



INSIGHT

INTO YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT

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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

Bridge of Lions update

The Bridge of Lions over the Matanzas River is a sight to behold right now, but not as much for its graceful beauty as for the flurry of activity just to the north.



Construction crews have gathered barges and cranes next to the bridge, driven piles, built work trestles and fenced off staging areas all in the name of historic preservation. Crews are busily constructing a temporary bridge to carry traffic between historic downtown St. Augustine and Anastasia Island during the Bridge of Lions Rehabilitation project.

As part of the project, Flagler Boulevard has been closed to traffic at its west end.

Completion of the temporary bridge is anticipated in late summer/early fall 2006, paving the way for the real preservation work to begin. For questions regarding the project, go to www.FDOTBridgeofLions.com or contact Laurie Sanderson at 825.3647 or at info@FDOTBridgeofLions.com.

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

Plaza de la Constitución for summer concerts

With the arrival of the month of May, summer can't be far away bringing the return of one of St. Augustine's favorite summer offerings: *Concerts in the Plaza*. This year will mark the 15th season of this popular event which is certain to draw hundreds of residents and visitors to the Plaza de la Constitución every week to enjoy a wide variety of musical entertainment.

Except for Memorial Day and Labor Day concerts are on Thursday from 7 p. m. until 9 p.m. The Memorial Day and Labor Day concerts are held in the afternoon starting at 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.

This summer's line up features some of the most well-liked bands that return year after year by popular demand, some that have not performed in the Plaza for several years and some that are brand new to *Concerts in the Plaza*.

All concerts are free of charge and those attending are encouraged to

bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the Plaza.

Mine Band
June 30 - Vince & the Viceroyes
July 7 - Big Pineapple



The concerts are produced by the City of St. Augustine and are sponsored by Florida East Coast Industries, Inc., the St. Augustine & St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, the *St. Augustine Record* and the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council.

Here's the line-up:

- May 30 - Memorial Day** - St. Augustine Jazz Society, presents Clyde Crawford & Friends with Jan Crawford; and Gil Surette & the Boston Connection;
- June 2** - Triple Rock Blues Band
- June 9** - Mid-Life Crisis
- June 16** - Captain Stringbean
- June 23** - Bob & Joline Patterson's Friends of

- July 14** - The Driftwoods
- July 21** - House Cats
- July 28** - First Coast Banjo Band
- August 4** - Ancient City Slickers
- August 11** - 1st Coast Jazz Orchestra
- August 18** - Mike Hart Band
- August 25** - The Falling Bones
- September 1** - St. Augustine High School Jazz Ambassadors
- September 5 - Labor Day** - St. Augustine Jazz Society presents Jay Mesick Ensemble and Swing's the Thing featuring vocals by Debbie Ryder.

For more information call 825.1004 or visit www.plazaconcerts.com.

City committed to preserving past through archaeology

Unearthing and documenting the remains of long lost buildings and artifacts prior to underground development is part of the city's commitment to preserving its past.

This summer the city's archaeology project, including the 12 volunteers important to the program who logged more than 5,000 hours last year, will return to the parking lot of Trinity Episcopal Church. This is a continuation of the investigation of an area that will be disturbed by the future construction of a buried

drain structure over which cars can drive. This water runoff feature will measure more than 50 feet long by 15 feet wide by 4 feet deep. Archaeological remains in its path will be destroyed.

Earlier archaeological efforts by the city in this location uncovered the remains of houses, trash pits, wells and privies dating back to 1572 when the current downtown area was established. Previously recovered from the property were thousands of fragments of pottery, animal bone and metal objects that repre-

sent aspects of daily life over the past 433 years.

The investigation at Trinity Episcopal Church enables the city to address various questions regarding the heritage of St. Augustine that are not necessarily present in historical documents.

Issues concerning the city's growth, how its residents lived and organized events on their property and how they interacted with Native American populations are just some of the questions that can be answered through the city's archaeology program.

“Trash Buster” at work in city

The residents and tourists looking out over Matanzas Bay from the ramparts of the Castillo de San Marcos or from the sea wall along Avenida Menendez are admiring one of the most beautiful views in Florida, if not the entire United States. And the folks involved in the “Trash Buster” Marine Litter Abatement Program aim to keep it that way.

Water-borne trash is an inevitable consequence of human activity in and around the waters of the nation’s oldest city. While city crews maintain the landward areas of the ancient city to high standards, dealing with trash and debris in the water presents a completely different challenge.

That’s where the “Trash Buster” Marine Litter Abatement Program comes in.

“Trash Buster” is the name of the 17 foot-long “Stumpknocker” shallow draft boat that is used to remove litter and debris from the intracoastal waterway and from Matanzas Bay.

Crew members are volunteers from the community and the boat, registered by St. Johns County and captained by St. Johns County employees, has a list of trash-prone areas which it visits on a regular basis. Two of the more popular spots are the beach on the west side of Anastasia State Park in Salt Run, and the island in Matanzas Bay just north of the Castillo.



Water-borne trash is not easy to see or collect in the water, so most of the clean-up occurs on islands, beaches, sand spits and marshes, where tidal activities keep trash moving from spot to spot unless it is picked up.

The “Trash Buster” Marine Litter Abatement Program was recognized for “outstanding achievement” in 2003 by the Council for Sustainable Florida. The boat itself is U. S. Coast Guard inspected, marine radio equipped and is limited to inshore operations. The operation of the Marine Litter Abatement Program has been sustained in the past by grants from the Florida Inland Navigation District and presently is supported by the St. Augustine Port, Waterway and Beach District.

If you would like more information about the program or wish to volunteer as a member of the crew, please call Chris Benjamin at 824.9720.



Kids Care 4-H Club prompts new dog park

There were cheers from kids and barks from dogs as the ribbon was cut at the official opening of the city’s new dog park, Kids Care Canine Corral located at Joe Pomar Park.

The park’s operation is possible through a cooperative effort of the city and the St. Johns County Recreation Department.

The park had its inception as a project suggested to the city commission by members of the Kids Care 4-H Club. Last year, as part of their studies of government, the club members decided to at-

tend a city commission meeting and to take the opportunity to suggest ways the community might be improved. Their suggestion: a dog park that would be more assessable to city residents than the highly successful one at Treaty Park.

The new park is open seven days a week during daylight hours and is located within the Pomar Park recreation facility at 1600 Masters Drive.

And baggies are even provided at the site so you can pick up after your pet.

Hey, what’s with leaving yard bags?

In an effort to save the residents’ hard earned taxpayers dollars, the City of St. Augustine recently contracted with a disposal company which burns yard debris by a method that does not pollute the air.

Previously the city used the county landfill for disposal of yard debris.

Since the new contractor burns yard trash only, not plastics, city employees have been emptying the debris directly into the truck leaving the bag for reuse by the residents.

In order to assist city

employees, residents are asked to not tie or fasten the bags. Or if residents like, they can dispose of the debris in their own trash cans but not the garbage bins supplied by the city.

Also, the public may use biodegradable trash bags. These are 30 gallon heavy duty brown paper bags which can be purchased at local stores where such supplies are found.

When used, these bags will be taken to the burn facility not emptied like the plastic bags.

Stormwater runoff can pollute

When it rains in St. Augustine, stormwater runoff is routed directly into the Matanzas, Tolomato and San Sebastian Rivers.

This means that pollutants caught on the pavement, driveways, rooftops, and lawns are entering our river system.

There are a few simple things to remember when working in the yard that can help reduce the effects of stormwater pollution to the local rivers.

Always try to buy non-toxic products for your garden and use pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers carefully and sparingly. When clearing the driveways, sidewalks and patios use a broom instead of a

hose to gather garden clippings, dirt and litter.

Start a compost pile to recycle yard clippings and leaves; don’t sweep them in the catch basin.

Rain spouts should drain into the grass or vegetation.

Disposing of pet waste in trash cans can eliminate harmful bacteria from entering the storm drains after a rain or lawn watering.

With a little help from St. Augustine residents and business owners we can increase public awareness about the effects of stormwater pollution and reduce its impact to our environment.



Notes of interest

Leftover paint? Take off top cover and let the paint dry then place in regular household trash.



The City Commission held an aggregation workshop recently and with an overwhelming crowd which flowed outside the meeting room, decided to schedule another workshop in the near future.

The date, which is undetermined, will be advertised prior to the workshop. Also, please check the city Web site regularly for updates.



Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks. It’s the law.



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



Save water, our natural resource, by turning off the faucet when brushing your teeth.



Adding to your property? Call Planning and Building prior to construction for proper permits.



Miss the Visitor’s Information Center’s Transportation Facility groundbreaking? Go to the Web site www.staugustinegovernment.com to see the highlights.

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