



Careful Where You Place That Sign!

As you've driven throughout Tallahassee you've likely seen signs that advertise everything from business services to garage sales. No matter what they're advertising, these signs are typically placed within the Right-of-Way (ROW) along the sides of streets or within the medians of divided roads. These signs become far more prevalent during election years.

Unfortunately, signs placed within the ROW along Tallahassee streets are placed there **illegally**. Be aware that placing signs within the City ROW is prohibited. Signs placed within the ROW may be removed by staff, or the perpetrator may have to appear before the City's Code Magistrate who may levy a fine. In addition, any type of signage including posters, fliers, etc. is prohibited from being placed on utility poles.

The City's sign regulations prohibit the placement of signs on public property, except those placed by public authorities for public purposes. If you see a sign you believe is illegally placed within the Right-of-Way, contact the Code Enforcement Division of the Economic and Community Development Department at 891-6500 or online via the City's Trouble Reporting System at Talgov.com. For information on City sign regulations and permits, call the Building Inspection Division of the City's Growth Management Department at 891-7050 or visit Talgov.com.



HUD Offers Mortgage Assistance

If you are having mortgage problems, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) can help. You can call toll-free 1-800-569-4287 to find a HUD housing counseling agency near you. Don't put it off – call today!

SOLID WASTE SERVICES

Properly Dispose Your Unused Medicines



The City of Tallahassee's Solid Waste Services reminds you that expired or unwanted medicines should **never** be disposed of by flushing down a toilet or drain. Instead, follow these

practical guidelines from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection when disposing of prescription or over-the-counter household medicines.

- ☒ Keep medicines in the original container.
- ☒ Be sure to mark out your name and prescription number.
- ☒ For pills: add water or soda to start dissolving them. For liquids: add an inedible product such as cat litter or dirt.
- ☒ Close the lid and secure with duct or packing tape.
- ☒ Place the bottle inside a container (non see-through) like a coffee can or plastic laundry bottle.
- ☒ Tape that container closed.
- ☒ Hide the container in the trash to avoid discovery by human or animal scavengers (do not place in your recycle bin).

For more information on the proper disposal of medicines or other household hazardous waste items, please visit Talgov.com/YOU.

For more information on your City government,



INSIGHT is published monthly by the City of Tallahassee's Department of Communications to inform citizens about City services and related items of interest. For more information, call 891-8533 or visit the City's website at Talgov.com. If you require an accommodation because of a disability in order to participate in a program, service or activity, please contact the appropriate City department. For persons using a TDD, please call 711. Requests should be made at least 72 hours in advance. Sign language interpreters require 10 days advance request.



ENERGY TRAPS TO AVOID!



What you DON'T do around the home during the summer months can save a lot of energy

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Celebrate AMERICA

Celebrate America on July 4!
Event Features Special Area for Kids

One of Tallahassee's favorite summer traditions returns early next month when the **Celebrate America** event takes place at Tom Brown Park. The event will be held on **Monday afternoon and evening, July 4**. This year's event will continue a focus initiated in 2010, highlighting 'homegrown' musical entertainment for the concert segments. **Celebrate America** is presented by the City of Tallahassee and is coordinated by the City's Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Affairs Department.

The event features live music and performing arts, food vendors and the annual naturalization ceremony welcoming new citizens to our nation. This year's free music festival, sponsored by Miller Lite/Coors Light, will feature local musical groups, including performances by Johnny Fire, Dayve Stewart & the Vibe and Demian Bell & the Wailin Wolves, to name a few. The highlight of the evening, of course, will be the spectacular fireworks show, sponsored by City of Tallahassee Your Own Utilities and The City Church.

A special area for the kids will also be featured. To beat the heat, kids will enjoy water-based activities including really large slip and slides and other water slides. Arts and crafts, games and bounce houses will be available, too.

StarMetro will offer free shuttles to Tom Brown Park from the Koger Office Center on Capital Circle Southeast beginning at 5:30 pm; return shuttles back to Koger begin once the fireworks show is completed. The Tallahassee Police Department will close all vehicular access to Tom Brown Park, except for the StarMetro shuttles, at 8:30 pm or earlier according to parking availability.

Please remember that NO pets, personal fireworks, personal grills or personal alcoholic beverages are allowed in Tom Brown Park during the event. Patrons aged 21 and older are invited to visit the event's beer garden sponsored by the Rotary Club. For more information, please call the Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Affairs Department at 891-3866 or visit Talgov.com/parks.

ENERGY TRAPS TO AVOID!

Five summer stories directly from our energy auditors.

Often what you **DON'T** do around the home during the summer months can save a lot of energy (and thus, money!). From the City's residential energy auditors, here are five home energy traps that are best avoided.

❌ Avoid the AC thermostat setting that selects nonstop fan operation.



Set your central air conditioner's thermostat FAN setting to "AUTO" and never to the "ON" setting which keeps it running nonstop. Set to AUTO,

humidity is kept lower, operating costs are much lower and comfort is higher. If your system's air ducts are in a hot attic and leaky (most are), the fan's ON setting is especially costly to you.

❌ If you're replacing your old central air conditioner, don't pressure your installer to oversize your new system. Bigger isn't better.

A system correctly sized for your house will operate for less cost with better dehumidification and better comfort. An oversized system cools powerfully but in short bursts, without the longer run times needed to dry the air. Correct sizing is a particular concern in Tallahassee where we experience a famously damp climate.

❌ When you replace your kitchen refrigerator, don't move your old inefficient refrigerator into your hot garage. Old refrigerators cost a lot to run, and a hot garage is the worst place for them.

A good plan: Properly dispose of the old refrigerator. Consolidate items into your newer kitchen refrigerator. When replacing your kitchen refrigerator, choose an Energy Star qualified model and apply for the City's \$75 rebate.

❌ Don't let your ceiling fans be the cause of higher energy costs! A good habit to cultivate: Turn off fans (and lights) when you leave the room. Only run the fans when you're there to feel the breeze. Fans do a great job – they boost "evaporative cooling" from your skin which provides your body's most effective natural cooling method. But ceiling fans don't cool the room. They don't cool the furniture. They only cool your skin. If you're not there to feel the breeze, spinning the fan wastes energy.

❌ Don't ignore the midnight sound of running water.



A costly water leak that you don't easily see is the leak through the water heater's pressure-relief valve.

An electric water heater generally has three connected pipes:

Incoming cold water, outgoing hot water and an outgoing pressure-relief pipe with a little valve (recognized by the silver test-flipper on the valve). If the water heater's thermostat fails and overheats the water, this valve lets scalding water release through a pipe that empties outdoors; a little downspout behind the garage is typical. The valve can also fail without thermostat issues. Unnoticed and unrepaired, a constant hot water leak creates stunningly high electric, water and sewer charges.

Call Energy Services at 891-4YOU (4968) for energy information or visit Talgov.com/YOU for these and other energy tips.

JULY CALENDAR

- 4 Independence Day holiday;** administrative offices closed (City solid waste collection schedules change during holiday weeks. Please visit Talgov.com/YOU for information on schedule changes during the Independence Day holiday week.)
- 6 City Commission final budget decisions workshop** at 9 am
- 6 City Commission regular meeting** at 4 pm
- 13 Community Redevelopment Agency Board meeting** at 3 pm
- 13 City Commission regular meeting** at 4 pm (last regular meeting until August 24)

All meetings are held in the City Commission Chambers, located on the second floor of City Hall (300 S. Adams St.), unless noted otherwise. Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change. City Commission meetings are shown live on WCOT, the City's government access channel, Comcast Cable channel 13. The meetings are rebroadcast the following Thursday at 12:30 pm and 7:30 pm and the following Saturday and Sunday at 12:30 pm. City Commission meetings are also streamed live online and are indexed and posted for viewing on Talgov.com. Call the Department of Communications at 891-8533 for more information or view the current City Commission agenda online at Talgov.com. Follow City news on Twitter @COTNews.