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September is National Preparedness Month. If you have not already done so, now is the perfect time to take steps to prepare for emergencies of all kinds, including hurricanes. This year's theme is "Disasters Don't Wait. Make Your Plan Today."

This month, take practical steps to better protect yourself, your family and your property from a disaster. First, make a plan. Talk to your friends and family about how you will communicate before, during and after a disaster. Tailor your plans to your specific daily living needs and responsibilities. Discuss these items with people in your network, including neighbors, to see how you can each assist one another during emergencies.

Second, build a kit. Gather supplies that will last for at least 72 hours following a disaster for everyone living in your home. Don't forget to consider the unique needs each person or pet may have in case you have to evacuate quickly. Items to consider including in your disaster preparedness kit are non-perishable food, a flashlight, medications, hygiene products and a battery-powered radio.

Staying connected to accurate and timely information is important every day and even more so during disasters. To stay connected:

- Download DigiTally, the City's free mobile app.
- Subscribe to receive City of Tallahassee news via email online at *Talgov.com*.
- Follow @CityofTLH on Facebook and Twitter.

To view more preparedness information, including how to build a disaster preparedness kit, visit **Talgov.com**.



#### MEETINGS IN OCTOBER

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 891-8533 for more information and view the current meeting agendas online at **Talgov.com**. Follow @CityofTLH on Twitter for City news.

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

**UTILITY BILL PAST DUE?** You may be eligible for up to \$3,000 (one-time) as part of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Businesses may be able to receive up to \$8,500 (one-time). To apply for emergency financial assistance, visit LeonCountyCares.com or call 855-203-6584.

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# **STAY CONNECTED** WHEN IT MATTERS MOST.

RECEIVE HURRICANE UPDATES, REPORT POWER OUTAGES, LEARN ABOUT STORM DEBRIS REMOVAL, FIND SANDBAG LOCATIONS AND MORE!

- DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP DIGITALLY
- SUBSCRIBE TO CITY NEWS AT TALGOV.COM/SUBSCRIBE
- FOLLOW THE CITY ON SOCIAL MEDIA @CITYOFTLH
- UPDATE CONTACT INFO (UTILITY CUSTOMERS) TALGOV.COM/UPDATE



#### CITY RECIEVES NATURAL GAS AWARD

Over the summer, the American Public Gas Association (APGA)

presented the City with the prestigious System Operational Achievement Recognition (SOAR) Award, recognizing the City's Natural Gas Utility for excellence in operations. The City is the only public utility to receive APGA's Gold Level SOAR Award three times in a row. To learn more about the City's Natural Gas Utility, visit **Talgov.com**.



#### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Recently, the Mayor and City Commissioners marked the beginning of construction for three more Big Bend Habitat for

Humanity homes. This will bring the City's total number of Habitat home builds to 11, each providing a safe, affordable place to live for local families.

In support of its strategic priority to reduce the impacts of poverty, the City Commission voted earlier this year to sponsor the homes. That sponsorship includes financial support, the donation of three City-owned land parcels and volunteered manpower provided by City employees. To learn more about the City's commitment to affordable housing, visit **Talgov.com**.



Windows can be a significant source of energy waste. Window shades, shutters and awnings can provide an extra layer of insulation between your home and external temperatures.



#### **MAKE IT COUNT**

Data gathered from the 2020 Census will impact future funding allocations to our community's public resources, including schools, hospitals and transportation. Like voting, filling out the Census is part of our civic duty. Let's all make it count by completing the Census via mail, online or over the phone. The City of Tallahassee is committed to ensuring a successful outcome for the 2020 Census effort in our area. To learn about the Census, visit **Talgov.com/Census**.



**INSIGHT** is published monthly to inform citizens about City services and related terms of interest. 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 seven hours in advance. Sign language interpreters require 10 days advance request. For all City of Tallahassee utility related inquires, please call 850-891-4968 or visit **Talgov.com**.

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