



INSIGHT

INTO YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT

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

Neighborhood grant program implemented

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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

Visitors Information Center

Due to the renovation of the VIC, the City of St. Augustine has created a temporary reception center in the "Dental Building" which is located on Castillo Dr., next to Francis Field. Parking is available next to the temporary VIC. For information call 825.1000.

The new parking facility and the VIC are scheduled for completion prior to the July 4th holiday.

Davenport Park and Kortney's Korner

To enhance the area and increase safety, the City of St. Augustine is installing antique decorative lighting fixtures. The project is scheduled for completion by the end of the month.

Gazebo Column Rehabilitation

Replacement of the columns on the gazebo in Plaza de la Constitucion, is scheduled to begin this month with a tentative completion date of April.

When the City of St. Augustine first offered neighborhood grants last year, association members began looking for ways to use the funds that would best serve their neighbors. The ideas were as diverse as the city's areas and ranged from park benches to playground equipment to signage to bring greater recognition to St. Augustine's distinct neighborhoods.

Since this was the initial year for the grants implementation, it has been a challenge for both city staff and neighborhood association leadership, as is usually the case with a new program. Eight associations applied for grants last year with four projects of the eight now complete or within days of completion. The remaining four either are still working with staff to develop implementation plans or are waiting on shipment of materials.

Old City South Benches

Warden Park, a small, longtime pocket park at the intersection of St. George and Cordova streets has been a place where residents could pause and enjoy the serenity offered on the banks of the Maria Sanchez Lake. With the installation of three benches funded from the association's grant, residents now have a much more pleasant way to enjoy the park. It was a simple project, but one that will provide pleasure for many years to come by enriching the resident's environment.

Magnolia NA's Oaks

For many years, as our trains and trolleys enter the Fountain of Youth Park, guides will draw

visitors' attention to the stunning beauty of the ancient oaks that line both sides of Magnolia Ave. What visitors get to enjoy for a moment, maybe long enough for a photograph, the residents of the Magnolia Neighborhood Association enjoy everyday and want to protect the trees. The association's grant, currently being implemented, will help preserve the trees by evaluating their health and developing a plan to preserve this rich resource.



Lighthouse Eagle's Perch

Members of the Lighthouse Neighborhood Association have long recognized the tremendous benefit of having a playground in their community which is part of the Red Cox Recreational Area.

When looking for grant projects, the membership decided to enhance a resource they already have by adding a new piece of equipment, an Eagle's Perch climbing dome, to the playground. Association members demonstrated their enthusiasm and personal commitment to the project by contributing over 120 hours of "sweat equity" by gathering together to prepare the site and assemble the equipment.

Lincolnvill Signage

Members of the Lincolnvill Neighborhood Association proposed a way to bring greater recognition to their community

by applying for funds to be used to replace current street signs with ones that would include wording to identify the neighborhood. Since this was the first time such identification signs have been used in the city, working out the design took some back-and-forth between the association and staff, but ultimately the City Commission chose a design that is distinctive, that incorporates the standard brown background used for historic landmark signage and can be produced in-house by the Public Works Department.

Other Grants in Progress

Other grant recipients are in varying stages of progress in completing their projects:

The Flagler Model Land Neighborhood Association has plans for a decorative directional bronze medallion in the sidewalk at the corner of Saragossa and Cordova streets.

The Nelmar Terrace Neighborhood Association continues its work with city staff on the development of a pocket park at the east end of Nelmar Ave. overlooking Hospital Creek.

St. Augustine North Davis Shores Neighborhood Association has plans for a marker describing the history of Davis Shores.

The St. Augustine Uptown Neighborhood Association awaits the arrival of its neighborhood message board for the corner of Pine St. and San Marco Ave.

For more information on the city's 10 neighborhood associations, call the Neighborhood Council Office at 825.1053.

Storm drain do's (and don'ts)

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

The citywide storm drains collect water from our streets that empty directly into the water ways, untreated, with the Matanzas River the primary source to receive our stormwater. It's most important that the water runoff entering storm drains be as clean as possible in order to prevent pollution of our waterways.

There are specific ways that business owners and residents can assist in keeping our waterways clean by paying particular attention to those things that go down the storm drains that are harmful to our environment.



Oil from cars is a culprit which can be remedied in part by keeping your vehicle in top condition without any oil or gas leakage. When it rains, the oil from cars on the streets empties directly into the storm drains with the result of polluting our waterways.

Chemicals from cleaning and draining swimming pools are a perfect example of what not to put down the storm drains. Chemicals in our water bodies pollute.

Home and professional gardeners should always bag grass clippings and leaves for pickup or better yet, create a mulch bin. Grass clippings can clog the storm drains, restrict the movement of water and eventually wind up in our waterways.

Other tips to prevent stormwater pollution are:

- Bag dog droppings and place in a trash receptacle
- Always dispose of cigarette butts in a receptacle
- Always properly dispose of painting materials
- Avoid applying fertilizer and pesticides in areas where they can wash into drains
- Wash your car on the grassy area of your lawn where soapy water can soak into the lawn.

The City of St. Augustine considers the overall health of our environment to be a high priority and actively seeks to diminish any negative effects on the environment by educating the public on ways to protect the world we live in.

For more information on how to prevent stormwater pollution, call the Public Works Department at 825.1040.

Maria Sanchez Lake project completed

What we now know as Maria Sanchez Lake was known prior to the 1880's as Maria Sanchez Creek. It was a salt water creek which meandered from King St. which was then a wetland area, to the Matanzas River. Bridge St. which runs east and west was aptly named because at that point a bridge crossed the creek.

During the 1880's Heth Canfield, a local developer and the president of the St. Augustine Improvement Company, petitioned the city to dredge the creek to create the Maria Sanchez Lake and fill in the wetlands area roughly north from Bridge to King St. along Cordova St. He did this in conjunction with Henry Flagler who then ordered the construction of the Hotel Ponce de Leon (now Flagler College) and the Alcazar Hotel which is now City Hall and the Lightner Museum.

Fast forward to the year 2006—the Maria Sanchez Lake Weir Gate Installation Project is now complete although it will take another full year to evaluate the effectiveness of the overall project.

Originally the project began as a means to reduce the flooding problem in the area of Cordova and Granada streets which naturally drains to the lake. But the project gradually evolved to incorporate environmental considerations since there were regular algae blooms which killed the fish in the sensitive lake area.

The southernmost point of the lake is divided from the marshy area of Maria Sanchez Creek by a concrete weir or dam. The valves of the system corroded shut more than 20 years ago. Increasing the tidal flushing of the lake would improve the aquatic ecological system within it because it would introduce higher dissolved oxygen levels, normalize the temperature and the pH

level...all of which play a strong roll in maintaining a healthy fish habitat.

Further, since the condition of the old weir limited movement of the stormwater to only over the weir, the old valve system needed to be replaced so that in the event of rain and associated flooding, the gate levels could be adjusted to move water from the lake into the marshy area of the creek.

The new weir gate system includes two water level sensors (one for the lake and one for the salt marsh) and a pH, dissolved oxygen and temperature sensor for the lake only. The system is remotely controlled and relays information about the marsh and the lake to a computer in City Hall.

The data from the sensors will be continually recorded and stored for future analysis. The computer will also be used to send a signal to elevate or lower the gates of the weir in order to regulate the water levels between the tidal water (marshy area) and the lake itself.



The City of St. Augustine and the area residents want Maria Sanchez Lake to be healthy and perform its work as a natural drainage system for the Maria Sanchez Lake basin. As a bonus, the neighborhood will be able to understand the complete aquatic ecological system which is so important to the City of St. Augustine and its residents.

For further information on this project, please call 825.1040.

Notes of interest

City Code states that it is unlawful for any person directly or indirectly to cut down, destroy, remove or effectively destroy any tree in the city without first obtaining a permit. This requirement applies to all trees three inches or larger in diameter at breast height. The cost of the permit is \$20 and can be obtained from the City's Planning and Building Department.

Of particular importance is the southern red cedar trees larger than two feet in height or a trunk diameter of one inch at the point three inches above the ground. These may not be removed without a permit. Call Planning and Building at 825.1065 for more information



In 1991, the City Commission authorized a formal request to His Majesty Juan Carlos I, King of Spain, for a Coat of Arms for the city.

Research revealed that a Coat of Arms for the City had 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.



For information on agendas for the City Commission and citizen boards such as the Planning and Zoning and Code Enforcement, Adjustment and Appeals boards, go to www.staugustinegovernment.com.

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