



Have a happy and safe holiday season. And don't forget to shop locally for the best gifts.

26th Annual Winter Festival:

It was a thrill to join Dr. Nancy Van Vessum from Capital Health Plan along with my 4-year-old granddaughter, Caroline, to kick off this year's Winter Festival and 25th Annual Jingle Bell Run as we pulled the lever to illuminate thousands of twinkling lights in downtown Tallahassee on December 1st. The Winter Festival has become recognized by the Southeast Tourism Society as one of the top 20 events in the Southeast, and is a bedazzling experience. Please take an evening to stroll through the Chain of Parks and take in the truly magical surroundings. In addition, a drive through the winter wonderland at Dorothy B. Oven Park, with more than 250,000 lights, is not to be missed. Save the date for the 12th Annual Elf Night—an all-time favorite with adults and kids alike on Thursday, December 15th from 5:30 to 9 PM. From the Winter Festival to Elf Night to holiday walks through Tallahassee's 70+ award-winning parks t'is the season to be jolly with exciting and fun opportunities to recreate with family and friends.



Granddaughter Caroline, Dec 2012

Revised City Historic Preservation Ordinance: On November 28th, the City Commission approved revisions to the City of Tallahassee's Historic Preservation Ordinance that will define the process for designating a local historic district. To initiate the viability study for a proposed historic district, thirty percent (30%) of the affected property owners must sign petitions of support. A structured education and public meeting process will follow, leading to a vote of parcel owners. A two-thirds majority (66.7%) of the affected owners of listed parcels must approve the designation to initiate the actual historic district designation application for rezoning the properties as historic. Then the normal rezoning process begins. This change results from three years of work by representatives from business and neighborhood groups and the Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department.

December 2012

Upcoming Events

December 12, 2012
Regular City Commission Meeting—City Hall, 4 PM

December 15, 2012
Elf Night—Dorothy B. Oven Park, 5:30-9 PM

December 24/25, 2012
Christmas Holiday

December 31, 2012
Downtown New Year's Eve Celebration—Kleman Plaza, 7 PM

January 1, 2013
New Year's Holiday

Januray 9, 2013
Regular City Commission Meeting—City Hall, 4 PM



Market District—A Sense of Place Initiative:

The Market District, a lively community of local businesses, restaurants, bakeries, farmers market, elementary school, grocery stores and neighborhoods, has all the makings of a walkable community—except that up to now, design has favored automobile travel. Even though the commercial core of the District is close to a number of neighborhoods (Killlearn Estates, Avalon, Maclay Hammock, Bobbin Trace, etc.), the concept of walking the area was intimidating due to lack of a good sidewalk network and other pedestrian friendly features. Area merchants wanted help and requested assistance to improve those connections between neighborhoods and commercial areas. The City has an action plan that will allow people to move about more safely and comfortably. A few of the proposed changes include improved crosswalks and medians, a Capital City Visitor Center, public art, new community events, more complete network of sidewalks, and redesign of the existing stormwater ponds to a park. For more information on the happenings of the Market District, please visit

<http://themarketdistricttallahassee.com/>

Opposite, a rendering of stormwater pond enhancements for the Market District

Civic Center Now Owned by FSU:

Many people have asked why “we gave the civic center to FSU”. Here’s the story: The Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center was, until recently, owned and operated by an Authority created by state statute which was responsible for financing and constructing the Civic Center. Part of the agreement included City and County funding assistance to cover any annual operating deficit. This year, all the parties involved determined that transferring ownership and control to FSU offered the best alternative for the future, thus relieving City and County governments (and taxpayers) from further financial responsibility. FSU will continue to operate the Center as a comprehensive civic, educational, convention and entertainment venue for the use and enjoyment of the Tallahassee-Leon County community.



This season of gratitude offers a chance to reflect on how fortunate I am to live in this very special community of wonderful, caring people.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you and to work together in planning for the future of our city. Have a very happy and safe holiday season.

Warmly,

Nancy Miller, Mayor Pro Tem
City of Tallahassee
Nancy.Miller@talgov.com

- On November 10th, I had the particularly exciting honor of participating in the Celebrity Dance at the Oxygen Ball, the American Lung Association’s annual fundraising event. Thanks to all of you who donated and, in case you missed the event, here’s the Fan-Favorite Award-Winning dance ...
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKDRqdsWpgQ>
- In case you missed it, I want to share the My View I recently wrote in the Tallahassee Democrat:
<http://www.talgov.com/uploads/public/documents/mission/pdf/nm-myview-1210.pdf>
- One of the highlights of this season is volunteering at the Community Thanksgiving Celebration on Thanksgiving Day. We served about 750-1000 folks at the American Legion Hall by Lake Ella. Thanks to the good folks in our community who cooked and volunteered to create this event which filled many hearts and stomachs with warmth. Special thanks to the Ghazvini family for sponsoring the event.