

# INSIGHT

INTO YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT

November 2006  
Volume 3, Issue 4

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

[www.staugustinegovernment.com](http://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 |
| Trash Pickup.....                 | 825.1040 |
| City Clerk.....                   | 825.1005 |
| Neighborhood Council.....         | 825.1053 |

## Project updates

### Bridge of Lions Rehabilitation Project

The Bridge of Lions Rehabilitation is well underway, as proven by the skeletal remains now located on the site. Most of the steel has been removed and shipped to Lakeland, FL for rehabilitation by specialized company Florida Structural Steel. In the near future, only the piers holding the octagonal towers will remain on site. The materials being rehabilitated offsite will be returned following construction of the drilled shaft support system. The bridge will then be reassembled in its restored historic state and reopened in late 2009.

For more information regarding the rehabilitation, please visit [www.fdotbridgeoflions.com](http://www.fdotbridgeoflions.com) or call 825.3647.

### Lighthouse Park Renovations

The City of St. Augustine will soon begin renovations at Lighthouse Park.

A bar located inside the building will be eliminated and the bathrooms which are now inside the building, will be altered so that the bathrooms can be accessed from outside the building.

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

### Nights of Lights only the beginning

There is pleasure enough walking St. Augustine's old world streets anytime of the year, but during the *Nights of Lights* when colonial buildings, downtown parks and the city's historic Bayfront are illuminated by over two million sparkling lights, the pleasure is even greater.

One of the biggest celebrations in downtown St. Augustine is when thousands of people to gather in the Plaza de la Constitution when the City honors members of the community with an invitation to turn on the lights for the City's holiday tree and then "flipping the switch" to light the entire city.

This year, the 13<sup>th</sup> year of *Nights of Lights* begins November 18 with Officer Renee' Morris, St. Augustine Police Dept., turning on the tree lights and Diane Quick, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity and Bill Lazar, Executive Director of the St. Johns County Housing Partnership turning on the switch to light

the entire city.

But there's more than just the lights. The event has grown into a two-and-a-half month long festival of activities that keep residents and visitors entertained and busy.



On the day of the *Nights of Lights* event, you and your family can learn about colonial military warfare and the architecture and engineering of Castillo de San Marcos with living history demonstrations dated during the 1702 and 1740 sieges on the fortress.

And the Fall Arts and Crafts Festival is the first weekend after Thanksgiving, November 25-26 at Francis Field.

The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Christmas Parade will be held December 2 along with

the British Nightwatch and Grand Illumination December 2-3.

Throughout the end of November to the end of January, the city has numerous opportunities to view the *Nights of Lights* via trolleys, trains, boats and walking tours.

Also, there's no longer a need to drive around the City looking for a parking spot. The Historic Downtown Parking Facility is open to house almost 1,200 vehicles with a shuttle from the facility to Hypolita and the Plaza traveling regularly along the Cordova St. route.

For complete visitor information and brochure for St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra and the Beaches, including a listing of all the special events during the two-and-a-half month long *Nights of Lights* call 800.OLD.CITY or visit [nightsoflights.com](http://nightsoflights.com).

City Hall will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday, Nov. 23-24.

## St. George St. re-bricking a successful project

The City of St. Augustine takes any opportunity available to update infrastructure when the opportunity presents itself. This was evident on St. George St. from King St. to Artillery Lane.

When the re-bricking project came to the forefront, not only was the street re-bricked but the infrastructure was replaced as well. New City water lines, sewer lines and up to date conduit for Florida Power and Light and BellSouth were installed.

Looking more closely at the project, they are definitely not cobblestones,

they're bricks and they weren't bought or placed by Henry Flagler in the 1880's. According to Carl Halbirt, City of St. Augustine archeologist, the bricking was purchased by the City of St. Augustine and completed in November of 1899.

The month long project called for the temporary realignment of the traffic flow of St. George St. and parking from Bridge St. to Artillery Lane.

After the infrastructure was replaced, it was covered with dirt up to 7" below the level of the gutter. The next layer was 4" of lime rock, then 1 1/2"

of asphalt and 1" of sand. Topping the project off is the 3 1/2 to 4" brick which is level to the gutter.

The City of St. Augustine appreciates the cooperation of the businesses along that portion of St. George St. which includes Park Mara, Ancient City Golf, Cool Beads and Trinity Episcopal Church and Early Learning Center.

While the temporary closure of the street made for some inconvenience, the finished product is one to be proud of by city residents, businesses and visitors and will last another few lifetimes.

## Clean water - our business

Clean water is everyone's business and since St. Augustine is surrounded by water bodies—the Matanzas River, San Sebastian River and Salt Run—it's everyone's business to help make the waterways cleaner today than yesterday.

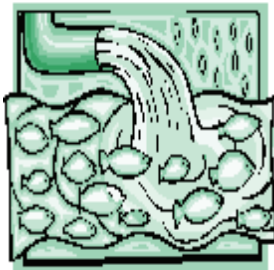
By definition, these local rivers and creeks are all categorized as surface waters and are regulated by the St. Johns River Water Management District, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Army Corps of Engineers and the U. S. Department of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The City of St. Augustine is making important changes to improve the stormwater system throughout the city to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. The EPA implemented stormwater regulations to ultimately improve the surface water quality throughout the nation.

### Stormwater Runoff

Our surface waters can be polluted from the daily activities of businesses and individuals as well as construction since storm drains connect directly to water bodies. Rainfall washes pollutants from parking lots, roof tops, garbage piles and nearly anything that rain may come in contact with. Rainwater coming in contact with a surface begins to form puddles or surface flow which is called stormwater. Once the stormwater has become contaminated, pollutants are then transported to roadways and storm drains which ultimately drain into our surface waters.

Retention ponds and other types of stormwater impoundment structures can be used to intercept and reduce the pollutant content of stormwater; however,



the best way to reduce pollutants from going into our rivers and creeks is to stop it at its source. This means proper maintenance of vehicles, proper containment of garbage, minimal use of fertilizers and keeping the stormdrains clear of foreign matter such as grass clipping and trash.

### Keep Storm Drains Clean

Remember that pollutants flushed down storm drains directly affects the quality of our rivers and could possibly make them unsafe for boating, fishing, swimming and other water related activities.

For more information call the City of St. Augustine's Department of Public Works at 825.1040.

## Customer Service serves the public

The City of St. Augustine attempts to provide a level of customer service which is above the norm.

One of the courtesies provided by the City is if your average water consumption increases dramatically, you will be notified by the City by leaving an orange tag on your door. The tag states that you need to investigate your water usage immediately and prior to being surprised by receiving your forthcoming water bill.

If you determine that you do indeed have a leak either inside or outside your home, you can take proof to the Customer Service Division that the leak was repaired by a licensed plumber and you may be eligible for a refund on your sewage rate. This applies only to those who have sewer service with their water service. Water service absent of sewer service is not eligible.

If you have a leak and you believe the leak is on the 'City side' of the meter rather than your property side, you can call Customer Service. Staff will come to your property to verify where the leak is located, on the 'City side' or on your property.

And you may have noticed that there's a slight increase in the cost of

water and sewer rates for homeowners beginning October 1.

Inside the city limits the current rate for water for 0-3000 gallons is now \$14.45 per month, up from \$14.17. And over 3,000 gallons the cost is now \$3.98 per 1,000 gallons, up from \$3.90.



This information and more can be found on your October utility bill in the box which states "Important Messages." Each month the City replaces the information in an effort to provide up to date facts on City functions.

For more information call the Customer Service Division at 825.1037 or visit their office at 50 Bridge St., where you can park in front of the building free, use the drive thru window or the night drop.

The wastewater treatment plant empties 2.6 million gallons of treated water a day into the Matanzas River.

## W. King St. alive with construction

If you've been by West King St. recently you may have noticed a new building being erected at the corner of Madison St. and W. King St. When completed the building will be home to the Fleet Operations Division and the City's General Warehouse. The property backs up to the COSA Public Works Complex where the entrance is located on Pellicer Lane.

The City complex on the site at Pellicer Lane is presently home to many of the City of St. Augustine's

street, parks and facility operations offices, all support divisions which keep the City running smoothly.

The Fleet Operations Division and staff of the City Archeology Division both of which were located in separate buildings east of the present water treatment plants have been located off site so that the five separate buildings can be demolished. A new and up to date reverse osmosis water treatment plant will be erected in the near future.

## Notes of interest

The City of St. Augustine Municipal Marina has been chosen as the Favorite Marina on American's First Coast by the editors of Water's Edge magazine. The annual awards were published in the September 2006 issue.

City Commission agendas are placed on the City Web site at [staugustine-government.com](http://staugustine-government.com) Friday afternoon prior to the Monday 5 p.m. meeting.

The agenda is also included in the City email newsletter *News and Notes* each Friday prior to the meeting.

To receive *News and Notes* weekly, email [cdu-pont@ci.st-augustine.fl.us](mailto:cdu-pont@ci.st-augustine.fl.us) or call 825.1053.

### Broadcast Times - Dates of City Meetings

St. Johns County Government Channel 3, Time-Warner, broadcasts live and taped City meetings.

**City Commission** - Live the second and fourth Monday of each month at 5 p.m.

**City Commission Rerun** - Monday following each meeting at 7 p.m.

**Planning and Zoning Board** - Taped - Second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.

**Historic Architectural Review Board** Taped - Fourth Thursday at 7 p.m.

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

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