

CityScope

The City Employee Newsletter



Featured Department: EPER

They're organizing the Sustainable YOU Conference taking place on October 24-25!

See City Bits on page 5 for more info.

In This Edition:

Fall 2011

Page 2: Letter From the Editor

Page 4: In the Kitchen

Page 5: Well Dones

Page 5: City Bits

Page 6: Awards and Honors

Page 7: Images from Around the City

Protecting Florida's Blue Wacissa River Waters

City of Tallahassee Employee Takes a Stand Against Nestlé

By Nina Reich

The beautiful waters of the Wacissa River are a sight to be admired. Each water droplet within the river's banks emanates from within Florida's underground aquifer, pumped up through 13 separate natural springs. However, the Wacissa's pure blue waters were recently in danger of possible pollution and harm by the introduction of the Nestlé Waters North America Company's interest in the river's pristine resources. Although powerful in size, Nestlé faced strong opposition from many community activists and citizens, resulting in the company's decision to not move forward with its plans to use the Wacissa for a bottled water source.

One such citizen plays a dual role as City of Tallahassee employee and Wacissa River activist. **Jeff Granger** spends weekdays working in the Building Services Department while his recent free time has been spent working to protect the Wacissa River. **Kim Gilmore** in Retirement, **Terry Walker** in Public Works and **Stephen**



Jeff Granger (pictured fifth from R) poses with members of the Friends of the Wacissa group.

Walker from Underground Utilities were also active in these efforts.

Granger and other activists recently took a canoe and kayak paddle trip down the river's blue water in hopes of educating other community members about the importance of protecting the river's natural surroundings and beauty. Those who participated in the trip carried informational signs in resistance of Nestlé, with slogans such as "Say NO to Nestlé Water." Making a visible stand for the

protection of the Wacissa enabled Granger and others to show the importance of keeping the river untouched.

If you take a trip down the Wacissa's clear waters it is no surprise how Nestlé found the clarity and quality needed for potable drinking water in their drilling of four test wells within the rivers multiple springs and then targeted the river for a bottled water source.

As one of Florida's 33 first-magnitude springs, defined as springs that discharge water at a rate of at least 2800 liters or 100 cubic feet of water per second, it is important to Granger and all other activists to uphold the river's untouched and natural qualities.

"The Wacissa is a natural treasure that needs our help," Granger said. "Drinking water can be found other places; the natural beauty of the Wacissa is irreplaceable."

continued on page 2

Protecting Florida's Blue Wacissa River Waters, *continued from page 1*

In an attempt to maintain the Wacissa's natural beauty and serenity, Granger took steps to get the word out about the problems facing one of North Florida's untouched rivers. As an active member of the activist group Friends of the Wacissa, he maintained his continuous support of the Wacissa and the need to keep the Nestlé Company distant from the river's natural water supply. Gaining a nationally supported ally in their endeavor of protecting the Wacissa, Granger and the Friends of the Wacissa teamed up with the non-profit group Corporate Accountability International (CAI), which has assisted multiple small communities across North America that have tried to stand up to Nestlé's powerhouse company. Along with help from CAI, thousands of concerned citizens and activists signed a petition against the planned use of the Wacissa for bottled water.

Along with help from allies, Granger participated in multiple events and meetings against the Nestlé bottling idea, including attendance at numerous meetings of the Jefferson County Commission.

"Whether it's a written letter, attendance at County Commission meeting or a personal trip down the Wacissa, we all worked to show our support for this majestic river," Granger said. "The river needed our help, and we listened."

Recently, the Jefferson Board of County Commissioners helped in stopping the Nestlé Company's plans by approving a resolution asking the Suwannee River Water Management District to deny any requests to pump water in the county and transport it elsewhere.

Thanks to the unyielding efforts of Granger and colleagues, on July 27, Nestlé Waters announced that they would not pursue commercial water extraction from the Wacissa River springs group.

"The community really came together to protect our river," Granger said. "We can now be free to enjoy the natural and pristine beauty of the Wacissa without worry of pollution or destruction."

Due to the community support and outcry on the issue of the Wacissa and Nestlé, a critical aquifer protection ordinance has been proposed.

Protective steps, such as the aquifer protection ordinance, would not be possible without support from caring and loyal activists such as Jeff Granger. Due to his unwavering stance to shield the Wacissa from harm, Granger serves as an example of commitment to a cause. The result of his commitment is the well deserved protection for a river with more beauty than many others.

Enjoying the Wacissa River

Take a weekend canoe or kayak trip down the river to experience the beauty of the water and wildlife firsthand.

- Rent kayaks/canoes through some of the local rental shops
- Find information on paddling the Wacissa at: <http://visitflorida.com/trails/profile/tid.12257>
- Take a swim in the river's crystal blue waters: <http://swimmingholes.org/fl.html#WACISSARIVER>
- Remember to always be environmentally aware when enjoying the river by disposing all trash when your trip is completed.



Involvement

Join the "Wacissa River" Facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/WACISSARiver/474943495190> and visit the group's website at <http://www.savethewacissa.com>.

Letter from the Editor

It's time again for the annual United Way campaign for City employees. You will surely receive countless emails, participate in numerous events and hear various testimonials. At the heart of it all will be one message – pledge your support to help those less fortunate. While money may be tight, there is one thing each of us is always able to contribute – our time and our skills.

"Everybody can be great because everybody can serve," Martin Luther King Jr. said. Volunteering provides that opportunity for greatness. It is proven to strengthen communities and improve lives, and not just the lives of those you help.

According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, "Over the past two decades, we have also seen a growing body of research that indicates volunteering provides individual health benefits in addition to social benefits. This research established [that] those who volunteer have lower mortality rates, greater functional ability and lower rates of depression later in life than those who do not volunteer."

That sounds to me like volunteering is a win-win.

If you're interested in volunteering but do not know how to get started, check out www.VolunteerLeon.org. They can assist with matching you to an organization in need of help.

Worried about having the time to volunteer? To make it as viable as possible for each employee to be able to volunteer, HR Policy 708.08 Section F states,

"A regular full-time employee of the City may be granted up to three hours of administrative leave (otherwise referred to as volunteer service leave) per calendar month to provide volunteer services to organizations as defined in paragraph 708.08.F.1.c.. To be eligible for administrative leave, the employee will be required, on a monthly basis, to first provide one hour of volunteer

Letter From the Editor - Volunteering

continued from page 2

service using the employee's own leave (personal leave or compensatory time). Following this, the employee is eligible for up to 3 hours of administrative leave to provide volunteer service. This leave does not have to be taken in a block. For example, an employee may take one hour of personal leave and one hour of administrative leave on one day, and then take two hours of administrative leave on a different day. Or, the employee may use leave one hour at a time (one hour of personal leave followed by three one-hour periods of administrative leave, on four different occasions)."

In fewer words, each month, you are allowed to use one hour of your personal leave time to volunteer, and you will be given three additional hours of time to use toward volunteering. Think of what a difference four hours of your time each month would make to a student who needs help learning to read or to a soup kitchen that needs help serving lunch.

If you look back on your life, there are bound to be some standout folks beyond your family who made a difference in shaping who you became. It's safe to bet that many of those folks were volunteers. Included on this page are a few options to get you started on your path to volunteering. Each of these City departments or facilities uses volunteers to supplement their staff and further their missions. Contact information is included.

Tallahassee Senior Center (TSC)

The Tallahassee Senior Services Volunteer Program enlists the assistance of more than 300 volunteers who provide programs and serve as support staff. Older adults (age 55+) are specifically encouraged to lend their interests and skills to Center activities. Volunteers' time and talents are matched with opportunities to serve in ways such as greeting newcomers, directing callers, coordinating programs, teaching classes, fundraising, providing health screenings, maintaining the leisure library, serving lunch, helping with data entry and other administrative duties, and serving on advisory boards.



New volunteers receive orientation and training for Tallahassee Senior Services. All volunteers must operate within the TSC volunteer policies and procedures, the volunteer/participant standards of conduct and must sign a participant confidentiality agreement.

Contact

Gena Varn, 891-4005

Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center (ASC)

Volunteers are very important people at TLC Animal Service Center. In a year's time, it receives over 10,000 lost, unwanted and abused pets, all of whom need human assistance and compassion.

To become a regular ASC volunteer you must be:

- At least 16 years old
- Willing to commit to approximately 2 hours per week, 8 hours per month.

If you would like to volunteer, please provide a completed volunteer application. You may request one by calling 891-2970 or [download the Volunteer Application](#) on Talgov.com. Fill out the information and bring it with you to the shelter, fax it to 891-2977 or mail it to:

Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center
Attention: Volunteer Coordinator
1125 Easterwood Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32311

If your availability and interests coincide with available volunteer positions, ASC staff will schedule you for a volunteer orientation session and a dog-handling class. Each session lasts approximately two hours and is offered several times during the month. Following the orientation and completion of the dog handling class, volunteers will interview one-on-one with the Volunteer Coordinator to determine the most suitable assignment and work schedule.



Palmer Munroe Teen Center

The Palmer Munroe Teen Center needs people to tutor youth after school from 2-9 p.m. Tutors should have experience with tutoring middle and high school students on subjects such as reading, history, math, science and language arts. Your support will be greatly appreciated by the teens and families of Tallahassee.

Contact

Tomica Smith, Executive Director
Phone: 891-2568, **Cell:** 661-1700
Email: tomica.smith@talgov.com



In the Kitchen with Tallahassee's Bravest

In this special edition of *In the Kitchen with Tallahassee's Bravest*, TFD shares three different ways to prepare a staple protein – **chicken!** These recipes highlight the versatility of this meat and are wonderful dishes to share.

Chicken Macaroni Bake

From TFD Engineer Jennifer King

"There is really nothing diet about this. It's just good, old comfort food," **Engineer Jennifer King** said. For the fall season, there couldn't be anything people are craving more.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup mayo (low-fat or fat-free is fine)
- 1 can Cream of Chicken soup
- 1 3oz can mushroom pieces
- 1 1/2 cups cooked, cut up chicken
- 2 cups grated parmesan
- 1/4 cup chopped green peppers
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 1/4 cup diced pimientos
- 6 oz elbow noodles, cooked & drained
- 1 cup shredded cheese (any variety)
- 1/2 cup cracker crumbs

Directions:

- Heat oven to 375 degrees
- Combine soup, mayo, mushrooms and chicken in large bowl
- Stir in cheese, peppers, onions and pimientos
- Fold in cooked elbow noodles
- Spread in greased 13x9 inch pan, sprinkle w/ shredded cheese then cracker crumbs
- Bake for 30 minutes



Chicken Spinach Bake

From Lt. Travis Oaks

Ingredients:

- 8 ounces bow tie pasta
- 1 cup finely chopped onion
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 (10 ounce) package frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
- 3 cups cubed cooked chicken breasts (4 breasts)
- 1 (14 ounce) can Italian-style diced tomatoes
- 8 ounces tub-style chive and onion cream cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 cup (4 ounces) shredded mozzarella cheese

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees
- Cook pasta using the package directions, drain and set aside
- Sauté the onion in the olive oil until translucent
- Drain the spinach (press between paper towels to absorb any excess moisture)
- Combine the chicken, pasta, spinach, tomatoes, sautéed onion, cream cheese, red pepper, salt and pepper in a bowl and mix
- Place in 13x9 inch baking dish
- Sprinkle evenly with mozzarella cheese
- Bake covered for 30 minutes, uncover and continue for 15 more minutes until bubbly

Serve with salad and bread to round out the meal.



Graham's Chicken Pot Pie

From Lt. Graham Reid

Ingredients:

- 1 pack frozen pie shells
- 1 can Cream of Mushroom soup
- 1 can Cream of Celery soup
- 1 can Cream of Chicken soup
- 1 10 bag of mixed vegetables
- 1 8oz sour cream
- 1-2 (3 lb) chicken

Directions:

- Boil and de-bone chicken*
- Add 1 1/2 cups of chicken broth from cooked chicken*
- Combine mixed vegetables with the 3 cans of condensed soup, sour cream and chicken
- Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees
- Brown bottom pie shell (Leave pie shell frozen until time to cook)
- Pour filling into pan and cover with frozen pie shell
- Cook until golden brown (approx. 45 minutes)

* **Editor's Note:** To save time, substitute pieces from a pre-cooked rotisserie chicken, skip the boiling and use premade broth.



Well Dones

I just wanted to drop you an email letting you know what a great group of people you have working for you in TLH (Tallahassee Regional Airport). I travel in and out of there on a regular basis. I must say that every time that I have gone to **Jim Durwin** or **Felicia Bunion** for help I have gotten nothing but great cooperation and support. In my job, I travel into a lot of airports, and if they all had people as helpful as Jim and Felicia, my job would be a piece of cake.

-- John

I've been a City customer and Tallahassee citizen for three years now and always come in contact with multiple city staff. One employee I must say, **Tamieka McFadden** in Utilities, has definitely stood out in a great way. I've come in contact with her three times, and her customer service, bubbly personality and selling technique was amazing!

-- Anonymous

Congratulations to City of Tallahassee Underground Utilities employees **Steve Baczewski, Joe Cheatham, Scott Deer, Paul Golden, Warren Shepard Jr.** and **Rodney Hubbard** for their first place success at the Florida Water Environment Association's annual operations competition! All team members are a great example of how commitment and hard work pay off!

A big thank you to Underground Utilities employees **Henry Pride, Jeff Connell, Micah Pace, Dewayne Williams, Robert Stevenson** and **Mike Hanrahan**. The crew recently worked on a citizen utility issue in a timely and professional manner. Informative, pleasant and considerate of the customer, all members of the team deserve a pat on the back for their great customer service!

Excellent customer service was also offered by Underground Utilities employees **Nico**

continued on page 6

City Bits

This year, annual benefits enrollment will open on Friday, October 21, at 5 p.m. and will close at 5 p.m. on Friday, November 18.

At its September 21 meeting, the City Commission approved the Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12) budget. Included in the budget was a two percent salary increase for all non-union, City employees, which will be implemented in two increments. The first one percent increase went into effect for the September 24 pay period (first pay period of FY12). The second one percent increase will be effective March 1, 2012. Also included in the budget was an increase in employee health care costs. The new rates will be available during annual enrollment (see enrollment dates above).

On **October 24-25**, EPER and the City of Tallahassee vware proud to host the 2011 Sustainable YOU conference. The event will take place at Florida State University's Turnbull Center, located at 555 W. Pensacola St. The two-day event will offer attendees nearly 30 workshop sessions. An opening night reception, luncheons, green vendors and tours of local sustainable initiatives round out the offerings and provide opportunities for networking. Conference fees are \$200 for the general public and \$175 for participants affiliated with a non-profit/government group. Special student rates are also available. The City and County are offering a limited number of scholarships for local residents desiring to attend the conference. To register for the conference and to find out more information about scholarship eligibility please visit Talgov.com, www.leoncountyfl.gov or www.collinscenter.org.



25 Years of Holiday Memories
SATURDAY DECEMBER 3, 2011 DOWNTOWN TALLAHASSEE

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Winter Festival - A Celebration of Lights, Music, and the Arts. The event will take place on Saturday, **December 3**, in downtown Tallahassee and be centered around the "Mistletoe and Magnolias - 25 Years of Holiday Memories" theme. Below are some important dates to remember if you'd like to participate in this year's festival. Look for updates and additional information on Talgov.com.

- Entry forms for the Jingle Bell Run will be available in late October.
- Applications to participate in the Nighttime Holiday Parade are due (along with payment in full and all required documentation) no later than Monday, October 24.
- The application deadline for the Youth Ornament Tree Decorating Contest is Friday, November 4.
- Volunteers 16 and over are needed during the Winter Festival. For more information or to request an application, contact Shannon Nazzal at shannon.nazzal@talgov.com or 891-3874.

Below are the remaining holidays for 2011. City administrative offices will be closed on the dates listed.

- Friday, **November 11** (Veteran's Day)
- Thursday, **November 24** (Thanksgiving Day)
- Friday, **November 25** (day after Thanksgiving)
- Monday, **December 26** (recognizing Christmas)



A decision regarding an additional day at Christmas will be made at a later date.

Awards and Honors

Beth Breier was recognized by the Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA) for her hard work and accomplishments as she completed her term as National President. ALGA was formed in 1989 and has over 300 member organizations and over 2,000 individual members. "I am very proud of Beth's accomplishments during this past year as ALGA President as well as for her contributions to the City of Tallahassee as Audit Manager in the Office of the City Auditor. We have a small but very talented and professional staff," said Sam McCall, City Auditor. "Being the ALGA President is the highest level of recognition that one can achieve as a local government auditor."

The **Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center (ASC)** was picked as part of a local four-agency team by the ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) to be part of its Partner Program. The local partnership features ASC, Leon County Animal Control Division, Leon County Humane Society and Be The Solution Inc. Only 10 communities nationwide are currently part of the Partner Program, working with the ASPCA to provide positive outcomes for at-risk and homeless pets.

The **Arvah B. Hopkins Power Plant** has been named one of the top six gas-fired, electric-generating facilities in the world. The prestigious Top Plant designation is given for best operating records, environmental performance, unique technology and importance to the community. The City will receive the official award and industry-wide recognition at a banquet on May 14, 2012, in conjunction with the Electric Power Conference & Exhibition in Baltimore, MD. An in-depth article about the plant was also featured in the September issue of POWER magazine, a widely distributed and esteemed publication of the power generation industry and sponsor of the competition.

Exemplary performance by the **Tallahassee Regional Airport's operations and maintenance units** allowed it to receive the highest possible

acclaim during recent federal inspections. The Airport received no citations from either the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) or Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) during inspections in August. As a result of these inspections, the TSA and FAA both confirmed that the Airport continues to meet standards necessary to maintain its federal Airport Operating Certificate. The FAA inspector described Tallahassee Regional Airport's operational readiness as "outstanding." He noted that the Airport is well-maintained and managed and the staff was extremely professional. Due to the outstanding manner in which all certification requirements are being met, the Airport is being nominated for the Medallion Award, an annual safety award given by the FAA Southern Region Airports Office.

The **City of Tallahassee** was recently named "America's Most Livable City." Awarded by the U.S. Conference of Mayors for exemplary leadership and innovation, the prized national designation recognizes Tallahassee for ensuring the highest quality of life for residents. The City's successful **Neighborhood REACH program**, along with active community involvement, helped garner the top honor over cities such as Houston, Philadelphia and Sacramento. The innovative Neighborhood REACH program, part of the City's Energy Smart Plus (e+) initiative, provides free in-home education and improvements to help residents save energy, water and money.

Wayne Tedder has been appointed as the Director of a new department within the organization called the **Department of Planning, Land Management and Community Enhancement (PLACE)**. Wayne previously served as the interim Director over both Blueprint 2000 and the former Tallahassee-Leon County Department of Planning. The Planning and Blueprint Director positions will now be called the Planning Manager and Blueprint Manager respectively. **Roxanne Manning** has been appointed to serve as the interim Planning Manager. **Rick McCraw** will now serve as the Program Manager for the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA).

Well Dones, *continued from page 5*

Lauw and **Robert Sharaman Jr.**, who helped a citizen retrieve dropped car keys from a drain. With their quick response time and respectable customer service skills, disaster was averted. Thanks again for saving the day!

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude and request that you commend TFD **Lt. Travis Oaks** for going above and beyond the call of duty. I got a flat tire this morning on the way to work. Lt. Oaks turned around, helped me get my vehicle out of the road, took my damaged spare tire to the shop, had it repaired, loaned me his jack and helped put the tire back on, in record time! Incredible! Not only did he help me get work on time, which was really important because I had recently received a written reprimand for tardiness on my job, but he also advised me about safety issues riding on tires with low treads and wire showing and told me to just "pass it on." It's unbelievable to receive such kindness in this day and age.

-- Gloria

I wanted to take a moment to say that I really enjoy the Energy Audit program offered by the City. During the last 10 years, I've taken advantage of the program at 3 different residences. During the last audit I had done, the employee was especially helpful, and so I thought I'd let you know what a great job **Rodney Hatcher** did. He is professional and personable and takes his job very seriously. Thanks so much.

TPD Inv. Scherri Bryant recently competed in the Police & Fire World Games held in New York. She brought home three Silver Medals in the women's 100m, 200m and 400m dash. She placed second to the National Police of India. "It was a wonderful experience to compete against female first responders from all over the world," Bryant said. "I was honored represent the USA, Tallahassee Police Department and the City of Tallahassee."

Images From Around the City



City Commissioner **Gil Ziffer** (L) and Assistant City Manager **Tom Coe** chat at the Gaines Street Block Party.



(L-R) **Misi Tuttle** snags an interview with City Manager **Anita Favors Thompson** and **Raoul Lavin** at the Gaines Street Block Party for an episode of **WCOT's "On Location"**.



JJ Meadows shows her support by getting a (temporary) Gaines Street tattoo at the Gaines Street Block Party.



The kids were excited to see **Sparky**, who made a guest appearance at the Gaines Street Block Party.



(L-R) **John Baker**, **Adam Jacobs** and **Veronique George** promote sustainability at the EPER booth at the Gaines Street Block Party.



Tom Bronakoski and **Gil Daspit** film a few words from Public Works Director **Gabriel Menendez** about the Gaines Street project.

Images From Around the City

The Splash & Jam events were designed and hosted by Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Affairs (PRNA) and Tallahassee Police Department (TPD) to offer area youth safe alternatives for late night summer fun. The 'splash' component featured pool parties while youth also enjoyed 'jamming' at house parties with music, late-night basketball, movies, games and more.



City Manager **Anita Favors Thompson** and City Commissioner **Andrew Gillum** celebrate at the first Splash & Jam event.



Before the first Splash & Jam, TPD Chief **Dennis Jones** says a few words.



Please welcome **Kelly Ledbetter** (center) who became part of the PRNA team this summer.



This summer, **Donald Mathis** retired from PRNA after 30 years of dedicated service.

Images From Around the City



Fred Varn (R) and his mother-in-law **Nancy Graham** had fun at Tallahassee Community College's Patriot Concert at the Tallahassee Senior Center.



Ashley Webb greets attendees during the 2011 Active Living Expo at the Tallahassee Senior Center.



Ed Duffee (L) and **Andrea Personett** smile for the camera at the Allegro Heritage Oaks benefit for the Tallahassee Senior Center.



(L-R) **Aurora Hansen**, **Ruth Nickens** and **Gena Varn** enjoyed an evening of music at the Tallahassee Community College's Patriot Concert.

Images From Around the City



Members of the City's Leadership Team contributed to Hilaman Golf Course's Audubon International Certification program by enhancing the landscape by the clubhouse with native plants and planting a butterfly garden in the pavilion area. Here, the group poses for a photo during the event.



Assistant City Manager **Jay Townsend** shows off his gardening skills during the Leadership Team Planting Project.



Major Lewis Johnson and **Lieutenant Rhonda Scott** of TPD participated in a graffiti paint out project.

Images From Around the City



Lee Stillwell talks to one of our younger citizens while working the prize wheel for Your Own Utilities at a youth-oriented event held at the Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church.



Frank Dietrich played the guitar (only one of his many creative talents) at EPER's Idle Free and Alternative Transportation Day.



Leann Watts Williams (R) poses with **Ursula Ible** of the FAMU Green Coalition (and the Environmental Policy and Energy Resources Department) at a youth-oriented event held at the Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church.



be a **STAR**

Send images of City employees at events or showing off their skills to lizzy.kelley@talgov.com