



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

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.....	825.1007
Neighborhood Council.....	825.1053

Updates

Bridge of Lions

Following laboratory analysis to uncover decades of primer and paint layered on the Bridge of Lions, the original 1927 color of the bridge was discovered to be a shade of green. The color was uncovered through research on portions of original pedestrian railing and arched steel girders from the Bridge. The discovery was further confirmed through interviews held with local residents who were alive during the Bridge's grand opening and recall the green railings. Artistic renderings of the historic color as it will appear on the rehabilitated Bridge of Lions may be viewed at FDOTBridgeofLions.com.

The Bridge of Lions Public Information Officer is available to give presentations about the Bridge Rehabilitation Project to large or small groups of any age. A PowerPoint presentation has recently been modified to include information about civil engineering and the Bridge project for elementary school aged children. Schedule a presentation by contacting the office at 825.3647 or e-mail info@FDOTBridgeofLions.com.

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

NoL...Something more to see

It is a pleasure to walk St. Augustine's old world streets anytime of the year, but during the *Nights of Lights*, the city's annual festival of holiday lights, the pleasure is even greater. Colonial buildings, downtown parks and the city's historic Bayfront are illuminated by over two million sparkling white lights filling St. Augustine's every corner.

The Nation's Oldest City is transformed into an enchanted city of light

with sailboats, yachts, trawlers and many other vessels decorated with festive lights for the St. Augustine Yacht Club's Holiday Regatta of Lights starting at 6 p.m.

On Saturday and Sunday, December 8 and 9, the city's bed and breakfasts, all decorated for the holidays, open their doors for tours throughout the afternoon from 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

The rich history of St. Augustine comes alive



But there's more than just the lights. The *Nights of Lights* has grown into a two-and-a-half month long festival of activities.

After the *Nights of Lights Light-up Night* on November 17, the holiday event season begins the next weekend with the Fall Art & Craft Show at Francis Field on November 24 and 25.

December 1 is a busy day with two parades. The day starts at 10 a.m. with the St. Augustine Christmas Parade winding down San Marco Avenue and through downtown. Then at 8 p.m., the 32nd annual British Night Watch Parade steps off from the Plaza with thousands following with hand held candles and lanterns.

The following day, Sunday, December 2, the St. Augustine Garden Club's annual tour will showcase seven homes located in the Fullerwood neighborhood with the theme "Christmas Under the Oaks."

On Saturday, December 8 the Matanzas Bay fills

with 18th Century Christmas Caroling held in the Plaza on Saturday, December 15 accompanied with hammered dulcimer and violin starting at 6:30 p.m.

More information on these and many other events scheduled during the *Nights of Lights* are available by visiting the events calendar at www.getaway4florida.com or calling the St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra and the Beaches Visitors and Convention Bureau at 829.1711.

Whether coming downtown for a special event or some mid-week holiday shopping, the Historic Downtown Parking Facility offers the most convenient parking. Parking rates are by the hour except for some peak days. On certain weekends a free shuttle operates from the Visitor Information Center to the Plaza. For information on parking rates and shuttle operation and a map showing the location of the parking facility visit www.vicparking.com.

Roseate spoonbill 'Official city bird'

The St. Augustine City Commission agreed that the stunning and unique roseate spoonbill, which is often seen in the estuarial waters of the San Sebastian and Matanzas Rivers, was worthy of being named as the first ever official city bird for the Nation's Oldest City.

The roseate spoonbill is the only species of spoonbill in the Western Hemisphere, and received such accolades as "beautiful" and "graceful" by none other than John James Audubon in the early 19th century.

The plume trade of the late 19th century nearly decimated the roseate spoonbill as hunters destroyed the birds by the thousands to provide its pink feathers for the manufacture of fans and women's hats. By the 1930's there were a mere 15 breeding pairs identified in the State of Florida, but today those numbers are estimated to exceed 1,000.



The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission currently list the birds as a Species of Special Concern with its biggest threat being diminishing habitats.

Pomar Park is the home to the City of St. Augustine's only dog park, Kids Care Canine Corral, located at 1600 Masters Dr. The entire park which includes a walkway to the marsh, is open seven days a week during daylight hours.

Peak days = flat rate at parking facility Shuttle to operate during special events

Parking at the Historic Downtown Parking Facility (HDPF) is \$1.25 per hour with a \$7.50 per day maximum. During peak days, a flat rate of \$7.00 for all day is payable on entry making exiting easier.

Flat rate days through next summer are:

- November 17 - Nights of Lights Light-up
- November 23-25 Fall Art & Craft Show
- December 1 - Christmas Parade & Grande Illumination
- December 25 - 31 - Christmas/New Years Week
- March 1-2 - Native American Festival
- March 7-9 - Lions Club Seafood Festival
- March 15-16 - Rhythm & Ribs
- March 23 - Easter Parade
- March 29-30 - Spring Art & Craft Show
- May 24 - St. Augustine Boat Show
- July 4 - Independence Day

These dates are subject to change. To confirm parking rates for specific, call the HDPF at 825.1000.

The free shuttle which operated for the first year of the parking facility's operation will return during the city's biggest events and on days when visitation downtown is traditionally the highest. Through the end of the year, the shuttle will operate during the following dates and times:

- **Nights of Lights Light-up Night**
November 17 - Noon-11 p.m.
- **Christmas Parade & British Night Watch**
December 1 - Noon-11 p.m.
- **Regatta of Lights**
December 8 - Noon-11 p.m.
- **Christmas - New Years Week**
December 26-27 - Noon-8 p.m.
December 28-29 - Noon-11 p.m.
December 30 - Noon-8 p.m.
December 31 - Noon-2 a.m.
January 1 - Noon-8 p.m.

For more information about the Historic Downtown Parking Facility, including a map to the facility, visit www.vicparking.com.

Street light replacement in Plaza de la Constitución

Another light pole project has been completed in the city by the replacement of 21 standard Florida Power and Light poles in the Plaza de la Constitución with light poles which have the appearance of gas lights.

The new light poles are safer and have a more historical 'feel' reminiscent of times past. The poles are also graffiti resistant and are identical to the light poles installed last year in the parking lot behind City Hall and the West Garden of Government House.

The next project is the replacement of the light fixtures on Avenida Menendez.

For more information contact COSA Public Works at 825.1040.



Matanzas Bay and Salt Run Harbor Management Plan

With the assistance of the St. Augustine Port, Waterway, and Beach District, the City of St. Augustine has been developing a Harbor Management Plan for Matanzas Bay and Salt Run.

After months of research and planning, a draft of that plan was presented to the public at a workshop held in mid-October.

With input from the public at that meeting, the plan will be modified accordingly and will be posted at www.staugustinegovernment.com when completed.

For more information, call the Dept. of General Services at 825.1010.

Renovation for lake

Maria Sanchez Lake is in for a renovation in the upcoming months. The City of St. Augustine Dept. of Public Works has announced that retaining walls will be installed along portions of the lake to prevent erosion of the roadway and preserve the historic trees surrounding the water body.

The walls will be similar to the existing walls and no more than 2' high.

Silt will also be removed from the bottom of the lake in the northern area and another five areas of the lake where build up has been located. The buildup of silt and sediment is due to stormwater runoff primarily from the St. Francis, Cordova and St. George street areas.

Native wetland vegetation will be planted to enhance aquatic habitats that will encourage birds to return to the area.

The work will begin in the near future depending on permitting from the St. Johns River Water Management District.

For more information call the COSA Dept. of Public Works at 825.1040.

**St. Augustine recycles.
Call 825.1040.**

Francis Field reopens

With the completed redevelopment of Francis Field, the city now has a 4.5+ acre festival site suitable for a wide variety of events, and a new wide open public green space in the heart of the city.

The festival site is located on W. Castillo Dr., adjacent to the VIC and the parking facility.

The redevelopment project was thorough, including re-grading of the site, installing new sod, permanent fencing, and up-graded water and power service to support events. The total investment in the redevelopment was approximately \$160,000.

Notes of interest

City Hall will be closed:

- Thanksgiving Nov. 22- and 23
- Christmas Eve and- Christmas Day, Dec. 24 and 25
- New Year's Day - Jan. 1



Each Friday the City of St. Augustine sends email to the public which includes information on city events, road closures or interruptions and of much importance, agendas for all city meetings.

If you would like to be included on this email list, please contact Cathy DuPont at 825.1053 or email at cdupont@ci.st-augustine.fl.us.



The Customer Service Center at 50 Bridge St., serves the public by providing one stop for payment of water bills, parking tickets, business tax receipts, tour guide licenses, driver for hire and cat and dog registration. In addition to free parking in front of the facility, there is a drive-up window and a 24/7 drop-box for payments.



Director of General Services, Jim Piggott, Assistant Director of Public Works, Sam Lansdale and Human Resources Coordinator Donna Hayes recently attended career day at St. Augustine High School.

They encouraged recruitment of soon to be graduates for the varied jobs which may be available with the City of St. Augustine.

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