



# INSIGHT

INTO YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT

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

City of St. Augustine  
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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

**Pomar Park** - Construction of restrooms, fishing pier with kayak launching area, trail, picnic facilities and playground area is to be completed in late spring.

**Water Treatment Plant** - Construction is continuing on the reverse osmosis water treatment plant which will be located at the corner of W. King St. and Palmer Ave. Projected completion date is mid 2008.

**Fleet Operations and Warehouse Facility** - Located at Madison St. and W. King St., the facility is scheduled for completion by the end of April.

**Parking Management Software** - A new software system will be in use by mid-summer. The goal is to better track and collect parking tickets and payments.

## Aviles landmark *Caños de San Francisco* duplicated at VIC

The City of St. Augustine is busy on the construction of a fountain of similar design to one found in Avilés, a sister city in Spain and the birthplace of the city's founder, Pedro Menéndez. The replica of the *Caños de San Francisco*, or Fountains of San Francisco, is being built on the grounds of the St. Augustine & St. Johns County Visitor Information Center with plans to hold an official dedication ceremony in late February.

Famous as an Avilés landmark, the original fountain was constructed

as part of a late sixteenth century public works project that brought fresh water into the city. Constructed just decades after



the founding of St. Augustine, and still functioning today, the *Caños de San Francisco* is one of Avilés most renowned historic landmarks.

Key to the fountain's replication was securing molds for the structure's

most distinctive feature: six carved faces with water spouts for mouths. Castings of the original faces were created and donated to the people of St. Augustine by the Mayor of Avilés, Santiago Rodríguez Vega during an official visit two years ago. Without the diligent efforts of Mayor Rodríguez, the project would not have been possible.

Since the early twentieth century, the sister cities of St. Augustine and Avilés have maintained close ties, exchanging official gifts and visits by citizens, public officials and students. In the 1920s Avilés presented St. Augustine with the casket and burial headboard of Menéndez, and in 1972 a statue of the founder, now in front of City Hall. In 1997, St. Augustine donated the anchor of the seventeenth century Spanish treasure ship, *Nuestra Señora de Atocha*, to the *Anchor Museum Philippe Cousteau*, on the Asturian coast near Avilés.

Located on the south side of the VIC, the new fountain will include an informational marker recognizing the significance of the structure. The fountain will contribute to the historic and cultural monuments that now occupy the grounds of the VIC, including the Old Spanish Trail Zero Milestone and the tile mosaic map at the VIC's west entrance. (See related story on next page.)

The fountain is being constructed by the city's Facilities Management Group. For more information about this project, contact the Department of Public Affairs at 825.1004.

## Derelict vessel program a success

The City of St. Augustine's derelict vessel program has successfully removed 19 abandoned vessels from the city's waterways over the past two years.

The St. Augustine Port, Waterway, and Beach District has contributed \$25,000 each year in the past two years in support of the project.

The Beach District was originally established in the late 1930's to fulfill the requirement of a local sponsor for the Army Corps of Engineer's St. Augustine Inlet project. Enabled by the Florida Legislature, the District was given the authority to collect ad valorem taxes to be used for worthwhile projects.

The City's contribution to the project has been to identify the location and tag the vessels, prepare the necessary paperwork of informing the owner, bidding for the towing and making payment to the successful contractor.

Project Manager Commander Steve Fricke of the St. Augustine Police Dept. said that "many times after tagging, the vessel is removed before it can be towed."

"This is a great example of seeing taxing authorities working together using taxpayer's funds to eliminate a blight," said John Regan, Chief Operations Officer for the City of St. Augustine.



### Zero Milestone pavers available

In preparation for the City's 450th birthday in 2015, the Colonial St. Augustine Foundation is selling pavers to finance the restoration of the monuments in the Plaza de la Constitución and Anderson Circle. The pavers will be placed in the area south of the newly remodeled Visitor's Information Center (VIC) and north of the Huguenot Cemetery.

The unique monuments in that area are the Caños de San Francisco, a fountain replicating an existing structure in Aviles, Spain which is being constructed in this month (see story page 1) and the Zero Milestone marker.

Decades before Interstate 10 crossed the nation from coast to coast, there was the Old Spanish Trail, a transcontinental highway from



St. Augustine to San Diego. After nearly 15 years of construction at a cost of more than \$80 million, the highway's completion was celebrated in St. Augustine in 1928 by the placement of the six' diameter coquina ball, designated as the Zero Milestone marker.

Now with the completion of the remodeled VIC, the Milestone has been given a permanent place of honor on the east side of the area closest to San Marco Ave. with the fountain located on the west side of the area, closer to the Historic Downtown Parking Facility.

The Zero Milestone is the centerpiece of one component of *Project 450*, the multi-dimensional venture of the Colonial St. Augustine Foundation which is looking toward the celebration of St. Augustine's 450th birthday.

There are two sizes of the brick paver's; 4" X 8" and 8" X 8" with personalized engraving on each one.

For information on the purchase of pavers and on *Project 450* call 825.2158 or visit [www.colonialstaugustine.org](http://www.colonialstaugustine.org).

### Old/new antique lights light lot

When improvements are made on city property, staff makes every effort to recycle and reuse materials which still have a life.

The parking lot where the Historic Downtown Parking Facility is now located, had numerous streetlights and poles which had to be removed prior to building the new facility.

The decorative antique lights have been cleaned and refitted by city crews and installed in the Lightner parking lot directly behind City Hall replacing generic poles and lights.

Thus, the historic character of the area was improved and there was a saving benefit for the City.

### Saving the taxpayer's money

The City of St. Augustine recently signed agreements with four developers to install a sewer force main in the northwest quadrant of the utility service area. That area is north of State Road 16 and west of U. S. 1.

A force main is a sewer pipe which uses pressure to carry sewage through the line rather than using gravity. There is an existing force main in the area of U. S. 1, however this new 7½ mile line will help reduce the demand on that existing main.

The project, which is labeled one of the biggest in recent memory using developers' funds, will serve four separate developments in that service area.

Director of Public Works Bob Leetch, who heads the city department overseeing the project, states that "this is letting development pay for itself."

The total project has an approximate value of \$6.5 million.



### New stewards at Salt Run Community Center

The City of St. Augustine recently signed a five year lease with the St. Augustine Yacht Club for operation of the Salt Run Community Center at Lighthouse Park.

The club's first responsibility under the lease is to remodel the bathrooms. For the convenience of the public, these bathrooms will be accessed from outside the main building with availability during periods when the building itself is closed.

At this time the remodeling plans are being reviewed by the Department of Planning and Building

prior to beginning work. Plans have also been received to build a new deck adjoining the building.

According to Randy Brunson, commodore of the St. Augustine Yacht Club, the meeting area will be temporarily closed for construction which will soon take place. It's expected to open as a public meeting place in mid-March. For information on the operation of the Salt Run Community Center, call Commodore Brunson at 808.7118.

### City Clerk now Certified Municipal Clerk

Karen Rogers, St. Augustine City Clerk, recently achieved a personal and professional milestone by earning certification as a Certified Municipal Clerk. Rogers, who was appointed City Clerk last June, has worked in the Clerk's office since 1999.

Attaining certification was no easy task. Rogers attended the International Institute of Municipal Clerks Career Development Institute for three consecutive years to fulfill the requirements necessary to become a CMC, the first one in the city's history.

The CMC program assists clerks by increasing their proficiency in areas related to their work,

their professional and their personal growth. Certification points are awarded for achievements in education and professional work experience in government and business.

"The Clerk's position is essentially the keeper of the papers," said Rogers, adding "The Clerk is truly the protector of the voice of history, as well as being the guardian of Sunshine Laws, the record manager and secretary to the Commission."

The City Clerk's position is one of three positions hired directly by the City Commission. The other two are the city attorney and city manager.



### Notes of interest

At the first city commission meeting of the New Year, January 8, the Commission passed an ordinance which prohibits panhandling in specific parts of the City.

The affected area boundaries are Cordova St. east to Avenida Menendez and Orange St., including a portion of the Visitor's Information Center south to King St.

The city commission also directed the St. Augustine Police Department to increase its visibility in the area to enforce the new ordinance.



The Department of Homeland Security has awarded the City of St. Augustine a grant for the hiring of six additional firefighters.

The new firefighters will report to duty this month.



The City of St. Augustine and the St. Johns County School Board recently signed a lease agreement for a one acre site for a recreation park at the now closed Fullwood Elementary School.

The area is located at the southwest corner of the property bounded by Hildreth Dr. and Bannan Ave.

The preliminary plans are being developed and the city is continuing to seek funding for equipment.



Back issues of *InSight* can be found on the City Web site at [staugustine-government.com/pressreleases/](http://staugustine-government.com/pressreleases/)

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