



# INSIGHT

INTO YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT

August 2006  
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City of St. Augustine  
P. O. Box 210  
75 King St.  
St. Augustine, FL  
32085-0210

[www.staugustinegovernment.com](http://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
Trash Pickup.....	825.1040
City Clerk.....	825.1005
Neighborhood Council.....	825.1053

## Project updates

### Bridge of Lions Rehabilitation Project

Since the temporary bridge adjacent to the north side of the Bridge of Lions opened months ahead of schedule on Thursday morning, May 18, 2006, rehabilitation work on the Bridge of Lions progresses every day.

Construction crews having already removed the top layer of asphalt from the bridge, the non-historic lights and sidewalk railings and the sidewalk panels. Soon, a night shift crew will join the project team to drill and pour concrete for the immense 72", 90", and 96" diameter drilled shafts that support the bridge.

For more information regarding the rehabilitation, please visit [www.fdotbridgeoflions.com](http://www.fdotbridgeoflions.com) or call (904) 825.3647.

### Financial Services Center

The new facility located at 50 Bridge St. opened July 3 with a drive-up window, after hours drop box and free 30 minute parking in front of the building. You can make utility payments, open accounts, pay parking tickets and take tour guide tests at the site. For more information call 825.1037.

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

# Four grants mean \$\$\$ for the COSA

The City of St. Augustine is fortunate to have recently received more than \$4.3 million in grant funding from various state entities.

The City was notified in June that a grant was awarded for the Lightner Museum and two other grants received approval by the City Commission at its July 24 meeting. Lastly, the St. Johns River Water Management District awarded the City funding for construction of a low pressure reverse osmosis membrane water treatment plant earlier this year.

### Joseph Pomar, Jr. Park

A grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for Phase II of the Joseph Pomar, Jr. Recreational Facility, 1600 Masters Dr., was approved in the amount of \$112,000. The second phase will include creation of a multi-purpose trail, picnic facilities, a fishing pier, kayak launching area and public restrooms.

The grant comes with a match from the City in the amount of \$37,500 for cash or in kind services.

## City celebrates 441 years in day long events

St. Augustine's birthday party is scheduled for Saturday, September 2.

Although the city's actual birthday is September 8, the celebration is held on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend to accommodate greater participation by the community and visitors.

The event was recently named one of the Top 20 events in the southern U. S. by the prestigious Southeast Tourism Society.

Presently there's a baseball and football field, a gazebo, two dog parks, and an observation pier. The recreation facility covers approximately 48 acres.



### Davis Shores Rec. Facility

The second grant in the amount of \$200,000 was awarded from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the Davis Shores Recreational Facility. The site covers 7.4 acres on Red Cox Dr. A small portion of the area (0.4 acres) is declared wetland hardwood forest.

Also a matching grant, the City of St. Augustine is required to contribute \$30,000 of in-kind services with the community matching another \$170,000.

The recreational area will have a trail with connectors, a playground,

picnic pavilion and skate park.

### Lightner Museum

In June the City was notified that the Florida Legislature had awarded \$350,000 in Historic Preservation grant-in-aid funds from the Florida Dept. of State, Division of Historical Resources, for the restoration and repair of the Lightner Museum roof and windows.

### Water Treatment Plant

The St. Johns River Water Management District through the Florida Water Protection and Sustainability Program, awarded the City \$3.72 million.

A portion of the grant was awarded this fiscal year, the bulk of the award will be received next fiscal year and the final portion will be awarded in fiscal year 2008.

The funding is for construction of a new water treatment facility located at the present facility on W. King St.

The City of St. Augustine continues to apply for grants in an effort to ease the tax burden for residents.

The day's events begin with the traditional Founder's Day reenactment of the landing of Menendez and a Mass held at the Mission Nombre de Dios starting at 10 a.m.

At noon, the First Thanksgiving Cooking Contest will be held in the nearby Fountain of Youth Park. A first time event, the contest features ingredients available to the Spanish upon their arrival in Florida.

At 2 p.m. activities are

centered in the Colonial Spanish Quarter Museum and will include Latin jazz, kid's games and birthday cake.

At 5 p.m. the party moves to the Plaza de la Constitution for a concert by the Wind Ensemble of the Navy Band Southeast.

The day ends with the 7 p.m. Changing of the Guard at the Government House.

All events are free and open to the public.

## Time to inventory your trees

Damaged tree branches and limbs can be dangerous to your home, auto and out buildings as well as you and your family's safety. With hurricane season here it's time to take a complete inventory of trees on your property.

Patti Henderson, a certified arborist and supervisor of the City's Parks Division offers the following suggestions for property owners:

- Trees should have a natural overall healthy and balanced looking canopy and branch structure;
- Look for visible problems such as dead limbs and rot spots and overhanging branches;
- Check for loss of leaves and smaller branches with the knowledge that small amounts of thinning and dieback are natural;
- With recent construction near a tree, check the ground to determine if the roots or large limbs of the tree were damaged or removed since this could make the stability of the tree weaker;
- Also check for branches rubbing against each other so you can have the weaker of them trimmed; and
- Mushrooms or rotting in the trunk or upper branches may mean problems for the tree.



"Severe trimming and major branch or root loss on one side of the tree could result in an unbalanced tree. Maintaining a balanced tree helps keep its center of gravity over its trunk. By making the tree balanced it is less likely to snap off or topple over," says Patti.

She suggests consulting a reputable bonded and licensed tree service company to have it professionally trimmed to bring it back into balance to make it safe and attractive around your home.

For more information check out the following Web sites: the National Arbor Day Foundation's site at [www.righttreerightplace.com/index.asp](http://www.righttreerightplace.com/index.asp) and the University of Florida's site at [www.hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/pruning](http://www.hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/pruning).



## Historic Downtown Parking

"It's a great time to rediscover downtown St. Augustine where you can easily park, walk downtown, uptown or take the free shuttle to the Plaza and return to pick up your vehicle," stated Billy Triay, Properties Management Supervisor with the City's Department of Historic Tourism.

Billy is responsible for operations of the Historic Downtown Parking Facility and the Visitor Information Center (VIC).

The facility was open free of charge for the entire month of July to allow visitors and residents an opportunity to discover the facility.

The monthly cost for one vehicle is \$32 plus tax and should you want to purchase 10 or more passes, the cost drops to \$25.60 plus tax each month. However, Billy reminds everyone that the person who purchases a group of passes is responsible for the entire 10 passes although the passes may be for other individuals.

Residents and business owners can purchase the passes from the Parking Facility where they can pay with debit, credit cards or cash. Passes can also be obtained at the new Financial Services Center located at 50

Bridge St.

Hourly parking, of course, is always available at \$1.25 per hour with a \$7.50 maximum per day.

The building itself is well organized and well lighted with 24-hour security and greeters from the VIC.

And the reason for the "take ticket with you" signs? If you have your ticket with you, you can pay at one of the 'pay on foot' stations before you get back to your car. That way, you're out of the gate without having to stop at the cashier booth. There are three 'pay on foot' stations on the first floor level where everyone passes to leave for the beautiful streets of St. Augustine.

Please bear in mind that construction is continuing with completion of the Visitor's Information Center expected by this fall when a grand opening will be announced.

For information on how to obtain your monthly pass call 484.5160 or stop by the Parking Facility where greeters will direct you to the first floor operations office which is on your far left after entering the building. The ticket for entering when obtaining your pass will be invalidated.



## VIC/landscaping/roadwork continuing

With the new Historic Downtown Parking Facility opening last month, there have been and will continue to be street improvements in the area.

Most recently there were two improvements, one directly in front of Ketterlinus Elementary School and the other at the intersection of Orange and Cordova streets.

City workers placed a speed table which is 22' long and covers the width of the street from sidewalk to sidewalk. The table is to slow down traffic in this school area and allow a broad space for

students to cross the street.

At the intersection of Orange and Cordova, bricks were placed in crosswalks to allow pedestrians to safely cross at the busy intersection.

Although the parking facility is mostly completed, the Visitor's Information Center (VIC) is still to be completed along with the final touches of landscaping and cleanup.

The VIC is expected to be open in the early fall with an entirely new look for visitors and residents alike.

## Notes of interest

### City Commission and Board Meetings

The City Commission meets every second and fourth Monday at 5 p.m. and is broadcast live on Time Warner Channel 3. The meeting is rerun the following Monday at 7 p.m. on Channel 3.

The Planning and Zoning Board meets the first Tuesday of each month and is rerun the third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. on Channel 3.

The Historic Architectural Review Board meets the third Thursday of each month and is rerun the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. on Channel 3.

All agendas are posted on the city Web site at [www.staugustinegovrnment.com](http://www.staugustinegovrnment.com).



The City of St. Augustine sent the annual Water Quality Report to customers the month of June. If you would like an explanation of the report, please call the Water Treatment Plant at 825.1044.



Passes to re-enter storm evacuation areas can be obtained at the Financial Services Center, 50 Bridge St. For more information call 825.1037.



Storm drains are for runoff water which empties directly into the Matanzas River. It's not for grass clippings, trash or debris.

If it's solid waste, please dispose of it properly.

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