

Gaines Celebration Set For August 26

Event to celebrate completion of project's first phase

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In the spring of 2010, the City began work to create a true 'destination district' on Gaines Street. This massive undertaking has included a significant construction project to widen sidewalks, build median islands, plant extensive landscaping, install new streetscape features like distinctive lighting and benches and more. While construction hasn't always been enjoyable for the people who frequent Gaines Street or the businesses located on Gaines, there's good news! The end is in sight.

By the end of summer, the first phase of Gaines Street, which runs from Macomb St. to Monroe St., will be complete. To celebrate, the City is throwing a street festival the evening of **Friday, August 26**. Mark your calendar now for a night of live, local entertainment; a children's art show and craft area; food, art and area business vendors; and some special surprises yet to be announced! Citizens are invited to come out for a night of creative, old-fashioned family fun.

As more information becomes available, it will be posted on Talgov.com. You can also stay up-to-date by liking Gaines Street on Facebook or following @GainesStreet on Twitter.



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UNDERGROUND UTILITIES

Storing Water for Emergencies

It's that time of year again. We're officially in the Atlantic hurricane season, which runs from June 1 through Nov. 30, and experts predict an active to extremely active period. So if you haven't prepared yet, now is a good time to create an emergency supply kit. One of the most important items to have during a disaster is safe drinking water. Here are some tips from Your Own Utilities.

-  Plan to store enough water to last at least three days. The Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) recommends 3-7 days.
-  Figure that each person in the house needs one gallon per day. That means that a family of four should have 12 gallons of water on hand. People with special needs, however, such as nursing mothers, infants and family members with illnesses, will require more.
-  Store the water in high-quality plastic rather than glass containers, which can break. Also avoid paper cartons since they can weaken over time.
-  Make sure the container has been washed and rinsed well before filling.
-  If you have advance warning of a disaster or disruption of your water service, fill sinks, bathtubs and all available containers with water.



For more information on emergency preparation activities, please visit Talgov.com.

For more information on your City government,



about City services and related items of interest. For more information, call 891-8533 or visit the City's website at Talgov.com. If you require an accommodation because of a disability in order to participate in a program, service or activity, please contact the appropriate City department. For persons using a TDD, please call 711. Requests should be made at least 72 hours in advance. Sign language interpreters require 10 days advance request.



JULY 2011

INSIGHT

Coming to a Smart Cart Near You **Expanded**



Recycling!

*All plastic containers
less than 3 gallons
now accepted!*

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ENERGY TIP

Beat the Heat by Becoming Energy Smart Plus (e+)




Big energy savings can come from small changes in behavior and habits. We hear a lot about thermostat settings (78 degrees while at home and higher when away) and ceiling fans (turned off when out of the room), but there are many more low-cost/no-cost ways to save energy, water and money.

Here are a few e+ tips from Your Own Utilities:

- * **Drink plenty of water.** This will help you stay hydrated and feel cooler. Also avoid caffeine and alcohol and eat lightly.
- * **Wear lightweight clothing.** Humans have a highly effective self-cooling method that furry animals don't share: cooling by evaporation from bare skin. You take advantage of this method when you dress in shorts and short sleeves.
- * **Close shades, drapes and blinds during the day.** This will help keep the house a lot cooler.
- * **Use fans instead of or in conjunction with the air conditioner.** Also, for best results make sure the fans are breezing downward, not upward. Your central air conditioner will use about 50 times more energy than a fan at medium speed.
- * **Cook outdoors on a natural gas grill or use the microwave instead of the range or oven.** This will prevent the kitchen from heating up.
- * **Keep up the habit of turning off lights as you leave a room.** Lights add a lot of heat to the house.
- * **Consider a pool pump timer.** Pool pumping 24 hours per day with a 3/4-horsepower pump motor can cost nearly \$70 per month at current electric rates. A timer is well worth its installed cost.
- * **Avoid rooftop power ventilating fans.** They usually cost more to operate than they save, especially if the fan's thermostat (in the hot attic) is set too low.

Coming to a Smart Cart Near You - Expanded Recycling!

All plastic containers less than 3 gallons now accepted!

 Your recycling Smart Cart container, forever hungry to be fed various paper, glass and plastic items, just got a much bigger appetite! Thanks to an initiative from Sustainable Tallahassee and embraced by the City of Tallahassee and Leon County, all plastic containers that hold less than 3 gallons can now be recycled locally.

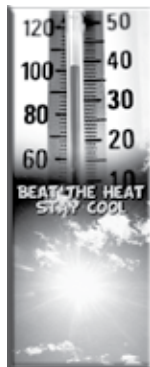
For customers this means you can fill your Smart Car with items such as dairy tubs (butter, margarine, whipping cream), yogurt cups, plastic caps/lids and plastic fruit and vegetable containers. These items are in addition to the list of plastic items you've always been able to recycle including milk and beverage jugs and bottles.

Sustainable Tallahassee, a citizen-led initiative established through the Knight Creative Communities Institute, appointed a recycle sub committee of citizens,

representatives from local businesses and staff from the City and County. The group worked with the companies that receive plastics from the Tallahassee-Leon County area, and the result is a significant expansion to the plastic materials that can be received.

It's a good idea to rinse out containers, particularly during our hot summer months. Doing so will minimize any odor or insect issues with your Smart Cart. If you're a frequent recycler, you can make more space available in the Smart Cart by crushing the items you feed into the container.

Remember, your trash and recycling containers are collected on the same day. Be sure they're at the curb by 6:30 a.m. and return them to the home by nightfall on your collection day. For more information on recycling in Tallahassee, please visit Talgov.com/YOU.



* **Your air conditioner shouldn't pull air through a succession of filters.** If you have a filter mounted in a hallway grill at knee level and you find a second filter slotted into the air handler, remove one of the filters. If in doubt, call the City for a free home energy audit or consult with an AC technician.

For more ways to beat the heat and to take advantage of e+ programs such as rebates, grants and free energy audits, visit Talgov.com/YOU or call 891-4YOU (4968).

CALENDAR

AUGUST

24 City Commission regular meeting at 4 pm (first regular meeting since July 13)

31 City Commission regular meeting at 4 pm

All meetings are held in the City Commission Chambers, located on the second floor of City Hall (300 S. Adams St.), unless noted otherwise. Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change. City Commission meetings are shown live on WCOT, the City's government access channel, Comcast Cable channel 13. The meetings are rebroadcast the following Thursday at 12:30 pm and 7:30 pm and the following Saturday and Sunday at 12:30 pm. City Commission meetings are also streamed live online and are indexed and posted for viewing on Talgov.com. Call the Department of Communications at 891-8533 for more information or view the current City Commission agenda online at Talgov.com. Follow City news on Twitter @COTNews.