

CityScope



Still Serving Even After Retiring!

By **Mallory Battle**
Communications Intern

After serving more than 27 years with the City of Tallahassee, **Jeanne Kimball** was retiring. Her years of employment as human resource programs manager were coming to a close. Yet her desire to contribute and stay connected to the City family continued. She contemplated how she could continue to give back to the organization she'd called home for so many years.

As Jeanne filled out retirement paperwork in the Treasurer-Clerk's Office, she asked how many other retirees received pensions from the City and learned there were approximately 1,300 people on that list.

"With that many people, we should have some kind of organization where we can keep in touch with each other and possibly do some things with the City," Kimball said to herself.

And with that, the idea for the Retirees' Team, or R-Team, was born.

The R-Team, as Kimball imagined, would be an organization for retired COT employees that would provide members with opportunities to socialize with former co-workers and be of service to the City.

At the annual barbecue for COT retirees in 2009, she distributed fliers to reach potential R-Team members. Kimball was discouraged when only five people initially responded.

RTEAM continued on PAGE 2



Jeanne Kimball (right) is the driving force behind the R-Team.

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July is Parks and Recreation Month!

However, one of those five responders was Scott Hunt, a former member of the Tallahassee Police Department.

Hunt took the initiative to work with the Retirement Services Office to send a letter about the R-Team to every COT retiree. As a result, Kimball surpassed her goal of having 25 members.



R-Team members assist at the golf tournament.

Today, the R-Team consists of 44 members. The organization meets every third Thursday of the month. Usually, there is a speaker at each meeting who presents on a topic of interest as it relates to retirees. Previous speakers have included representatives from the Senior Center and Hilaman Park Golf Course.

Group members have also used their monthly gatherings as a way to share stories and pass along beneficial information. It's not uncommon for members to discuss vacation destination ideas and personal experiences. Members also share information regarding job opportunities for retirees looking to rejoin the work force. Kimball is even working on a website for the organization that allows members to upload resumes, items for sale, health tips and pictures of

exciting vacations and new grandchildren.

The main focus of the group, however, is in line with Kimball's initial objective to give back to the City and the community.

Since the first meeting, the R-Team has volunteered with four projects. They have staffed check-in tables for City events, served food and participated in the Lake Elberta stormwater cleanup. Typically, the projects are one-day commitments of two to four hours.

Most recently, the organization volunteered at the Clinton-Bush Haiti Relief Golf Tournament on March 26. Upon arriving at the benefit, golfers were greeted with a smile by R-Team member Gloria Hall-McNeil, former director of Human

Resources. Hall-McNeil worked the check-in table distributing reusable bags and directing golfers to the golf carts.

Other members were placed at refreshment stations at designated holes, and others provided transportation around the course.

Kimball hopes to continue to impact the City organization and local citizens through the R-Team. Kimball and Hall-McNeil both view the R-Team as a way to pay back all that the City has done for them.

"The City has given me so much, and thus I'm enjoying returning the favor," Hall-McNeil said.

Want to join the R-Team?

R-Team membership is open not only to City retirees but also the spouses of retirees as well.

For more information, contact Jeanne Kimball via email at jeannekimball2741@comcast.net.

Keep FROGs Out of the Sewer

**By Dean Chaaban
Underground Utilities**

Did you know that Fat, Roots, Oil and Grease (FROG) are the number one cause of sewer backups in homes, apartments and food service establishments? They are the natural by-products of food preparation and cooking or baking. Even a small amount of FROG in drains can cause serious (and expensive) plumbing blockage or overflows. The City receives trouble calls throughout the year due to sewer blockages caused by FROG.

The most effective method for controlling FROG in wastewater is simply not to let it go down the drain, garbage disposal or toilet. Dispose of FROG by pouring it into an old jar, coffee can or plastic bag. When full and cooled down, seal it and put it in the garbage.

Be cautious of chemicals and additives (including soaps and detergents) that claim to dissolve grease. Some of these additives simply pass grease down pipes where it can clog up at the sewer lines in another area.

If you have specific questions or would like more information regarding FROG disposal and management, please call Your Own Utilities at 891-4YOU (4968).



In the Kitchen with Tallahassee's Bravest

Maryland Crab Cakes

Submitted by TFD Lt. Troy Anzalone

Ingredients:

- 1 lb Lump or Claw Crab Meat
- 2 tbsp Mayonnaise
- 1 tsp Yellow Mustard
- 1/2 a sleeve of crushed Saltine Crackers
- 1 tsp Old Bay Seasoning
- 1 egg

Directions:

- Mix ingredients in large mixing bowl and form into patties.
- Sauté on medium low using butter or olive oil until golden brown.
- Flip patties over and sauté other side until golden brown.
- Place cooked crab cakes on two layers of paper towels to absorb some of the oil.



City Bits

New Animal Ordinances Approved

On June 1, much needed revisions to Chapter 4 of our local ordinances related to animals became effective. Changes had not been made in over a decade and were necessary for Tallahassee to remain current with today's humane standards for the welfare, care and health of our community's pet population, as well as for the safety of our citizens. Animal Control staff worked closely with the City Attorney's Office, local pet owners and animal welfare groups to develop a series of clear and concise expectations for pet owners.



Enhancements were made to four key concept areas: Humane Care and Treatment, Public Health and Safety, Responsible Pet Ownership, and Other Animal Related Issues, which included the following amendments:

- Require that no person abandon an animal.
- Added provisions addressing dog fighting.
- Detailed standards of care required for pets.
- Established guidelines for humane tethering of dogs.
- Require animals transported in the back of trucks be restrained to prevent injury or escape.
- Require that pet owners be responsible for removal of animal waste.
- Included cats in the provision for animals at large.
- Established new guidelines for the keeping of fowl and livestock.

The Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center (ASC) recognizes that most City employees are pet owners and, as such, is encouraging City staff to take the initiative to familiarize themselves with the new code language.

"This is a great opportunity for all City employees to set an example for our citizens by practicing and encouraging responsible pet ownership," Lt. Jeff Doyle, animal control supervisor, said. "Even if you do not own a pet, you can still be familiar with the expectations being placed on pet owners and act as the eyes and ears for the department."

If you see an animal violation or have other animal related concerns, please contact **Animal Control dispatch** at 891-2958. To view the complete code language, please click on the link: <http://www.talgov.com/animals/pdf/ord.pdf>.

City Bits

Don't Forget – It Pays to Work Out!

Capital Health Plan members can receive up to a \$150 reimbursement per year per household for a membership at a health or fitness center. You can obtain reimbursement forms online at capitalhealth.com. You will need a copy of the fitness contract, as well as proof of payments for four months.

Free Exercise Classes

Take advantage of exercise classes offered to City employees free of charge.

- **Yoga/Pilates:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon to 12:45 p.m., Commission Chambers, City Hall
- **Zumba:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30 to 6:15 p.m., Sittig Hall, Kleman Plaza



More information about the City's Wellness Program can be obtained from **Barbara Johnson**, City Wellness Coordinator, Human Resources Division, at 891-8505.

Parking Lot Safety

Driving is a commonplace activity and parking lots a normal part of our everyday lives. Many of us are so used to our routine that we do not realize how distracted we can be while walking to and from our vehicles. While constantly being aware of your surroundings seems an obvious rule of thumb when in a parking lot, it's often ignored in the hustle of the day.

To help refresh your safety skills and shed light on predator tactics, here are some tips from the Tallahassee Police Department:



- Keep your valuables, including purses and recent purchases, out of sight.
- Always lock them in the trunk if you have to leave them in the car.
- Don't approach your vehicle if a van or other large vehicle with tinted windows is parked next to it. Find a manager, peer or co-worker to walk you to your car.
- Walk with purpose. Multiple studies have shown that a quick, purposeful walk sends subconscious signals to predators that you are not an easy mark.
- Keep one hand free at all times. This at least gives you the opportunity to fend-off a would-be attacker.
- Have your key ready to open the car door. Never stand next to your car searching for your keys. Robbers, carjackers and sexual predators all watch for this type of distraction.
- Once in your car, lock the doors immediately.
- Get moving. Don't sit inside of your vehicle adjusting the stereo, rummaging through your purse or talking on your phone, especially if the lot is not well populated.
- If you have an unlocking button or keyless entry system, make sure you unlock only the driver door. Unlocking all the doors allows a predator to simply slide into your car from the passenger side.
- Make sure that your car's dome light is always functioning properly. As you unlock your vehicle, glance into the back seat and make sure that an attacker has not gained access to your car.
- Never approach your vehicle if a person is loitering anywhere near it.

Crime prevention tips are available online from TPD at Talgov.com/TPD.

Awards and Honors

Glen Howe, superintendent of Tennis Operations for Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Affairs, has received a very prestigious award from the U.S. Professional Tennis Association (USPTA). Howe, head tester of other professional tennis players in Florida, was recently honored as the Association's Master Professional "Tester of the Year." In addition to receiving this honor at the Association's annual banquet, his picture was also featured on the front cover of the USPTA's monthly magazine!

Dr. Rachel Reeves, veterinarian at the Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center, was selected as a recipient of the Florida Veterinary Medical Associations Gold Star Award for 2010. These awards go to members who have contributed much of their time and energy to the advancement of veterinary medicine and the profession at the state and local level. Recipients are active in community programs and engaged in events such as visiting schools, contributing to "Ask the Vet" columns or planning and participating in Pet Week activities.

Jose Pozo, Your Own Utilities community outreach coordinator, has been selected as one of the winners of the Florida City and County Management Association (FCCMA) 2010 Emerging Leaders Scholarship recipients. Jose was recognized at this year's FCCMA conference held in May in Orlando.

The City's **ChooseHealth Wellness Program** recently received the Shining Star Award from Working Well Tallahassee, a non-profit group of local business people and health professionals who promote workplace wellness programs through the community. The Shining Star Award was presented to the City for setting the best example of program development for a wellness program. Proudly accepting the Wellness Award were City Commissioner Gil Ziffer, Assistant City Manager Jay Townsend, Management & Administration Director Raoul Lavin, HR Manager Travis Parsons and Barbara Johnson, the City's Wellness Coordinator.

StarMetro was honored by the Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA) for its safety record and two of its advertising efforts. In the Class One Print Advertising category, StarMetro received the Award of Honor for an advertisement highlighting the 80X Express Shuttle. In the Class One Signage category, StarMetro took home the Award of Excellence for the onboard advertising of the Summer Wheels Pass. StarMetro also received the First Runner Up title in the statewide Safety Competition.

The **City of Tallahassee Utilities** was selected to receive a Smart Grid Grant from the federal government worth \$8.9 million to further our efforts to use technology to help customers manage their power use and save money.

The **Communications Department** won four awards from the Capital Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association during its annual Image Awards this spring.



Well Dones

A well done goes out to **Delores Downing** in the City Manager's Office for assisting a woman's elderly aunt. The woman needed to check on her aunt, but she could not find the address on the map in the phone book. She called the City and spoke with Delores, who pulled up a map on her computer and gave the woman step-by-step instructions to her aunt's house. The woman was so grateful and wanted to let everyone know how well Delores represented the City of Tallahassee.

§ § § § §

One of our employees lost an item she held close to her heart – a denim pencil bag given to her as a little girl by her now-deceased grandma. Thankfully, her call for help to locate the bag was answered, and she got the dear item back. "Thank you to **Sharon Ofuani** (Equity & Workforce Development) and **Building Services** for helping me find my beloved pencil case!"

- **Tracy**

§ § § § §

A number of citizens complimented the efforts of Tallahassee Police Department officers, as follows:

A heartfelt thank you to the Tallahassee Police Department. My case of "crimes upon the elderly" in the summer of 2009 was assigned to **Officer Michael Von Stein** whose professional and tireless efforts persevered until my case was solved.

- **Anonymous**

§ § § § §

I had **Officer Andy Berentsen** come to my religious education class to speak about safety to my 4 year-old preschoolers. I would like to say that we enjoyed having him, and the children learned a lot. Thank you so much!

- **Tina**

Once again, City employees have come through with exemplary public service. Following are several recent examples where citizens took the time to provide a written note of appreciation.

§ § § § §

Thank you so much (to **TPD**) for helping to quiet down the partiers in our neighborhood. We live in a residential neighborhood close to campus, and some of the college neighbors think it is okay to throw loud parties into the early morning. With your help, we have been able to get to sleep a lot earlier than if we had to stop it on our own. We are expecting our first child, and it is comforting to know we have such a great police force to call on when we are in need. Thank you for your continued help! Keep up the great work!

- **Jennifer**

§ § § § §

I wanted to thank **Officers Zealy Jones** and **Cathy Kennedy** for their assistance when my son and his wife were involved in a traffic accident. Their professionalism, concern and compassion were very much appreciated.

- **Diane**

§ § § § §

I wanted to thank **Officers Carla Whitley** and **Donald Bracci** for their compassionate and professional handling of my mother's situation. They not only treated my mother with the utmost humanity but Officer Whitley was caring enough to console me as well. I cannot say enough positive things about their interaction with our family. They are truly to be commended. THANK YOU!!!!

- **Susan**

§ § § § §

Investigator Joanna Baldwin called me back within the hour to speak with me about a complaint I filed. I was pretty angry with TPD. After speaking to Investigator Baldwin, I felt much better. I think she handled herself very well and is an excellent representation of TPD and how things should be handled. Her customer service was great. She made me feel better about the original situation, got my side of the story and was understanding, concerned and sympathetic. She told me what steps would be taken to solve my problem and when I hung up the phone with her, I felt 10 times better. Kudos to Investigator Baldwin.

- **Julianne**

§ § § § §

I had the opportunity to ride with **Officer Michael Wright** and would like to take a moment to commend him for being a model police officer. Wright has inspired me to enter, excel in and complete the academy in which I was taught positive policing techniques that I constantly observed in Officer Wright. He has consistently shown a genuine care for the safety and well being of the citizens of Tallahassee. Wright is always courteous to his fellow employees and every citizen that he comes into contact with.

- **David**

WELL DONES continued on PAGE 7

Well Dones

WELL DONES continued from PAGE 6

§ § § § §

We wish to commend two of your officers for their assistance in locating our missing dog. Our border collie was panicked by fireworks at the Capital City Country Club. We searched for him for five days, finally finding him. **Officers Kathy McDaris and Allen Donaldson** were very helpful in passing on their observations and helping in the search. We live near Gainesville, were visiting friends and were not familiar with Tallahassee. The dog was found thanks to these officers' help, and we appreciate it very much.

– **Ted and Pat**

§ § § § §

We wish to thank **Officer Jeffery Ballard** for his recent assistance. He was calm, poised, courteous and extremely professional. I actually enjoyed interacting with him in the midst of a very difficult situation for my family. We wish the very best for him in his professional and private lives.

– **Gene**

§ § § § §

We appreciate all of you, and whenever we need you, you are here. Thank you so much for your hard work and being so congenial whenever we see you.

– **DoubleTree Staff**

§ § § § §

You have an exceptional employee working as a **crossing guard at Sharer and Fulton roads**. I have been driving by there for years taking my daughter to NFC. This man always has a smile on his face. He obviously takes his job seriously. He will wave or better yet salute everyone that passes by. He has become a fixture of politeness and professionalism that puts a smile on my face every day. I don't know this man's name, but I wanted to say that I

admire him and enjoy his enthusiasm and professionalism. He is someone you should certainly commend for the outstanding job he does every day.

– **Matthew**

§ § § § §

Just wanted to let the **motorcycle patrolmen who worked the Crop Walk** know you made a great impression through your professionalism and friendly attitudes. Our three-year-old son came home afterward, strapped on his bicycle helmet and spent the evening chasing bad guys through the house on his bike (and writing a few speeding tickets!). Thanks for providing positive role models for our young people just by doing what you do. Remember that people (especially little kids) are watching you, even while you are watching out for them! Yesterday, you were the heroes in the eyes of one little boy. For that, and for keeping us all safe on our walk, many thanks.

– **DeWayne**

§ § § § §

I wanted to thank **Officer Mark Adrick** for his quick response to my hit and run case. He was very polite and kept a bad situation calm. Great Job! Thanks again to TPD dispatcher and the officer.

– **Felicia**

§ § § § §

Officer Danielle Davis took time out of her schedule to come talk to a group of undergraduate students taking a course in Chemical Dependency. She came to share information about her job as an officer combating crime to include drug use in our city. She also presented the DEFY (Drug Education For Youth) Program to the students. She was informative, interesting and professional. The students were very appreciative of her efforts.

– **Craig**

§ § § § §

Thank you to **Officer Trebor Earley** who assisted my neighbor's elderly houseguest who got lost while on a walk Saturday. He was extremely patient even though there was a language barrier. (She only speaks Bulgarian.)

– **M. Thompson**

§ § § § §

A big thank you to **Officer Damon Miller**. At the Springtime parade, he stopped right in front of us and allowed some children to see and sit on his motorcycle. My kids LOVED it, and it made their day! He was so kind and the type of officer little children can want to grow up to be like! Thanks, Officer Miller!

– **Jill**

§ § § § §

I wanted to thank the **COPP Squad** for the wonderful job they did at the Epiphany Lutheran School bike day on March 3. **Officers Eric Hansen, Chris Pate, Jordan Larremore, Joe Brannon and Lyle Ottley** were the best!! They had bright smiles on their faces while helping and participating with the children on their bikes/scooters. The children thought it was "SO AWESOME" to have the police with them that day. The officers taught the importance of bike safety while still being able to enjoy biking. I want to thank the officers for also being there on their own personal down time. Their commitment to the community is wonderful and very much appreciated. Thanks again COPP Squad!! Great job!

– **Epiphany Lutheran School Parent**

Images Around the City



(l-r) Cheryl Stewart, Kevin Wailes, Reese Goad and Jay Townsend served food during the FAMU Way Community Breakfast.



Gabe Menendez (far right) explains the FAMU Way project to citizens.



Commissioner Andrew Gillum (center) listens to citizens about FAMU Way.



Gil Daspit (L) covered the community breakfast for WCOT.



Golfers line up at the Project Share Golf Tournament.



Underground Utilities employees watch a horseshoe match during Customer Appreciation Week.

Images Around the City



Officer David McCranie (R) suits up for the United Way.



Mike Tadros (L) recognizes Mark Heuring during an Underground Utilities luncheon.



Diedra Lane (L) and Holly Holland smile during Underground Utilities Customer Appreciation Week.



Underground Utilities employees take part in a softball game.



Violeta Wall (L) and Adam Jacobs work together during a workshop.



Sandra Manning (L) and Jose Pozo use teamwork to build a structure out of marshmallows and pasta.

Images Around the City



Jose Pozo poses with the jackhammer while playing the part of a construction worker in the Gaines Street Flash Mob video.

To promote the changes on Gaines Street, city employees joined with community volunteers to create a flash mob dance.

Take a look at the **flash mob dance video** (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TJcdJG-y0w>) as well as the **“making of” video** (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNChPPCuhmQ>)!



Chief Cindy Dick takes part in the Gaines Street Flash Mob video.



City employees and community volunteers dance in the street during the filming of the Gaines Street Flash Mob video.



Joe Salib hams it up for the Gaines Street Flash Mob video.