



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

Updates

Lions guarding Bridge of Lions

The two lions for which the bridge was named, have been fully restored and are awaiting their final guarding place at the foot of the bridge. The lions will be the last element prior to completion of the entire restoration project.

Bridge of Lions

Both sides of the steel center span of the Bridge of Lions have been erected and were filled with lightweight concrete at the end of July and early August to provide improved traction for motor vehicles.

Delivery of the remaining historic arched girders has been completed while the bridge deck and sidewalks are being constructed. Roadwork at both ends of the bridge is nearly complete, except for remaining new traffic/pedestrian signals and a final layer of asphalt that will be placed closer toward the end of the project.

In early July, sod was placed in pedestrian areas that were disturbed during construction at the west end of the bridge. Sod is being planted at the east end of the project as well.

For more information on the Bridge of Lions Rehabilitation Project, please visit the project website at www.FDOTBridgeofLions.com.

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

Flagler's fountains restored to former glory

What began as a brainstorming idea during a small staff meeting has now culminated into the restoration of fountains in downtown, all dating from the last dozen years of the 19th century.

The meeting attended by John Regan, the city's COO, Tim Burchfield, the CAO, and Catherine Culver, the Department of Heritage Tourism's Marketing and Events Coordinator, was held to fine tune the city's annual *Noche de Gala*, an event held each February to commemorate the birthday of Pedro Menéndez de Aviles, St. Augustine's founder.

With the idea to deposit any proceeds from the *Gala* into an enterprise fund dedicated to specific projects related to historic preservation, the meeting was held to determine this year's project.

Unanimously, it was agreed that the restoration of the city's distinct chain of Flagler Era fountains, many of which have not functioned properly for years, would be an appropriate initial recipient of the *Gala's* proceeds. As plans were developed, three separate local contractors stepped up and offered to work on the project as an in-kind, public service donation to the community, and as a way to honor family members.

First to be returned to close to the original was the now free flowing fountain west of Government House, between King Street and Cathedral Place. That work was done by John Valdes and his company John Valdes and Associates, William Putnam, Duane Gilrie, Stuart George,

Wayne Ferrell and Tim Wine. It is in memory of Desmond R. Valdes, John's brother. The park and then the fountain were created when Cathedral Place was extended from St. George Street west to Cordova Street after the opening of the Ponce de Leon Hotel, now Flagler College.



Alcazar fountain

The second restored fountain, in the park adjacent to the St. Augustine Fire Station on Malaga Street, is an adopted project of Colin Bingham, son-in-law of retired city fire department Capt. David M. Ledford. Bingham began the project to honor the service of his father-in-law and all firefighters of the St. Augustine Fire Department.

When St. Augustine's new train depot opened in 1888 on the site of today's fire station which bears a striking resemblance to the original depot, the park and its fountain was the first bit of St. Augustine that greeted new arrivals.

Also, contributing to the restoration were Parryman Stucco and Johnny Rogero, both of St. Augustine.

As a guest at the Alcazar Hotel (today's City Hall) in the 1890's you would have played tennis on extensive courts just to the south of the hotel, an area that is today used for parking. Certainly as you left the courts after a hard game you would have found the fountain there adjacent to

the hotel very refreshing.

Billy Angyalffy, his company Angyalffy Construction, along with Matt Baker, John Valdes, Jim Young and Doug Wiles donated the work and funding for this fountain's restoration in memory of his son, J. Brent Angyalffy.

Each fountain was in similar condition and required similar restoration work. The estimated cost for each restoration was about \$7,000 and in excess of 200 hours of labor. Because of the generosity of the in-kind donations, the funds remaining from the *Gala* will be put toward enhancements such as lighting and additional landscaping for the fountains.

The benefactors of the *Noche de Gala* whose support has made these enhancements possible are The Lightner Museum, John Valdes and Associates, *The St. Augustine Record*, San Sebastian Winery, Andy's Taylor Rental, Baker & Hostetler LLP, Joseph W. and Faith K. Tiberio, St. Augustine Alligator Farm, Allen and Delores Lastinger, Arthur W. Milam and Teresa de Balmaseda Milam, St. Augustine Family Dentistry, Internal Medical Associates of St. Johns County, P.A., Florida Power & Light, Dixon & Associates Architects and Hazel Henderson and Alan F. Kay.

In addition to the three restored fountains the others from that era that are in use today are on the grounds of Flagler College and in front of City Hall.

So by combining the dollars of the *Gala* and the donations from generous businesses, three of the century old fountains are flowing once again and landscaping and additional improvements are in the near future.



The weekly musical entertainment series *Concerts in the Plaza* continues every Thursday, 7-9 p.m. through Labor Day when a special concert occurs.

The special September 7 concert begins at 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. when the St. Augustine Jazz Society presents *Jazz Personified* and *The St. Augustine Jazz Society All-Stars*.

Concerts in the Plaza are produced by the City of St. Augustine 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.

St. Augustine's 444th

The City of St. Augustine will celebrate its 444th birthday with events beginning Thursday, September 3 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Native American Village of Seloy at the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park, 11 Magnolia Ave.

Later that same day city officials and St. Augustine's Royal Family will cut the ceremonial birthday cake just prior to that evening's *Concerts in the Plaza* performance by Gatorbone. Cake will then be served to the public until 7:30 p.m. or until it's finished.

Saturday at 9 a.m. there will be a re-enactment of the landing of Menendez at the Mission of Nombre de Dios. The re-enactment will be followed by a celebration of Mass at the wooden outdoor altar.

For more information go to the city Web site at www.staugustinesbirthday.com.

An early Christmas present

Francis (Fran) Currier, a resident of St. Augustine since 1996, presented an early Christmas gift to the City of St. Augustine...a more than century old 'one horse open' sleigh.



The sleigh which Currier has owned since December 1, 1956, is red with red upholstery. Because of its unique style and design, it's been identified as a Portland Cutter.

It's expected to grace the Visitors Information Center during the holidays for the enjoyment of all during the holiday season.

Many thanks to resident Fran Currier for the gift of the red sleigh.

City adopting budget for coming fiscal year

As with most all governmental bodies, the City of St. Augustine will go through the process of workshops and public meetings to review, finalize and adopt its budget for the coming fiscal year which begins October 1.

An essential part of that process is one workshop and two public hearings where the budget will be discussed by the commission. At these meetings the public is invited to comment on the proposal before it is officially adopted. The workshop will be held August 20 and if needed, August 21 in the Alcazar Room at City Hall, 75 King St. 9 a.m. The public hearings where the public is invited to comment will be held on September 3 and September 17. All public hearings will be held at the Alcazar Room at 5:05 p.m.

The city's entire budget includes seven separate funds. The General Fund is supported by property (ad valorem) taxes and fire assessment fees. The other funds are all enterprise or proprietary funds meaning that they are funded through service fees and are financially self-supporting.

The funds are as follows: General Fund; Utility Fund; Stormwater Fund; Solid Waste Fund; Municipal Marina Fund; Heritage Tourism Fund; and the Community Redevelopment Agency Fund.

For more information on the budget meetings, call Finance, Budget and Management at 825.1030.

Maria Sanchez Lake completes another phase

In early 2001, the City of St. Augustine began outlining a beautification project to restore the banks of Maria Sanchez Lake located between Cordova, St. George and Washington streets.

This spring the city constructed a three-foot high concrete bulkhead along both the east and west sides of the lake to stabilize the receding shoreline. The bulkhead added up to about a total of 1,600 feet long. Also, a 0.3 acre wetland area was created and marsh grasses such as spartina and black mangrove were planted on the exposed shores of the lake.

With the ongoing progress of completely restoring the lake, the public and neighbors are reminded to limit fertilizer on their lawns in the areas around the lake to prohibit possible detrimental runoff; dispose of trash and debris in proper receptacles; and dispose of animal droppings properly.

Also, there are no fishing and swimming signs are posted.

For more information on the lake and its health, call Public Works at 825.1040.

'Getting greener' with city recycling efforts

Going green in part means recycling properly. The City of St. Augustine provides weekly curbside pickup of recyclables including the most popular item, plastics.

It seems as though most everything has plastic involved in the manufacture; toys, containers, bottles, ice trays, household cleaners, food utensils, cereal box liners and the list can go on and on.

Since 1988 plastics and the polymer type used in making the product have been identified by a resin identification coding system. This system is used to sort plastics so that some of the plastics can be safely remolded into other products therefore saving energy. To make a product from crude oil takes about nine times the amount of energy than just remolding it.

Continue to place your plastics in the recycling bin knowing that taking that extra step will help you do your part for the environment.



Notes of interest

The *ParkNow* cards can be purchased at the Financial Services Center, 50 Bridge St., for a one time cost of \$2.50 and are pre-paid in the amounts of \$20, \$50 or \$100.

With the *ParkNow* cards the cost of parking is 50 cents per hour.

They can be used at all meters parking spaces and lots including the Historic Downtown Parking Facility.



The City of St. Augustine and St. Johns County hosts approximately 6,260,000 visitors each year.



Each Friday *News and Notes*, an email newsletter, is sent to interested residents and businesses.

Included is news of road closures, traffic interruptions and city agendas for the city commission and citizen boards. To be placed on this list, email cdupont@ci.st-augustine.fl.us or call 825.1053.



The Historic Downtown Parking Facility has nearly 1,200 parking spaces available 24 hours a day every day of the year.

The HDPF is convenient to St. George Street and San Marco Avenue as well as the Castillo de San Marcos.

To verify the cost and availability on a specific day, call 484.5160.



You can pay your water bill conveniently online by going to the city Website at staugustinegovernment.com and under Residents, go to Making Payments.

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