



THE ST. AUGUSTINE REPORT

Local news in our Nation's Oldest City



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Mission museum dedication on Founder's Day

The new Mission Nombre de Dios Museum will be dedicated September 4 during our 445th Founder's Day activities, and will include a 16th century ceremonial procession of the casket of Pedro Menendez from its current home at the Shrine Gift Shop to the Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche Chapel for prayer, then to its new home at the museum.

Kathleen Bagg, Director of Communications for the Diocese of Saint Augustine, says, "The museum will feature several artifacts and items of interest to the public, including the Menendez casket and his headboard, which has been in safekeeping at the University of Florida's Museum of Natural History.

Among exhibits being developed: the first Spanish Missions of Florida. "The Menendez casket is historically significant because it is the only physical object in the United States of the man who established the country's first permanent European settlement," Bagg noted.

Mission Director [Eric Johnson](#) (904) 824-2809 has details.



Mission Museum stands in shadow of Great Cross



It's 'Florida's Historic Coast'

Move over "Florida's First Coast," there's a new moniker in town, and our St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra and the Beaches Visitors and Convention Bureau (VCB) means to make it stick.

"St. Augustine Ponte Vedra on Florida's Historic Coast" is the recommendation of VCB's advertising agency, Ypartnership, based on focus group interviews in Atlanta and Orlando for a spring-summer campaign already under way.



"History is the hook," VCB Executive Director Richard Goldman explains. "Most visitors come here for that. We want to use that to bring them in, then direct them to all the other features we offer."

He said the new title draws in all three original elements with St.

'Bloody Mose' 270 years ago

Spanish Governor Manuel Montiano, Georgia Governor James Oglethorpe, and Fort Mose Commander Francisco Menendez come to life again Saturday to recount the Battle of Bloody Mose 270 years ago, June 26, 1740.

The [St. Augustine Garrison](#) will re-enact the battle at Fort Mose at 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m., along with demonstrations of 18th-century civic and military life, crafts, and children's games beginning at 10.

This first annual commemoration is presented in partnership with [Fort Mose Historic State Park](#), the Fort Mose Historical Society, the 42nd Regiment of Foot (Oglethorpe's own), and [Clann Nan Con](#) Scottish living history group, with support of the St. Johns Tourist Development Council.

**Photo: Fort Mose
reenactment team**

Augustine and Ponte Vedra in the main lines and Florida's Historic Coast saying we have beaches as well.

Goldman added, "Pairing St. Augustine and Ponte Vedra tells potential visitors that there's more than history here, our focus groups said."

The new logo is joined by a new website [address](#) for Florida's Historic Coast.

Fullerwood National Register bid advances to state review

A nomination for Fullerwood Park Residential Historic District to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places undergoes state review July 12 in Tallahassee, the final step before submission to the US Department of the Interior.

Melissa Dezendorf, Historic Preservation Planner/Special Projects in our Planning and Building Department, has submitted the extensive nomination form for the area bounded by Hospital Creek on the east, San Marco Avenue on the west, Hildreth Street on the north and Macaris Street on the south.

It is the second of three neighborhoods more recently proposed for listing by our city. North City, between US 1 and San Marco Avenue from Castillo Drive to Old Mission Avenue, became our city's fifth neighborhood listed, while a Nelmar Terrace nomination is being developed.

Other neighborhoods on the National Register: St. Augustine Historic District, Lincolnville, Flagler's Model Land Tract, and the Abbott Tract.

For more details, contact Melissa (904) 825-1065 or Andrew Waber with the State Division of Historic Resources (850) 245-6333.

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Sampling our First Foods



Folks had a chance to learn about, and sample - courtesy of Rob's Catering - our nation's First Foods, from left, Native, African, and Spanish, Saturday in our Colonial Spanish Quarter. This first annual First Food event was sponsored by Los Compañeros de la Cocina (The Companions of the Kitchen) in cooperation with our city's Heritage Tourism Department.

It's what works

San Marco Amtrak station location

The site at US 1 and San Marco Avenue in the north end of our city, most recently used by the Department of Motor Vehicles, has all the elements needed to have an Amtrak passenger rail station on line within the required three-year development period, Amtrak Coalition representative Kim Delaney told a public workshop last week.

"There's a 4,000 square foot building in pretty good shape, additional necessary track, lots of area, even the potential for additional businesses," she said. "Built in the 1960s, it's the best of three existing stations along the proposed route; the others, at Cocoa, built in the 1950s, and Titusville, in the 1920s, need work."

This former Florida East Coast rail station would be one of two staffed "destination" stations on the 329-mile route from Jacksonville to Miami "because of the volume of tourists and overnight business," she said. The other, at Cape Canaveral, would serve the large volume of cruise line traffic.

Delaney said the application for federal stimulus funding, due by month's end, "has to show a shovel-ready project, with funding in September or October, and ability to complete the entire project within three years."

She said the Carrera Street location, favored by our city, "would require a \$4 million station and trackage, and another \$1.5 million for a new railroad bridge over the San Sebastian River. The third candidate, at the Northeast Florida Regional Airport, is on a narrow strip of land on the west side of US 1, and "is not the best location for this (destination) type of service at this time," she said.

History's Highlights

The 'Battle of Bloody Mose'

One in a series of historic features as we prepare for our commemorations, drawn from research by George Gardner.

5 years, 2 months, and 18 days to St. Augustine's 450th anniversary

Predawn, June 26, 1740, both the wisdom of Spanish Governor Manuel Montiano in establishing this northern outpost and refuge for escaped slaves, and their fighting will against the hated British, would be tested.

Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose - Fort Mose (Mo-SAY), was established two years earlier as a matter of both religious pressure and military expediency. It answered the moral dictates of the Catholic Church, and would weaken the economy of the British colonies.

That early morning of June 26, Fort Mose was occupied by British and Scottish forces after being abandoned to the security of St. Augustine's Castillo. General James Oglethorpe, founder and governor of the British colony of Georgia, was poised to seize the Spanish colony of St. Augustine.



Governor Montiano saw recapture of Fort Mose as key to defeating Oglethorpe's plans. Gathering his officers, including Fort Mose's Commander, Captain Francisco Menendez, a surprise attack in the predawn hours was planned.

Spanish soldiers, black militia, and native Yamassee auxiliaries made up a 300-man force that "swept over (Fort Mose) with such impetuosity that it fell with a loss of 68 dead and 34 prisoners," Montiano later wrote.

"At length they came on again sword in hand and entered the gate. At the same time another party entered one of the breaches so that the fort was at once full of Spaniards, it being then about half an hour before the day," a surviving British soldier recounted.

The attack came to be known to the British as "Bloody Mose," and successfully helped end Georgia's invasion of Florida.

The black militiamen rebuilt Fort Mose in 1752, and it prospered until 1763, when Spain ceded Florida to Britain by treaty. Its commander, Captain Menendez, and black residents of Fort Mose - knowing slavery would return under the British - fled to Cuba with most of the Spanish citizens, where they formed a new community, Ceiba Mocha, in the Matanzas province. Menendez is believed to have died in Havana.

Photo: Clann Nan Con, living historians based in Georgia, who will portray the Highland Independent Company of Darien in Saturday's reenactment

The St. Augustine Report is published by the Department of Public Affairs of the City of St. Augustine each Tuesday and on Fridays previewing City Commission meetings. The Report is written and distributed by George Gardner, former St. Augustine Mayor (2002-2006) and Commissioner (2006-2008) and a longtime newspaper reporter and editor. Contact The Report at gardner@aug.com

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