



*From the Desk of Andrew D. Gillum*  
City Commission, Seat 2



## Political Courage

*“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.”*

*~Winston Churchill~*

During a recent [blog talk radio program](#), host Rosalind Tompkins—author, spiritual life coach, pastor—emphasized the significance of politics being a locally inclusive movement. She was definitely on target. Local Politics is where the rubber meets the road! Here at the City we are highly concerned about the impact of the recent cold snap on your ability to keep warm. We wanted to reduce the strain of the lengthy period of frigid temperatures on your utility costs. Thus, we created a response that was sensitive to real life experience. See next column to learn about the [Winter Relief Assistance Program](#). It took political courage to realize that policy related to this urgent and unforeseen issue could not be made in a “one-size-fits-all” manner.

Our community is hungry for leaders who are representative of the constituency that they serve. For real transformational change to occur, it must be a collaborative and collective strength in which everyone takes part—elected officials, pastors, teachers, civic workers—your every day “John and Jane Doe”.

Change of this nature takes political courage, that is, standing principally by what you believe and fighting for it. Transactional leaders lean more to seeking an immediate benefit for their personal advancement. Yet, the transformational leader takes a systemic long view to tackle challenges such as: economy, public education, higher education, criminal justice, healthcare, and unemployment. This type leader summons the courage and creative energy of people to unify, to act, and to solve problems.

## City Utilities Offers Customers New Winter Bill Payment Option

### City of Tallahassee News Release

*Excerpt from January 13, 2010*

According to the National Weather Service, this was the coldest start of any year in Tallahassee's history, with 13 consecutive days below freezing. The average daily low temperature was 24 degrees colder than last year during the same period. Given the duration of the extremely cold weather and in consideration of the overall economic climate, the City of Tallahassee has implemented a one-time utility payment option for City utility customers. The [Winter Relief Assistance Program](#) (WRAP) is designed to ease the financial burden resulting from higher than normal energy use during the extreme weather.

The program allows all residential City and non-demand small business utility customers to carry over up to 25 percent of their utility bill, dated between January 9 and February 11, to the following month's bill, when usage will likely be less.

The carry-over will be identified as a separate line item on the next month's bill. The City will work with customers on an individual basis. This payment option can only be made one time per account. Non-demand small business customers can refer to their utility bill to determine their rate class, indicated as "GS" (refers to "General Service" commercial customers).

To request the carryover option, customers must contact *Your Own Utilities* at 891-4YOU (4968). For more information on the WRAP or other energy programs, contact *Your Own Utilities* at 891-4YOU (4968) or visit online at <http://www.tal.gov/you/>

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*“Serving is Leading”*

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## 🌀 GTECH After School Advantage 🌀



*Senator Tony Hill, GTECH reps, and I joined Lincoln Center Foundation computer lab students and Executive Director, Gwen Lucas for a ribbon cutting ceremony.*

GTECH Corporation unveiled a new *After School Advantage* computer lab in January during an official ribbon cutting ceremony at the Lincoln Neighborhood Center. The lab was part of a nationwide program that GTECH uses to bridge the “digital divide” in communities where the company does business.



*Dionne Smith and I celebrate the new computer lab that provides youth with essential computer literacy skills and help with homework.*

On average, GTECH donates \$15,000 in state-of-the-art computers, software, online technology, furniture, and volunteer hours. GTECH Account Development Manager Kathy Jump emphasized, “I am happy that GTECH can contribute a lasting component to the educational and community-building programs already offered by the Lincoln Neighborhood Center.”

*Gwen Lucas watches as Jaylen Johnson, an aspiring Mathematics Ph.D., thanks GTECH for their donation to the After School program.*



## 🌀 Honeywell Teams With Digital Harmony 🌀



*Kevin Madden, VP of Global Sales for Honeywell Building Solutions presents check for Digital Harmony to Allan Stamm, President of Go Beyond Foundation*

During the winter holidays, Honeywell Building Solutions donated \$25,000 to further our initiative to provide incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders at R. Frank Nims Middle School with an at-home computer, free Internet access and educational learning software. Since its inception, two and a half years ago, [Digital Harmony](#) has supplied 375 computers to students at Nims.

The closure of Bellevue Middle School this past fall term resulted in several of those students integrating to Nims. This unforeseen turn of events resulted in a quantum leap between the projected need versus the actual supply of computers. It was a daunting scenario for the Digital Harmony team yet, Allan Stamm and [Go Beyond Foundation](#) accepted the challenge to recruit additional partners and community support. Their active campaign garnered the support of Honeywell. “Honeywell is pleased to contribute to the Digital Harmony program,” said Madden. “Education is a key focus area for our involvement in the community through Honeywell Hometown Solutions” (the company’s corporate citizenship initiative).

[Go Beyond Foundation](#) is committed to promoting leadership and programs that improve access to advanced technology and technical education experiences by providing enhanced educational opportunities. “We are thankful for Honeywell’s generosity,” said Stamm. “Their involvement plays an integral role in the program’s advancement and will directly benefit Nims’ students’ education.”

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## Partners for Excellence

Providing technological resources to underserved youth in our community has long been a goal of mine, as well as the entire Tallahassee City Commission. With the support of corporate partners like GTECH, Honeywell, and Go Beyond Foundation, more of Tallahassee’s youth will have the ability to enhance their educational experience in a nurturing environment. These are proven leaders exemplifying the political courage to enact transformational change beyond their corporate walls.

Regardless of your age, the side of town you originated from, your profession, or your formal education—you can make a difference in a youth’s life. Leon County Schools “Partners for Excellence Program” links businesses, agencies, and organizations together with local schools to share ideas, manpower, and financial resources. Through our [Digital Harmony](#) initiative, my City Commission office became a *Partner for Excellence* with R. Frank Nims Middle School. Our commitment to instilling excellence in the students also includes being guest presenters at the school, volunteering with special activities, and mentoring.



*My Aide, Angie Whitaker volunteers approximately one hour a week with her mentee, AuDasia Wilson, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Nims Middle School student.*

Partner in excellence with me and become a mentor at Nims or any other school. Learn more at [www.leon.k12.fl.us](http://www.leon.k12.fl.us). It’s easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Contact Leon County Schools volunteer office @ 487-7800 to register for a training session.
  2. Complete and submit a volunteer application.
  3. Attend one of the training sessions noted below.
- Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> (10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)
  - Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> (10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)
  - Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> (2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.)
  - Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> (10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)

## City Utilities Offers Customers New Winter Bill Payment Option (Continued from page 1)

The City continues to encourage utility customers to use energy wisely and take advantage of Energy Smart Plus (e+) programs to help save energy, water and money. *Your Own Utilities* offers a wide range of e+ programs, including free energy audits, energy retrofit grants, natural gas and Energy Star appliance rebates, ceiling insulation grants, solar net metering and low-interest energy efficiency loans.

As a reminder, qualifying low-income and disabled customers in need can receive utility bill payment assistance through the City's Project Share initiative and Good Neighbor Program, which also provides weatherization and efficiency measures, such as heating and air conditioning system retrofits, free ceiling insulation and water leak repair. Both programs are administered through the Capital Area Community Action Agency (CACAA) through a screening process. Citizens may contact CACAA by phone at 222-2043.

### Palmer Munroe Youth Center *Moving Forward*

The March E-News will provide an update on the favorable approvals by the County and City Commissions at their January meetings.

## February Calendar Events “Subject to Change”

Date	Time	Events
2/3	8:30 am – 1:30 pm	CC Retreat
2/10	9 am – 10:30 am	FVIG @ CH
2/10	10:30 am – 4 pm	Office Appointments
2/10	4 pm	CC Meeting @ CHC
2/16	6:30 pm	Sunset Rotary Club
2/17	8:30 am – 10:00 am	FAMU Journalism Class
2/17	10:30 am – 3:30 pm	Office Appointments
2/17	4 pm	CC Meeting @ CHC
2/24	9 am – 4 pm	Office Appointments
2/24	4 pm	CC Meeting @ CHC

#### Code:

CC – City Commission  
 CH– City Hall  
 CHC – City Hall Chambers  
 FVIG – Financial Viability in Government Target Issue Committee

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