safety of children.

From the Traffic Enforcement Unit:

TPD's Traffic Enforcement Unit and District patrol officers will be patrolling the various school zones and taking enforcement action against those found violating traffic laws. We want to remind drivers the speed limit in all school zones is 20 mph. Speeding fines in school zones are doubled in price and can cost up to \$598.00.

School Crossing Guards will be posted to assist children crossing the road. Motorists should use extra care in obeying the directions of the crossing guards.

Due to many changes in school times, motorists need to be aware that children will be in bus stop areas very early and some before daylight. Motorists are reminded that when a school bus has stopped and has displayed a stop signal, all vehicles must come to a complete stop and not pass the school bus. Officers will be monitoring specific past problem locations where motorists do not stop in the opposite direction. Some of these locations include Magnolia Dr., Capital Circle, and Apalachee Parkway (east of Capital Circle).

Parents who drive their children to school are reminded that everyone in the vehicle should be in a seat belt or a child safety seat. Children under the age of 12 should ride in the back seat. Parents should enter the school drop-off area before allowing their children to exit the vehicle. Children riding bicycles are required to wear bicycle helmets. Children should ride on the sidewalk and walk their bicycles when crossing the street.

August 19 StarMetro Enhances University Services

Two New Engineering Routes and Venom Express II Goes Off Campus - Beginning Monday, August 24, StarMetro will provide two separate routes to service the Florida A&M University - Florida State University College of Engineering. Previously, one route traveled on an hourly schedule between both universities and the College of Engineering. With two separate routes traveling from each university to the school, time between buses will now be reduced to 20-minutes for FSU and 30-minutes for FAMU.

"By splitting the previous College of Engineering route into two routes, each university will see a decrease in wait times, which we hope will lead to a potential increase in ridership," Ron Garrison, director of StarMetro, said.

During fall and spring semesters, each university's engineering route will operate Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. During the summer semester, the two routes will operate Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

In addition to the engineering route change, FAMU's Venom Express II will now travel off-campus. Previously, the route was restricted to on-campus travel; now, the route will travel south on Monroe Street beginning at Orange Avenue, turn right onto Gaile Avenue and turn right onto Adams Street bringing the route back to campus.

"By taking FAMU's Venom Express II off-campus, we can now serve student-oriented apartment complexes on Adams Street south of the main FAMU campus," Garrison said.

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

August 19 City Promotes Commission Vacancy Application Process

The City of Tallahassee has prepared a list of key questions and answers regarding the process for citizens to apply for the vacant City Commission seat formerly held by Commissioner Allan Katz. This information is available on the City's Talgov.com website.

Q. What constitutes an "application" for the vacant City Commission seat?

A. Any qualified Tallahassee citizen may apply by sending a resume and cover letter to the addresses listed below. The cover letter should include a summary of the applicant's qualifications for the vacant Commission seat.

Q. What are the qualifications required to apply for the vacant City Commission seat?

A. Applicants must be a registered voter, reside in the Tallahassee city limits and must be prepared to file statutorily required financial disclosure documents.

Q. Can applications be sent electronically, and if so to what e-mail address?

A. Information may be sent electronically to the Office of the City Treasurer-Clerk at: [Gary.Herndon \(at\) talgov \(dot\) com](mailto:Gary.Herndon@talgov.com) (all applicants are responsible for verifying materials sent electronically were received by the posted deadline).

Q. If being mailed, do applications need to be postmarked by the application deadline, or do they need to be received by the deadline?

A. Applications must be received by noon on Tuesday, August 25, 2009, so they can be provided to the City Commission no later than 5:00 p.m. that same day.

Q. What mailing address should applicants use?

A. Applications should be mailed to:
Gary Herndon
Office of the City Treasurer-Clerk
City of Tallahassee
300 South Adams Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301-1731

Q. Briefly describe the process for selecting a candidate for the vacant Commission seat.

A. Per City Commission Policy #144, "Filling Unanticipated Commission Vacancies," the process is detailed below (City Commission Policy #144 is available online at: <http://www.talgov.com/commission/policies/144.cfm>).

Applications are due to the Office of the City Treasurer-Clerk by noon on August 25, 2009. The City Treasurer-Clerk provides a list of all applicants, with copies of their resumes and cover letters, to the City Commission at 5 p.m. on August 25, 2009.

Following review, the Mayor and each City Commissioner will submit a list of their top three candidates to the City Treasurer-Clerk by noon on August 28, 2009.

Candidates receive one point for each time they are listed, with point totals compiled by the City Treasurer-Clerk. The City Treasurer-Clerk will then submit a list of the five candidates (including tie votes) with the highest point totals to the City Commission for consideration to fill the vacant seat, at 5 p.m. on August 28, 2009.

A special City Commission meeting to appoint an interim City Commissioner will be held at noon on August 31, 2009 in the City Commission Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 300 South Adams Street. The meeting is open to the public.

The City Commission has a deadline to appoint an interim City Commissioner of 5 p.m. on September 3, 2009 (if an appointment was not made at the August 31, 2009 special City Commission meeting). If the City Commission does not appoint an interim City Commissioner by the September 3, 2009 deadline, the Florida Governor will then make an interim appointment.

Q. What is the salary and benefit package for a City Commissioner?

A. Salary and benefit information is as follows:

- Annual salary of \$36,004.80
- Flexbucks totaling \$1,968.20 annually
- City Contribution toward the annual Cost of Health Insurance based on level of coverage:
 - Individual - \$4,056.24
 - Two-Party - \$7,534.32
 - Family - \$9,111.12
- City Contribution to MAP 401K plan - 5% of eligible earnings
- Enrollment in the City's pension plan.
- Annual car allowance of \$3,000.14
- In addition, deferred compensation is included based upon the applicant's age, as determined by law.

Q. Who may I contact if I have further questions regarding the vacant City Commission seat?

A. All inquiries regarding the vacancy should be directed to the Office of the City Treasurer-Clerk at 891-8130.

August 25 - TPD Awards Ceremony

The Tallahassee Police Department will host an awards ceremony this Thursday, August 27th at 2:00PM. The ceremony will be held at the Marzuq Shrine Center (corner of Tharpe Street and Monroe Street). The purpose of the ceremony is to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of officers and citizens who "go beyond the call" to make our community safe. Please take a moment and join us as we recognize and applaud these individuals for outstanding performances and jobs well done.

Anyone needing additional information is asked to contact Sgt. Rhonda Scott at (850) 891-1867.

August 25 - TPD Safety Check Point Scheduled

The Tallahassee Police Department will conduct several safety checkpoints on Friday, August 28, 2009. The checkpoints will begin at approximately 8:00 p.m. and terminate at approximately 3:00 a.m. The checkpoints will be conducted along San Luis Road, the 300 block of Stadium Drive, and the 2100 block of Jackson Bluff Road. The purpose of these checkpoints 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 2008, Florida had 22,259 alcohol related crashes and a total of 1,169 alcohol related fatalities. Approximately one-third of all traffic

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.

August 26 - TFD

Fire Chief Cindy Dick Presents Certificate of Appreciation to Local Citizens

This morning at 10am, Tallahassee Fire Chief Cindy Dick presented two Certificates of Appreciation to local citizens for going above and beyond during a vehicle accident in Eastern Leon County. Anthony Ford and Jeff Benton are being recognized for their unselfish acts during a vehicle extrication of a patient who was trapped inside a burning vehicle.

Mr. Benton, who is a member of the Miccosukee VFD and also works for Bruce Fire Extinguishers, used over 40 fire extinguishers and over 300 pounds of dry chemical to keep the fire in check while the extrication of the victim occurred. The accident, which occurred on June 26, 2009, was near the intersection of Miccosukee and Ulm Road. Mr. Ford is being recognized for using his efforts to force the door of the burning vehicle open, while putting himself in danger to assist in extricating the victim.

"The courage both of these men displayed is an example of heroism and will not be forgotten," said Chief Dick.

August 26

Lane Closures on Capital Circle Southeast August 27-30

Repairs Continue to Sanitary Sewer Line - Effective Thursday, August 27 at 7 p.m., the City of Tallahassee will again establish partial lane closures along Capital Circle Southeast between Dick Wilson Boulevard and Apalachee Parkway as Underground Utilities crews continue construction on a sanitary sewer upgrade. Northbound traffic on Capital Circle Southeast will be restricted to one travel lane during this construction phase.

The lane closures will be in effect Thursday night between 7 and 10 p.m. On Friday, August 28, lane closures will begin at 7 p.m. and will continue around the clock throughout the weekend until Monday, August 31 at 6 a.m., when all northbound lanes will be reopened to through traffic. Motorists are urged to use caution and obey flag signals from construction personnel.

This work is part of the second phase of a sanitary sewer line replacement project along Capital Circle. Construction on the third and final phase of the project will begin later this fall. The Capital Circle Sewer Upgrade Project includes replacing the sanitary sewer main that was damaged during last year's Tropical Storm Fay. For more information, please visit Talgov.com or contact Underground Utilities at 891-6156.

August 28

City Commission Holds Special Meeting Monday

Commission to Discuss Filling Vacant Seat - The Tallahassee City Commission will hold a special meeting at noon on Monday, August 31. At the meeting the City Commission is expected to appoint an individual to serve the balance of the term held by former City Commissioner Allan Katz, following his resignation on August 14.

The Office of the City Treasurer-Clerk received 75 applications for the vacant seat by the August 25 deadline, and a list of all applicants was provided to the four sitting members of the City Commission, including resumes and cover letters.

The remaining process to fill the vacant seat is as follows:

- Following review of the applicants, the Mayor and each City Commissioner will submit a list of their top three candidates to the City Treasurer-Clerk by noon today.
- Candidates receive one point for each time they are listed, with point totals compiled by the City Treasurer-Clerk. The City Treasurer-Clerk will then submit the a list of the five candidates (including tie votes) with the highest point totals to the City Commission for consideration to fill the vacant seat, at 5 p.m. today.
- The August 31 special City Commission meeting to appoint an interim City Commission will begin at noon and will take place in the City Commission Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 300 South Adams Street. The meeting is open to the public.
- The City Commission has a deadline to appoint an interim City Commissioner of 5 p.m. on September 3, 2009 (if an appointment was not made at the August 31 special City Commission meeting).
- If the City Commission does not appoint an interim City Commissioner by the September 3, 2009 deadline, the Florida Governor will then make an interim appointment.

The August 31 special meeting will be broadcast live on WCOT, the City's government access channel (Comcast Cable channel 13) and streamed live on the City's Talgov.com website. [The list of applicants for the vacant Commission seat is available online.](#)

August 28

City Commission Names Seven Finalists for Vacant Seat

Commission Expected to Fill Vacancy at Monday Meeting - The Tallahassee City Commission has completed its review of applications

from citizens seeking to serve the balance of the term held by former City Commissioner Allan Katz. Per the process in place to select an individual to complete the term, seven citizens are on the final list for the Commission to review. The City Commission will hold a special meeting at noon on Monday, August 31 where they are expected to appoint one of the seven finalists to complete Commissioner Katz's term.

The seven individuals, along with point totals (candidates received one point for each time they were listed by Commissioners), include:

- James. W. Aphorp, 3
- Nancy S. Miller, 3
- Gil David Ziffer, 2
- Ted Thomas, 1
- Kraig Conn, 1
- Paula L. Walborsky, 1
- Darryl Jones, 1

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August 28 - TPD Police Searching for Witness

Last Thursday, at approximately 4:00AM, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to 316 West Tennessee Street (The Hotel on Capitol Hill). Upon arrival officer discovered that two victims had been shot and later died as a result of their injuries. Investigators continue to examine physical evidence left at the scene, interview witnesses, and follow-up on leads provided by the public. Investigators obtained surveillance video from the crime scene, wherein they observed a female in the video whom they believe may have information about this crime. At this time investigators are attempting to identify the female, but do not believe she is involved in the crime.

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

Arrested



August 28 - TPD Police Seek Identity of Suspect

On Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at approximately 4:00PM, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to a reported robbery located

650 West Tennessee Street (Cash Register Auto Insurance). Upon arrival officers discovered that a male suspect entered the business, brandished a handgun and demanded cash from an employee. The employee complied with the demand and the suspect fled the business with an undisclosed amount of cash. No one was injured during the robbery and there were no customers inside the business during the robbery. A witness told officers that the suspect may have fled in a maroon 1998-2000 4 door Ford Explorer. Investigators reviewed surveillance video and believe the suspect may have entered the business the day before the robbery.

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.

Suspect Description

White male, possibly Hispanic, 20-25 years of age, 5'7"-5'9", 150-170 lbs. Last seen wearing a garnet FSU T-shirt, and blue jean shorts.



August 25

National Senior Center Month Brings Big Fun for September

Services, Classes and More Showcased - September is National Senior Center Month. The Tallahassee Senior Center is stepping out to celebrate with a month of giveaways, seminars, classes and more to showcase all they offer to our community. "Get With It" during the month of September and check out the variety of offerings provided through the Senior Center.

The week of September 8-11 is Health and Fitness Week. Get fit with health screenings at the Senior Center (offered all week), chances to win free fitness classes and a health education presentation on Wednesday, September 9. The presentation, "Save a Life: CPR for Seniors," begins at 11 a.m.

Regular attendees at the Senior Center get social all the time. The public is invited to share that spirit during the week of September 14-18. Bring a Friend Week is part of the Tallahassee Senior Foundation membership drive. Becoming a member of the TSF offers benefits like support programs, services and active aging through preventative care, social fitness, recreation, health and wellness, invitations and discounted tickets to Senior Center special events and discounted rates at Club 50 Fitness and water aerobics at Tallahassee Orthopedic Sports Physical Therapy. During Bring a Friend Week, new members also receive a free gift. Existing members who bring a friend will be entered into a drawing for a prize, and anyone who drops in for a tour receives a complimentary salad bar coupon.

The Senior Center hosts numerous popular classes, many of which will be featured from September 21-25 during Art and Recreation Week. Visitors can get creative with chances to win free art classes or by viewing art displayed around the Senior Center as part of the Insider's Show. You can also learn more about lifelong learning opportunities this week.

The [Tallahassee Senior Center](#) is a nationally accredited facility. It boasts a variety of art, craft, lifelong learning, dance, health and fitness classes as well as support groups and information for seniors. For more information, please visit Talgov.com/seniors, call 891-4000 or simply stop by the Senior Center, located at 1400 North Monroe Street.

Whether you are a senior yourself, a caregiver, a family member or a friend, the Senior Center welcomes you to come "Get With It" and see what it has to offer.

August 06

Monday Road Closed August 10

Daytime closures in effect through mid-September - The City of Tallahassee will close a 700-foot segment of Monday Road west of Capital Circle Southeast during daytime hours beginning Monday, August 10, for sewer line installation. The road will be closed to traffic weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. The short detour route will be clearly posted and weather permitting, construction on Monday Road should be completed and the road reopened to normal traffic operations by mid-September.

August 06

Back to School Expo - Helping Grandparents Prepare

Senior Center Hosts Event August 15 - Saturday, August 15, the Senior Center will host the special "Grandparents as Parents" Back to School Expo. The event is scheduled from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and will offer informational exhibits, prizes, and grandparent health screenings.

The event will be held at the Tallahassee Senior Center, located at 1400 North Monroe Street. At least 20 exhibitors will provide information on after school programs, counseling services, tutoring, nutrition programs and other vital services in the community. Grandparents and other relative caregivers won't want to miss this opportunity to learn about programs that will help them help the children in their care.

"The Expo demonstrates the Senior Center's commitment to connect all older adults with the resources that meet their life situations," said Sheila Salyer, manager of Tallahassee Senior Services. "We know that more than 2,000 Leon County grandparents are raising grandchildren. GaP (Grandparents as Parents) began in 2005 as RAPP (Relatives as Parents Program) and continues to grow each year, offering more services and connections for greater numbers of grandparents."

The Back to School Expo provides one more tool to make life a little simpler for grandparents and adds in some fun for the kids. Specially planned activities, door prizes and free popcorn are sure to be a hit with the younger set of attendees.

"Getting the family ready for back to school can be stressful. We want to smooth this transition for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren," said Wendy Halleck, coordinator of the GaP program and organizer of the Expo. "It is wonderful to see our grandfamilies finding support and fellowship with others in a similar situation."

For more information on the GaP program for grandparents and other relative caregivers or the Back to School Expo, please contact Wendy Halleck at 891-4041 or via [email](#).

The Tallahassee Senior Center is operated and maintained by the City of Tallahassee's Department of Economic and Community Development. For more information on its wide variety of programs and events, please contact the Senior Center at 891-4000 or visit the City's website at [Talgov.com](#).

August 21 - TPD

The Tallahassee Police Department Seeks Cadets

The Tallahassee Police Department is looking for males and females between the ages of 14 and 21 to take part in the Cadet Program. Anyone interested in the Cadet Program is invited to attend an informative meeting at the Tallahassee Police Department, located at 234 East 7th Avenue, Tuesday, September 1, 2009, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Cadets will receive police training in topics such as: forensics, crisis intervention, firearms, first aid, criminal investigations, traffic crash investigation, traffic stops, use of force, as well as participate in ride-alongs with TPD officers, and much more.

Anyone interested in the program can call or [e-mail](#) Cadet Program Coordinator Officer Evan Alwine for an application (or [download from talgov.com](#) ... PDF) or come to the meeting on September 1. For more information, please call 891-4582, ext. 90299.

August 29 - TPD

Nineteen Arrested in Alcohol Sting

Last night, the Tallahassee Police Department's Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving Squad (COPPS) partnered with the State Department of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (ABT) in an effort to reduce underage alcohol consumption. The combined effort is known as the Alcohol Compliance Team, which often includes members from the Florida Highway Patrol, Florida State University, and the Tallahassee Fire Department. Officers conducted a series of surveys at local establishments, better known as "shoulder taps." The goal is to gain voluntary compliance with Florida law and reduce the needless tragedies associated with underage consumption of alcoholic beverages. During last night's operation, officers were in uniform, with the exception of one location. While at the South Monroe Street location, officers utilized plain clothes to infiltrate an unlicensed party requiring a cover charge to enter, followed by the unlicensed serving of alcoholic beverages. These operations will continue throughout the year.

Arrest Locations

- LaRumba Mexican Restaurant, 2690 North Monroe Street (3 arrests).
- Brian's Bar B Que, 2121 W. Pensacola Street (7 arrests).
- Irish Pub, 302 Raven Street (1 arrest).
- Inn Between Bar, 600 Block W. Pensacola St (1 arrest).
- Floyd's, 600 Block W. Tennessee Street (2 arrests).

- Mardis Gras, 600 Block W. Tennessee Street (3 arrests).
- Ken's, 600 Block W. Tennessee Street (1 arrest).
- 1800 S. Monroe Street (1 arrest). This is an empty warehouse that was rented for the party.

All defendants were charged with Possession of Alcohol by a Person Under 21. The South Monroe Street arrest resulted in a criminal charge of Sale of Alcoholic Beverages Without a License.

August 31 - TPD
Police Investigate Shooting

Last night, at approximately 11:30PM, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to a reported shooting in the 200 Block of Fleetwood Drive. Upon arrival, officers discovered that a 45-year-old victim had been shot. The victim was conscious, explaining to officers that an unknown suspect shot him. According to the victim, his dog began barking and the victim went outside in an effort to determine the cause. While outside a black 2 door, possibly an early model 1990's Acura pulled into the driveway. The victim explained that an unknown suspect engaged him in brief conversation and then shot him. The suspect then fled in the above vehicle. The victim was able to call 911 from his cell phone after the shooting. The victim was taken to a local hospital and is in serious condition. The motive for the shooting is not known.

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.

Suspect Description: Black male, 6'0"-6'1", 205 lbs, 25-26 yoa, wearing all black (t-shirt, pants, and shoes). Last seen driving a 1990's 2-door vehicle, possibly an Acura, black in color.

August 31 - TPD
Traffic Stop Reveals Drugs

Last night, at approximately 11:00PM, Officer Chris Papy was traveling north on North Monroe Street near Allen Road. While stopped at a red light, Officer Papy noticed a 1999 black Acura in the lane next to him. The tag on the Acura expired on August 11, 2009. Officer Papy conducted a traffic stop of the vehicle due to the expired tag. Upon making contact with the driver, later identified as 30year old Timothy Gaines, Jr., Officer Papy noticed the odor of marijuana emanating from Gaines' vehicle. Officer Sean Wyman and his K-9 partner "Baron" responded to the traffic stop. "Baron" indicated that the vehicle contained illegal drugs and a search of the vehicle was conducted. Inside the vehicle officers located a plastic bag containing approximately one pound of marijuana. Further investigation revealed that Gaines is currently out of jail on bond for Possession of Cannabis With Intent to Sell and Possession of Paraphernalia. Gaines was arrested and taken to jail without incident.

Arrested



Timothy Gaines, Jr., B/M, 30 yoa. Charges: Possession of Cannabis more than 20grams.