



## What I'm Up To:

November 2011

As I approach my first anniversary as a Tallahassee City Commissioner, I've left the rookie status behind and am becoming effective at making things happen. It's time to communicate with you a few successes and major issues that have emerged as priorities.

**Cascades Park and the Old Electric Building:** Tallahassee began in Cascades Park. In 1539, the Desoto party camped within ½ mile of the Park, and in 1823, two groups met there to establish Tallahassee as the Capital of Florida. In late 2012, this same place, once abandoned and contaminated, will reopen as a premier urban park that doubles as a massive flood control system. The rejuvenation of the area is expected to provide an economic stimulus tying together a number of other city and county initiatives – South Monroe/South Adams Sense of Place improvements, Gaines Street Revitalization and the rebuilding of Lafayette Street by Leon County. Also, downtown sidewalks are receiving an upgrade, thanks to a settlement with the Americans with Disabilities Act program, and stormwater work on Franklin Avenue will result in a makeover there. Wide sidewalks throughout will link the walkin'est neighborhoods in Tallahassee, FAMU, FSU and everyone working downtown with the Park. In another year and a half, you won't recognize the place! Now, if we can just get that Old Electric Building renovated, we can all meet for a drink after work – walking, of course.

### Lafayette St.

#### **Pedestrian Tunnel:**

Opened in March, the Lafayette Pedestrian Tunnel allows folks to pass safely under the CSX railroad bridge on Lafayette Street. The tunnel links the residents and businesses along



Lafayette Street with Cascades Park and downtown Tallahassee.

## Upcoming Events

**November 5, 2011** PAL-a-palooza Music Festival on Kleman Plaza at 2 PM to benefit Pets Ad Litem and the Animal Service Center

**November 9, 2011** Regular City Commission Meeting—City Hall, 4 PM

**November 11, 2011** Veteran's Day Holiday

**November 21, 2011** Environment & Energy Target Issue Committee Meeting—City Hall 3 PM

**November 22, 2011** Regular City Commission Meeting—City Hall, 4 PM

**November 24-25, 2011** Thanksgiving Holiday

**November 30, 2011** Special City Commission Workshop 2-4 PM

**Lobbyist Registration:** The City Commission has passed a new ordinance requiring lobbyist registration. Registration provides a way for the public to know who is paid to lobby commissioners and staff on behalf of entities by recording the names of the lobbyists, the entities they represent, and ranges of compensation that the lobbyists receive. Lobbyists must register annually, pay a \$25 fee, and file compensation reports quarterly.

**Solid Waste Ordinance Changes:** In response to concerns from local citizens and neighborhoods, the City Commission updated the Solid Waste Ordinance and now City residents must bring our trash and recycling containers back in from the curb the day *after* pick-up.

**Star Metro Changes:** Over the summer the bus system in Tallahassee underwent a total transformation intended to increase riders' convenience with the goal of mainstreaming public transportation and offering an alternative to the cost of driving. In addition, new features include octagonal StarStop poles to help the visually impaired, online trip planning, and customers can now find out when the next bus will arrive via text messaging. Visit

[www.talgov.com/starmetro](http://www.talgov.com/starmetro) to see the routes, and test out the new StarMetro.

**Community Gardening:** With the assistance of the Tallahassee Food Network and citizen advocates interested in urban agriculture and facilitating access to healthier food, the City now has a clear process for establishing community gardens in Tallahassee. If your church, civic or neighborhood group is interested in planting a community garden, contact the Planning Department at 891-6400 for more information.



*Grandson Tucker with me at the Second Harvest Community Garden*

## Did You Know?

- The City picks up 13,000 tons of garbage each month on average. Our community is recycling less than 40% of the waste we generate.
- *Power* magazine has recognized Tallahassee's Arvah B. Hopkins generating plant as among the top **six** gas-fired power plants in the **world**.

Warmly,

Nancy Miller, Commissioner  
City of Tallahassee  
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## Coffee Anyone?

In June, friends and supporters joined me for coffee at the Black Dog Café to talk about city government. It was fun and informative, and we plan to do it again after the holidays.

In this newsletter, you'll notice we include upcoming Commission meeting dates and other meetings of interest. I encourage you to share your voice and participate in these opportunities. Again, thank you for your involvement in local government, and please remember I'm only a phone call or email away. (850) 891-8706.