

Animals Can't Talk! Help Recover Lost Pets

The Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center (ASC) has been operated by the City of Tallahassee since March 1996. The ASC houses approximately 10,000 lost, abandoned and unwanted cats, dogs, exotics and livestock annually.

Roughly 70 percent of the animals that enter the ASC are lost or have strayed from their families. The majority of these animals lack any form of identification, such as microchips and rabies tags, and therefore cannot be quickly reunited, if at all, with their families. These animals cannot tell staff where they live or who their owners are. Animals can't talk! If you have lost a pet, utilize these few steps to help recover your animal:

- ♥ Visit the ASC immediately. Stray animals are housed for 6 days for owners to reclaim them. Visit the ASC every 2-3 days in person and check for your lost pet.
- ♥ Post fliers with your pet's photo in your area, including local pet supply stores, veterinarians and feed stores.
- ♥ Post photo and information on **craigslist.com** under the lost and pets sections.
- ♥ Be sure to verify your contact information with your microchip provider as well as your veterinarian.

For more information and additional tips on pet recovery, please visit the Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center at 1125 Easterwood Drive (adjacent to the entrance to Tom Brown Park), call 891-2950 or visit online at **Tal.gov.com/animals** (lost animals not included on this site).



bigbendworks.com A one-stop re-employment resource

With state budget cuts having a significant impact on Tallahassee, organizations throughout the community have collaborated to launch **BigBendWorks.com** -- a one-stop re-employment resource for state employees who live in our eight-county region and are seeking new employment.

State employees seeking job placement information on **BigBendWorks.com** will find job openings, human services, training and re-training, career opportunities and financial assistance resources. This comprehensive website ensures that displaced state workers are connected to the information and tools needed for a seamless path and transition to re-employment.

BigBendWorks.com is a coalition of the City of Tallahassee and other public agencies, non-profit organizations and private companies. The organizations of Big Bend Works are providing this service because they understand the important role state workers play in supporting Tallahassee's local economy and the value these individuals and their families bring to the community.

Businesses and organizations with resources and available jobs are encouraged to submit information to the website. For more information on this initiative, visit **BigBendWorks.com**.

For more information on your City government,



For all City of Tallahassee utility-related inquiries, including account issues or to report outages, please call Your Own Utilities at 891-4YOU (4968).



INSIGHT is published monthly by the City of Tallahassee's Department of Communications to inform citizens about City services and related items of interest. For more information, call 891-8533 or visit the City's website at **Tal.gov.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.



AUGUST 2011

INSIGHT

It's Official!



Tallahassee is a great place to live!

e+





ENERGY TIP

The New Old Thing: Natural Gas!

Is natural gas available on your street? If so, now's a good time to connect. Natural gas is clean and efficient and can be used to heat water and/or your house, dry clothes and cook.

A wise strategy: Replace critical heating equipment while the weather's still warm. If you're replacing electric appliances, you can take advantage of the City's rebates for a natural gas water heater (\$675) and furnace (\$700).

Some frequently asked questions:

- 1. Is natural gas available on my street?** To find out, use the online gas availability search tool. Visit Talgov.com/YOU, click on the yellow natural gas symbol then on Gas Availability, and enter your street address.
- 2. Does the City turn off its natural gas distribution during or after a hurricane?** No.
- 3. Can I use natural gas to fuel an emergency backup generator?** Yes.
- 4. What does the City charge for a gas pipe connection from street to house?** The residential gas tap fee is \$50, but the fee is waived if you connect a natural gas water heater.
- 5. What are my costs?** What you pay for: New gas appliances and appliance installation including venting and gas piping inward from your gas meter. The way to find out total installed costs is to get vendor quotes and contractor installation proposals. The City offers appliance rebates as well as low-interest loans to assist with your costs.
- 6. How much do I save?** Water heating with natural gas currently costs about 40 percent less than with electric and about 60 percent less than with propane gas. Following are annual water heating costs at current rates for a family of four heating water to 120 degrees in new, standard tank-style equipment (taxes included):
 - a. **\$260.53/year with natural gas**
 - b. **\$443.19/year with electric**
 - c. **\$615.59/year with propane gas @ \$3/gallon**

For information about natural gas availability, installing contractors, appliance efficiency and current rebate offerings, call Your Own Utilities at 891-4YOU (4968) or visit Talgov.com/YOU.

It's official! Tallahassee is a great place to live!

Have you heard? The City of Tallahassee has been named **America's Most Livable City** by the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

That's right. Tallahassee recently took first place in a rigorous national competition, which drew hundreds of entries from cities such as Houston, Philadelphia and Sacramento. The coveted award recognizes the City for its leadership, innovation and high quality of life through programs such as Neighborhood REACH.

In fact, the Washington, DC-based U.S. Conference of Mayors was so impressed with Neighborhood REACH that they produced a video about the program for mass distribution. You can watch the video at Talgov.com/YOU.



Neighborhood REACH, part of the City's Energy Smart Plus (e+) initiative, reflects a unique approach to helping residents save energy, water and money. Going door-to-door, REACH teams provide in-home energy-saving products and services, as well as hands-on education, all at no cost to the customer. Meanwhile, City crews enhance the neighborhood by landscaping public areas, cleaning drainage ditches, repairing sidewalks and streetlights and performing other services.

It's just one of many things that make Tallahassee a great place to live! For more information, call 891-4YOU (4968) or visit Talgov.com/YOU.

UNDERGROUND UTILITIES

Milestone Reached in Protecting Local Water Resources



Record low nitrogen levels have been achieved recently at the City of Tallahassee's wastewater treatment facility through upgrades

and training. These record low levels help to protect our region's waterways and environment. The lower nitrogen levels will help improve the water quality of area lakes, streams and springs as nitrogen fuels the growth of invasive plants, such as hydrilla and algae.

It's all part of the City's \$227 million Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) project, currently underway to improve the quality of wastewater that is treated, recycled and returned back to the environment through irrigation. The new AWT facility will serve as an industry model when fully complete in mid-2015. For more information, call 891-4YOU (4968) or visit Talgov.com/YOU.

CALENDAR SEPTEMBER

- 5 Labor Day holiday;** administrative offices closed (City solid waste collection schedules change during holiday weeks. Please visit Talgov.com/YOU for information on schedule changes during the Labor Day holiday week)
- 7 City Commission regular meeting** at 4 pm, including FY 2012 proposed budget public hearing at 6 pm
- 19 Community Redevelopment Agency Board meeting** at noon
- 19 Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency meeting** at 1 pm
- 19 Blueprint 2000 Intergovernmental Agency meeting** at 5 pm
- 21 City Commission regular meeting** at 4 pm, including final FY 2012 proposed budget public hearing at 6 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.