



SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT

Driving to work in rush hour traffic. Taking an evening walk. Enjoying a weekend bike ride. The common thread for each of these is their connection to our transportation network. Every day, people move throughout Tallahassee in a variety of ways, and it's important everyone understands their roles, pays attention and follows the rules of the road.

All road users should stay alert and avoid distractions. Florida's new law regarding texting and driving, which made it a primary offense, went into effect on July 1. Law enforcement officials can now stop drivers for texting while they're behind the wheel of a moving car, with limited exceptions. To read the new State Statute, visit laws.flrules.org/node/7818.

Below are safety tips for each role you might fulfill in our transportation system.

PEDESTRIANS

- Walk in well-lit areas.
- Wear bright or reflective clothing. At night, carry a flashlight.
- Walk on the sidewalk. If one is not available, walk as far away from the road as possible and face traffic.
- Cross at designated crosswalks. Push the button to activate the walk signal.
- Look both ways before crossing the street and continue to check both directions as you cross.
- Put phones and other devices down and take off headphones when crossing the street.

BICYCLISTS

- Choose well-lit routes.
- Wear a helmet – the brighter, the better.
- Turn on your front white light and red taillight in low-light conditions and at night. Red reflectors are also required.
- Bicycles on the road are vehicles; ride in the direction of traffic, not against it.
- Obey all traffic signs, signals and lane markings. Alert drivers to your movements by signaling turns or merges.
- Yield to traffic when appropriate. It's better to be safe than to be right.

MOTORISTS

- Be alert! Pedestrians and bicyclists are part of the transportation network, too.
- Always stop on red and look for pedestrians and cyclists before making a right turn. Drivers must yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.
- Stop behind the white stop bar, not in the crosswalk.
- Bicyclists are legal vehicles. By law, you must leave at least 3 feet of space when passing them.
- Slow down! Speed is a major cause of fatal crashes.

Every crash, every injury and every fatality impacts those involved, as well as their families, friends and community. Each of us can help create safer streets by sharing the road and being alert. For more information about the rules of the road, visit www.FDOT.gov or www.nhtsa.gov. For more information about our local traffic network, visit Talgov.com.

MEETINGS IN AUGUST

There are no scheduled meetings. As the meeting calendar can change during the month, please visit Talgov.com to view the most up-to-date schedule of all City meetings and events.

Call the Department of Communications at 891-8533 for more information. Follow @COTNews on Twitter for current City news.



Homelessness continues to be a reality for many children and families across our nation. Locally, the Change for Change program provides an easy way to help end homelessness for children and families in our community. By making a monthly contribution through your City Utilities account, you will help provide basic needs like food and shelter to Tallahassee families to help them get back on their feet again. For as little as \$2 a month, you can help change their lives and create positive changes in our community. To sign up for the Change for Change program, visit Talgov.com or call 891-4968.



KEEP COOL AT LESS COST

The biggest share of a household's summer energy use generally goes to cooling. Try these six methods to keep cool at less cost with no less comfort.

1. Cool your home to 78 degrees or your highest comfortable temperature. The higher your cooling thermostat setting, the lower your energy cost.
2. Use fans wisely to save energy and money. The breeze cools your skin but doesn't cool the room – so turn the fan off if there's no one in the room to feel the breeze. Using fans and raising your AC thermostat by 2-3 degrees is one of the best ways to lower your AC costs.
3. Be sure your ceiling fans breeze downward.
4. On sunny days, close your window shades, drapes and blinds to block the sun's heat.
5. Check your air filter. A clogged filter reduces cooling efficiency, reduces comfort and increases operating costs.
6. Have your central air conditioning system checked yearly by a qualified AC service technician. Just like your car, your air conditioner needs a professional checkup.

For more information on energy efficiency, call City of Tallahassee Utilities at 891-4968 or visit Talgov.com/YOU.



LIFELONG LEARNING EXTRAVAGANZA

The Tallahassee Senior Center's L3X (Lifelong Learning Extravaganza) program is celebrating its 10th anniversary this September with a month of classes, tours, workshops, field trips and entertainment on the broad themes of art, music, science, history, culture, food and drink. L3X preview parties will take place at the Senior Center (1400 N. Monroe St) on Monday, Aug. 5, from 8:30-10 a.m. and on Tuesday, Aug. 6, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The parties offer an opportunity to pick

up a course catalog and meet some of the instructors. TSC Foundation members will be able to register for L3X classes beginning Wednesday, Aug. 7. General registration begins Monday, Aug. 12. You can also view the course catalog and register online at TallahasseeSeniorFoundation.org. Early registration is encouraged since many classes fill quickly. Call 891-4033, email Maureen.Haberfeld@Talgov.com or visit Talgov.com/Seniors to find out more.

Sustainability Tip

Water your lawn in the early morning when temperatures and evaporation rates are low. Remember that 30 minutes twice a week is all your lawn needs.

STORE WATER FOR EMERGENCIES

Tallahasseeans typically have access to some of the best tasting drinking water in the state, but a hurricane has the potential to temporarily impact service. To guarantee your family is ready should the worst occur, drinking water is one of the most important items to have in your preparedness supplies.



Use these tips to ensure you have enough safe water during a disaster.

- Store enough water to last at least three days. (Figure that each person in the house needs at least one gallon per day. People with special needs, such as nursing mothers, infants and family members with illnesses, will require more.)
- Store water in high-quality plastic rather than glass containers, which can break, or paper cartons, which weaken over time.
- Store-bought bottled water is not your only option. You can fill containers from your tap, which helps save money. Be sure you wash and rinse containers before filling.
- If you have advanced warning of a disaster, fill sinks, bathtubs and all available containers with water.

For more information on emergency preparedness, visit Talgov.com.