

INSIGHT

INTO YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT

August 2005
Volume 2, Issue 3

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

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
Trash Pickup.....	825.1040
City Clerk.....	825.1005
Neighborhood Council.....	825.1053

Other project updates

Sebastian Inland Harbor

The City of St. Augustine recently closed on the sale of the city owned property located on the San Sebastian River and the newly renamed, Sebastian Harbor Drive.

When the project is completed by the purchaser/contractor in approximately two years, there will be condominiums, a hotel, marina, outdoor amphitheater, parking facility, retail shops and offices.

Bridge of Lions Rehabilitation Project

Launched in February 2005, the project is progressing with construction of the temporary bridge. On the north side of the Bridge of Lions, piles are being driven for support of the temporary bridge, concrete is being poured for pile caps and fender piles have been driven for protection of the bridges at the channel. For more information regarding the rehabilitation, please visit www.fdotbridgeoflions.com or call 904.825.3647.

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

Moving forward with multiple city projects

The City of St. Augustine is much like your home in that it's in constant need of maintenance and repairs. Maybe you need new flooring or perhaps new plumbing or electrical work or replacement of appliances. Similar things can be said of the City of St. Augustine. Work needs to be done to make life safe and comfortable for residents and visitors alike.

The city has a number of projects in various stages of completion. All these projects are in different areas of the city and temporarily impact the residents of the area. However, they're much needed projects which, in the future, we'll be grateful they were undertaken when they were.

VIC Parking Facility

The most ambitious project is the Visitor's Information Center where a new parking facility is being built along with a total revamping of the Visitor's Information Center itself.

This project is part of the 7-Point Parking, Circulation and Transit Master Plan which was developed by the Parking and Traffic Committee, a team of residents and business owners appointed by the city commissioners to develop a workable plan to manage vehicles in the city.

Currently foundations are being laid and the public should be seeing the building become vertical in early fall.

Davis Shores Yacht Basin

Twenty-three homeowners with property adjacent to the Davis Shores Yacht Basin agreed to a tax assessment to dredge the

basin. The yacht basin, which was originally named Governor's Creek, was dredged in the 1920's by developer Lt. Col. Dave B. Davis and is located at the end of South Matanzas Blvd.

The project which is paid for by the assessment, is facilitated by the city and is approximately 50% complete. Anticipated completion date is October.

Maria Sanchez Lake



This project consists of replacement of the flood gate valves with a new automated weir gate system. The new system will allow the water level to remain constant during rainfalls and will provide the City the ability to flush the lake when necessary.

The lake will be continuously monitored with automated sensory equipment to check the lake temperature, pH and dissolved oxygen content, all of which affects the health of the lake.

The project is about one-third completed with the completion date targeted for December.

W. Augustine Sewer Project

The City of St. Augustine is presently installing a new gravity sewer

system in parts of West Augustine.

The new sanitary gravity sewer system project includes over 5,200 feet of 8 and 10-inch pipe, 20 manholes, roadway resurfacing and 143 service connections to the residents of Toco Road and Hurst, Gilbert, Smith, Ford, Webb, Stewart and Brown streets.

The project was made possible through funding from the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, St. Johns County and the City of St. Augustine. The sewer system should be in service by mid-September.

Oviedo St.

Stormdrain Rehab

One of the worst city streets for flooding is Oviedo St. This is due, in part, because of the age of the clay pipe stormdrain system which is smaller in diameter than what is used today.

The old system is now being replaced by one with a much higher capacity.

Also, new driveways, curbs and gutters are being constructed and the brick sidewalks will be re-laid.

The project is about 50% complete and should be finished in late August.

The Seawall

Construction permits for the Avenida Menendez Seawall were secured from the Army Corps of Engineers, the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection and State Historic Preservation Office. The project is being designed by Taylor Engineering of Jacksonville.

Neighborhood Council Office

The City of St. Augustine neighborhood associations (NA) are continuing to grow with another two fully organized associations which brings the total now to 10.

The Spanish Quarter NA is bounded by Cordova St. east to Avenida Menendez and from Orange St. south to Cathedral Place.

With businesses an integral part of this neighborhood, the association welcomes business owners as well as residents who are concerned about the historic nature of this special business and residential neighborhood.

The association members are very proud that their entire neighborhood is zoned Historic Preservation District 3.

The second newly formed association is Magnolia bounded on the north by San Carlos, the west by San Marco Ave., south by Ocean St. and east to the Matanzas Bay and its tributaries.

Welcoming businesses to its association, Magnolia NA's primary focus is preservation of the live oaks on Magnolia Ave.

In support of the neighborhoods, the City Commission allocated a total of \$16,000 for the neighborhood grant program. Neighborhood associations made application for the funding of specific projects.

For more information on the grant project, call the Neighborhood Council Office at 825.1053.

While the Neighborhood Council Coordinator serves both the council and the neighborhood associations, there's a reason why the office is located on the first floor of City Hall. Residents who are at a loss on who they need to talk to, have easy access to the Neighborhood Council Coordinator.

The coordinator will gladly assist the public to quickly and easily determine answers to questions such as "who do I need to talk to about an overgrown yard in my neighborhood or who do I see about landlord/tenant problems?"

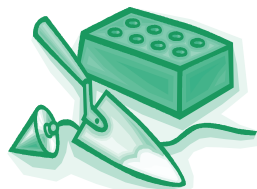
One such question on landlord/tenant came up recently and the coordinator was able to guide the senior to the state attorney's office on the civil matter.

Although the coordinator may not have the immediate answer to all questions posed, knowing who to call to get the answer is the key to resolving the problem as who can help.

The Neighborhood Council Coordinator's office is located on the ground floor of City Hall, Room 143. Easy to locate, the office is the first city office when entering from the Granada St. entrance to City Hall or you can call 825.1053.

Charlotte St. rehabilitation project

A little over 100 residents and business owners joined commissioners on Charlotte Street Friday, July 1, the beginning of the Independence Day holiday, for a ribbon cutting ceremony marking the end of one of the City's most ambitious and exciting street rehabilitation projects.



The project, which included the stretch of Charlotte Street between Treasury and Hypolita streets, was completed in less than six weeks, an astonishing time frame given the comprehensive nature of the project.

The first step in the project was the careful removal of the Flagler-era brick surface, a distinctive feature of St. Augustine's charm and historic character. The project included a new storm water system, replacement of the water and sanitary

sewer system, new sidewalks with ADA compliance improvements, a widened southern end of the street allowing easier access for emergency vehicles and the installation of new street lighting fixtures with the look of historic gas lights.

Then the last two days of the project consisted of restoring the surface with 37,125 bricks including both original century old bricks interwoven with new ones crafted to blend with the original material.

Perhaps the most exciting element of the project was the fulfillment of the City's commitment to retain its many brick streets even when it is necessary to go to extraordinary lengths to do so.

With this stretch of Charlotte Street, the city has established a protocol and process for other rehabilitations as the opportunities arise.

Did you know? The streets owned by the City of St. Augustine have an area of 250 acres. The replacement value of the streets, curbs and gutters is over \$24,000,000.

Soon celebrating 440 years

St. Augustine's *Birthday Celebration*, a day-long schedule of longstanding traditions and fun filled entertainment, will be held on Saturday, September 8.

This year, the city celebrates its 440th birthday. Although the city's actual birthday is September 8, the celebration is held on a Saturday close to the anniversary date to accommodate greater participation by the community and visitors.

The *Birthday Celebration* activities start with the traditional reenactment of the landing of Menendez and a Mass held at the Mission Nombre de Dios at 9:30 a.m. The birthday party featuring a two-hour performance by the Mid-

Life Crisis band and the traditional birthday cake will be held in The Plaza starting at 5 p.m. Then the summer's final reenactment of the *Changing of the Guard* takes place at 7 p.m. at Government House.

For complete details on the day's events please call 825.1004 or visit www.staugustinegovernment.com.

Did you know? The total area within the city limits is 21.99% water according to the U. S. Census Bureau.

Did you know? Two-thirds of the earth's surface is water.

Notes of interest

Concerts in the Plaza continue each Thursday at 7 p.m. Labor Day concert is from 1 to 5 p. m. with the St. Augustine Jazz Society presenting Jay Messick Quintet and E. T. Swing's the Thing with Debbie Rider.



All City Commission meetings are broadcast live on Cable Channel 3, Government TV at 5 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of the month. Reruns are broadcast the following Monday at 7 p.m.

The dates and agendas can be found on the City Web site at www.staugustinegovernment.com.



The research library located in the Neighborhood Council office has more than 80 publications for review by interested residents.



Stormdrains are for rainwater runoff. Keep out grass, dog droppings, cigarette butts or any other trash or debris.



The City of St. Augustine recently mailed water customers the 2004 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report.

The report indicated that city water quality falls within all federal and state laws, rules and regulations.

For questions about the report, call 825.1040.

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