

## PROJECT SHARE

### Warm Hearts, Warm Homes

Winter can be an extremely difficult time for some local citizens. Imagine struggling to put enough money together to simply stay warm during the cold months of winter.

Fortunately, the City has a long-standing program allowing you to help those truly in need. The City's Project Share program has aided thousands of Tallahassee utility customers needing assistance thanks to the generosity of other City utility customers. Project Share funds are administered locally by the Capital Area Community Action Agency, and each application is carefully screened to ensure funds are distributed to those truly in need.

The City offers a convenient pledge program to collect funds for Project Share. Simply indicate whatever amount you wish to add to your monthly utility bill by completing the pledge form below and returning it with your next utility payment. You may also donate by calling 891-4YOU (4968) and telling the customer service representative that you would like to donate to Project Share.

For more information on Project Share or if you know of anyone needing assistance, please contact Your Own Utilities at 891-4YOU (4968) or [Talgov.com/YOU](http://Talgov.com/YOU) or call the Capital Area Community Action Agency at 222-2043.



## Free Ride Program for Vets



Further enhancing our All-America City, Tallahassee City Commissioners made the Veterans Bus Pass Program permanent. The program provides low-income veterans, including those that are homeless, with free transportation aboard StarMetro fixed route buses.

To receive an annual StarMetro bus pass, veterans must meet the following criteria:

-  Possess a health care ID card from the Veteran's Affairs (VA) Clinic;
-  Possess a DD 214 document or letter from VA agency certifying veteran status;
-  Yield an income that falls 150 percent below poverty guidelines; and
-  Reside within StarMetro's fixed-route service as a permanent City/County resident.

Transient veterans who meet the top three criteria are eligible as long as they are enrolled in an approved self-sufficiency program.

Program applications are available online at [Talgov.com/StarMetro](http://Talgov.com/StarMetro). Applications can also be picked up in person at StarMetro's Administrative Office, 555 Appleyard Drive; the Veteran's Resource Center, 918 Railroad Ave.; and participating human service agencies. Completed applications must be mailed, faxed or delivered to the Veteran's Resource Center.

For more information about StarMetro and its services, please call 891-5200 or visit [Talgov.com/starmetro](http://Talgov.com/starmetro).

**For more information on your City government,**

**For all City of Tallahassee utility-related inquiries, including account issues or to report outages, please call Your Own Utilities at 891-4YOU (4968) or visit [Talgov.com](http://Talgov.com).**

 CITY OF TALLAHASSEE 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 850-891-8533 or visit the City's website at [Talgov.com](http://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.

FEBRUARY 2016

# INSIGHT

## Winter Wisdom: Avoid Frozen Water Pipes



*Here's some advice for nights when a hard freeze is likely, about 30 degrees (F) or below for more than one hour.*

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## PROJECT SHARE

*Please clip, fill out and return this coupon with your next utility bill payment.*

### YES! I'd like to get involved in Project Share.

I hereby authorize the City of Tallahassee to add the pledge amount indicated below to my next monthly bill and continue until I notify the City of Tallahassee that I no longer wish to participate. I understand that my contributions are 100 percent tax deductible.

#### Monthly Project Share Pledge

\$1    \$3    \$5    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

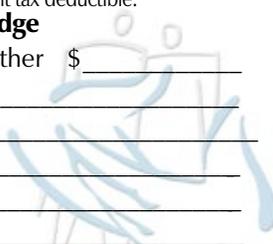
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Utility Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: \_\_\_\_\_

If you prefer, you may make a one-time donation. Please make your check or money order (in any amount) payable to Project Share and mail it in with your next payment. Thank You!



## Top 10 Reasons to Love Natural Gas

When the weather outside is frightful, a fireplace is delightful. What better way to stay warm and toasty than with energy-efficient natural gas heat.

Here are 10 reasons to love natural gas:

1. **Economical** – Readily available, natural gas costs about a third less than electricity in our area.
2. **Durable** – Heating equipment that uses clean-burning natural gas rather than electricity usually requires less maintenance and repairs.
3. **Rebates** – The City offers valuable rebates on natural gas appliances and systems.
4. **Efficient** – Natural gas appliances use less energy than electric appliances.
5. **Convenient** – With the flip of a switch, you can have a beautiful fire and carefree warmth.
6. **Ambiance** – Create the right setting with decorative outdoor lighting and the glow of an easy to light, ash-free fireplace.
7. **Reliable** – Most gas appliances and systems will run even when the electricity is out during storms.
8. **Easy** – There's no need to change gears all at once. Once your home is connected to natural gas, it's easy to convert appliances or add gas products later.
9. **Low emissions** – Natural gas produces fewer emissions than other fuels.
10. **Energy Independence** – Domestically produced, natural gas reduces our nation's dependence on foreign oil. Unlike other energy sources, roughly 85 percent of all the natural gas consumed domestically is produced in the United States.

Make the wise choice for your household; upgrade with additional gas appliances or find out if natural gas is available in your neighborhood.

For more information, visit [Talgov.com/YOU](http://Talgov.com/YOU) or call 891-4YOU (4968).

**Natural Gas**  
For **Life!**

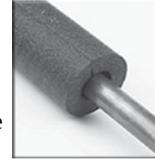


## Winter Wisdom: Avoid Frozen Water Pipes

Winter is here. When temperatures dip extremely low, be sure to take measures to prevent frozen water pipes from bursting. Unlike other liquids, water expands when it freezes. When water pipes freeze, the expanding water can break the pipe, and you can be left with a thoroughly soaked house when those pipes thaw. Here's some advice for those nights when a hard freeze is likely - about 30 degrees (F) or below for more than one hour.

✓ If the National Weather Service predicts a hard freeze, **trickle cold water** from one or more faucets inside your home until the outside temperature rises and stays above 30 degrees (F).

✓ **Insulate all exposed outside water pipes and faucets** to prevent them from freezing. Cloth or a similar material may be used. Specially designed foam pipe covers, which are available at building supply or home improvement stores, work best.



✓ **Make sure the cover to your water meter fits tightly.** If your pipes do freeze, you can use the valve inside the meter box to shut off all the water to the house, helping to prevent indoor flooding when pipes thaw.

✓ If you have a backflow assembly on your water service line, it may freeze with very cold temperatures. **Insulate the assembly** by wrapping or covering the pipe. Do not cover the bottom relief opening on the underside at the middle of the apparatus to avoid creating other flooding problems.

✓ **Commercial water customers need to prepare** for cold nights as well. Protect fire lines by wrapping all lines exposed to cold temperatures.

During periods of colder weather, Your Own Utilities and local plumbing contractors typically receive calls from customers reporting broken water pipes. When pipes break between the water meter and the home or within the home, the customer is responsible for repairs. Your Own Utilities repairs any damage to pipes between the water main under the street and the meter or in the main itself.

For more information, please call Your Own Utilities at 891-4YOU (4968) or visit [Talgov.com/YOU](http://Talgov.com/YOU).



## Register Now for Sustainable YOU

Join us for the Sustainable YOU Conference on March 22 and 23 at Florida State University's Augustus B. Turnbull III Conference Center, 555 W. Pensacola Street. This year's theme is "The Business of Green – Restoring Human and Natural Environments to Build Resilient Communities."

The conference will feature tracks on Reviving Natural Systems, Reestablishing Social and Human Capital, and Building a Resilient Economy. There will also be a Tactical Urbanism Workshop and more.

Registration is open. Sign up today at [Talgov.com](http://Talgov.com) or call 891-8703

## City to Host 57th Annual Easter Egg Hunt

On Sunday, March 27, children are invited to bring their parents to Myers Park for an egg-citing afternoon! The City will host its 57th Annual Easter Egg Hunt from 1-3 p.m. Guests can take pictures with the Easter Bunny, hunt for those prized eggs and enjoy games, crafts and music. This event is free to all.

As the date gets closer, watch for more information to be posted on [Talgov.com](http://Talgov.com).



## MARCH CALENDAR

- 8 Joint City/County Comp Plan Workshop at 1:30 pm at the Leon County Courthouse, 301 South Monroe Street
- 21 Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency Board meeting at 1 pm
- 23 Regular City Commission meeting at 4 pm
- 24 Community Redevelopment Agency Board meeting at 9:30 am

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 and CenturyLink 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](http://Talgov.com). Call the Department of Communications at 850-891-8533 for more information or view the current City Commission agenda online at [Talgov.com](http://Talgov.com). Follow City news on Twitter @COTNews.