



Save Yourself! Drain and Cover!

As we enter into mosquito season, the City of Tallahassee, Leon County Government and the Florida Department of Health in Leon County encourage you to take the necessary precautions to reduce your contact with mosquitoes.

One way to prevent mosquito-borne illnesses is to stop mosquitoes from living and multiplying around your home or business.

Protect yourself and your family with these easy steps:

- Drain standing water to stop mosquitoes from multiplying.
- Cover your skin with clothing and use mosquito repellent.
- Cover doors and windows with screens to keep mosquitoes out.



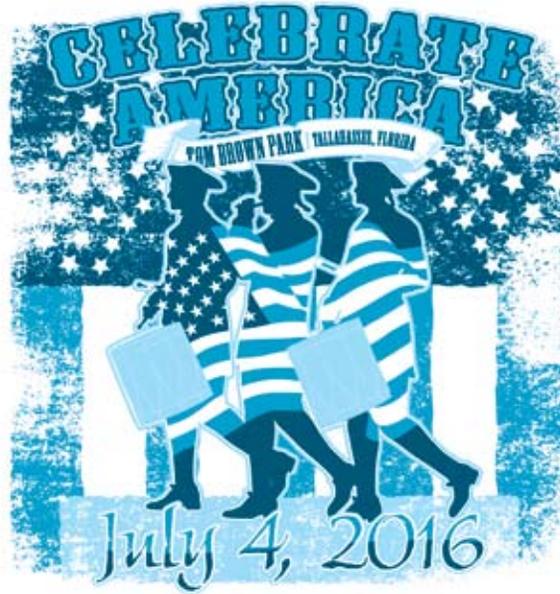
If you have further questions or want an informational handout, visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.

Thinking Generator? Think Natural Gas



If you are shopping for a power generator for your home or business, check first to see if natural gas is available in your area. Natural Gas is the most efficient and economical fuel for home and business generators. Unlike fuels that have to be delivered by vehicle, the City's natural gas lines are underground and unaffected by weather events, providing reliable 24-hour service. Also, with natural gas, there's no fuel storage tank, nor concerns about calling for a tank fill-up.

Gas availability can be checked at Talgov.com. For more information, please contact our gas associates at 891-5112.



One of Tallahassee's favorite summer traditions returns early next month when Celebrate America takes place at Tom Brown Park on Monday, July 4. The event features two stages of entertainment, a naturalization ceremony and more. Fireworks begin when the sun goes down, and StarMetro will offer free shuttles to Tom Brown Park from the Hartman Building at the Koger Office Center on Capital Circle Southeast (just south of Old St. Augustine Rd.) beginning at 5:30 p.m.; return shuttles to the Koger Center will begin once the fireworks show is completed. For more information, visit Talgov.com.

For more information on your City government,

TALGOV.COM



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.

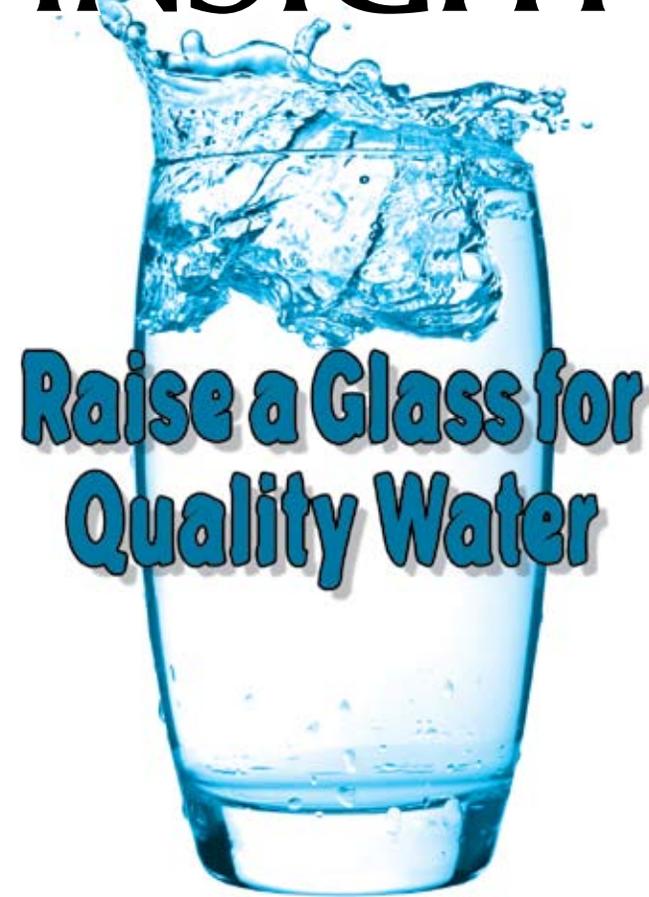


INSIGHT is published monthly by the City of Tallahassee's Department of Communications to inform citizens about City services and related items of interest. For more information, call 850-891-8533 or visit the City's website at Talgov.com. If you require an accommodation because of a disability in order 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.



JUNE 2016

INSIGHT



Tallahassee has the Best Tasting Drinking Water in Florida



Low Cost, High Quality Services

The City has been working to create a more transparent budget process. The goal is to promote citizen participation in the development of the annual budget for Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17).

To this end, the City coordinated an independent review of the budget process, has actively engaged the community to learn about priority areas and held numerous budget workshops and presentations with City Commissioners. Additionally, a comprehensive municipal cost comparison was conducted to see how Tallahassee measures up against other Florida cities.

Tallahassee and 11 other Florida cities were included in the comparison.

The selection of the comparison cities was based on their mix of services, population, percent of taxable value and other factors in order to make a meaningful comparison to Tallahassee. The comprehensive comparison included seven categories representing property taxes, water, sewer, electric, solid waste, storm water and fire service. It is based on the average home value by city, average utility usage and the annual cost of storm water and fire fees.

In addition to the statistical measures, the comparison included their comparative quality of life, like sense of place, recreational opportunities and community engagement.

Overall, the comparison showed that the cost of the services provide by the City of Tallahassee is one of the lowest in the state. This is good news for everyone living in Tallahassee.

The City will continue to measure its performance and make sure that the services provided reflect the priorities of citizens and Commissioners, while keeping costs low. For more information on the FY17 budget process, visit Talgov.com.



Average annual cost to the citizen

Raise a Glass for Quality Water

You've most likely heard about the water quality issues facing Flint, Mich. Thankfully, the City of Tallahassee has high standards, conducts rigorous testing and takes proactive steps to ensure the best water possible comes direct from your tap.

The main issue facing Flint is the presence of lead in the water system. This is a major concern as lead serves no useful purpose in the human body and can have toxic effects.

EPA and other regulatory agencies have long been aware of the dangers of lead in drinking water. Language to protect citizens was included in 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act and strengthened in 1991 with the Lead and Copper Rule.

In most cases, lead isn't naturally occurring in drinking water, so how does it get there? It leeches in from the pipes that distribute the drinking water. Prior to 1986, lead was a common component of fixtures, solder and pipes.

Simply having lead in the distribution system wouldn't cause lead contamination though. It's a combination of lead in the distribution system and the corrosiveness of the water. When pipes or fixtures containing lead corrode, lead can enter the drinking water.

The crisis in Flint occurred from several major factors: water source, water treatment, infrastructure and regulation. The water source itself is a surface water body (the Flint River). It is susceptible to contamination from environmental impacts like surface water runoff, which caused the water to be more corrosive. Water treatment was not required to treat the corrosiveness of the water coming from the river. About half the service lines to homes from the distribution system were constructed of lead, and there was a lack of regulation by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to treat the corrosiveness of the water.

There are a number of differences between the Flint water system and ours.

Tallahassee gets its water from the Floridan Aquifer, a ground water source that is less susceptible to runoff and other environmental factors. The water from the aquifer is naturally non-corrosive with a balanced PH and a consistent water quality. Because of this consistency, water treatment isn't required, though tests are routinely done to ensure this practice is still the best approach.



The City has a proactive approach to maintaining its water system. Prior to the 1991 Lead and Copper Rule, the City identified all the lead piping and lead home service lines within our distribution system and replaced them. Additionally, there is a current water master plan, a downtown pipe replacement program and a galvanized and older pipe replacement program – all of which contribute to keeping our system as safe as possible.

The City's water system is highly regulated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Routine tests are conducted, and our system continuously exceeds the set standards.

The quality of the City's drinking water and water system has been recognized by the EPA and the American Water Works Association. In 2008, 2015 and 2016, the City's water was rated as the Best Tasting Drinking Water in Florida.

For more than 100 years, the City has provided safe, reliable drinking water. Our commitment runs deep. To learn more, visit Talgov.com.

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.)
- 13** City Commission budget workshop, 1 pm at Tallahassee Senior Center
- 13** City Commission regular meeting, 4 pm at Tallahassee Senior Center (last regular meeting until September 14)
- 14** 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. Call the Department of Communications at 850-891-8533 for more information or view the current City Commission agenda online at Talgov.com. Follow City news on Twitter @COTNews.