



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



☞ "Go Green" ☞

"Go Green" is more than a buzzword or catch phrase. It's a momentum to raise awareness of City of Tallahassee sustainable initiatives. Our goal is to provide simple yet, viable options to live green through various sustainability programs.

Our [Environmental Policy and Energy Resources](#) (EPER) department recently launched the Idle Free Tallahassee-Leon initiative to increase awareness of how unnecessary idling of vehicles contributes to greenhouse gases and results in excessive emissions, negative health impacts, wasted fuel and reduced engine performance. You can help reduce our city's carbon footprint by joining the Partnership for Idle Free Tallahassee-Leon program. Take the pledge at <http://www.talgov.com/eper/idlefreepledge.cfm>.

EPER offers a checklist of "10 Ways to Go Green"—practical sustainability measures that you can easily incorporate into your lifestyle.

10 Ways to Go Green

- ❑ Take your own recyclable bag when shopping.
- ❑ Install compact fluorescent lights.
- ❑ Set your thermostat to 68 degrees or lower in the winter and 78 degrees or higher in the summer.
- ❑ Wash clothes in cold water.
- ❑ Use eco-friendly cleaning products.
- ❑ Compost food and yard waste.
- ❑ Turn off and unplug televisions, computers, chargers and other appliances when you are not using them.
- ❑ Recycle glass, paper, plastic, rechargeable batteries and metals.
- ❑ Bike, bus or carpool to work (or anywhere else).
- ❑ Teach your family and friends how to live green.

[\(Continued next column.\)](#)

☞ Earth Day Observance ☞

Leon County Commissioner Akin Akinyemi and I served as honorary co-chairs for The Magnolia School of Tallahassee's 2nd Annual Florida Earth Day Jam—an Earth Day observance in recognition of the sensitive natural beauty of Florida and the southeast region. [EPER](#) staff used this venue as an environmental exposition with interactive exhibits, and to educate the public on energy saving tips and "Go Green" initiatives.



City employees Russell Wider and Tonya Barrett prepare exhibit booth at the April 24, 2010 Florida Earth Day Jam



Staff at Earth Day at the Capitol on April 22, 2010

Earth Day at the Capitol also offered EPER staff an opportunity to encourage "Go Green". The colorful interactive environmental wheel was a captivating teaching tool with youth and adults. When the wheel is spun, it lands on Natural Resources, Recycling, Electricity, Water or Solid Waste, presenting a question related to the category. A correct answer wins a sustainability related item (e.g., recycled pencil, activity book, recycled frisbees). For more "Go Green" information contact EPER at 891-2476 or visit <http://www.talgov.com/eper/green.cfm>.

"Serving is Leading"

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↻ Cascade Park Groundbreaking ↻

By Carlana Hoffman, Public Information Officer, Blueprint 2000



City and county public officials breaking ground at Cascade Park

Several hundred people gathered on April 21st for the Cascade Park groundbreaking ceremony. This 24-acre Tallahassee downtown greenspace is the signature project of Blueprint 2000, the city-county infrastructure organization created with the passage of a one-cent sales tax in 2000.

The park is being built in a historic location. In 1823, Tallahassee was chosen as the site of the capital of Florida in part because the two legislative council-appointed commissioners were impressed by a waterfall or cascade just south of the hill on which the Capitol was eventually built. In the 1850s, the cascade was destroyed by the building of the railroad and in a fine coincidence during the ceremony, historian Fred Gaske's remarks about the original cascade were interrupted by the passage of a freight train. By the 20th century, the area became the site of numerous city utility operations and the community's chief athletics and civic arena, Centennial Field.



Gillum and County Commissioner Cliff Thaell look at park schematic

Primarily funded by private donations, the park will include historical features such as a history timeline fence and a tribute to Smokey Hollow, the black community that occupied the north half of the park.

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Construction of the \$30 million park, which is expected to take two years, will have numerous amenities including fountains, bike paths, shelters, an amphitheater and historic monuments. Located off South Monroe Street, just south of Gaines Street, the park will be a central link in a bicycle-pedestrian greenway that eventually will stretch from Leon High School to Lake Henrietta in southwest Tallahassee.

"This is going to be a major stormwater facility cleverly disguised as a world-class park," said Jim Davis, executive director of Blueprint 2000. "So three years from now when someone says 'How could you build a park where it floods,' please tell them it's supposed to."

↻ 25 Years on The Moon ↻

The Silver Celebration



Scott, sons Scott, Jr. and Jack (not pictured), and Julie Carswell celebrated 25 years on "The Moon"

Economic conditions require us to continuously focus attention on addressing jobs and unemployment; yet, we pause to recognize Scott and Julie Carswell for providing 25 years of entertainment and economic value to our community. Since April 25, 1985, when the converted A&P Grocery store built in the 1950s opened as a concert and dance hall known as [The Moon](#), they have had over 7,000 events and over six million admissions.

Musical giants such as Willie Nelson and BB King to historical political figures as First Lady Michelle Obama have showcased their wares at The Moon. It has served as a location for numerous community charities and events as well as a place for college students to gather and be merry. The City provided a proclamation to celebrate this remarkable accomplishment and proclaimed April 25, 2010—their 25th Anniversary—as “The Moon Day”.

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PMYC Update

Palmer Munroe Youth Center

Forty-five applications were received for the executive director position and the screening and interviewing process is underway. It is anticipated to have the position filled by the end of May with the director on board within two weeks to begin making critical organizational and program decisions. The tentative goal is to have the grand opening on/near the first day of school.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and a set of Community Executive Committee (CEC) by-laws are being crafted and reviewed. The by-laws will outline CEC composition, meeting frequency and roles and responsibilities. Once finalized by appropriate authorities, these documents will be distributed to each of the participating partners for ratification. Currently, the MOA will include the following partners: the City of Tallahassee, Leon County, Leon County School District and the Tallahassee Community College.

The purpose of the MOA is to outline what each entity will donate as part of the partnership whether actual fiscal resources or in-kind services. The Tallahassee Police Department is working closely with the Department of Juvenile Justice to ensure that their funds are available once the program is operational.

Policies and procedures related to the restorative justice program concept are currently being crafted. This includes developing the job description for the community coordinator and neighborhood coordinator positions. These positions will be advertised and filled once the executive director has been hired.

The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) has been meeting regularly. Recruitment is underway to have representation from all middle and high schools. Interested youth can notify my office at Andrew.gillum@talgov.com. Next steps include the creation of by-laws that will govern how the youth interact with one another, the CEC and the executive Director as well as provide input into the activities curriculum.

TEAM

Tallahassee Equality Action Ministry

Passion runs deep and zeal runs high when [TEAM](#) bites into an issue. The level of participation by several churches and faith-based organizations and their record of success have given them a voice that “when TEAM speaks, people listen.” The City respects their proactive involvement to tackle some of our community’s most grievous and time sensitive issues.

While a freshman elected official, my introduction to TEAM in 2003 alerted me that they were a force to be reckoned with and one whose intent was for the good of the community. Hence, I was eager to explore their idea to use the customer utility bill process as a means to lessen Tallahassee’s homelessness. Evaluating it to be a feasible tool, City staff introduced the [“Change for Change”](#) program, which continues to allow citizens to make a donation towards local homeless services.

TEAM’s concern about juvenile crime led them to be a strong proponent of the Palmer Munroe Youth Center (PMYC) initiative. During their annual Nehemiah Action Assembly, held on April 26, 2010, TEAM applauded our community partnership to convert PMYC into a facility that incorporates constructive youth learning, fun activities as well as a restorative justice element. I am sincerely grateful for their demonstrated support for the PMYC initiative.

May Calendar Events

“Subject to Change”

Date	Time	Events
5/3	10:30 am	FVIG Target Issue
5/10	5:30 pm	CONA Annual Meeting
5/12	4 pm	CC Meeting @ CH
5/17	Noon / 1 pm	CRA / CRTPA Meetings
5/19	10 am	HHS Target Issue
5/19	Various	Office Appointments
5/19	3:30 pm	CC Target Issue Meeting
5/26	Various	Office Appointments
5/26	4 pm	CC Meeting @ CH

Code (All meeting at City Hall unless otherwise noted)

CC – City Commission CRA – Community Redevelopment Agency

CONA – Council of Neighborhood Associations

CRTPA – Capital Regional Transportation Planning Agency

FVIG – Financial Viability In Government

HHS – Health and Human Services

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