

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

February 13, 2012

Media Contact: Liz Joyner
Executive Director
The Village Square
Phone: 850.264.8785

THE VILLAGE SQUARE LAUNCHES 'OUR TOWN' FORUM SERIES

Leadership Tallahassee and Tallahassee Democrat partner in local leadership forum

(TALLAHASSEE, FL) – February 13, 2012 – If you want to participate in civic life in Tallahassee but aren't interested in preparing a three-minute speech for a commission meeting, what options do you have? This Thursday night, February 16, citizens will have a rare opportunity to talk over pizza with both Tallahassee City Commissioners and Leon County Commissioners.

“OUR TOWN: Local Leadership Forum” is the first in an ongoing series of unique local issues forums being launched by *The Village Square*, a nonprofit formed by local leaders – from both sides of the political divide – to improve the civility and factual accuracy of civic dialogue. The series is part of a grant funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Fund at the Community Foundation of North Florida to foster an informed, engaged community.

At a time when budgets are tight and tempers short, the traditional American town hall meeting offers an important opportunity to understand the choices we must make as a community.

The February 16 event, moderated by *Tallahassee Democrat* editor Bob Gabordi, will pair commissioners from both the city and the county for a cross-governmental discussion about where Tallahassee is as a community, where we're going, and what challenges we face in getting there. The forum is co-sponsored by *Leadership Tallahassee* and the *Tallahassee Democrat*.

The forum will be held Thursday, February 16 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at St. John's Episcopal Church at 211 N. Monroe Street (enter at rear Calhoun Street entrance). It is free and open to the public. Participants are asked to make a reservation to indicate their pizza preference and to ensure adequate seating, and to present their printed ticket at the door.

Those who are unable to attend can watch the program livestream at www.Tallahassee.com or follow an online discussion on Twitter, hashtag #vsq.

For more information (including a list of participating commissioners) or to RSVP and print your ticket, go to www.tothevillagesquare.org, or call 850-264-8785.