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## John G Riley Center and Museum Takes a Leap into the Future with New Facility

The John G Riley House is set to host its upcoming Leap Year affair on **Wednesday, February 29<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 2pm** at the museum, which is located in the heart of downtown at 419 East Jefferson (just 3 blocks from the Leon County Courthouse on the corner of Meridian & East Jefferson Streets). Attendees will indulge in delicious food from some of the best food-truck vendors in town; enjoy live music and an oral history experience with community elders during the event.

The organization encourages the community to recognize this every four-year one-day calendar extension by making donations in increments of \$29, \$129 or \$229. The funds will be used to close the Riley public campaign for construction of a Visitor/Conference Center annex on the historic Riley House property. Donors will also be eligible to win a variety of giveaways and an official art piece by renowned artist Eluster Richardson. Donations of all sizes are very much welcomed and appreciated. **Just \$19,235 short of the \$300,000 construction cost, the Riley Museum Board of Directors would like to break ground in early Spring of 2012.** Please help us make the Leap!

This facility will be a community-purpose project designed to serve visitors of nearby Cascades Park as well as enable the Riley Museum to host community events and meetings at this very special property. A gallery displaying the history of Smokey Hollow, a community that was once home to many local African American residents, is just one of many planned unique features of the new center. Smokey Hollow was demolished in the 1950s-70s, however, the organization has partnered with the present Blueprint 2000 Committee to work with former residents of the Smokey Hollow Community to ensure the preservation of this historical landmark.

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