

## **PLANT TREES NOW FOR SUMMER SHADE**

Shade trees cool your home. 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. If you're planting trees 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 on Arbor Day, visit The National Arbor Day Foundation at [arborday.org](http://arborday.org).



## **GOLF YEAR-ROUND AT TALLAHASSEE COURSES**

Want to learn a new skill or get outdoors more this year? Check out the City's Hilaman and Jake Gaither golf courses. Hilaman is located on Blair Stone Road in the heart of Tallahassee, offering a panoramic 18-hole course. With a quality pro shop, restaurant, inviting event space and more,

you're guaranteed a great experience. Historic Jake Gaither, located on Bragg Drive, is one of Tallahassee's most welcoming courses, offering 9-holes of serene play. Both courses provide challenges for all levels of golfers. Learn more at [Talgov.com](http://Talgov.com).



## AVOID FROZEN WATER PIPES

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 can be left with a thoroughly soaked house when those pipes thaw. Here's some advice for those nights when a freeze is likely – about 30 degrees (F) or below for more than one hour:

- Trickle cold water from one or more faucets.
- Insulate all exposed outside water pipes and faucets.
- Make sure the cover to your water meter fits tightly.
- If you have a backflow assembly on your water service line, 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.

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 any damage to pipes in the main itself or between the water main under the street and the meter on your property. For more info, call 850-891-4968 or visit [Talgov.com/YOU](http://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.org](http://leonpa.org).

## WALK BRIGHTLY

Because of limited daylight hours in winter, your daily walk might occur in dark or low-light conditions. Here are tips to help keep you safe:

- Walk in well-lit areas
- Wear bright or reflective clothing
- Carry a flashlight
- Face traffic and walk on the sidewalk or as far away from the road possible
- Cross only at designated crosswalks
- Put your phone down and take off your headphones
- Walk with a friend or group, if possible

## AUTO PAY UPDATE

If you participate in the City of Tallahassee Utilities Auto Pay Program, your Auto Pay drafts will begin occurring on your statement's due date starting in late January 2023. Call 850-891-2800 for more information.

*Sustainability Tip*

Add caulk or weatherstripping to seal air leaks around doors and windows.



For all City of Tallahassee utility related inquiries, please call 850-891-4968 or visit [Talgov.com](http://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](mailto:Kathleen.Wright@Talgov.com). For persons using a TDD, please call 711. Sign language interpreters require 10 days advance notice.



## MEETINGS IN JANUARY

Visit [Talgov.com](http://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](http://Talgov.com). Follow [@CityofTLH](https://twitter.com/CityofTLH) on Twitter for City news.