



THREE CHEERS FOR THE GRADUATES

The City of Tallahassee's nationally recognized youth program, Tallahassee Engaged in Meaningful Productivity for Opportunity (TEMPO), graduated a record 187 participants this summer. They comprise the sixth cohort and the largest graduating class since the City began the program in 2017.

In a ceremony at the Old West Enrichment Center, 68 formerly at-risk students received GED certificates and 119 received technical certificates from Lively Technical College and Tallahassee Community College, in such areas as barbering, cosmetology, culinary arts, welding, commercial driving and Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning (HVAC). Family, friends, City officials and community members cheered them on as they crossed the stage.

"I didn't have a high school diploma or a GED, so I had to start fresh," said Rashon Carter, a cohort VI graduate. "I thank TEMPO and TCC for giving me the opportunity to do the right thing. I'm proud of myself. I'm happy. I did it. I changed my life."

The City of Tallahassee's TEMPO program is a public safety outreach initiative with a proven track record of successfully reconnecting disconnected or at-risk youth to educational and employment opportunities. Since the City created and

launched the program, TEMPO has successfully engaged more than 2,700 area youth in educational and vocational pursuits while maintaining a zero percent recidivism rate.

The program's target demographic – youth ages 16-24 who are out of work and out of school – represent, according to data, Tallahassee's largest potential gun violence victims and offender pools. By offering guidance and a pathway toward a positive future, the City's TEMPO program has been described as a lifeline by past participants.

The City's TEMPO program also offers a stop-gap initiative that allows family members of participants to attain their GEDs regardless of age, further strengthening support networks and increasing a household's opportunity to move out of generational poverty. This year, two siblings followed in the footsteps of their parents who enrolled in the program and received GEDs in 2021. There are five sets of siblings who graduated together, and two graduates who received both their GED and technical certificates.

For more information about the City's TEMPO program and how it offers viable alternatives by providing paths to economic opportunity for area youth, visit [Talgov.com/TEMPO](https://www.talgov.com/TEMPO) or call 850-891-8722.

Sustainability Tip

Greening your laundry is as easy as hitting the cold-water button and drying your clothes on a rack instead of in a machine.

CHANGE FOR CHANGE

Since 2004, the City's Change for Change program has enabled citizens to help address homelessness locally. By making a one-time or monthly contribution to the program through your City Utilities account, you help provide basic needs, like food and shelter, to families in Tallahassee to help them get back on their feet again. For as little as \$2 a month, you can help change lives. Learn more at [Talgov.com](https://www.talgov.com) or by calling 850-891-4968.



STORE WATER DURING HURRICANE SEASON

Hurricane season is in full swing. The City of Tallahassee is prepared and urges residents to do the same. Personal preparedness can enhance safety and ease recovery. While rare for City water customers, a hurricane has the potential to temporarily impact service. Guarantee your family is ready should the worst occur by including ample drinking water in your preparedness supplies. Use these tips to help.

- Store enough water to last at least three days.
- Store water in high-quality plastic rather than glass containers, which can break, or paper cartons, which weaken over time.
- Fill clean containers from your tap, which saves money over bottled water.



To stay connected with the City now and during a potential disaster, follow [@CityofTLH](#) on social media. For more information on hurricane preparedness, download the Step-by-Step PREP guide at [Talgov.com/PREP](#).

WELCOME BACK TO THE MARKET!



The Southside Farmers Market is again open for business. On designated Thursdays, you will meet farmers with fresh produce for purchase outside the Walker-Ford Community Center at 2301 Pasco Street. The market offers a variety of fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables at affordable prices and accepts SNAP benefits and EBT cards.

Remaining Market Dates, 2-6 p.m. (weather permitting)

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|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| • September 7 | • October 12 | • November 9 | • December 7 |
| • September 14 | • October 26 | • November 16 | • December 14 |

For more information, visit [Talgov.com/FarmersMarket](#).

STARMETRO FOR STUDENTS

It's time for a new school year. If your K-12 students don't have STAR cards already and are interested in riding public transportation to school, sign them up for StarMetro's Student Transportation for Academics and Responsibilities (STAR) program, which allows them to ride for free. STAR cards from the 2022-23 school year are valid until the student graduates. All students participating in the STAR program must have a STAR card and current signed agreement on file. With these items, students in grades 6-12 can ride StarMetro unaccompanied; students in kindergarten through fifth grade must be accompanied by a sixth grade or older sibling, legal guardian or parental designee. Learn more at [Talgov.com/STARprogram](#).



PICK UP THE POOP... PLEASE



During the dog days of summer, our furry friends still need daily walks and exercise. The TAPP (Think About Personal Pollution) program encourages you to always clean up after your pet. Dog

waste contains more harmful bacteria than other animals. When not properly disposed of, dog waste can wash into lakes and streams, negatively impacting water quality. Pet waste, though, is a pollution source that can easily be controlled, by picking up the poop, every time. Learn more at [www.TAPPwater.org](#).

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 SEPTEMBER

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](#). Follow [@CityofTLH](#) on Twitter for City news.