



Featured Department: StarMetro

They're gearing up for the
launch of NOVA2010!

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Firefighters Fight Cancer with Fishing, Fun & Friendship

By Lizzy Kelley

Kevin Oldham is a firefighter in Wisconsin. He came to Tallahassee last fall as part of a group of firefighters travelling the country with the Code 3 for a Cure Foundation. Little did Oldham know this would be no ordinary stop on the tour.

One of the coordinators for Code 3 for a Cure contacted Tallahassee Fire Department Lt. Travis Oaks at a rather late date to schedule a presentation. Not sure what TFD could do, Oaks called Station 4 on Appleyard Drive. Not only did Station 4 agree to have Code 3 present, they said they'd put the group up the night before as well.

"Station 4 really rose to the occasion," Oaks said. "It was very last minute."

Over breakfast, the talk between the Tallahassee and Code 3 firefighters went to family and fishing, a favorite pastime of Oldham's. Following breakfast, Code 3 gave the presentation, and Oldham shared that he had only six months to live, according to his doctors. He was diagnosed in April



2010 and had just finished his first round of chemotherapy. He responded well, but his cancer did not.

Listening in the crowd were TFD firefighter Nathan Roberts and Captain Hal Eastman.

"We saw us in him," Roberts said. "Some of the guys sat and talked after they left. Kevin blew us away with his courage. Here he was travelling in a fire truck to spread awareness even with the limited time he had. I thought about it all day. I have a son, and he has two. It really struck me."

After thinking about it and discussing it with some of his fellow firefighters, Roberts called up Oldham and invited him to come back down to Florida for a fishing trip. Oldham accepted, and Roberts began rallying the troops to help.

The firefighters put out emails and spread the word about what they were trying to accomplish. Donations started to come in. The firefighters' union chipped in, and several firefighters offered up their own boats and gear.

Less than a month later, Oldham and a fishing buddy were back in Florida.

It was a whirlwind trip packed with good times. They started off pond fishing in Quincy with Roberts. They caught a few nice bass and one great, big speckled perch that weighed close to three pounds. Early the next day, they headed down to Sopchoppy with Chief Jarvis Bedford and Mike Sorrell.

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Point Of Beginning

Removal of The Tallahassee Meridian Monument

By F. Erwin "Arnie" Arnold

Friday isn't just another work day; it's the last work day before the weekend. I was deep in this frame of mind when my phone rang. It was a past City employee, Kelvin Mears, the surveyor in charge of surveying the control points for the Cascade Park project. He wanted to know if I was going to witness the removing of the Tallahassee Principal Meridian monument. I know, you probably don't even know what that is, but everyone who owns land in Florida has a tie to it. This monument, placed here in Tallahassee in 1910, was set to permanently mark the point where all property land descriptions start in the whole state of Florida.



The maker for the Tallahassee Principal Meridian prior to its removal.

I finished what I was working on and rushed over to watch. As a Land Surveyor, I have an interest in this monument, plus I love history, and this is history.

Back in 1824, this point was chosen to mark the initial starting point of all lands described in Florida. It also served as the southwest corner of the new capital of the Territory of Florida and the southwest corner of the lands granted to the French General Marquis De Lafayette for his services to the American Revolution.

With the development of Cascade Park, the monument needed to be removed for new construction. A plaza was to be built on the site which is now Meridian Park, the smallest state park in Florida. Since the site was a state park, the Department of

Environmental Protection (DEP) had total control of the monument's removal and reestablishment after construction. When I arrived at the site, a construction crew was lifting the monument up with a large backhoe. Lamar Evers, a surveyor with DEP, was in charge of its removal. The monument, three feet tall with sloping sides measuring about two feet square at its base and sitting on a large concrete base, was raised and set on the bed of the truck that was taking it to its new location at the Florida Surveyor and Mappers Society office on Mahan Center Boulevard.

The question on everyone's mind was, "What, if anything, was under the monument?" With the monument being set in 1910, 96 years after the point was first established, could there be another monument or lighter wood stake still in existence marking the location? This is what Lamar needed to know for history's sake.

Lamar, Kelvin, Doug Lemacks and I started sifting through the dirt and removing limestone rocks with great anticipation. And wow! We found an iron bar, or was it an old buggy axle, almost rusted in two in several places? When was it set and by whom? Was it the corner that was set before the monument or just a point set for the setting of the monument?

Before the monument was removed, a set of reference points were placed to the north and west of the monument so the exact center could be reestablished at a later date. Lamar Evers wanted to establish



The monument in its previous location at Meridian Park on the future site of Cascade Park.



The monument waits to be transported to its new home.

State Plane coordinates on the found iron bar but didn't have the equipment available. The State Plane Coordinate System (SPS or SPCS) is a set of geographic zones or coordinate systems designed for specific regions of the United States. The system is widely used for geographic data by state and local governments.

Since the state had control over the site, no work was going to take place around the monument's location until it gave the go ahead. It seemed that work around the area would be delayed because no one else there had the equipment either.

Well, the City of Tallahassee did.

Phone calls were made and a City survey crew was summoned to the site in all haste to aid the state, who was very grateful to us. The company in charge of construction was probably very grateful also.

Mike Henderson, Mike Ward and John Lewis, the City's survey crew, started setting up our GPS equipment to gather the information the state needed. After about an hour, we had the information needed. We stored the raw data and gave it to Lamar who would take the raw data back to his office and process it to get the final coordinates they wanted.

The state then requested the survey crew use the previously mentioned reference

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Firefighters Fight Cancer with Fishing, Fun & Friendship, *continued from page 1*

They had one of the best inshore fishing days ever and stayed in Alligator Point at a friend's house for the next two nights.

The second day at Alligator Point, Oldham slept in. When he got up, he told Roberts that for the first time since he was diagnosed with cancer, he felt like nothing was wrong with him. For the Tallahassee firefighters, that meant a job well done and made every effort well worth it.

Later that day, the group headed to Carrabelle where Rob Koegel had a boat waiting in the water. They fished until dark. The next day, they headed back to town to tailgate with Captain Eastman, Chief Bedford, Koegel and other TFD personnel. Then, Oldham got to experience a true

Tallahassee tradition and watch the 'Noles take on the Clemson Tigers in Doak Campbell Stadium. To make the day truly once-in-a-lifetime, Lt. Troy Anzalone and Chief Bedford arranged for the guys to go down on the field at halftime.

As if that weren't enough, at 6 a.m. the next day, the guys were back up and out on the water. This time, they headed offshore with Tommy Aldridge and Scott Henderson, reeling in amberjack, grouper and snapper.

Finally, after a week of good times and even better fishing, Oldham and his friend flew back to Wisconsin. However, that wasn't the end of the support offered by TFD. The firefighters mailed gifts, donated by Kathy Gohlke, to Oldham's family, including a beautiful axe and backboard that was handmade specifically for Oldham by Blake Register.

"It was a long week, but we had a blast," Roberts said. "We made two really good friends. Even though it was only a week, it felt like we'd been friends for 20 years."

"It was cool to see how everyone chipped in on a whim, really, and donated time, money, gifts and more," Oaks said. "You never know. Give someone an opportunity and they shine. I'm proud of our guys. They truly care."

While getting to know each other, Oldham and Roberts found out they have more than a love for fighting fires and fishing in common. They also both love to play music. Following the trip, Oldham sent Roberts a box of CDs, shirts and other paraphernalia from his band. The thing that made Roberts speechless, however, was when he opened the box and found a brand new Fender Stratocaster guitar, an (obviously) very special gift from Oldham and his family to Roberts and his.

"They are impressive people, good people," Roberts said. "His only motivation for working with Code 3 is to maybe save someone else by spreading the message. Meeting him was an awesome experience. We're friends for life."

Soon after his trip back to Florida, Oldham began his second round of aggressive chemotherapy. The Code 3 for a Cure Foundation is

a 501(c)3 non-profit. Its mission is to help firefighters who are diagnosed with cancer. Early detection and regular screenings are vital in catching, battling and extinguishing this disease. For more information on Code3 for a Cure, please visit www.code3forcure.org.



An inscription on the axe made by Blake Register.



Another inscription on the axe's handle.



A View of the complete axe and backboard.

City Bits

Gaines Street is one-way westbound from Duval Street to Railroad Avenue. Eastbound traffic is being detoured at Railroad Avenue north to Madison Street. A route map of the new traffic pattern is available on Talgov.com/Gaines.



In preparation for the July launch of StarMetro's route decentralization project known as Nova2010, StarMetro has installed 766 brand new bus stops, or StarStops, with assistance from Public Works. You may have seen the new StarStops around town. They feature a 16-inch circular topper, a 12-inch by 6-inch rectangular information blade and a one-inch Braille plate, all resting on a 12-foot octagonal pole. The shape of the pole is designed to assist visually impaired customers, as no other road signs use this pole shape. For more information, please contact StarMetro at 891-5200 or visit Talgov.com/StarMetro.

In the Kitchen with Tallahassee's Bravest



As the weather heats up, head outside. This dish would make an excellent addition to a family picnic or neighborhood potluck. It's also great to make ahead for lunch during the work week. It's zesty, refreshing and versatile!

Pasta Salad (serves 6-8 people)
Ingredients:



- 1 lb Rotini pasta
- 1 bunch fresh broccoli (cut up)
- 1 medium tomato (cut up)
- 1 red pepper (cut up)
- 1/2 red onion (chopped)
- 1 pepperoni stick (cut up)*
- 1/2 can black olives (cut up)**
- 1 block cheddar cheese (cut up)
- 1 bottle Italian salad dressing

Directions:

- Put all ingredients into large bowl except pasta.
- Boil water and cook pasta as directed on box. When done, drain and put into bowl on top of other ingredients.
- Pour in 75 percent of salad dressing and mix all ingredients together.
- Place in refrigerator for about an hour to give it a chance to cool.
- Upon serving, add the remainder of salad dressing and mix up once again.
- Now it's ready to serve.

* Pepperoni slices diced up also work well.

** Substitute green olives or a mix of olives for a variation.

Side note: Feel free to play with this easy recipe by adding carrots, cauliflower or other veggies. You can also do a mix of cheeses for a simple twist.

Letter from the Editor

"Where u at"

This was the last text message one young woman saw before her life changed forever. "Where u at." While reading the text message, she crossed lanes and hit a bridge guard wall. Where was she? Laying on the pavement, nearly unrecognizable after being ejected from her car.

In 2009, nearly 5,500 people died and more than a half-million were hurt in crashes involving a distracted or inattentive driver, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. That is equal to 16 percent of all fatal crashes and 20 percent of all injury crashes for that year. To put it bluntly, one in five injury crashes was 100 percent preventable, as were nearly one in five fatal crashes.

Over half the states in America (34) have laws restricting cell phone use while driving. In some states, like Georgia, it's completely illegal to text and drive. In 2010, a federal ban went into effect that prohibits texting while driving for truckers and bus drivers.

We'd like to remind all City employees to please avoid texting and other cell phone use while driving either a City vehicle or their personal vehicles. While many of us are connected now to our jobs by smart phones, safety behind the wheel should be your No.1 priority. Avoiding distractions,

such as texting and cell phone use, has never been more important!

Currently, it is legal in the State of Florida to use your cell phone in any way you chose while driving, unless you drive a big rig or a bus. That could change though. In 2009, a proposed bill known as "Heather's Law" was introduced. It would have banned all cell phone use while driving. It's named after Heather Hurd, who was killed when a truck driver crashed into 10 vehicles while text messaging. But the bill died. Similar bills that would have banned texting while driving were reintroduced this year in both the House (HB 79) and the Senate (SB 158). Neither made it to a vote, fading in committee

We all know that it's dangerous to text and drive. Yet, I bet many of us still do it, at least occasionally. The stats are real. People die every day because of distracted drivers. It's up to us to set the example and drive responsibly. Look at the last text you sent or received. Is it worth a life?

The next time the phone buzzes, bings, chirps or otherwise alerts you to an email, Facebook update, tweet or text message while driving, please think twice about checking it. Your life is worth more than an LOL.

K?

90 second preview of the AT&T documentary about the effects of texting while driving. View the full 10 minute documentary at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DebhWD6ljZs>

Not Solving The Case of the Stolen Bike

How One TPD Investigator Still Helped a Family Find Closure

By Lizzy Kelley

The Tallahassee Police Department handles thousands of cases each year. Some are quickly solved. Others will never be solved. And then there are those cases where a little ingenuity and a giving spirit make all the difference.

In the fall, a little boy named Corbin was the victim of a crime when his bicycle was stolen. What made this case more heart wrenching for Corbin was that the bike was the last gift his father had given him before he passed away a few months earlier.

Within 24 hours, his neighborhood crime watch had created and distributed a flier about the bicycle. One of those fliers made its way into the hands of Tallahassee Police Investigator Michael Von Stein.

During that time, Corbin's mother, Dallas, heard some kids talking about a stolen bike at the bus stop. She almost didn't report the crime because she knew the chances of finding the bike were slim. She also knew how much the bike meant to her son though, and if there was the potential to get it back, she wanted to look into it.

Inv. Von Stein followed up on the lead, but the bike wasn't there.

Back at the police department, Inv. Von Stein thought he might have found a solution. A bike that was the same make and model of Corbin's missing one had been impounded as found property. After looking into it, he knew the bike was not Corbin's, but he

thought maybe he could get it released to the family. After all, it was better than no bike at all.

After many phone calls and dead ends, he was able to have the bike released and given to Corbin. The bike was not in the best of shape though.

While talking with Dallas, he found out that Corbin's sister's bike was gone, too. She hadn't made a big deal about it because, as her mother said, "She wanted to make sure Corbin got a bike because his feelings were hurt."

Inv. Von Stein reached out to Cops For Kids Tallahassee Inc. He wanted to see if the organization would donate two brand new bikes to Corbin and his sister, Ryleigh. The goal was to have the bikes to the family by Christmas, but the process was delayed

because of Von Stein's responsibilities as a burglary investigator.

Early this year, however, everything was finalized, and Von Stein was able to deliver two brand new bikes to Corbin and Ryleigh. When he arrived, several neighborhood friends came over to watch the kids' faces light up. They'd helped with the initial outreach about the missing bike. Dallas was over the moon.

"A hero stepped in," Dallas said. "He went over and beyond his duties. At any time, he could have thrown in the towel, but he rode over all the obstacles. This means the world to my kids. We are so thankful."

This also provided a good chance for Inv. Von Stein to offer a few tips on keeping the new bikes safe:

- **Write down the VIN (vehicle identification) number.** This number is not on the owner's manual, and it is very helpful if a bike is found.
- **Make a distinguishing mark** on the bike that will help you recognize it. This can be your name, a symbol or a sticker. It helps identify the bike before verifying the VIN or in case the VIN is no longer legible.
- **Invest in a bike lock** and use it when leaving the bike outside. If possible, lock the bike up in a shed or garage when not in use.

While the missing bike was never found, thanks to the dedication and perseverance of Inv. Von Stein, the story still had a happy ending.



Inv. VonStein, Ryleigh and Corbin pose with the new bikes.



L: Ryleigh takes her new bike for a spin.

R: One of Corbin's friends joins in on the fun.



Point Of Beginning, *continued from page 2*

points to determine if the iron bar was at the same location as the removed monument. At this request, the survey crew set up their equipment on each set of reference points and measured the location of the iron bar to its relationship to the location of the removed monument. It was very close, and the state added this information to their historical records.



John Lewis works on gathering the survey data.

While the crew was recording this information, I remembered one of the construction workers had removed some of the limestone from beneath the foundation of the monument. I walked over to take a look at the debris lying on the ground, wondering if any other evidence existed dealing with the iron bar.

After sifting through several pieces, I found one that contained the broken off top of the iron bar with a rusty impression of something circular. It seemed to be some kind of metal cap or end piece. Lamar was very interested in the find and planned to take both the iron bar and the rusty impression back to the state labs for further analyses.

When we removed the iron bar, we found it to be approximately three feet long but

too incrustated with rust to determine if it was a buggy axle or anything else. We then set out to inspect the area for any other evidence of existing monumentation. Nothing was found, even after excavating a hole nine feet below the existing ground. With Lamar satisfied that no other monument existed, the hole was filled in, and all went back to their offices.

To think that we stood in the exact same place and held in our hands the same dirt and clay that the people did 187 years ago was amazing. And for the City of Tallahassee to take a huge part in this operation was very gratifying. Thanks to Mike Henderson, Mike Ward and John Lewis for their part in performing the survey work needed by the state. Their professional manor in performing the survey work was noted, not just by me, but by the others that were involved. I am glad the City of Tallahassee had a hand in this endeavor and as a Land Surveyor, I felt a connection to the surveyors of the past, when Florida was just a dream.



The mysterious iron bar after it was removed.

Awards & Honors

Black Belt for One of Tallahassee's Finest

William Blanton, TPD's safety and communications officer, was awarded his black belt in UPKUDO Karate. He has been training for nearly eight years and is the instructor at Lafayette Community Center. The belt ceremony was presented by his instructor, Sensei Debbie Tully, third degree black belt, in front of his family, visitors and students at Lafayette.

New Leaders Take Helm at Airport

The Tallahassee Regional Airport is pleased to welcome **Sunil Harman** as its new director and **Marshall J. Taggart Jr.** as its new assistant director. Harman began his new position May 31, and Taggart began Feb. 1. Harman comes to TLH with over 24 years of experience in the aviation industry and most recently worked for the Miami-Dade Aviation Department. Taggart most recently served as senior concession manager for the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Welcome to both!

Tallahassee Police Department Receives Accreditation

The **Tallahassee Police Department** was established in 1841, making it one of the oldest police departments in the nation. In an effort to maintain efficiency, encourage professional development and ensure citizens are receiving the best police practices available, TPD has sought out and maintained national and state law enforcement accreditation.

While being nationally accredited since 1986, TPD pursued state accreditation in 2002 through the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA). The CFA recognition is the pinnacle of success for any Florida law enforcement organization, requiring participant agencies to undergo rigorous evaluation of its policies, procedures and protocols in a wide variety of law enforcement service areas. The accreditation evaluation process includes an on-site review by CFA assessors every three years. TPD was reviewed by a team of assessors in November 2010 for compliance with CFA standards.

Awards and Honors, *continued from page 6*

After a thorough review of the assessment team report and panel discussion by the CFA, the Tallahassee Police Department was awarded reaccreditation status.

Chief Dick Knows No Glass Ceilings

Chief Cindy Dick of the Fire Department was selected by the National Diversity Council as a "2011 Glass Ceiling Award Recipient." She was formally recognized for her leadership excellence at the 2011 South Florida Women's Conference in March.

New Electric Utility General Manager Appointed

Rob McGarrah was appointed the general manager of the Electric Utility. McGarrah has served as interim director of the Electric Utility since June 2010. Prior to his interim appointment, he served as Manager of Power Production for the Electric Utility, a position he held for nearly 20 years. Congrats, Rob!

Stormwater Projects Receive Acclaim

The City of Tallahassee's **Public Works Department's Drainage Operations Unit**, in conjunction with **Underground Utilities' Stormwater Management**, received recognition from the Big Bend Branch of the American Public Works Association (APWA) for two flood relief projects. The Shamrock-Edenderry Stormwater Improvement Project was named Environmental – Stormwater Project of the Year and the Windsong Conveyance Drainage Repair project was named as winner in the beautification category.

New Chief Information Systems Officer Appointed

Sabrina Holloman was appointed the chief information systems officer (CISO) for the City. Holloman has served as interim CISO of ISS since October 2010, following the retirement of former CISO Don DeLoach. Prior to her interim appointment, she served as Public Safety Systems Administrator for ISS, a position she held

since January 2008. She began her career with the City of Tallahassee in November 2001 as a project manager in ISS. Congrats, Sabrina!

Hilaman Golf Course Awarded Audubon Sanctuary Certification

Hilaman Golf Course was certified in the Environmental Planning component of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP). The program provides an outlet for improved environmental standards and preservation efforts at golf courses. With this certification, Hilaman will be active in showcasing the natural habitat and natural resources within the golf course. Activities include placing bird nesting boxes around the facility, using integrated pest control techniques, conserving water and making sure all wildlife are supplied with proper food and shelter to insure environmental friendliness throughout the golf course.

Electric Honored for Safe, Reliable Service

In March, the City of Tallahassee's **Electric Utility** earned the two-year Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3®) recognition from the American Public Power Association. The RP3 program recognizes public power utilities that demonstrate proficiency in four key disciplines: reliability, safety, workforce development and system improvement. Criteria within each category are based on sound business practices and represent a utility-wide commitment to safe and reliable delivery of electricity. This is the sixth year that RP3 recognition has been offered, and the third consecutive time that Tallahassee has received the award.

Wellness Program Takes Top Honors

The City's **ChooseHealth Wellness Program** received top honors at the Working Well CEO Breakfast in January. **Mayor John Marks** accepted the Shining Star Award on behalf of the City, along with **Raoul Lavin, Travis Parsons** and **Barbara Johnson**. This is the second year that the wellness program has been recognized as an outstanding program.

Electric Workers Shine at Florida Lineman Competition

The City of Tallahassee's electric line crews received second and third place overall at this year's Florida Lineman Competition.

In the Journeyman category, the team of **Terry Cobb, Garrett Padgham** and **Mike Hatcher** captured second place. The team of **Mark Vickers, Daniel Bland** and **William Judd** took third place.

The Cobb-Padgham-Hatcher team received recognition in additional categories, including first place in the "Mystery Hurtman Rescue" event, first place in the "Transformer Change Out" event, second place in the "Conductor Relocate" event and third place in the "Cross Arm Change Out" event. Tallahassee apprentice linemen **Adam Harrison** and **Mike Rainey** captured first and second place in the "Conductor Clip In" event. Rainey also placed second overall in the apprentice competition.

Safety Takes Tallahassee to the Top

The City of Tallahassee received a Safety Award from the Florida Municipal Electric Association (FMEA) for its continued commitment to safe work practices during the past year. The City of Tallahassee was awarded first place in category D, comprised of utilities with 400,000 to 999,999 man-hours worked.



Awards and Honors

Early this spring, the City honored 182 employees who attained their 20-year anniversary of service in 2009 and 2010. A huge congrats to all who reached this significant milestone!

Aviation

Patsy Capps
Theodore McPhaul

City Manager's Office

Anita Favors Thompson

Electric

Paul Bailey
Clarence Baxter
Diane Blanton
Buford Chason
Kenneth Danner
Thaddeus Duncan
Michael Dunn
Brian Fisher
Kevin Gainous
John Hatcher
Jerry Hauversburk
Ella Isfahani
Earl Berry Jackson
Theodis Jordan
Gordon King
Michael Lee
Curtis McCall
Jeff McClellan
Harold Patterson
Thomas Phillips
Hugo Sabari
Christopher Tinter
James Traweek
Judson Wilkes

Energy Services

Kimberly Meeks
Pamela McCullers
Veronica Towels

Environmental Policy and Energy Resources

Harold Avery Jr.

Fire

Brett Anderson
Bernard Barrington
Barbara Bryant
Roger Bynum
Iris Carter
Clifford Davis
Charles Dery
Harold Eastman
Ralph Ferrell Jr.
John Gatlin

Roy Kelly
Peter King
Robert McCown
Terry Payne
Dennis Roberts
Fulton Roberts
Wesley Roberts
Vicki Satterwhite
William Timmons
Richard Tryon
Richard Wade
Byron Whitaker
Howard Williams

Fleet

James Redmon
Michael Zenoz

Growth Management

Gordon Hansen
Harold Harden
William Lancaster
Robert Malchow
Cynthia Smith
Ronnie Smith

Human Resources

Jill King
Julie Townsend

Information Systems Services

William Malloy
Glenda Myers
Gary Sessions
Kenneth Spivey

Management & Administration

Barbara Boatwright
Brad Hamilton
Regina Harris

Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs

Annie Brown
Kenneth Cole
Edward Gardner
Clinton Grimes
Aurora Hansen
Robert Hilaman
Derrick Jerger
Scott Sears
Ronald Strickland
Susan Jo Tanski

Planning

Amonda Daniels-Emanuel
Susan Denny

Police

Jill Allison
Alvin Anderson
David Bell
Elizabeth Borges
Kathryn Brinson
Vincent Capece
Marsha Chase
Douglas Clark
Deborah Donaldson
James Fairfield
William Faust
Rodney Fountain
Karen Franklin
Darrell Furuseth
Raymond Garcia
Jo Gardner
Christina Garrison
Melchor Gaston
Joseph Giangrosso III
Steven Goodson
Sandra Harrison
Delonna Hartley
Dena Hartman
Wesley Hawkins
Leola Hayes
Doyal Hester
Ricky Highsmith
Christine Rene Hill
Stanton Hoover
Craig Isom
Marion Johnson
James Martinez
Martin Murrenann
Ronald Pace
Michael Porter
Kelly Ann Rentz
Rhonda Scott
Joe Sims
Gary Steinberg
Sheri Tatum
Richard Taylor
Tommy Tennison
Annie Thompson
Stephanos Tterlikkis
Samuel Winton
Roderick Young

Awards and Honors, *continued from page 8*

Early this spring, the City honored 182 employees who attained their 20-year anniversary of service in 2009 and 2010. A huge congrats to all who reached this significant milestone!

Public Works

James Akins
 Michael Bell
 Thomas Bly
 Scottie Brockman
 Tony Coring
 Phyllis Dorcz
 David Alan Franklin
 Keith Helle
 Michael Hogan
 James Hunter
 Manoocher Javanmardi
 Anthony Johnson
 Charles LaRocque
 James Maxwell
 David Morgan
 Jimmy Rose
 Thomas Watson
 Brian Williams

Solid Waste

Samuel Bouie
 Darrin French
 Dwight Watson

StarMetro

John Larry Butler
 Quintus Douglas
 Terence Jenkins
 Gencie Mains
 Joseph Revell
 Don Sweet
 Sandra Thomas

Treasurer-Clerk's Office

Kimberly Connell
 William Jenkins
 Mike Meeks
 Myra Washington
 Wyettee Wilson

Underground Utilities

Charles Blum
 Danny Brown
 John Buss
 Glen Carmichael
 Dean Chaaban
 Richard Cuyler
 Ronnie Harrington
 Gordon Klein

Kirk Lavine
 Michael Lewis
 John Barry Owen
 Clint Pleas
 Geoffrey Wenturine
 Michael Worthington

Utility Business & Customer Service

Antonio Jackson
 James Jackson
 Clydie Marie Jeter
 Cynthia McAdams

Images from Around the City of Tallahassee



Tayo Fayemi (in reflective vest) helps spread the word about Gaines Street.



Mark Krause lets motorists know about the Gaines Street traffic pattern change.

Well Dones

I sent an email and made a phone call to **M'Lisa Ingram** regarding the necessity of making a personal visit to the Utility Office to prove that I had the authority to turn on the gas in my mother's home since I am listed on property tax records as the personal rep for the estate. My email was forwarded to **Donna Ferrell** in the Utilities Office, who was familiar with property tax records and was easily able to confirm my authority and process the transaction. This saved me countless hours of frustration leaving the office, digging up documents, traveling to the Utility office, etc. As an auditor, I commend the other employees who believed they were following rules. But, again, thank you to M'Lisa in the City Commissioners Office and also to Donna in Utilities.

-- **Janice**

On behalf of the NASA Hypersonic Thermodynamic Infrared Measurements (HYTHIRM) Project, I would like to thank the **Tallahassee Regional Airport** for its time and assistance in our evaluation of it as a possible staging location for the Mobile Aerospace Reconnaissance System (MARS) for the landing of Space Shuttle Discovery. While we ultimately did not choose to stage at TLH due to the dynamic weather pattern forecasted, it in no way reflected on your hospitality and helpfulness in supporting our mission. Please provide a special thanks to **Robert Carney, Sam Frierson, Cory Peterson** and **TPD Officer Sam Holton** for their time and assistance that evening.

-- **Scott, MARS 2 Coordinator**

Since I know you mostly get complaints, I wanted to take a moment and thank **the City and all employees** who helped recover from and minimize the impact of last night's storm. With the quick communication emails letting me know the status of multiple problem intersections and outages and the efficient work of the men and women on the street to get things fixed so quickly, I am glad I live in a community where government actually works.

-- **Cyndi and Matt**

TPD Compliments

I attended a rally at the Capitol on the first day of the legislative session. I was only a week past foot surgery and was clumping around in a large boot and bandages. I rode the bus to get to the courthouse rally because it would require little walking to get to get across the street. My problem arose when trying to leave. The crowd was so large that the buses could not tell if anyone was waiting to get on, so they basically did not stop for a while. **Officer Mike Scandone** saw me try and fail to hail a bus, so he phoned StarMetro to ensure they would stop. He made doubly sure by walking out in front of the slowly on-coming bus to indicate my position. He further let me sit on the back of the electric cart until my ride came. Many thanks to your fine staff for the extra effort, especially Officer Scandone. Hats off!

-- **Sarah**

At the end of November, I attended attend the FSU vs. UF football game with a friend and co-worker. A short time after the game, we became separated. My co-worker, who is an agent with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Unit, came in contact with **Officer Bill Brannon**. He explained to Officer Brannon that he was unfamiliar with the area and needed to find a taxi cab to bring him to his hotel. Officer Brannon told him that it would probably be tough finding a taxi at that time. Officer Brannon then told him that he was about to get off and offered to drive him to his hotel. Officer Brannon unselfishly spent part of his Saturday evening driving through poor traffic conditions to make sure that he got my friends to their hotel safely. I just want to say thank you to Officer Brannon for his professionalism and courtesy. The Tallahassee Police Department is fortunate to have an officer who is willing to go out of his way, go that extra mile, and extend a helping hand.

-- **Sgt. Shawn Eastman**

Shining Stars

December Spotlight

We had a problem with our water meter for quite some time. We were fortunate to personally speak with **Tammy Longfellow** and explained the issue. She was able to have the issue resolved within a matter of hours. Please let her know how much we appreciate her kind and prompt assistance.

-- **Ronnee and Guery**

January Spotlight

I would like to thank **Gwen Sloan** who gave me information regarding solid waste pick up for the holiday schedule. She was very pleasant and helpful over the phone when I called.

-- **Robin**

February Spotlight

We had a problem with our electrical service. We called the emergency number, and the workers came promptly to the house. It turned out that squirrels had eaten a large portion of the line between the pile and our house. The workers, **Forrest Loving** and **George Wayne Young**, obtained new wires and restored our service very professionally and also took care of some other lines to our garage apartment. I want to convey our complete satisfaction with the service we received!

-- **Mary and Jim Clark**

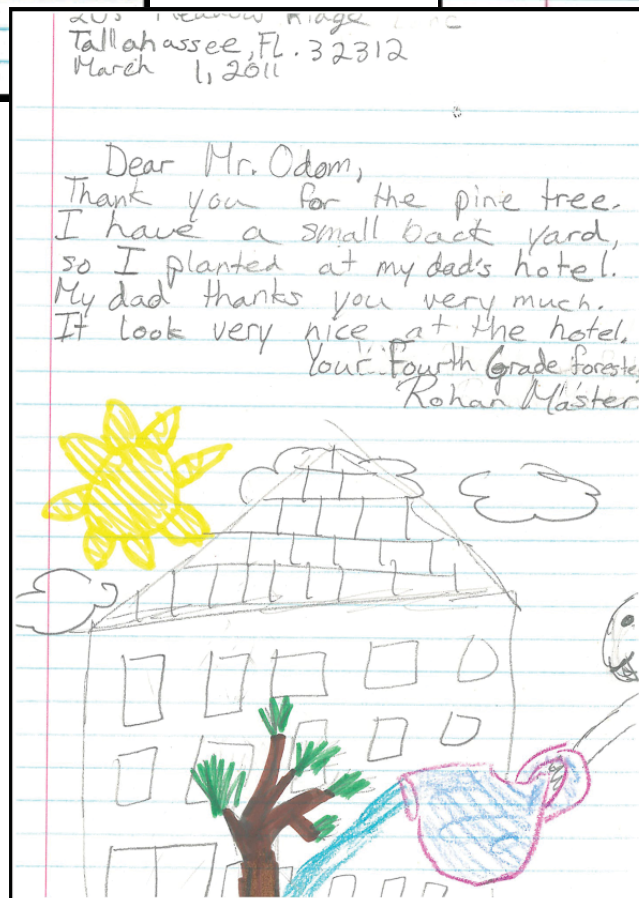
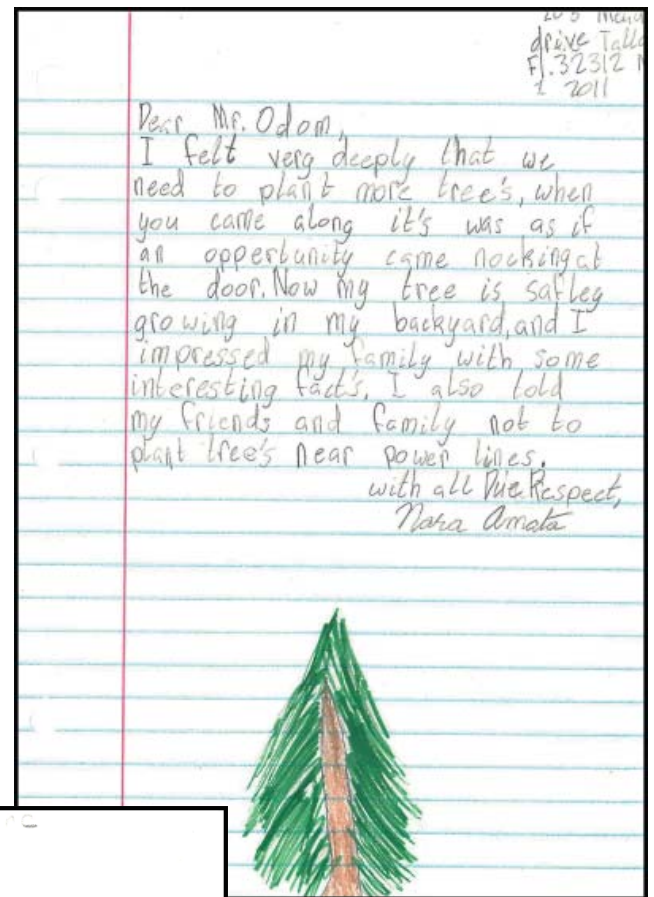
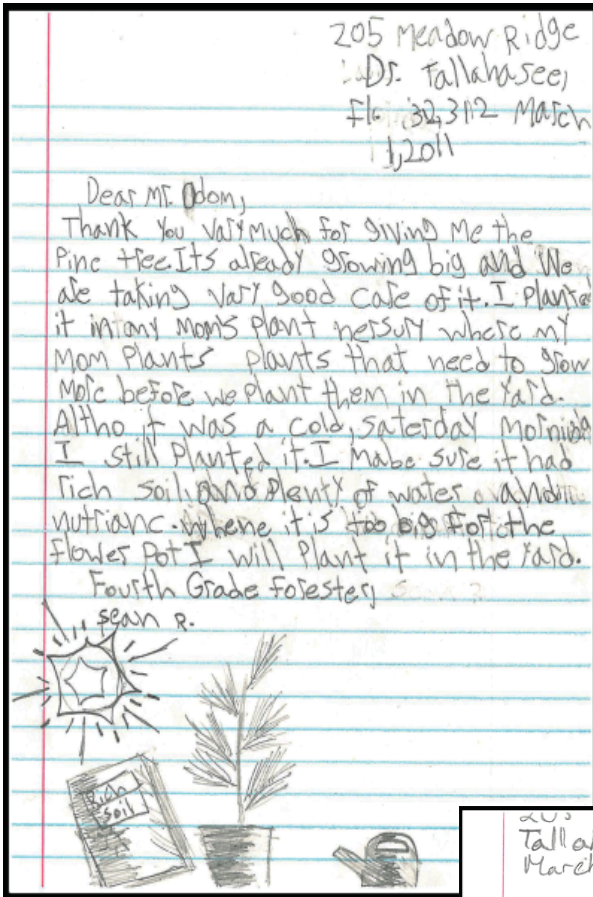
March Spotlight

I would like to extend warm and hearty accolades to **Lee Jones**. Mr. Jones served as the guest speaker for the Tallahassee Police Department's United Parents for Positive Change parent support group during its monthly March meeting. He gave a very professional presentation and presented the information in "laymen terms." The parents in attendance asked many questions, and he answered them in a professional matter.

-- **Connie**

Images from Around the City of Tallahassee

Perry Odom, Electric Utility Arborist, visits schools to teach them about trees. After participating in the 4th Grade Foresters program at one local school this year, he received a packet of thank you letters from the kids. See a couple of them below. "Some of them are so cute and poignant that they will bring tears to your eyes. It made me proud once again of what I do for a living," Odom wrote.



Images from Around the City of Tallahassee



TPD Victim Advocate Fawnisha Brown smiles after receiving recognition for her exemplary service.



Sam Holt (L) poses with winners from other utilities after the City won the Florida Municipal Electric Association (FMEA) Safety Award .



Terry Cobb, Garrett Padgham and Mike Hatcher celebrate first place in the "Mystery Hurtman Rescue".



Isabella, Catherine Bray's 6-year-old niece, had some fun while helping her aunt during Operation Clean Sweep in February in the Indian Head/Lehigh neighborhood.



Students from FSU gather before the formal unveiling of the newest mural on Gaines Street.

Images from Around the City of Tallahassee

Tallahassee Regional Airport is mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration to conduct emergency disaster exercises every three years. The exercise not only tests the Airport's readiness in the event of a disaster such as an airline crash, but also the overall response and coordination of participating agencies. Earlier this spring, on a foggy morning, volunteers from around the community joined City staff and other emergency response agencies to conduct the exercise. Thank you to all who participated.



Tom Bronakoski captures the exercise for WCOT.



Volunteers were made up with fake wounds to simulate potential injuries that crash victims could incur.



A TFD employee puts his training to good use during the mock disaster exercise at the Airport.



A reporter looks on as TFD first responders work to extinguish the blaze.

Images from Around the City of Tallahassee



Lizzy Kelley (waving) and Leann Watsen prepare to battle during the Cake Walk.



The Cake Walk battle was competitive from start to finish.



Commissioner Andrew Gillum greets Nita Kirkpatrick during the event.

Last fall, City employees did in fact **DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT** and raised \$225,325.75 for the United Way of the Big Bend! In celebration of that accomplishment, a Joint City/County Thank You Event was held in January on Kleman Plaza. The event included a BBQ lunch, bake sale, cake walk, Sumo Relay Race and more. A good time was had by all.



Employees work their way through the lunch line.



Editor's choice for the most interesting, innovative cake being given away at the Cake Walk.

Images from Around the City of Tallahassee

As part of the City Commission's ongoing commitment to make it easy for citizens to be involved in government, the City hosted three public budget input meetings this spring. Not only were the meetings well attended by the community, they were very well staffed by knowledgeable employees. Thank you to everyone who help plan, organize and staff these valuable community meetings!



Patsy Capps stands by ready to answer any citizen questions on transportation issues.



Rick Fernandez (R) and Reese Goad (C) discuss the budget related to sustainability issues.



Dee Crumpler talks to a concerned citizen.



Major Lewis Johnson addresses a citizen's concerns about public safety.

Images from Around the City of Tallahassee

After more than two decades of public service, Commissioner Debbie Lightsey retired at the end of 2010. In honor of her dedicated and influential service, a special farewell was held. Commissioner Lightsey will be missed but not forgotten. Best wishes to her on all her future endeavors!



The yummy cake served at the reception.



Debbie Lightsey makes a speech during her farewell celebration.



TaMaryn Waters from the Tallahassee Democrat interviews Debbie Lightsey about her retirement.



Colleagues and friends gathered to celebrate.

Images from Around the City of Tallahassee

In February, all City supervisors were invited to a set of meetings with the City Manager. The City Manager took this opportunity to give kudos for all the hard work that made 2010 such a successful year. Additionally, she discussed what was coming and what the City hopes to accomplish in 2011. Several hundred employees attended the meetings.



Employees sign in at the 11 a.m. meeting held at the Municipal Services Complex on Mabry Street.



Employees gathered in the Municipal Services Complex Day Room.



Employees were treated to Cracker Jacks and baseball-shaped bubble gum keeping with the baseball-themed meetings.



The presentation nears its start.

Images from Around the City of Tallahassee



Assistant City Manager Jay Townsend easily strides over the 10K course.

Every spring, crowds flock to downtown to celebrate Springtime Tallahassee! Not only did many employees join in the fun at the annual road races, several departments took center stage in the parade as well. Springtime Tallahassee shows the City and its employees are truly part of the fabric of what makes this community great!



Your Own Utilities shows its pride during the parade.



Bill Behenna pushes past other racers to complete the 10K.



TPD's Motorcycle Squad had some fun during the parade.



StarMetro rolls down the parade route.