

September 2009 News Releases

September 01

StarMetro Launches Route Decentralization Study

Nova2010 seeks to completely restructure routes next fall - Today, StarMetro, the City of Tallahassee's mass transit system, is launching a study to gather community input on potentially decentralizing the entire transit network. The project is called Innovation in Transit 2010, or Nova2010 for short. It plans to take the current transit system and break apart each individual route to create a grid-like route structure with routes running from north to south and east to west. This will create multiple transfer points instead of one main transfer point downtown like the system uses now.

"Currently, all of StarMetro's regular routes go through downtown, so a patron traveling from northeast Tallahassee to northwest Tallahassee must go through the plaza to reach his or her destination," said Ron Garrison, StarMetro's executive director. "By decentralizing the existing route structure, [Nova2010](#) not only better serves existing customers, it makes transit a viable option for the entire community."

By traveling on major roads, eliminating route redundancy, improving overall system efficiency and expanding transfer options, a decentralizing StarMetro would:

- Dramatically reduce downtown transfers
- Reduce travel times
- Reduce the carbon footprint
- Increase on-time bus service
- Significantly increase bus frequency (buses comes more often)
- Increased local and regional travel options

"With a decentralized transit system, some StarMetro customers may walk a bit further to a StarStop, but customers will have multiple transfer options, greater bus frequency, shorter travel times and overall improved route performance," Garrison said.

Preliminary work toward a decentralized system began more than eight months ago with an origin/destination survey of nearly 2,500 current StarMetro customers and an employment density study of major employers, which was completed recently. With this data, StarMetro planners constructed a concept of what the decentralized route structure could look like. (See current [conceptual map](#) - PDF)

In order to obtain community input, StarMetro will hold a series of Listening Sessions to review the project and the conceptual map. Listening Sessions are scheduled for:

- September 8 at the Lawrence Gregory Community Center, located at 1115 Dade Street, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- September 10 at the Walker Ford Community Center, located at 2301 Pasco Street, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- September 21 at the Tallahassee Senior Center, located at 1400 North Monroe Street, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- September 28 at the Tallahassee Senior Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The public involvement process will continue through October/November 2009. Beginning in December 2009, StarMetro planners will take the feedback received from the Listening Sessions and revise the conceptual map. In January 2010, StarMetro will finalize the decentralized route structure and begin the approval process with the City Commission. Upon approval from the City Commission, StarMetro will begin the internal logistics of changing over to a new system in spring 2010, with the intent of launching as early as fall 2010.

"The ultimate goal of Nova2010 is to create a transit system that better meets the changing demands of the Tallahassee region. Direct, fast, forward," Garrison said.

For more information, please call StarMetro's main office at (850) 891-5200 or visit Talgov.com/starmetro. For additional project updates, please contact via [email](#) or call the Nova2010 hotline at (850) 891-5283.

September 02

City Service Changes for Labor Day Holiday

Solid Waste/StarMetro/Animal Service Center - The City of Tallahassee's administrative offices will be closed for the Labor Day holiday on Monday, September 7. Following are schedule changes for the week of September 7-12 for solid waste customers living inside the Tallahassee city limits, StarMetro and the Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center.

Solid Waste Schedule Changes

Garbage / Recycling / Yard Waste (red week) / Bulky Items (red week) - during the holiday week, all customers will receive service one day later than their regularly scheduled service:

- Monday customers ? Tuesday, September 8
- Tuesday customers ? Wednesday, September 9
- Wednesday customers ? Thursday, September 10
- Thursday customers ? Friday, September 11
- Friday customers ? Saturday, September 12

Garbage and recycling containers should both be rolled to the curb for pickup by 6:30 am, with both containers returned to the home by nightfall. Customers are reminded to separate yard waste piles from any bulky items set out for pickup. Customers needing more information may view solid waste schedules at Talgov.com/YOU, or contact City of Tallahassee Utilities at 891-4YOU (4968).

StarMetro Schedule Changes - StarMetro, the City's mass transit system, will change its operations for the Labor Day holiday, as follows:

- **Fixed Route Services** - On Monday, September 7, StarMetro will operate on a Sunday schedule.
- **Dial-A-Ride Services** - Also available on Monday, September 7, operating within the standard Sunday coverage area (rides must be confirmed by Friday, September 4).

For more information, visit Talgov.com/StarMetro or call 891-5200.

Animal Service Center Closed - The Tallahassee-Leon Community Animal Service Center is normally closed to the public on Mondays, and thus the facility will be closed on September 7. Normal hours will resume on Tuesday, September 8, with the Center opening at 10:30 a.m. Customers needing more information, including photos of animals available for adoption, may visit Talgov.com/animals, or contact the Animal Service Center at 891-2950.

September 02 - TPD

TPD Promotes Child Safety Through RADKids Class

Our children are our most valuable assets. In an effort to protect our children, the Tallahassee Police Department provides a variety of child safety programs. In addition to Officer Friendly presentations, where officers build a rapport with children and teach them safety habits, the Community Relations Unit offers RADKids.

RADKids teaches children to react when dangerous situations arise. It is a self-empowerment class that educates children (ages 7-12) to not just react verbally, but to also react physically. The class teaches children what to do and say when a dangerous or uncomfortable situation occurs. RADKids teaches confidence, self-esteem and the power to make good choices. The class covers topics such as: stranger danger, bullying, dangers of drugs, fire safety, gun safety, assault and abduction recognition and safety. For testimonials of how children have escaped their abductors after attending the RADKids class, visit the RADKids webpage. As of this date, we have educated and empowered over 125 children in our community.

To register, please contact Crime Prevention Officer Susan Newhouse via [email](mailto:susan.newhouse@tpd.com) or by phone at 891-1874. Your child must attend all five days to complete the class and receive a certificate. Please visit the webpage for registration information and class materials. The class is limited to 25 students!

The next RADKids session will be held October 26-30 from 3:00 - 4:30pm at Premier Health and Fitness located at 3521 Maclay Blvd.

September 10 - TFD

TFD Hosts the 2009 Memorial Services to Remember 9-11

Tomorrow morning at 8:30 A.M in the courtyard between the old and new Capitol, the Tallahassee Fire Department will host a Memorial Service in honor of the fallen firefighters, police officers and emergency personnel during the devastating events of September 11, 2001. The Honorable John Marks, The Honorable Alex Sink - CFO for the State of Florida, City Manager Anita Favors Thompson, Tallahassee Police Department, Leon County EMS and Leon County Sheriff's Office will join with the Tallahassee Fire Department in this Memorial Service.

Four hundred and eleven emergency workers who responded to the scene died as they attempted to implement rescue and fire suppression efforts. New York City lost 341 firefighters, 2 paramedics and 23 police officers. The Port Authority Police Department lost 37 officers. Private EMS units lost 8 additional EMTs and paramedics.

The Tallahassee Fire Department will host a second Memorial Service in partnership with the Master Gardeners of Leon County at 2pm at Fire Station 11, located at 8752 Centerville Road. The Master Gardeners of Leon County began the project in January 2007 to build a garden as a tribute to honor fallen firefighters who responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001.

The Master Gardeners' on-going efforts of maintaining the Memorial Garden incorporates the principles of the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program of the University of Florida – Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

"This is our opportunity to share the Memorial Gardens with this community and allow them to mourn with us as firefighters," said Deputy Chief John Gatlin of the Tallahassee Fire Department.

September 10

Tallahassee Regional Airport Receives \$7.2 Million in Grants

Terminal Improvements to be Funded Through Federal/State Grants - The Tallahassee Regional Airport recently received notification of securing \$7.2 million in grant funds from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). \$4.5 million in grant funds will come from the FAA and \$2.7 million in grant funds from the FDOT. Blended with a match of \$2.7 million in Airport funds, the grants will allow for more than \$10 million in planned Airport improvements over the next year. \$5.8 million will be used for improvements and rehabilitation at the Ivan Munroe Terminal, \$2.7 million will be used for rehabilitation of the North General Aviation Apron and the remainder will be used for planning and design for future projects.

"These grant funds are a welcome addition and will allow the Airport to complete projects under the City Commission's "Fast Track" program, thereby retaining jobs in the community and enhancing the local economy," said Kenneth M. Austin, Director of Aviation.

As part of the City's Fast Track program, the Airport is in the process of continuing work on several ongoing improvement projects. These include the widening of Capital Circle Southwest to allow turning lanes at Airport entrances and exits, rehabilitation of the internal road network, improvements at the Airport Facilities Maintenance Complex, new directional signage, security improvements, and a study of Airport pavements to plan for future repairs. At the Ivan Munroe Terminal, the Emergency Power system is being significantly upgraded, while other planned improvements include automatic door replacements and roof repairs.

[Tallahassee Regional Airport](#) is operated and maintained by the City of Tallahassee. Tallahassee is served by four major commercial air carriers including American Eagle, Continental Airlines, Delta Air Lines, and US Airways Express. For more information on the Tallahassee Regional Airport, please visit [flytallahassee.com](#).

September 11 - TPD Murder Suspect Arrested

On Thursday, August 20, 2009 at approximately 4:00AM, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to 316 West Tennessee Street (Hotel on Capitol Hill) in reference to a reported shooting. Upon arrival, officers discovered that 25-year-old Otis Stewart and 26-year-old Earl Wright had been shot to death. Investigators from the Tallahassee Police Department's Violent Crimes Unit responded to the scene and began gathering physical evidence, along with potential witness information.

Initially investigators had very little information related to the cause of the shooting or the identity of the suspect(s). Investigators utilized hotel security surveillance photos and information from two witnesses identifying Victor "Slick" Hamilton as the suspect who shot into the crowd where Stewart and Wright were later found. During the initial interview with Hamilton he denied being at the Hotel on Capitol Hill, but soon recanted his story when confronted with the surveillance photos. Hamilton eventually admitted being at the hotel, indicating that a fight began and that he attempted to stop the fight. Hamilton explained to investigators that someone spilled a drink in his face during the fight. According to Hamilton, he then exited the hotel and reentered believing security had taken care of the fight. Hamilton claims that when he went back into the hotel someone began shooting. Hamilton admitted owning a semiautomatic handgun, but claimed the gun was stolen from him during a July 2008 home invasion.

The Tallahassee Police Department's Forensic Unit recovered casings and projectiles from the scene of the murders and submitted the items to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for analysis. The analysis of the evidence provided investigators with probable cause for the arrest of Hamilton. Hamilton was arrested at his home without incident at approximately 4:30PM this afternoon.

September 14 - TPD Free Child Seat Installation

The Tallahassee Police Department will host a child seat safety checkpoint. Statistics indicate that approximately 95% of all child seats are installed incorrectly. In an effort to protect the lives of children, the Tallahassee Police Department, along with the Florida Highway Patrol will check the installation of your child restraint and assist you in the proper installation. The service is FREE of charge and no appointment is necessary.

The checkpoint will be held this Thursday, September 17, 2009 in the parking lot of the Florida Highway Patrol (2100 Mahan Drive). The checkpoint hours of operation will be 3pm-6:00pm. If you have any questions, please contact Inv. Joe Giangrosso at 891-4243.

September 17 North Meridian Road Closed Sunday

Block Between Five Points and Anderson Street - The City of Tallahassee will close North Meridian Road between Seventh Avenue at the Five Points intersection and Anderson Street on Sunday, September 20 starting at 9 a.m. for water line repairs. The detour route will be clearly posted. Weather permitting, North Meridian Road should be reopened to traffic by 1 p.m. Sunday afternoon.

September 19 - TPD Three Arrested in Alcohol Sting

Last night, the Tallahassee Police Department's Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving Squad (COPPS) partnered with the

State Department of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (ABT) in an effort to reduce underage alcohol consumption. Officers conducted a series of surveys at local retail establishments utilizing an adult under the age of 21. The adult attempted to purchase alcoholic beverages at thirteen local businesses, unfortunately three of the locations illegally allowed the person under 21 to purchase the alcoholic beverages. The goal is to gain voluntary compliance with Florida law and reduce the needless tragedies associated with underage consumption of alcoholic beverages. The surveys are part of an ongoing strategy by law enforcement and will continue throughout the year.

Arrested:

- **Courtney T. Zion**, W/F, 21 yoa. Location: 1917 West Pensacola Street (Seminole Discount Liquors). Charges: Sale of Alcoholic Beverages to Person Under 21 Years of Age.
- **Kifle T. Gebremariam**, B/M, 41 yoa. Location: 2065 West Pensacola Street (N&H Big Time Saver). Sale of Alcoholic Beverages to Person Under 21 Years of Age.
- **Hunter P. McCrory**, W/M, 21 yoa. Location: 1800 West Pensacola Street (AJ's Sports Bar). Sale of Alcoholic Beverages to Person Under 21 Years of Age.

September 22

City Releases Report on Community Hazard Mitigation Strategy

Floodplain property owners receive discount on flood insurance premiums - The City of Tallahassee has released a progress report on Local Hazard Mitigation Strategy initiatives, with a major emphasis on floodplain management. The report is prepared by the City's Stormwater Management to meet requirements of the federal Community Rating System (CRS) annual recertification. The CRS program awards credit points to communities that perform floodplain management activities beyond the minimum requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program. Because of the City's proactive Stormwater Management program and participation in the CRS, Tallahassee floodplain property owners automatically receive a 20 percent discount on premiums when they purchase flood insurance.

The report includes details on issues ranging from increased intergovernmental coordination of floodplain management to promoting disaster resistant neighborhoods. Current activities include retrofitting owner occupied, low-income homes to improve disaster resistance, identifying areas within the community where future development should be avoided due to the potential for flood damage and the 2009 update to the Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

In addition to providing discounts on flood insurance, the City's floodplain management activities are intended to help reduce the risk of flood-related losses during major rain events such as last year's Tropical Storm Fay. For more information or to view the report, please visit the City's website at Talgov.com/planning/mitstrat/mitstra.cfm or call Stormwater Management at 891-6860.

September 24

Minority Enterprise Development Week Events Provide Tools for Success and Celebrate Small/Minority Businesses' Contributions

The City of Tallahassee and the Big Bend Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week Committee, comprised of state and local agencies located in the Tallahassee/Leon County area, are celebrating the 17th Annual Big Bend MED Week observance from October 5 - October 9.

Since 1983, the President of the United States has designated a national MED Week observance. This event focuses on the outstanding achievements and contributions made by minority businesses and the significant support given to small and minority business development by government and the corporate community.

Locally, MED Week will allow small and minority-owned businesses as well as government and community professionals an opportunity to celebrate the positive impact of small and minority businesses on our economy. In addition, several workshops have been planned to assist small and minority businesses with ways to improve their practices. The theme for this year's event is "Energizing the American Economy with Minority Business Enterprises."

This year the MED Week Committee will honor Sean Pittman of the Pittman Law Group as the 2009 Reginald L. Rolle Economic Development Champion Of The Year.

The schedule for MED Week 2009 is listed below.

Monday, October 5

- Kick-off networking reception at Aloft-Tallahassee Downtown, 200 North Monroe Street, 6 p.m. This event will be hosted by the Capital City Chamber of Commerce.

Tuesday, October 6

- Teen Entrepreneurial Summit at R.N. Gooden/Nancy Russell Center at Wesson, 2813 South Meridian Street, 9 a.m. - noon; The summit will provide information to local high school students about starting their own businesses.

Wednesday, October 7

- "How to become a mentor and/or protégé," Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center, 505 West Pensacola Street, 9 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.; Ajax Building Corporation will provide the talent, knowledge and resources to assist in the development of individuals and businesses so that they can become productive players in today's construction industry.
- "Writing grant proposals for non-profits," Civic Center, 10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.; In this session you will learn what makes a successful nonprofit and receive a step-by-step guide to obtaining your 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. This session will also provide guidance on how to find and apply for grants; focus on simple, practical strategies that work and low cost innovative fundraising techniques. Armstrong & Associates will be providing expertise during this session.

Thursday, October 8

- FSU/Grainger Vendor Event, Florida State University's Alumni Center, 1030 West Tennessee Street, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.; The vendor event will involve the entire government community, with a specific focus on small, minority, women and disabled veteran businesses. Government customers from surrounding agencies, colleges and universities will attend, as well as businesses (both local and afar), offering a wide variety of products/services. This event is free to government invitees to attend, and there is no charge for minority businesses that would like to display their products or services.

Friday, October 9

- New Federal Housing Rehabilitation Programs, Civic Center, 8:30 - 9:45 a.m.; Participant businesses will be informed of opportunities to bid on upcoming construction jobs related to two new federal housing rehabilitation programs. The Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) provides funding to purchase vacant foreclosed properties in Tallahassee and rehabilitate them for affordable housing to be occupied by low and moderate-income households. The Weatherization Assistance Program assists low-income households to permanently reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient.
- Bidding Opportunities / Recovery Zone Bonds, Civic Center, 10 - 11:15 a.m.; City, county and state representatives will provide the latest information regarding upcoming procurement opportunities. Fast-tracking public sector capital projects and infusing money into the community is the new City of Tallahassee initiative to expedite the construction of public projects. Recovery Zone Facility Bonds are a type of traditional tax-exempt private activity bond that may be used by private businesses in designated recovery zones to finance a broad range of depreciable capital projects.
- Recognition Luncheon, Civic Center, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.; Windell Paige, President of the Capital City Chamber of Commerce, will be the luncheon's keynote speaker. Sean Pittman of the Pittman Law Group will be honored as the 2009 recipient of the Reginald L. Rolle Economic Development Champion of the Year. The cost for the luncheon is \$20.

For the latest information on the Big Bend MED Week celebration, please contact Bonita Davis Paige, LaTanya Raffington or Ben Harris, all with the [City's Economic and Community Development Department](#), at 891-6500 or visit [Talgov.com](#).

September 25 - TPD Domestic Violence Ends in Murder

On Wednesday, September 23, 2009 at approximately 3:30PM, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to 2001 Belle Vue Way (Charter Oaks Apartments) in reference to a possible murder. Upon arrival officers knocked on the apartment door, but received no answer. Officers forced the front door open in an effort to check on the victim (later identified as 25-year-old Elisabeth Killam), locating the deceased victim in her bedroom. Also inside the apartment was 36-year-old Terrell Robinson. Robinson was semiconscious and taken to a local hospital because at the time officers believed he may have attempted suicide by ingesting medication.

Investigators from the Tallahassee Police Department's Violent Crimes Unit responded to the scene and began gathering physical evidence along with statements from neighbors. Investigators discovered that Robinson had been living with Killam in her apartment and that the two were involved in a romantic relationship.

On Thursday, September 24, 2009, Robinson was released from the hospital and interviewed by Investigator Angie Booth at the Tallahassee Police Department. During the interview, Robinson explained he became jealous due to Killam's ongoing relationship with another man and murdered her during a violent confrontation, eventually choking Killam to death.

Robinson was arrested late yesterday evening and charged with the murder of Elisabeth Killam.

Arrested



Terrell L. Robinson, B/M, 36 yoa. Charges: Murder, Robbery, and two outstanding Violation of Probation warrants issued by the Bay County Sheriff's Office.

**September 28 - TPD
TPD and You Breakfast**

As part of our ongoing commitment to provide personalized service to our neighborhoods, Police Chief Dennis Jones invites you to join him in a morning forum to discuss current issues impacting your community. This popular event is offered to the community and held several times each year to give citizens the opportunity to meet with Chief Jones and his staff to discuss issues taking place in your neighborhoods.

Chief Jones and his staff will host the "TPD and You" Breakfast on Saturday, October 3, 2009. The event will be at the Lincoln Neighborhood Service Center (438 West Brevard Street) and will begin at 9:00AM. Coffee and a light continental breakfast will be provided.

Our upcoming "TPD and You" Breakfast will feature a review of past and current issues impacting your neighborhood and comments from the Chief. Crime Prevention Officers, District officers, and representatives from the City of Tallahassee Neighborhood and Community Services Department will be present to address any and all of your specific concerns.

All community residents and neighborhood associations are encouraged to attend.

Please RSVP by calling the Community Relations Unit Hotline at (850) 891-4251 or email [Tallahassee Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit](#).

**September 29
Youth Football Takes to the Field**

Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Hosts / Third Annual Preseason Tackle Football Jamboree - The City of Tallahassee's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs Department will host the third annual Preseason Tackle Football Jamboree on Saturday, October 3, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Messer Sports Complex, North. Admission to the jamboree is free. This is the 53rd year the City of Tallahassee has run its youth football program.

Each Pee Wee and Junior League team will play two mini-games during the course of the morning. Each mini-game will be about the length of a regular game's quarter.

The day will be packed with fun family-friendly activities such as a rock climbing wall and bounce house. There will also be a performance by the Leon High School Steel Band.

The Red Elephant will be selling lunch from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information on the jamboree, please contact Brian Smatt at 891-3837.

**September 29 - TFD
Tallahassee Firefighters Battle Apartment Fire in the 600 Block of Forth Avenue**

Around 3 P.M. this afternoon, Tallahassee Firefighters responded to a reported apartment fire in the 600 block of Forth Avenue. Firefighters found heavy smoke and fire showing from the front window of the apartment. The fire was started by a visitor to the apartment who was smoking on the sofa and fell asleep. The fire was contained to the one apartment and the other residents were able to safely return to their apartments within the complex.

One person suffered minor injuries and was treated on scene then transported by Leon County EMS. Damage estimated at \$25,000.

September 30 - TPD

Local Business Helps TPD Keep Kids Safe

Our children are our most valuable assets. In an effort to protect our children, the Tallahassee Police Department provides a variety of child safety programs. In addition to Officer Friendly presentations, where officers build a rapport with children and teach them safety habits, the Community Relations Unit offers RADKids.

RADKids teaches children to react when dangerous situations arise. It is a self-empowerment class that educates children (ages 7-12) to not just react verbally, but to also react physically. The class teaches children what to do and say when a dangerous or uncomfortable situation occurs. RADKids teaches confidence, self-esteem and the power to make good choices. The class covers topics such as: stranger danger, bullying, dangers of drugs, fire safety, gun safety, assault and abduction recognition and safety. To date, the Tallahassee Police Department has utilized RADKids to educate, empower, and protect over 125 local children.

Because of ever tightening budget constraints, there is always the potential for a program like RADKids to be eliminated. Thanks to local business partners like Cash America Pawn, we know the program is safe. On August 22, 2009 the Tallahassee Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit conducted a Child ID Checkpoint during business hours at a local Cash America. During the checkpoint Cash America donated \$1 for every DVD video they sold to the RADKids program. The event was so successful that it raised over \$2300 for the program.

Tallahassee Police Chief Dennis Jones said, "I am grateful for the partnership and financial support from Cash America. Children are innocent and it is our job as a society to ensure their happiness, safety, and security. This donation will go a long way in protecting our children!"

Anyone with questions about [RADKids](#) is urged to contact Officer Susan Newhouse at (850) 891-1874 or via [email](#).

September 22 City Partnership with St. Maarten Celebrates 10-Year Anniversary

Local Leaders to be Honored for Building Lasting Relationship with Sister City - Wednesday, September 23, marks the 10-year anniversary of the Sister City relationship between the City of Tallahassee and the Caribbean island of St. Maarten. To celebrate, the City will host a reception on Wednesday at 3 p.m. in the Tallahassee Room of City Hall.

St. Maarten, lead by their Head of Government, Commissioner William Marlin, will present 25 Tallahasseeans, including Mayor John Marks, Commissioner Andrew Gillum and City Manager Anita Favors Thompson, with plaques for their continued efforts at building a lasting and fruitful sister city relationship and to commemorate this milestone.

Then Tallahassee Mayor Scott Maddox; Maria Henry, Tallahassee CCI President; Island Commissioner Theo Heyliger; and Arthur Lugisse signed the Tallahassee-St.Maarten Partnership on September 23, 1999.

As a result of the partnership, the Tallahassee-St. Maarten Foundation (TLH-SXMF) was formed. It is a citizen-driven not-for-profit organization that has successfully promoted educational ties between the two governments.

One of the accomplishments of the TLH-SXMF and Sister City relationship has been the ability for students from St. Maarten to pursue higher education in Tallahassee at the in-state tuition rate. According to Lugisse, now executive director of the TLH-SXMF, 60 students from St. Maarten are pursuing degrees in Tallahassee, which helps contribute to the local economy on a yearly basis.

The City of Tallahassee is a member of Sister Cities International, which provides a framework for the establishment of partnerships between international communities. In addition to St.Maarten, Sister City relationships have been established with Sligo, Ireland (1995), Krasnodar, Russia (1989), Ramat-Hasharon, Israel (2006), and Konongo-Odumasi, Ghana (2008).

These relationships strive to promote cooperation and partnership in areas such as health and medicine, education, cultural arts, sports and economic development.

September 25 - TPD Quiet Neighborhood Surprised by Drug Dealing

Yesterday, the Tallahassee Police Department's Special Investigations Section conducted surveillance at a home used by drug dealers. Investigators observed several vehicles and suspects at the home located at 1409 Crescent Hills Drive late yesterday afternoon. Investigators discovered the house after receiving information that illegal drug activity was taking place at the home. After observing 28 year-old Roger Morell arrive and remove a duffle bag from his vehicle, investigators became suspicious. A few minutes later, investigators observed 27 year-old Antowan Byrd exit the home through the back door and into a wooded area. Byrd continued through the woods, eventually getting into a waiting vehicle. A traffic stop of the vehicle occupied by Byrd revealed approximately 8 pounds of high grade marijuana.

Armed with the evidence found during the traffic stop, investigators obtained a search warrant for the home located on Crescent Hills Drive. Inside the home investigators seized an additional pound of marijuana, an AR-15 assault rifle, a money counter, drug paraphernalia, ammunition, and a .45 caliber handgun. Additionally, investigators seized three flat screen televisions, which are believed to have been purchased with illegal drug money. All tolled the estimated street value of the marijuana is approximately \$40,000.

Arrested



Antowan L. Byrd

B/M, 27 yoa.

Charges: Sale of Marijuana

Terrance Brown

B/M, 30 yoa.

Charges: Sale of Marijuana



Cardell Byrd

B/M, 24 yoa.

Charges: Sale of Marijuana

Roger J. Morell

W/M, 28 yoa.

Charges: Sale of Marijuana

September 30

StarMetro to hold Listening Sessions on Nova 2010

Public Input Sought on Route Decentralization Project - During the month of October, StarMetro will hold eight Listening Sessions to garner customer input on its route decentralization project titled Innovation in Transit, or Nova 2010 for short.

Listening Sessions will take place on:

- **October 6** in the Tallahassee Room at City Hall, located at 300 South Adams Street, from noon to 1 p.m. and 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- **October 7** at the Leroy Collins Public Library, located at 200 West Park Avenue, from noon to 1 p.m.
- **October 8** at the Atkins Building in the Koger Office Center, located at 1320 Executive Center Drive, from 7 to 8 p.m.
- **October 14** at the Leroy Collins Public Library from 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- **October 22** at the Northeast Branch Library, located at 5513 Thomasville Road, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- **October 27** at the B.L. Perry Jr. Branch Library, located at 2817 South Adams Street, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5:30 to 7 p.m.

The [Nova 2010 project](#) aims to take the current downtown oriented route structure and break it apart to create a more grid-like system, with routes running on main roads from north to south and east to west with many routes bypassing downtown's C.K. Steele Plaza. This new structure would create many transfer points scattered throughout the city (see [proposed routes](#)).

By traveling on major roads and eliminating route redundancies, a decentralized StarMetro route structure would offer customers:

- Reductions in downtown transfers.
- Reductions in travel time.
- Reductions in carbon footprint.
- Increases in on-time performance.
- Increases in frequency (bus comes more often).

- Increases in regional travel opportunities.

"The ultimate goal of nova2010 is to create a transit system that better meets the needs of customers - direct, fast, forward," said Ron Garrison, director of StarMetro.

StarMetro plans to launch the new, grid-like system in fall 2010.

For more information, please call StarMetro's main office at 850-891-5200 or visit Talgov.com/starmetro. For additional project updates, please call the nova2010 hotline at 850-891-5283 or via [email](mailto:). Citizens may also follow updates on Facebook at www.facebook.com/nova2010project and Twitter at www.twitter.com/nova2010project.

September 21

Today's Joint City-County Public Safety Meeting Cancelled

A joint meeting including members of the Tallahassee City Commission and Leon County Board of County Commissioners regarding selection of a public safety dispatch center construction project manager, scheduled for this afternoon at 1 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, has been cancelled due to lack of a quorum. The meeting will be re-scheduled at a later date.

September 30 - TPD

Shooting Ends in Murder

Last night, just after 10:00PM, the Tallahassee Police Department responded to a reported shooting in the 2000 Block of Hillsborough Street. Upon arrival, officers discovered the body of 30-year-old Lenoris Raines lying in the roadway. A second victim was located nearby and was taken to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital for non-life threatening injuries.

Investigators from the Tallahassee Police Department's Violent Crimes Unit responded to the scene collecting physical evidence and evaluating potential witness statements. The initial investigation indicates that several men, including the two victims, were playing a game of cards while sitting at a small table. During the card game, a vehicle(s) stopped in front of victims and a black male suspect exited. The suspect brandished a handgun and as the victims attempted to flee, the suspect fired multiple shots.

After the shooting, the suspect may have fled in either a white Ford Crown Victoria or a gold colored sport utility vehicle, possibly a Chevrolet Tahoe. Investigators have information indicating that there may have been two other men in the vehicle with the suspect at the time of the shooting. The motive for the shooting is still under investigation. Investigators are asking that anyone with information about this crime contact the Tallahassee Police Department at (850) 891-4200 or Crime Stoppers at (850) 574-TIPS (8477). Remember, Crime Stoppers does not want your name, just your information. You could be eligible for a cash reward.

Suspect Description: Black male, approximately 6'2", 230lbs. Last seen wearing a black t-shirt and blue jeans.

September 30 - TFD

Enhanced Fire-Rescue/Emergency Medical Services - Fire Services Fee

The Tallahassee City Commission and Leon County Board of County Commissioners have approved a new inter-local agreement that will provide Tallahassee-Leon County residents with enhanced fire-rescue and emergency medical services. The agreement will add a total of 18 new firefighters at five rural fire stations in unincorporated Leon County and will enhance response times in the city.

To support these critical public services, residents who live in the unincorporated area of Leon County (non city residents) will begin paying a fire services fee beginning October 1. To determine the amount of the fee being implemented by Leon County for unincorporated county residents, visit the County website at www.leoncountyfl.gov. Within the city limits, there will be a slight increase in the fee for fire services (the first increase in four years). The increase ranges from 41 cents to \$1.91 a month for a single family household. The amount of the fee increase is based upon the location of your home in proximity to existing Tallahassee Fire Department stations. It is included as a detailed charge on the City's utility bill.

September 30 - TFD

Mobile Home Fire in Eastern Leon County

Around 2 P.M. today, Tallahassee firefighters responded to a singlewide mobile home fire in the 9700 block of Veterans Memorial Highway. When the resident saw fire coming from the window air conditioner she called 911. Upon arrival, firefighters found heavy fire coming from the home. The fire took approximately 10 minutes to bring it under control.

No injuries were reported during the incident. Damages estimated at \$10,000.