



INSIGHT

INTO YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT

May 2007
Volume 4, Issue 2

City of St. Augustine
P. O. Box 210
75 King St.
St. Augustine, FL
32085-0210

www.staugustinegovernment.com

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
Public Works.....	825.1040
City Clerk.....	825.1005
Neighborhood Council.....	825.1053

Updates

Fleet Operations and Warehouse Facility - Located on W. King St. the facility will be completed in September of 2007. It will be the new home for city vehicles, equipment and associated employees.

The St. Augustine Fire Department - Flow testing and inspection of fire hydrants throughout the city will occur the month of May. Flow testing is needed to plan firefighting operations and to ensure water flow in the event of fire. The testing process may cause temporary discoloration of the domestic water supply. The testing also helps keep homeowner's insurance rates within the city limits stable.

City Water to Undergo Regular Adjustment - Beginning May 7 and ending June 7 the ammonia and chlorine levels will change in city water which may alter the usual taste.

The adjustment is a standard operating practice recommended by the American Water Works Association. For more information call 825.1044.

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

City's top 11 list... the most popular questions asked

Questions from the public regarding noise, traffic, water, neighborhood parking or any other city related issue, are quickly answered by city employees throughout the work day and at times, at night. What follows are some of the more frequently asked questions.

- Q. May I cut a tree which is in my way so that I may add onto my house?
A. Call Planning and Building at 825.1065 to determine the proper permitting for cutting a tree and building onto your home.
- Q. May I leave my trash receptacle on the curb?
A. City ordinance states the receptacle must be taken from the street curb and placed out of sight by 6 p.m. the day of pickup. The same with your recyclable bin.
- Q. Am I responsible for maintenance of city right-of-ways in front of my property?
A. Yes. The city does not have the resources to maintain each ROW within the city limits. The responsibility is with each homeowner or business owner to maintain their property and the right-of-way.
- Q. I want to eliminate the yellow curb in front of my home. Can that be done?
A. Make a request to the city by calling 825.1034. An internal committee meets and discusses the issue to determine all aspects of making such a change.
- Q. Dogs run loose in my neighborhood. Who should I call?
A. Taxpayers of the city are also taxpayers of the county and as such are entitled to services provided by the county, one of which is St. Johns County Animal control. For animal control related questions, call 209.0746.
- Q. May I replace my old driveway?
A. The city has specifications for construction of driveways. Contact the Dept. of Public Works for the specifications and permit prior to construction.
- Q. My trees are being trimmed by a contractor. Do I need a permit?
A. Not if the tree is being trimmed. However, you may need a right-of-way permit. Contact Public Works Dept. to find out exactly what you need to do.
- Q. There's a sign on my street which says "Deaf child in neighborhood. Drive slow." The sign is old and the deaf child is no longer a child or even here. Can I ask the city to remove the sign?
A. Yes. Call 825.1040. Traffic engineers have determined that such signs do not contribute to vehicles slowing down but may be considered "sign pollution."
- Q. My neighbor's dog barks all the time. What can I do?
A. Call the St. Augustine Police Dept. An officer can determine if the barking is such that a citation may be written.
- Q. Will the city pick up my hazardous waste?
A. The city does not have the capability to properly dispose of hazardous waste. The county holds regular advertised community days and has a regular schedule to drop off household hazardous waste. Call 827.6980 for more information.
- Q. People cut-through and speed through my neighborhood. What can I do?
A. The city cannot keep vehicles from your neighborhood. The streets are public. If speeding is a problem, call the St. Augustine Police Dept.

CONCERTS in the PLAZA

This year's *Concerts in the Plaza*, the 17th season, jumped to a great start with its first month of performances. Prince Pele's Polynesian Revue, the First Coast Jazz Orchestra, Big Pineapple and the Mid-Life Crisis Band together drew over 2,400 people to the weekly musical entertainment series that continues every Thursday, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. through Labor Day.

Many of those attending the concerts are taking advantage of the free shuttle from the city's parking facility located at the Visitor Information Center to save time looking for a parking space. The shuttle runs a continuous loop from the Plaza and the parking facility until 10 p.m. on Thursdays.

Concerts in the Plaza are produced by the City of St. Augustine with additional support from Florida East Coast Industries, Sunny 94.1, The St. Augustine Record, the Historic St. Augustine Area Council of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council.

For a complete schedule and directions to the Plaza and the parking facility, visit www.plazaconcerts.com.



The City Web site, staugustinegovernment.com is updated weekly on Friday.

The City Commission meeting agenda is posted Friday prior to the meeting held on Monday.

All Planning and Building, Historic Architectural Review and Code Enforcement Adjustment and Appeals boards are posted no later than two weeks prior to the meeting.



Notice that your power poles have been recently inspected?

Florida Power and Light is inspecting more than one million poles throughout the state of Florida.

Some of the poles require a chemical treatment for pests on the pole below the ground and some poles need stabilizing by metal braces.

For more information go to fpl.com/storm/stormsecure/poles.shtml.



The City of St. Augustine requires a right-of-way permit for any work performed within the city's right-of-way.

The work includes construction, access to and/or special use of the right-of-way for such purposes as parking, temporary parking, curb cuts, any sidewalk modification, any driveway modification, any turn lane modification, utility work, street signs, paving, striping, landscaping, irrigation and handicap ramps. For a permit application contact the Dept. of Public Works at 825.1040.

Owens to Arnold...passing the baton

Twenty-three year veteran of the St. Augustine Fire Dept., Capt. Mike Arnold, was recently sworn in as city fire chief.

City Manager Bill Harris gave the oath of office at City Hall with Arnold's family and friends looking on.

Chief Arnold has an associates degree in fire science from Florida Community College of Jacksonville.

"I enjoy training and the city manager has encouraged me to continue training at the First Coast Technical Institute as well as designing and developing standard operating procedures at the fire department," said Arnold.

Chief Arnold reminds the public to check their smoke detectors yearly.

Thanks to Home Depot which recently donated smoke detectors for distribution, a new smoke de-

tor program was recently created. They are available to low income homeowners and/or the elderly and can be installed by firefighters, if needed.

After almost 33 years as a firefighter for the City of St. Augustine, Chief Jimmy Owens retired as fire chief.

Owens was fire chief twice, the first time from 1987 to 1990 and the second time from 1998 to 2007. Owens held the chief post for a total of 11 years, 7 months.

Today Owens says he's "working a little, playing a little and just enjoying life."

Congratulations to both these talented firefighters, who have given their time and talent to the residents and taxpayers of St. Augustine.

New light fixtures for SR16

With the cooperation of the Florida Dept. of Transportation (FDOT) the City of St.

Augustine has replaced six light fixtures on the Charles F. Usina Memorial Highway Bridge. The bridge crosses the San Sebastian River on State Road 16, just west of U. S. 1.

The \$33,000 project was



funded entirely by the FDOT with the stipulation that the City of St. Augustine performs all future maintenance.

The dual head 150-watt gaslight fixtures are similar in design to those placed on downtown St. Augustine streets and around City Hall. Illumination levels meet FDOT specifications for bridge deck lighting.

For more information on this project, call the City of St. Augustine Public Works Dept. at 904.825.1040.



National Guard's new home at City Hall

Three separate but loosely related offices of the Florida National Guard have relocated to the 2nd floor of City Hall.

The Dept. of Human Resources, the Division of Aviation and the Health and Occupational Safety Office have all relocated to City Hall and bring with them approximately 50 people.

"Everyone I've talked to is excited and looking forward to the move," said Capt. Stephen Stroud, Deputy State Quartermaster.

The renovation started last September and was completed last month.

The Guard offices will take up approximately one-half of the second floor, 11,000 square feet.

Notes of interest

The Dept. of Heritage Tourism is conducting two one-week summer archaeology camp in the Colonial Spanish Quarter Museum and the Government House.

The camp is limited to those students who will be entering 4th or 5th grade next fall. The dates are June 4 - 8 and June 11 - 15, Monday -Friday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The cost is \$175 per week per student and \$150 for St. Augustine Trust for Historic Preservation members.

Call Sue Van Vleet at 825.6830 for more information.



Capt. Ed Tyler of the St. Augustine Fire Dept. was recently recognized by the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution for his accomplishments and outstanding contributions to protect human life and property by preventing injuries or casualties due to fire.



Suggestions for future commercial playground equipment at Fullerwood Park, which is presently being renovated, are welcome from the public.

The Director of Planning and Building, Mark Knight, states that suggested playground equipment should be appropriate for children ages 2 - 12 years in order to accommodate as many children as possible.

The budgeted amount for the equipment is \$25,000.

Call Knight at 825.1060 with your suggestions or fax him at 825.1051.

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