

INSIGHT

INTO YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT

May 2004
Volume 1, Issue 2

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, go to 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 upcoming Concerts in the Plaza.

The site is updated weekly.

ONGOING PROJECTS

- ◆ **Seawall restoration** - At the March 8 meeting, the City Commission appointed a five member Citizens Advisory Task Force for the project. This task force has been formed as a requirement to obtain federal (FEMA) funds. 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.

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

Concerts in the Plaza

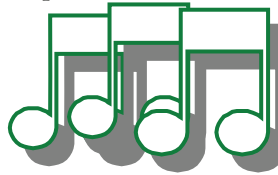
From Memorial Day through Labor Day

This summer marks the 14th season of one of St. Augustine's most popular summer offerings: Concerts in the Plaza. Beginning on Memorial Day and concluding on Labor Day, and every week in between, hundreds of music lovers gather in the City's historic Plaza de la Constitucion to enjoy a wide variety of musical entertainment.

Except for Memorial Day and Labor Day, all weekly concerts are on Thursday evenings and run from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Memorial Day (May 31) and Labor Day concerts will be held in the afternoon starting at 1 p. m. and continuing until 5 p.m.

Concerts in the Plaza are free of charge and those attending are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating.



The concerts are produced by the City of St. Augustine and are made possible through the support of Florida East Coast Industries, Auglink Communications, CNB National Bank, St. Augustine and St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, and the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council.

New Customer Service Center opening soon

With receipt in hand for payment of a water bill, Kimberly Brown was happy to know that the old city fire station was to be converted to a customer service center. "I do not like the elevator," said Kimberly and "I pay my Aunt Eartha's water bill monthly. It would be very convenient for me to not have to use the elevator and walk just a couple of steps into a building."

Kimberly is just one of many who applaud the city's efforts to make paying water bills easier and more convenient.

The City of St. Augustine's Customer Service Division accepts payment for water bills but also payments from those pesky over-time/illegal parking tick-

ets, tour guide licenses, vendor permits, drivers for hire, occupational licenses and dog and cat licenses.



After renovation in early fall, the facility will include a conference and training room, Facilities Management offices, a customer service lobby with associated cashier windows, a bay to house the three city parking enforcement meter carts and an area to perform

VIC on track

Plans are right on track for the city's transportation facility to be constructed at the Visitor Information Center (VIC). In the coming weeks and months, there will be many opportunities for the public to attend informational meetings with city staff and the design team to learn about the progress of this important and long awaited project.

With initial construction scheduled to begin after Labor Day, the 14-month project will result in a parking facility with the capacity of over 1,100 spaces, a redesigned reception and orientation center for visitors, and pickup and drop-off areas for all the sightseeing vehicles.

June's water bill will include a fact sheet and report on the project.

meter maintenance. In addition, there will be a storage area, a drive-thru cashier window and six short term parking spaces just outside the building.

While there's an automatic payment plan now in place where utility customers can enroll in automatic deduction from a savings or checking account, there are still those Kimberly Brown's who enjoy walking to pay their bills and say "no thanks" to elevators, checking accounts and/or auto pay.



City code states all dogs and cats should be registered each September. The cost is \$3.00 per animal.

Two hands to walk dogs

We all love our animals, especially our dogs. Pets, it's been determined, can enhance our lives by improving our sense of well being. However, while your dog may be enhancing your life, it may be making another person's life miserable when your dog poops in their yard!



Besides the mess they leave, big or small, dog feces carry diseases that can be transmitted to other animals and humans.

There's no local ordinance requiring a dog owner to remove their dog's poop, in part because it would be nearly impossible to enforce. But responsible dog owners should know that they are accountable for cleaning behind their four legged friends.

Take along a plastic bag and when your neighbors see you and your doggie, show them that you're a responsible dog owner with your dog's leash in one hand and your doggie's poop bag in the other.

123 Be Visible St.

Spring and early summer are the days many people repair or repaint homes, so while you're at it, check your house number to make sure it's visible from your street.

It may be a small thing, but in order for emergency services, fire or police, to locate you, they need to be able to find your home easily. Without clear identification by house number, this may be difficult and possibly life threatening.

Additionally, because we live in an old city, many house numbers are not in chronological order and that makes this little task even more important.

According to the Florida Fire Prevention Code, it's required that residential numbers shall not be less than three and one-half inches in height and one-half inch wide. Also, the color should contrast with the background. The numbers can be placed on a mailbox, post, wall, fence or other visible or commonly used area. The point is that drivers should be able to see the number from the street.

Call the City Planning and Building Department at 825-1065 or the St. Augustine Fire Department at 825-1098 for further information.



Did you know that city residents and users of Project SWING can purchase a \$10 annual parking pass at the parking booth?

More signs + more signals = pollution?

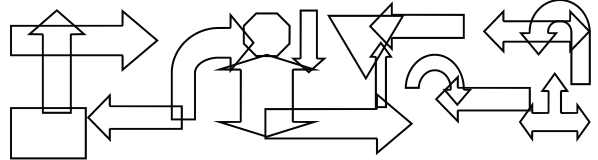
Oldest city in the United States and we just love living here. Even though the traffic, the pedestrians, the horse and carriages, and the tourists, can all get in our way at times, we still chose to deal with it all because we love this place.

In order to help make sense of all that's happening on our streets and roads, we have signs directing us to go this way, that way, yield to pedestrians, slow down, carriage parking only, no parking at all and more. This signage is important to all of us but more important to our visitors since, hopefully, we know our way around our town.

However, in many instances the overuse of signs can cause sign pollution and make the signage less effective for all.

In traffic engineering circles, Traffic Control Devices (TCD) such as traffic signals, stop signs and speed limit signs are installed to regulate traffic flow and improve safety

for everyone. These TCD's are based on the professional judgment of traffic engineers after careful study. Engineers look at the location and consider such factors as accident frequency and type, vehicle speeds, traffic volumes and roadway environment.



Traffic engineers and county and city governments are required by federal and state law, to use *The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Device* as their bible for TCD's.

After a U. S. Department of Transportation study of hundreds of thousands of motorists, it was concluded that motorist noncompliance takes place regularly with "rolling" through stop signs the number one infraction and speeding

the second. Further, it was recommended that "To ensure that the monitoring public maintains a healthy respect for traffic control devices, traffic professionals must use them (TCD's) prudently."

Traffic signs and signals placed by city, state and federal government are

not simply placed in areas without studies and input from professional traffic engineers. Placement of TCD's everywhere without prudence, can be considered a safety hazard of its own.

We want and need directional as well as regulatory signage. However, sign pollution can be a real danger not only for safety's sake but for the sake of our beautiful city as well.

For more information on traffic safety, go to the Federal Highway Administration website at safety.fhwa.dot.gov/fourthlevel/interbriefing/10myth.htm.



Thinking about extensive digging on your property? The city is an archeological haven. Please call the Planning and Building Dept. at 825-1065 before digging to prevent being fined later.



City streets are historic, some narrow and all public. Drive safely.

SA Neighborhoods thrive

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

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

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

Two new associations are forming, one on the north side of Anastasia Blvd., from St. Augustine Blvd. to Comares Ave.

and the second forming in the Fullerwood area from Court Edna south to Macaris St. Their first meeting times and dates will be announced on the

city website and in *The St. Augustine Record*.

The NC office has a vast amount of reference books including the most recent annual financial report, the City Code, studies on specific issues, the Comprehensive Plan and the National Trust Publications.

Besides assisting the neighborhood associations and 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.

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