

PLANT NOW, SAVE LATER

January is the Perfect Time to Plant Shade Trees in Tallahassee

You may not be thinking about cooling costs and cranking up the AC this winter, but now is a good time to plan ahead and plant shade trees. Good shade can reduce your summer air conditioning costs by up to 30 percent. In Tallahassee, January is a good time to plant trees. Trees and shrubs planted now have a better chance of surviving our early-summer dry season. That's why we celebrate Arbor Day early in Florida, on the third Friday in January. Some of the trees you enjoy at City parks are thanks to the community planting event the City hosts for Florida's Arbor Day every other year, like this year's event to add more than 60 trees at Myers Park.

If you're planting trees at home this month, here are a few tips:

- Plant shade trees on the east, south and west sides of your home.
- Don't plant trees under power lines.
- Choose deciduous trees that drop their leaves in winter. You'll get shade in summer and sun in winter.
- Block winter winds with evergreen shrubs and trees by planting them on your home's north and northwest sides.
- Shading your backyard air conditioning condenser improves operating efficiency, elevates its cooling capacity and extends equipment life. Leave several feet of clearance around the air conditioner as it needs good air circulation to release heat effectively.



National Arbor Day is the last Friday in April, but many states observe Arbor Day on a different date according to their best tree-planting times. For more information, visit The National Arbor Day Foundation at ArborDay.org.

Sustainability Tip

Making your home more energy efficient this year?

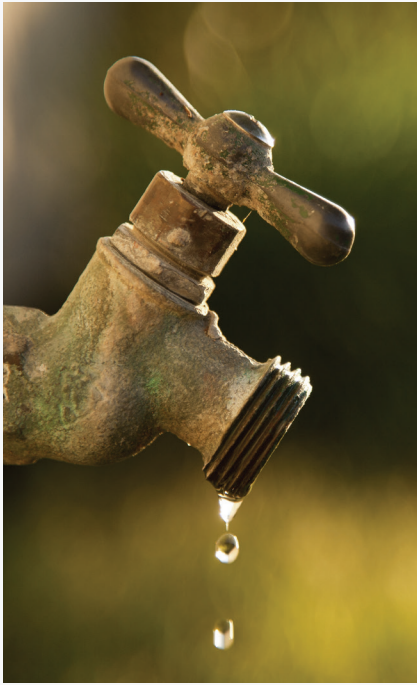
The City offers a variety of rebates on new homes, renovations, air conditioners, heat pumps, water heaters and more. Before you start your project, learn about rebate options at Talgov.com/YOU.



TEE OFF IN 2025

The City's Hilaman and Jake Gaither golf courses offer a great way to get exercise and pick up new skills. Hilaman is located on Blair Stone Road in the heart of Tallahassee, offering a panoramic 18-hole course with wide-open fairways. Historic Jake Gaither, located on Bragg Drive, is one of Tallahassee's most welcoming courses, offering 9-holes of serene play. With lessons available and tournaments held throughout the year, the City's public courses provide welcome challenges for all levels of golfers. Learn more at Talgov.com/Golf.

AVOID FROZEN PIPES



January is typically the coldest month of the year in Tallahassee. When temperatures dip extremely low, be sure to take measures to prevent 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 may be left with a thoroughly soaked house when the pipes thaw. Here's advice for those nights when a freeze is likely to occur – about 30 degrees (F) or below for more than one hour:

- Insulate pipes located outside or in the attic with cloth or a similar material to help prevent freezing.
- 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.
- Insulate your backflow assembly properly 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.
- Wrap commercial fire lines in buildings.
- Disconnect outside water hoses from spigots, as water trapped inside can freeze and crack the hose.

When pipes break between the water meter and the home or within the home, the customer is responsible for repairs. City of Tallahassee Utilities repairs damage to pipes between the water main under the street and the meter or in the main itself. For more information, call 850-891-4968 or visit Talgov.com/YOU.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS



If you own and occupy property in Leon County, you may qualify for one or more property tax exemptions. March 1 is the filing deadline for each tax year. Eligibility is

based on your permanent residence status as of Jan. 1, and exemptions do not automatically transfer between properties. Do not miss your opportunity to save on your property taxes! To learn more, contact the Leon County Property Appraiser at 850-606-6200 or visit leonpa.gov.



The City of Tallahassee is the largest single provider of municipal services in the region, including police, fire, public transportation, electric, gas, water, parks and more. With more than 30 departments, the City has opportunities for a wide range of skilled professionals. Learn more about careers with the City and how you can do great things to create a strong, vibrant community at Talgov.com/Jobs.

For all City of Tallahassee utility related inquiries, please call 850-891-4968 or visit Talgov.com.

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Insight is published monthly to inform citizens about City services and related items of interest. If you require an accommodation because of a disability in order to participate in a program, service or activity, please contact the City's ADA/Title VI Coordinator at least two business days prior to the event at 850-661-3235 or Kathleen.Wright@Talgov.com. For persons using a TDD, please call 711. Sign language interpreters require 10 days advance notice.

MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

Visit Talgov.com for the current list of Tallahassee City Commission, Community Redevelopment Agency, Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency and Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency meetings and workshops. Call the Department of Communications at 850-891-8533 for more information and view the current meeting agendas online at Talgov.com.

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