



INSIGHT

INTO YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT

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

www.staugustinegovernment.com

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

Fire Dept. meeting to be held

The City of St. Augustine will host a public meeting on the possible consolidation of the St. Augustine Fire Department with the St. Johns County Fire Department on February 24, 6:30 p.m. in The Alcazar Room at City Hall.

This is the second public meeting to be held seeking public input on a potential merger.

After a presentation by city staff, the attendees will have a group discussion with all ideas, comments and opinions welcomed.

Aggregation workshop planned

Plans are underway for a City Commission workshop regarding the proposed aggregation ordinance which will be of particular interest to those with property in areas zoned RS-1 and RS-2.

Watch your water bill, the city's Web site and local media for the announcement of the workshop date.

Informed and educated residents make good citizens who can make good choices for their future and the future of their neighborhoods and city. The City of St. Augustine's Web site has been developed to make it easy to obtain information that will educate the public on matters that have the potential to affect their everyday lives.

After entering the Web site, www.staugustinegovernment.com, the most current information is located at the top of the page with three stories highlighted and of interest to the residents. The site is updated weekly.

A popular page is the weekly calendar update which lists public meetings in chronological order. The City Commission meetings as well as Code Enforcement, Planning and Zoning Board and other citizen boards are listed with dates, times and place of meeting.

There are four separate columns highlighted: Commission, Departments, Services and Visitors. The Commission column includes commissioner's names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses and commission agendas. The citizen boards are also included

in this column and broken down individually with their upcoming agendas and minutes of previous meetings.



The minutes for a previous meeting are not posted until after they're approved by the commission or board.

The Departments column has a listing of all the city departments with a brief description of each one and contact names and phone numbers of the department heads. There's similar information on the city clerk, city attorney, police department, public works department and other city departments.

The Services column has information on paying water bills, parking tickets, building permits, tree removal and applications and forms which can be down-loaded.

Lastly, the Visitors site has information on the Colonial Spanish Quarter, history of St. Augustine, links to maps and upcoming events of interest to visitors and resi-

dents alike.

On the left side panel, there's the City Code online, jobs with the city, the Neighborhood Council, proclamations, past press releases and a listing of links to other helpful sites that date back to 2002.

Good government comes from making good choices by staying informed.

NCO research library

If you're still lacking for information about the City of St. Augustine, there's a research library in the Neighborhood Council Office.

This research library which was a product of the neighborhood association concept is stocked full of publications and information of interest to all city residents.

There's the original Entrance Corridors Guidelines study, the Department of Transportation Bridge of Lions publications, restoration of the seawall and a vast assortment of information and studies.

To check out the reference library, call the Neighborhood Council Office at 825-1053 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

City installs new audio/visual equipment for public meetings

Notice the volume on the City Commission live broadcast is now normal compared to the other stations on your television?

The City of St. Augustine installed new audio/visual equipment this past year and with the new equipment, the color is much better and the

volume is better resulting in a better viewing experience for the interested resident at home.

Also, a new document camera was installed so the viewers can see what is being presented to the City Commissioners and the public at the live meetings.

The document camera

calls for precise specifications for the presentation.

If you plan on making a presentation, please contact the Dept. of Public Affairs at 825.1004 two weeks prior to the city commission meeting to obtain the necessary specifications.



Bridge rehab project begins

The Bridge of Lions Rehabilitation begins mid February with the mobilization of construction equipment and the closure of the west end of Flagler Blvd. Flagler will become a cul-de-sac at the conclusion of the rehabilitation to eliminate cut-through traffic. In addition to safety, the closure of Flagler Blvd. will also provide space for a park on the east end of the bridge.



The park was designed in the original plans prior to 1927, but was unable to be built at that time. The new park will showcase benches, a trellis, sidewalks, and replicas of the original lights placed on the bridge and west parks in 1927.

The first step in the rehabilitation process will be to construct a temporary bridge on the north side of the current bridge. In addition, a 6-foot wide sidewalk will be located on the north side of the temporary bridge for pedestrians and bicyclists.

The temporary bridge will take approximately 12-18 months to build. Following its completion, traffic will be shifted onto the temporary bridge and rehabilitation will begin.

The rehabilitation is expected to last three to four years. Included in this process is the removal of the majority of the bridge for refurbishment of the reusable materials and to allow construction of the support system. The Bridge of Lions will then be reassembled in its original form. Some improvements which are able to be provided during the rehabilitation include slightly wider traffic lanes and a safety barrier between pedestrians and automobiles crossing the bridge. In addition, the decorative and functional lights on the bridge which were replaced in the 1980s will be removed and replicas of the original 1927 lights will be installed.

Following the rehabilitation, traffic will be shifted back to the Bridge of Lions and the temporary bridge will be removed. Project completion is expected to be 2010.

During the rehabilitation process, the Florida Department of Transportation is dedicated to keeping the public informed of activities on the project. FDOT has provided a project website: www.fdotbridgeoflions.com. Also, the public information office can be reached by calling 825.3647 or by e-mailing info@fdotbridgeoflions.com.

News releases will be sent to the media and public officials prior to major changes in the traffic pattern. Anyone interested in receiving announcements regarding project milestones or changes in the traffic pattern can sign up on the website to be included on an e-mail list.

City highlighted on Good Morning America

With the media blitz in full force for Super Bowl XXXIX, the City of St. Augustine, its residents and businesses alike put their best foot forward to show off our beautiful city.

The Colonial Spanish Quarter was open free of charge to the public and there was the Changing of the Guard at Government House.

The popular Concerts in the Plaza were well attended by residents and visitors alike on Friday and Saturday night.

And as a special treat for our visitors, the Nights of Lights remained until after Super Bowl Sunday.

Did you know? Channel 3, GTV, rebroadcasts city commission and planning and zoning meetings at 7 p.m. one week (city commission) and two weeks (planning and zoning) following the live meetings.

Did you know? The city limits are 12.8 square miles. That's 8,186 acres!

Did you know? The City generates 23,114 tons of solid waste yearly. Approximately 14% is recycled.

The City of St. Augustine's Coat of Arms

In the year 1715 the citizens of St. Augustine petitioned His Majesty Philip V, King of Spain to grant the city a coat of arms for its faithful and courageous service to Spain. There is no record of the request being fulfilled, so in 1991, the City Commission passed a resolution authorizing a formal request to His Majesty Juan Carlos I, King of Spain, for a Coat of Arms for the city.

Research conducted by Vicente de Cardenas y Vicent, Herald, King of Arms, Dean of the Corps of Heralds for Spain, re-

vealed that a Coat of Arms for the City had indeed been authorized for the City by King Philip V on November 26, 1715. The City received the Coat of Arms on October 12, 1991, nearly 276 years after it was granted.

Full details of the emblems on the Coat of Arms is on the City Web site.



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Notes of interest

Want to establish a neighborhood association? Contact Cathy DuPont, Neighborhood Council Coordinator at 825.1053 for information.



The Florida League of Cities, has informed the City of St. Augustine that the League will support legislation that repeals the provisions under F. S. 119.0721 which authorizes the release of social security numbers to business enterprises under Florida's Public Records Law.



If you have had interaction with the St. Augustine Police Dept., they are interested in your feedback. To get to their Web site, go to the City Web site (see front page) and link to the Police Dept. At the left sidebar, click on "survey" and complete as directed.



As residents we travel throughout the city. Of constant interest is speeding in our neighborhoods. Remember when you're in another neighborhood, obey the speed limit just as you do in your neighborhood.



CORRECTION: The term of office for Commissioner Errol Jones, Seat One, is four years.

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