INSIGHT

INTO YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT

December 2004
Volume 1, Issue 4

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

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

INFO FROM CITY WEB SITE

For information on the city, the go to site is www.staugustinegovernment.com.

This web site has in-depth information on all subjects relating to city projects, water, utilities, jobs, City Code, email addresses and phone numbers for the City Commissioners, agenda items for the City Commission, citizen boards and loads of information about things to do in St. Augustine including the *Nights of Lights*.

The site is updated weekly.

ONGOING PROJECTS

- **Seawall Restoration** - $750,000 of a state grant has been received and the Bayfront project is moving forward.
- **VIC Multi-Modal Transportation Facility** –The project will go out for bid in early December.
- **San Sebastian Project** - The Planning and Zoning Board approved the rezoning of the property to a Planned Unit (PUD) Development at its November meeting. The PUD was passed by the City Commission on first reading at its November meeting.

Nights of Lights are sparkling bright downtown

The *Nights of Lights* are here again.

Certainly there is pleasure enough walking St. Augustine's old world streets anytime of the year, but during the *Nights of Lights* when colonial buildings, downtown parks and the city's historic Bayfront are illuminated by over two million sparking lights, the pleasure is ever greater.

Recognized as one of the Southeast's major seasonal events, the *Nights of Lights* has brought holiday excitement to the Nation's Oldest City for over a decade. Started in 1993, the *Nights of Lights* begins with a simple flip of a switch that magically fills every corner of the city with brilliant white lights, transforming the Nation's Oldest City into an enchanted city of light.

St. Augustine's success with the *Nights of Lights* lies partially in the fact that the city has such a large volume of unique historic structures in a very compact area. When outlined in light, the sweeping Bridge of Lions, the many arched doorways of Spanish Colonial homes, the sturdy towers of the 19th Century hotels together with the huge oaks in the parks and the tall straight palms that line the streets all come together in a seamless display of light.

As we know, we aren't the only ones to enjoy the sites since St. Augustine is a destination for visitors throughout the holiday season.

With this in mind, remember to be courteous to our guests who are unfamiliar with our streets and sidewalks.

According the city ordinance, the lights are to be turned off and removed (under some circumstances) January 31.

However, due to Super Bowl XXXIX to be held in Jacksonville February 6, 2005, the *Nights of Lights* will be extended through that date.

For further information on guidelines for the placement of lights and the ordinance governing the *Nights of Lights*, check the city's website at www.nightsoflights.com.

St. Augustine City Commission

George Gardner - Mayor/Commissioner
Mayor - Two year term expires December 2006
Seat Five - Four year term expires December 2006

Errol D. Jones - Commissioner
Seat One - Two year term expires December 2006

Susan Burk - Commissioner
Seat Two - Four Year term expires December 2008

Joe Boles - Commissioner
Seat Three - Two Year term expires December 2006

Don Crichlow - Commissioner
Seat Four - Four year term expires December 2006

State of Florida

Bus/Profess Reg (contractor licenses)	800.342.3557
Attorney General (price gouging hotline)	800.646.0444
FEMA (registration/housing assistance)	800.621.3362
Consumer Hotline (general issues)	800.435.7352
Elder Helpline (county specific info)	800.963.5337

Safety first for holiday

Decorating with lights from past holidays? The hazard of electrical shock or fires is always high when faulty or damaged lighting decorations and wiring installations are used.

Before hanging your electrical decorations inspect them for damaged or frayed wiring. Discard them or repair them properly if they're not in perfect working condition.

Overloaded electrical outlets are a common danger. Do not connect more than one lighting element to any outlet.

Make the holiday season safer by practicing electrical safety.

Corridor guidelines in place

The City Commission, in February 2003, adopted entry corridor guidelines based on "The Design Standards for Entry Corridors, Guidelines for Public and Private Improvements," prepared by Herbert-Halback, Inc., and dated January 24, 2000. The document was adopted as the design standards for the entrance corridors.

For nearly fifty years, restrictions have been in place that are specific to St. Augustine's five historic preservation (HP) districts, but there have been no such regulations or guidelines for the primary thoroughfares leading into the city, areas known as entrance corridors.

The City Commission recognized that St. Augustine's character has taken centuries to develop and that the introduction of inharmonious elements in and adjacent to neighborhoods and the downtown area could quickly destroy the city's appeal.

The areas affected by the standards are: King St. from Granada St. west to Palmer St.; San Marco Ave. from Castillo Dr. north to US 1; Anastasia Blvd. from the Bridge of Lions south to the city limits; and most recently, West Castillo Drive, a HP 5 district.

In general, the guidelines state that:

- All new construction and site development within the entry corridors, excluding work within right-of-way, shall conform to the new standards;
- Any change in the use of a parcel of property shall require that the site, excluding buildings and facilities, be developed to conform to the standards, unless technically infeasible;
- Each element or space of a building or facility that is altered shall comply with the standards, unless technically infeasible; and
- When an alteration to a building or facility that incorporates exterior renovation constitutes 50% or more of the assessed value of the building or facility, the entire building or facility shall be made to conform to the standards.

Anyone with questions regarding the standards should contact the Planning and Building Department at 825.1065 during business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday or visit the department at City Hall, 75 King Street, (4th floor, Elevator "B").

Copies of the standards may be reviewed at the Planning and Building Department or in the Neighborhood Council Office located on the first floor of City Hall.

Catch basins for rainwater only

Hey, what's in your catch basin? The City hopes there's unpolluted rainwater and nothing else.

Your catch basin is at the curb on your street where rainwater washes in and eventually flows through underground storm drains into our waterways such as the Matanzas River. When residents use the catch basins for other uses such as emptying pesticides, grass clippings, pet wastes or water runoff from washing cars, eventually it ends up polluting our waterways.

There are ways to keeping our catch basins and storm drains free of pollutants. Wash your car on your lawn so that the water soaks into the earth; divert roof water to lawns or gardens; bury or flush pet waste; bag your grass clippings to be picked up; and properly dispose of your greases and oils.

We want our waterways to be as clean as possible so it's important that we do our part, however small that may be, to avoid polluting our waterways. Water, as we know, is not a renewable resource.

Did you know? The average 100 year flood elevation in St. Augustine is nine feet.

Did you know? The amount of yard debris picked up within the City after storms Charley, Frances and Jeanne totaled more than the amount usually picked up in one year.

Did you know? If you have a street light out, you can report the outage to FPL at 1.800.361.5162. Have the number of the light pole and the closest street address available.

Did you know? The City picked up 2,668 tons of yard debris after the storms Charley, Frances and Jeanne.

Neighborhood associations number eight

The St. Augustine Neighborhood Council (NC) is comprised of representatives from the established neighborhood associations according to the Council's bylaws.

There are presently eight neighborhood associations under the umbrella of the Council:

- Flagler Model Land
- St. Augustine Uptown
- Lighthouse Park
- Nelmar Terrace
- Old City South
- North Davis Shores
- Lincolnville; and
- South Davis Shores.

The meeting times and dates for the above neighborhood associations are on the city's website at Neighborhood Council.

The NC office has vast amounts of reference material including the most recent annual financial report, the City Code, studies on specific issues, maps, the City Comprehensive Plan, entrance corridor guidelines and National Trust Publications.

Besides assisting the neighborhood associations and the NC, Neighborhood Council Coordinator Cathy DuPont also assists residents by providing information on questions regarding the city and/or specific concerns.

If you have questions about city government, your neighborhood or if you are interested in assisting in the development of a new neighborhood association, please call Cathy DuPont at 825.1053, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Notes of interest

If you're interested in having your home or your neighborhood on the National Register please contact Kim Del Rance, the City's historic preservation planner at 825.1065.

Before you make improvements on your house or property or cut trees, call the Building and Planning Dept. at 825.1060 to determine if permits are required.

If you live near a water body, please consider using environmentally friendly lawn products on grass and plants. Some chemicals harm the environment due to water runoff.

The Super Bowl will be held in Jacksonville February 6. The entire week St. Augustine will be showcased to the world. Plan now to clean and make your neighborhoods shine.

City Code states that after trash pickup you must remove your trash container off the street out of view from the street.

Interested in serving on a citizen board? Applications can be found on the website or stop by the Neighborhood Council or Clerk's office.

InSight is Published Quarterly by
The City of St. Augustine
Dept. of Public Affairs
P. O. Box 210
St. Augustine, FL
32085/0210
Phone 904.825.1004
Email: cosa@aug.com