



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



↻ A New Look for Gaines Street ↻

Excerpts from City of Tallahassee News Release, included by permission from Lizzy Kelly, Public Information Specialist.

Our goal to create an 18-hour, pedestrian-friendly downtown inspired the City Commission to make a commitment to the revitalization of Gaines Street. We envision this link between the area universities and downtown as an urban corridor with public art displays, businesses, and live/work spaces. The Sunday, June 13, 2010 edition of the [Tallahassee Democrat](#) spotlighted this initiative in its feature story, “Gaines Street Revitalization Project Gaining Momentum”.

Although the idea has been incubating a few years, the more visible impact on the roadway reconfiguration and infrastructure began in mid-May. At that time, Gaines Street narrowed from four to two lanes east of Railroad Avenue east to Monroe Street. Current urban planning emphasizes urban spaces and streets that are designed for the comfort and usability of people. This calls for lower traffic speeds and pedestrian focused urban design. Other Gaines Street improvements include:

- Replacing curb, gutter and sidewalks, including wider sidewalks in many places to encourage pedestrian activity.
- Repaving the street and upgrading traffic signals.
- Adding median islands and landscaping, including constructing rain gardens where possible.
- Installing enhanced crosswalks (both at signalized and mid-block locations).
- Installing special lighting and street signs to designate the Gaines Street District.
- Maximizing the availability of on-street parking.

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

Later this year, the City will bid out similar construction work to take place from Railroad Avenue west to Woodward Avenue, with plans for that phase of construction to begin following football season. The work will continue throughout the length of Gaines Street. Weather permitting, we anticipate completion of the Gaines Street project by December 2011. Access to local businesses will be maintained at all times.

Construction Accommodations

Safeguard your commute during the Gaines Street reconstruction with the following options.

Walk to Destination – Secure safety and promote a healthier lifestyle with increased exercise. Enjoy the scenery along the way.

Choose Alternate Routes – Try [Alternate Routes](#) such as FAMU Way, Madison Street and Orange Avenue to traverse to and from east and west of town.

Park and Ride – [Tallahassee Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs](#) and [StarMetro](#) have teamed to offer a parking area with bus service as an option for motorists to ride the bus in lieu of driving.

For more details on the project's progress, visit [Talgov.com/Gaines](#). Citizens can also receive updates by following [@GainesStreet](#) on Twitter or by linking to [Gaines Street on Facebook](#).

Gaines Street Flash Mob Video

The Gaines Street Flash Mob Video was produced to introduce the project to the community. View it at [Talgov.com](#) and [YouTube](#). Also check out the [Making of the Flash Mob video](#) that details why the production was made and shows clips from the countless hours put in by over 150 Tallahassee residents who volunteered their time and skill to take part in the video.

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↻ FAMU Way Extension Project ↻

Akin to the Gaines Street revitalization is the proposed FAMU Way Extension. This initiative is designed with a threefold purpose—to increase functional traffic flow, pedestrian safety and gateway amenities. This project involves building a new two-lane roadway between Lake Bradford Road and South Adams Street. Staff has assured me that emphasis will be placed on it being a connective tissue amongst the residential community, the universities, Gaines Street and the arts. I have asked staff to insure that families that have lived in the area for generations, who may not be homeowners but long time renters, be given consideration in the relocation process. Additionally, staff will work to preserve the integrity of the neighborhood throughout the revitalization process.

Citizen participation and feedback is vital to the planning and success of this civic improvement project. Several town hall meetings, personal briefings and tours with residents and interested parties were conducted. We listened to concerns and garnered input related to options for route and road design, ditch/canal treatment, greenway, recreation, and property information. Several amenities were proposed because of civic participation. Proposals included a bicycle/pedestrian path, sidewalks, on-street parking and other features such as a linear park, stormwater runoff controls and coordination with the Blueprint 2000 Capital Cascade Trail network.

Route and conceptual design recommendations were presented to the City Commission at our [June 9, 2010 meeting \(see agenda item #19\)](#). Our June 23rd meeting will include further discussion, a public hearing and decision(s) on how to proceed. If recommendations are approved, staff will proceed with preliminary design, right-of-way acquisition, permits, etc. Construction is projected to start in 2013 with completion in 2014/2015.

Obtain more details and view the video of the proposed route and artist renderings reflecting the completed proposed project at the following link http://www.tal.gov/pubworks/famuway_index.cfm.

↻ New Time Limited City Programs ↻

Double Rebates on Select Appliances

To promote energy efficiency and stimulate the local economy, the City of Tallahassee has doubled its existing rebates on certain [ENERGY STAR](#) and [natural gas appliances](#) purchased locally between May 27 and September 30, 2010, or until the funds are exhausted. The full amount of the rebate will be credited toward the customer's City of Tallahassee utility bill.

Visit Talgov.com/YOU to find out which ENERGY STAR certified and natural gas appliances qualify for a rebate and to download the application to take advantage of this rebate offer. You can also request the form by calling 891-4YOU (4968). Mail your completed application and a copy of the paid receipt, showing brand and model number, to: Energy Services #B32, 300 South Adams Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301 (or fax to 850-891-6127).

StarMetro Summer Wheels Passes for Youth

StarMetro will offer the Summer Wheels passes for \$33 until August 16. The pass allows children 17 and younger unlimited trips on StarMetro's service during the months of June, July and August for a reduced rate. The pass costs \$33 no matter the purchase date. Children may purchase the pass at C.K. Steele Plaza and/or StarMetro's office, located at 555 Appleyard Drive. For more information, please call 850-891-5200 or visit Talgov.com/starmetro.

↻ YEO 5th National Convening ↻

2010 marks the 5th Anniversary of the inaugural Young Elected Officials (YEO) Network National Convening. This annual event was held May 13-16, 2010 in Washington, DC. An organization that began with approximately sixty-four (64) elected officials from across the country age 35 and younger has grown to more than 550 members. As national director for the YEO Network with People For the American Way Foundation, I am honored to provide leadership for these progressive leaders to meet, network, and learn during YEO events and through other on-going support.

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Palmer Munroe Youth Center

Tomica Archie Smith
Executive Director



It is my great honor and delight to announce that Ms. Smith will take the helm of the Palmer Monroe Restorative Justice & Youth Activity Center on July 1, 2010. Public Defender Nancy Daniels, County Commissioner Bryan Desloge and I shared a similar vision to expand opportunities for local high school youth that promote social responsibility, civic awareness, and leadership development. It is exhilarating to see the vision become a reality. This is a major milestone in our preparation for the formal opening slated to occur in August 2010.



Public Defender Nancy Daniels and Ms. Smith

There were over 70 candidates for the position. The process included ranking of applications, phone interviews, and an interview panel which included City and County representation as well as a mediator/trainer from the Florida Supreme Court and a PMYC Youth Advisory Board (YAB) member.



Zemoria Johnson, Co-Chair of the PMYC YAB, wrote to the Interview Committee Members regarding her experience, "Thank you for the opportunity to serve as part of the interview team for the Palmer Monroe Executive Director position. The experience

was a surreal one for me. I jokingly told my parents that I found it ironic that I interviewed potential executive directors before I even had my first job interview. I had an opportunity to meet and speak with some very interesting people and spend time with our community leaders. It was a great learning opportunity for me as well! I hope that I represented my fellow PMYC YAB members well. Again, thank you for the wonderful experience."

Palmer Munroe Youth Center

Youth Advisory Board (YAB)

In order to carry forth the vision of a facility by youth, for youth and of youth, we established a PMYC Youth Advisory Board (YAB). The mission of YAB is to provide advice to the PMYC Community Executive Committee and the Executive Director, represent PMYC to their peers and the larger community, and to provide leadership in the daily activities and programming at the PMYC.

The YAB elected their officers (see below) at their May 17, 2010 meeting. Other committee opportunities include—marketing and public relations, programming and community service.

Co-Chairs: Zemoria Johnson and Matthew Morse
Vice Chair: Darya Massoudi
Secretary: Lawton Robinson
Treasurer: Faithe Galloway

The YAB is committed to reflecting the wide diversity of the youth living in Tallahassee/Leon County. A few of the current members are pictured below.



Front Row: Zenani Johnson, Lawton Robinson, Rachel Serio, Darya Massoudi
Back Row: Matthew Morse, Zemoria Johnson, Rikisha Collins, Faithe Galloway, Brandon Jones, Ayesha McCray

According to the proposed YAB By-Laws, members will be middle or high school students attending school in Tallahassee/Leon County. The YAB will consist of at least 24, but not more than 48 voting members. Every effort will be made to recruit youth from all middle and high schools in Tallahassee/Leon County. Interested youth can contact my office at 850-891-8503 or andrew.gillum@talgov.com.

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Public Servant of the Year Award

Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA)



CONA President-Elect Christic Henry, CONA President Steve Hogge, Gillum, PMYC Director Tomica Smith, Public Defender Nancy Daniels, Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Director Dee Crumpler

County Commissioner Bryan Desloge, Public Defender Nancy Daniels, and I were given CONA's 2010 Public Servant of the Year Award at their 30th annual meeting and awards reception held on May 10, 2010. It was a tribute to our joint venture to form the Palmer Munroe Restorative Justice & Youth Activity Center. Christic Henry, CONA President-Elect, stated, "CONA is honored to recognize this effort as a demonstration of the positive synergy which occurs when diverse partnerships work to fulfill a common purpose."

City Manager Anita Favors Thompson also applauded the collaboration of the various members of the community who partnered on this initiative including private individuals and representatives from the City, Leon County, Leon County Schools, Department of Juvenile Justice, and NAACP. As a congratulatory note in response to the CONA award she wrote, "The realized vision of the Palmer Munroe Youth Center will positively impact the quality of life for our youth for years to come." The award will be showcased at the Palmer Munroe facility as a reminder of what can be done when we work together.



CONA President Steve Hogge, Gillum, and County Commissioner Bryan Desloge

Proposed FY 2011 Budget

FY 2010 budget preparation was a tedious journey. Reductions and processes were put in place throughout the year to assuage the impact of the crippled economy. We continue to employ prudent fiscal prowess to maintain quality services, while limiting the financial burden on citizens during our economic downturn. You can review the proposed FY 2011 budget at <http://www.talgov.com/dma/budget/fy11/fy11budget.cfm>. Public input will be received at our June 23, 2010 City Commission meeting. You are invited to attend or watch on WCOT TV, Cable Channel 13.

June - August Calendar Events

"Subject to Change"

ALERT

- City Commission Summer Recess is July 15 through August 17.
- The next issue of ADG E-News will be presented in the Fall of 2010.

Date	Time	Events
6/9	8 am – 4 pm	Office Appointments
6/9	4 pm	CC Meeting
6/16	8 am – 1 pm	Office Appointments
6/17	9 am – Noon	Budget Workshops
6/21	Noon & 1 pm	CRA & CRTPA
6/21	3 pm	Blueprint 2000
6/23	8 am – 3 pm	Office Appointments
6/24	9 am - 1 pm	Final Budget Decisions
7/7	8 am – 4 pm	Office Appointments
7/7	4 pm	CC Meeting
7/8	10:30 am	Speak FSU Care Class
7/14	9 am	FVIG
7/14	10 am – 4 pm	Office Appointments
7/14	4 pm	CC Meeting
7/15 – 8/17 - City Commission Summer Recess		
8/1- 8/10	Various	ACYPL Taiwan
8/18	9 am	FVIG
8/18	11 am – 4 pm	Office Appointments
8/18	4 pm	CC Meeting
8/25	8 am – 4 pm	Office Appointments
8/25	4 pm	CC Meeting

Code (All meetings at City Hall unless otherwise noted)

ACYPL – American Council of Young Political Leaders
 CC – City Commission CRA – Community Redevelopment Agency
 CRTPA – Capital Regional Transportation Planning Agency
 FVIG – Financial Viability In Government

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