

Over the past year, the City of Tallahassee delivered municipal services to the community with the trademark innovation and tenacity you expect from this organization. The City's highly skilled and dedicated workforce demonstrated employee excellence, improved processes, streamlined services and upheld strong financial management practices.

Whether under sunny skies or bracing against hurricane-strength winds, the City's commitment to fortify our community is exemplified through concentrated efforts toward our strategic initiatives and key objectives outlined in the Five-Year Strategic Plan. Throughout the year, staff produced extraordinary results in many ways, such as efforts to provide affordable and sustainable utility services that pave the way for a clean energy future.

Investments in public infrastructure and transportation are balanced with preserving the community's character. Through well-maintained roadways, walkways and public transit facilities, the City fosters community connectivity and supports economic activity. This year, the City secured an unprecedented \$36 million in competitive grant funding to transition StarMetro to an all-electric fleet and construct the Southside Transit Center. The Southside Action Plan further enhances the community by investing in infrastructure, business opportunities and housing development while safeguarding long-standing residents from displacement.

The City is dedicated to creating a safe environment for our community

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Review

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through proactive measures, community-based policing, youth engagement and innovative initiatives that have led to transformative results and national recognition. The City has committed \$19.2 million to community-led safety initiatives, including Neighborhood First programs. To address crime head on, the Tallahassee Police Department is actively recruiting, hiring additional officers and enhancing its technology.

The City's significant financial investments to grow the community's affordable housing inventory are building a stronger economic future for residents. Strategic policymaking, flexible land use approaches, cutting-edge programs and financial commitments of more than \$18 million from federal, state and local sources have led to significant progress in affordable housing development, with more certified affordable housing units recently constructed or in the pipeline than the past 25 years combined. The \$49.5 million investment in affordable housing efforts over the past five years has not only improved the lives of thousands of individuals and families but has also generated positive results for our local economy.

As a City, we remain focused and steadfast in achieving the targets outlined in our five-year Strategic Plan and making a positive impact within our community. In the annual Year in Review, available at **Talgov.com/YearInReview**, you'll see examples of how we have done so this past year across our seven priority areas through our commitment to excellence, teamwork and service.

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ASH IS NOT TRASH



When the weather outside is frightful, a warm fire is so delightful. Even after a fire dies down, however, coals, embers and ash can retain enough heat to rekindle a fire. Let them cool in place for several days then remove them using a metal shovel and metal container. Wet them down in the container and store them away from combustible materials and refuse. Do not dispose of these items in your garbage container. Cooled, wet ashes can be added to your compost pile or sprinkled around your garden to add nutrients to the soil.

SHARE WITH THOSE IN NEED

This time of year is known as "the season of giving." To aid those who want to help others, the City of Tallahassee offers Project Share, an assistance program that allows utility customers to donate funds through their utility bill to other utility customers who are elderly, disabled or who have fallen on unforeseen hard times. Project Share, which has been around since 1986, has helped thousands of customers make their monthly utility payments, keeping them and their families safe and comfortable. To donate or apply for Project Share, visit **Talgov.com/YOU** or call 850-891-4968.



Sustainability Tip

Open the curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home. Close them at night to reduce heat loss and the chill you feel from cold windows.



SPRING SPORTS FOR YOUTHS & ADULTS



Interested in playing spring sports? The City will offer youth baseball and softball, as well as adult softball, flag football and beach volleyball. If you're looking for part-time work where you can be active, sports officials are needed every season. Register to play and learn more about part-time job opportunities at **Talgov.com/Parks**.

For all City of Tallahassee utility related inquiries, please call 850-891-4968 or visit Talgov.com.

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Insight is published monthly to inform citizens about City services and related items of interest. If you require an accommodation because of a disability in order to participate in a program, service or activity, please contact the City's ADA/Title VI Coordinator at least two business days prior to the event at 850-661-3235 or **Kathleen.Wright@Talgov.com**. For persons using a TDD, please call 711. Sign language interpreters require 10 days advance notice.

HOLIDAY RECYCLING



After the holiday season, recycle your live-cut Christmas tree. The easiest way is to place it behind the curb on your scheduled yard waste collection day. Please remove all decorations first! Customers are reminded to separate yard waste piles from any bulky items set out for pickup. There will also be community drop-off sites

where you can take your Christmas tree to be recycled into mulch for use in City parks: Tom Brown Park (443 Easterwood Drive), Myers Park (913 Myers Park Drive) and San Luis Park (1313 San Luis Road).

MEETINGS IN JANUARY

Visit **Talgov.com** for the current list of Tallahassee City Commission, Community Redevelopment Agency, Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency and Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency meetings and workshops. Call the Department of Communications at 850-891-8533 for more information and view the current meeting agendas online at **Talgov.com**. Follow **@CityofTLH** on X (formerly Twitter) for City news.