



INSIGHT

INTO YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT

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City of St. Augustine
P. O. Box 210
75 King St.
St. Augustine, FL
32085-0210

www.staugustinegovernment.com

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency	911
Fire/Non-Emergency	825.1098
Police/Non-Emergency	825.1070
Water Bills/Customer Service	825.1037
Utility Dept/After Hours	825.1044
Planning/Building	825.1065
Public Works	825.1040
City Clerk	825.1007

Updates

Concerts in the Plaza

The 2009 season of *Concerts in the Plaza* begins on Memorial Day, May 25, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. with the St. Augustine Jazz Society. The Concerts continue through Labor Day every Thursday at 7 p.m. To view the schedule go to www.plazaconcerts.com.

Bridge of Lions

The historic arched girders continue to be installed on the Bridge of Lions and the new road deck and sidewalks are making their appearance at both ends of the bridge, quickly working their way towards the center.

On the east approach to the bridge, roadwork is nearly complete, except for reconstruction of the medians. Those will not be finished until the bridge is open for traffic at the end of the year.

On the west approach, major road construction is well under way in and around the Ponce Circle. New drainage, traffic signals and sidewalks should be in place soon as the completion of the rehabilitated Bridge of Lions approaches.

For more information on the Bridge of Lions Rehabilitation Project, please visit the project website at www.FDOTBridgeofLions.com.

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE ● THE NATION'S OLDEST CITY

Landscape watering restrictions now in effect

The Governing Board of The St. Johns River Water Management District (WMD) recently passed new restrictions for lawn watering throughout the 18 county district including St. Augustine and St. Johns County.

And on April 27 the St. Augustine City Commission passed a water conservation ordinance in conjunction with the new WMD conservation restrictions.

Water is a natural resource shared by everyone and as Florida's population increases, so does the need for all of Florida's residents to conserve. Water conservation may seem unnecessary in a state surrounded by water but not all of that water is readily available for drinking or irrigation.

Conserving water is not only good for the environment, but can help you save money on utility bills and spend less time on home maintenance.

The new watering days are dependent upon the time of year (either Eastern Standard Time or Daylight Savings Time) and your numbered (odd or even) address for both private and nonresidential properties.

The following table can be used to determine when you can water.

Time of Year	Home with odd number or no address	Home with even numbered addresses	Nonresidential properties
Daylight Saving Time	Wed/Sat	Thurs/Sun	Tues/Fri
Eastern Standard Time	Sat	Sun	Tues

- Water only when needed and not between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Water for no more than one hour per zone.
- Restrictions apply to private wells and pumps, ground or surface water and water from public and private utilities.
- Some exceptions apply.

Other notes of interest from the WMD:

- Irrigation is limited to no more than ¾ inch of water per zone per irrigation day.
- When reclaimed water is available for irrigation use, the use of private irrigation wells is not authorized.
- Persons irrigating with an automatic lawn irrigation system installed after May 1991 shall install, maintain and operate a rain sensor device or switch that overrides the system when adequate rainfall has occurred.

Exceptions to the restrictions:

- Irrigation using a micro-spray, micro-jet, drip or bubbler irrigation system is allowed anytime.
- Irrigation using a hand-held hose equipped with a spray nozzle that can be adjusted so water flows only as needed is allowed anytime.
- Watering in of chemicals, including insecticides, pesticides, fertilizers, fungicides and herbicides when required by law, the manufacturer, or best management practices, is allowed anytime within 24 hours of application. Watering in of chemicals may not exceed ¼ inch of water per application except as otherwise required by law, the manufacturer, or best management practices.
- Irrigation systems may be operated anytime for maintenance and repair purposes, not to exceed 20 minutes per hour per zone.
- The use of recycled water from wet detention treatment ponds for irrigation is allowed anytime provided the ponds are not augmented from any ground or off-site surface water, or public supply sources.

For more information on the watering restrictions, go to the WMD Web site at www.sjrwmd.com/wateringrestrictions or call the Jacksonville District office at 904.730.6270.

Hamilton Upchurch Park

Last month members of the St. Augustine City Commission and friends and family of Hamilton Upchurch dedicated and officially marked the opening of the city's newest park, the Hamilton Upchurch Neighborhood Park.

The park is located at the intersection of Anastasia Blvd. and Red Cox Dr.

Upchurch Park's family-friendly elements make it appealing to people of all ages. There is a picnic area, a fitness trail, playground equipment, nature overlook and a beginner inline and skating area.



To skate, parents of children under the age of 17 must sign a consent waiver which can be found under Forms and Applications on the city Web site at staugustinegovernment.com. Forms can also be obtained at the Financial Services Center, 50 Bridge St. or the Surf Station, 1020 Anastasia Blvd.

The park was made possible through both public and private efforts to secure the necessary funding. On the public side, the State of Florida provided \$200,000, St. Johns County contributed \$100,000 and the City of St. Augustine contributed \$70,000. On the private side, through the generosity of many people, the community matched the contribution of the city with an additional \$70,000.

Hamilton Upchurch, the park's namesake, was a native of St. Augustine who devoted his life to the community as a public servant and civic leader. In 1951, as a general practice attorney, Upchurch joined his father, Frank D. Upchurch, Sr., in the established firm of Upchurch and Melton. Upchurch later became an assistant state attorney and a St. Augustine city commissioner and mayor, before serving for a decade as a member of the Florida House of Representatives. Upchurch died in early January, 2008.

I Dig History summer camp

The Department of Heritage Tourism will host a summer archaeology camp the weeks of June 22-26 and June 29-July 3. To participate students must be entering the fourth or fifth grade this fall. Total cost for the week long camp is \$175.

The two classes are limited to 12 campers each and run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The program will be held at the Colonial Spanish Quarter and the Government House museums.

To register call 825.6830 or email sqmmuse@aug.com.

Water conservation...some saving ideas

More than 90 percent of the water we use comes from groundwater, water drawn from underground aquifers.

Though Florida usually receives about 50 inches of rain each year, only about 13 inches of water seeps into the ground to replenish underground aquifers. This source will not be able to meet all future demands, which makes water conservation a key strategy to sustaining this water source for as long as possible.

It's easy to see that water conservation is necessary when considering that each average adult needs only two and one-half quarts of water each day to maintain a healthy body, yet on an average each person in our area uses about 160 gallons of water in typical daily activities.

Here are some quick tips for conserving water for future generations:

- Use the appropriate sprinkler head for the irrigated area.
- Maintain irrigation system and install a rain sensor.
- Set automatic irrigation system timers correctly.
- Use a broom or blower to clean leaves and other debris from sidewalks and driveways.
- Outfit your hose with a spray nozzle.
- Check to see if you have any leaks in your home.
- Check your toilet to see if it is low-flow. If not, consider purchasing and installing a low-flow toilet.
- Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily.
- Consider installing low-flow showerheads.
- Fill bathtubs only one-third full.
- Turn off the faucet as you brush your teeth, wash your face or shave.
- Set the washer for the appropriate sized load and use the shortest wash cycle for lightly soiled loads.

For additional tips on how to conserve water go to www.floridaswater.com or contact the City of St. Augustine's Public Works Department at 825.1040.

SAFD business self inspection program a success

The St. Augustine Fire Department has deemed the business fire safety self inspection a success with many businesses participating.

Using the self inspection program, fire safety inspections can be completed at your own convenience which allows the redistribution of the St. Augustine Fire Department's inspection staffing to larger more higher risk businesses.

To see if you qualify as a low risk occupancy and would like to participate in the program please visit the city Web site to download the form at www.staugustinegovernment.com, under Forms and Applications or call the St. Augustine Fire Department at 825.1098.

Drought tolerant Empire Zoysia grass planted

With the passage of the new water restrictions by the St. Johns River Water Management District and the City of St. Augustine, the city is gradually replacing grass sod in public venues with a more drought resistance turf rather than the St. Augustine grass which is planted on most of the city's public property.

Recently city crews replaced St. Augustine grass with Empire Zoysia grass which is known to be bug resistant, grows more slowly so needs less mowing and adapts to a wide variety of soils. It's also hardy so it has a good tolerance to traffic, shade and salt and provides a density which resists weeds. And the best part is that it needs less regular watering than the St. Augustine grass.

The two sites chosen to test the Empire Zoysia grass were the two front quarter areas of the Alcazar Hall courtyard at 75 King St. and other areas at the Plaza de la Constitución.

Notes of interest

Eleven members of Boy Scouts of America, Troop 345, recently donated community hours at the Rhythm and Ribs Festival by assisting Supervisor of Solid Waste, Rick Stevens, in the city's recycling effort.

Recycling bins were scattered throughout the festival grounds for plastic and aluminum containers and the scouts regularly emptied the bins to a central location to be disposed of by the city.

A total of 28 hours were donated by the participating scouts and Stevens presented them with a plaque in appreciation for their hard work.



City ordinance states that owners must remove dog droppings from public places and dispose of them properly.



Each Friday *News and Notes*, an email newsletter, is sent to interested residents and businesses.

Included is news of road closures, traffic interruptions and city agendas for the city commission and citizen boards. To be placed on this list, email cdupont@ci.st-augustine.fl.us or call 825.1053.



Those residents and businesses who hire professional landscapers are reminded that the landscapers are required to remove the bags of debris collected.



Residents and visitors alike enjoy clean appearing streetscapes. A reminder to residents and businesses to remove trash carts and recycle bins from the curb after emptied.

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