



# INSIGHT

INTO YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT

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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  
Phone 904.825.1005

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency.....	911
Police/Non-Emergency.....	825.1074
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, go to [www.staugustinegovernment.com](http://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 and citizen boards and loads of information about things to do in St. Augustine.

The site is updated weekly.

### ONGOING PROJECTS

- ◆ Seawall restoration - The City is continuing to attempt to obtain federal (FEMA) funds. When received, the project will begin. For more information call 825.1040.
- ◆ Bridge of Lions - Construction of the temporary bridge begins October 2004 and will last about nine months. For more information call 827.9873 or go to [www.fdotbridgeoflions.com](http://www.fdotbridgeoflions.com).
- ◆ Project SWING - There's a facelift coming this spring. To volunteer for this popular project or for more information call 825.1053.

## VIC Multi-Modal Transportation Facility on target

If you happen to see drill rigs and surveyors at the Visitor's Information Center (VIC), take heart that the VIC Multi-Modal Transportation Facility is in its early stages of development.

The City of St. Augustine has signed a contract with Walker Parking Consultants, a worldwide consulting firm with offices located in Tampa, for the preliminary study of the foundation site and the resulting final design work of the facility. Initial work, including preparing the site and offering appropriate architectural designs, is expected to begin mid-summer.

Once the site work is completed and Walker has offered refined architectural designs, the city will once again have public awareness workshops

to share those designs with the community.

The workshops held this past fall on the conceptual plans were well received by the public with input from neighborhood associations, merchant groups, general public and affected local industries such as tour companies.

Conceptual designs presented to the public were created by the design team of Walker, Les Thomas Architect and Fred Halback & Associates. After the public workshops, the information obtained was sorted into separate categories according to the subject.



This information was submitted to Walker for use in the final architectural design.

The Master Plan elements submitted and approved by the City Commission has seven components: heritage tourism signage, VIC Multi-Modal Transportation Facility, downtown shuttle, parking policy revisions for the downtown area, residential parking decal program, parking at San Sebastian Harbour, and the remodeling of the Lightner parking lot.

Site work at the VIC is the first step towards the final goal of managing the city's parking and traffic issues for residents, visitors, downtown employees and students.

The total construction project is expected to take approximately 17 months to complete.

## Oh my...oh my...speeding and pedestrians

*Whoa, Nellie...what's your hurry? We're in St. Augustine!*

Give those pedestrians, and by the way, those neighbors, a break with a brake! Stop for pedestrians and slow down in neighborhoods. That's the message from the City of St. Augustine and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT.)

If average St. Augustine residents Jane and John Doe were asked what is on their list of 'dislikes about St. Augustine,' certainly parking, speeding and pedestrian issues would all be there.



And the city and the FDOT are attempting to help resolve these issues.

With the new VIC

Multi-Modal Transportation Facility (see above), the city is attempting to help alleviate downtown parking issues.

So what about those other two issues?

You've probably noticed the pedestrian crosswalks recently installed along King St., San Marco Ave. and Avenida Menendez. According to the Florida Statutes, vehicles are required to stop for pedestrians when they are crossing at crosswalks and soon signs will be erected stating that. In the meantime, there are international crosswalk signs to make drivers aware of crosswalk locations and drivers must watch for pedestrians and give them the right-of-way.

To address speeding in neighborhoods, the city has developed specifications for speed humps. There are various ways to slow traffic, but the city has chosen this particular method that is available to any neighborhood by making an application. The application, when completed, will be reviewed by city staff for compliance. Call 825.1040 for an application.

A new speed hump has recently been installed on south Cordova, adjacent to Maria Sanchez Lake.

The bottom line is... brake for pedestrians and slow down in the neighborhoods. *We're in St. Augustine. Take time to be safe.*

## Trees for our lifetime

Urban trees improve the quality of life of cities. They contribute not only to the aesthetic beauty of a city, but also provide environmental benefits.

St. Augustine celebrated over 21 years as a Tree City USA with the city receiving its Tree City USA flag last month at its annual Arbor Day ceremony. Further, the City of St. Augustine received the 2003 Florida Tree City of the Year award. The city was acknowledged for its tree inventory and maintenance, protection of existing trees on wooded lots during construction, and Memorial Tree Program. Two examples of the city's stewardship were cited: Landscaping of Vickers Park with over 100 trees and 30 shrubs, and the preservation of three large live oaks at the Visitor Information Center.



Our City Code (Section 25-56) states that it is unlawful for any person directly or indirectly to cut down, destroy, remove or effectively destroy by damaging any tree in the city without first obtaining a permit. This requirement shall apply to all trees three inches or larger in diameter at breast height.

Before cutting, call the Department of Building and Planning at 825.1060 for more information.



## Join in your neighborhood

The Neighborhood Council (NC) is well established with six participating neighborhood associations and three which are being formed. The six neighborhood associations are: Lincolnville, Nelmar Terrace, Old City South, Flagler's Model Land, Light-house and St. Augustine Uptown.

Newly forming associations are located south of Anastasia Blvd. and north of St. Augustine in the Poinciana Ave. area.

Neighborhood Council Coordinator Cathy DuPont also assists residents by providing information on various issues of interest.

The NC office has a vast amount of reference books including the City Code, studies of specific issues relating to the city and the Comprehensive Plan.

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

## Stormwater runoff major water pollutant

The City of St. Augustine is surrounded by major water bodies—the Matanzas River, Salt Run, and the San Sebastian River.

As beautiful as these waters are, they are in danger of becoming polluted by stormwater runoff. In response, the city is taking a pro-active approach to this problem by preparing a public outreach program to educate residents of the harmful effects of stormwater runoff.

Our stormwater drainage system is an underground maze of pipes that start with curbside storm drains along our streets. When it rains, the rain running along streets and roads, empties into the drains, then flows through a series of pipes ending directly into our surrounding waterways.

We have little control over the pollutants carried by the rain, however we have much control over what we empty into the

curbside drains.

While most residents and business owners would never intentionally pollute our stormwater drainage system, many are simply not aware of how they



may be harming the environment. Washing a car may add pollutants to the environment that are transmitted through the storm drains which eventually empty into our waterways. Sweeping leaves into curbside storm drains or pouring chemicals directly down the storm drain can have negative impacts on the quality of our water. Cigarette butts, Styrofoam cups, fast-food

wrappers, used motor oil, antifreeze, fertilizer, grass cuttings, pesticides, sewage overflow and pet droppings are just a few of the pollutants many people regularly dispose of through storm drains.

Making the public aware of stormwater pollution and how it impacts the environment is the city's goal with this new education initiative. The public awareness program will consist of public speakers and a presentation; stormwater pollution awareness brochures for general distribution; and information on the city's web site. The presentations will be available for civic organizations, schools and neighborhood associations.

More information on this upcoming public awareness program will be made available in the near future or call 825.1040.



## Latest new trash carts complete city project

Recently city residents saw the final delivery of new 65-gallon, brown trash carts, marking the completion of a semi-automated trash collection system for the city.

The carts which are on wheels for easy moving, are designed to work with a hydraulic tipping apparatus located on the truck. Since the trash is mostly untouched by city workers, the chances for injury by broken glass, protruding nails or anything which may cut or injure a person are diminished.

Over the years, our city employees have been injured in various ways from cuts and bruises to back strains. Also, the carts are designed to speed the collection process since their 65-gallon size usually



means only one trip to the truck is necessary. The new carts will help prevent injuries associated with this very important city function—removal of our trash bi-weekly.

Implementation of the carts began in 1996 with a pilot program using 96-gallon grey carts for businesses.

"Every homeowner in St. Augustine should have, by now, received one of the carts," Charles Hill, solid waste supervisor stated. "There are approximately 4,000 residential carts within the city limits at this time. These uniform carts replace a multitude of different styles, sizes and colors of homeowner's trash bins. This results in a cleaner looking city along with better safety for our employees," Hill said.

Hill stated that the size of the containers is based on the average number of 32-gallon trash containers used in a typical St. Augustine family. He added that residents are not required to use the new carts, however, per City Code, when the carts are emptied, remove them from the street.

If you have questions regarding trash collection, call 825.1040.

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Published by  
The City of St. Augustine  
Department of  
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P. O. Box 210  
St. Augustine, FL  
32085/0210  
Phone 904.825.1004  
Email: cosa@aug.com

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