

INSIGHT

INTO YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT

August 2004
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CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE • THE NATION'S OLDEST CITY

Speed humps for the City's Neighborhoods

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

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

INFO FROM CITY WEB SITE

For information on the city, go to www.staugustinegovernment.com.

This web site has in-depth information on all subjects relating to city projects, water, utilities, jobs, City Code, email addresses and phone numbers for the City Commissioners, agenda items for the City Commission, citizen boards and loads of information about things to do in St. Augustine including the Concerts in the Plaza.

The site is updated weekly.

ONGOING PROJECTS

- ◆ **VIC Transportation Facility** - The City Commission approved the project July 26. Construction begins in September.
- ◆ **Bridge of Lions** - Construction will begin in the spring of 2005 and is expected to last about five years. For more information call 827.9873 or go to www.fdotbridgeoflions.com.

The City of St. Augustine adopted a policy last year for the placement of speed humps in neighborhoods. This policy states specific criteria to qualify for the placement of the humps.

The first step is an application submitted to the Public Works Department which includes names and signatures of property owners who would be most affected by the proposed speed hump.

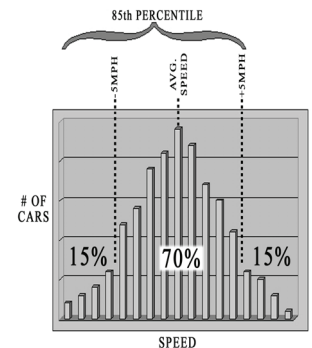
The St. Augustine Police Department then performs a road tube study on the street and the results of the study determine whether the street is eligible for speed hump installation.

The road tube study covers a period of one full week and counts the number of vehicles passing over the street and the speed of those vehicles.

In order to qualify for a speed hump, 85 percent of the vehicles traveling the road must be 5 mph over the posted speed of the road.

For example, the posted speed limit on Cordova St. running from St. Francis St. south to St. George St. is 20 mph. A speed study indicated that 85 percent of all vehicular traffic traveling on the road for a one week period traveled at a rate of 26 mph and therefore the street qualified for a speed hump.

A later tube study performed after the speed hump was installed showed that 85 percent of the vehicles traveled 24.5 mph and therefore another portion of the street did not qualify for a second speed hump. This indicates that the speed hump did slow traffic in that area.



The policy further states that the traffic volume on the proposed street must be more than 200 vehicles per day but less than 5,000 vehicles, have no more than two traveling lanes (one in each direction) and have a speed limit of 35 mph or less.

If you or your neighborhood is interested in a speed hump, please call the Public Works Department at 825.1040.

Concerts continue



The 14th season of Concerts in the Plaza continues this month with great music each Thursday evening. All concerts start at 7 p.m., with the exception of the Labor Day concert which is scheduled from 1 to 5 p.m. For a complete schedule of the concerts, go to www.plazaconcerts.com.

The concerts are produced by the City of St. Augustine and are made possible through the support of Florida East Coast Industries, Auglink Communications, CNB National Bank, St. Augustine and St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council.

Oil and grease, that's a no Soap and water, that's a yes

As environmentally sensitive residents and business owners, we consciously attempt to recycle and dispose of our trash properly. Another way to save the environment is to be aware of what should and shouldn't go down our drains and toilets.

The City's sewer ordinance states that grease should not be emptied in the drains and toilets because as it gets cooler, it can solidify and eventually may cause costly damage to pipes, both yours and those of the city's. Also, no gasoline, mineral spir-

its, cooking oil, motor oil, glass, ashes, sand, plastics, wood, chemical residues and paints should be emptied in drains, sinks or toilets.



With everyone's cooperation by being aware of what goes down our drains and toilets, it can save all of us money in the long run and we'll feel like we've contributed to helping clean our environment. (See related story on curbside pickup.)

Once again, that time of year

What do Alex, Bonnie, Charley and Danielle have in common? They're the first four names of potential hurricanes this season which officially began June 1. The season ends November 30 with August and September the peak months for hurricanes.

Most of the City of St. Augustine is designated as storm surge area which means that in case of a storm, Anastasia Island and downtown St. Augustine would be greatly affected by the rain and accompanying winds produced by a hurricane. The St. Johns County Public Library has a storm surge map to view.



There are a number of things you can do to prepare you and your family in the event a hurricane approaches. First and foremost is to plan an evacuation route and/or locate nearby shelters. The first shelters opened are dependent upon the category of the pending hurricane. The categories range from 1 to 5 with 5 being the strongest hurricane.

Due to the storm surge area, there are no shelters within the city limits, therefore residents would have to find a site in the county. Otis A. Mason and Osceola elementary schools, both located off State Road 207, are nearest the city limits.

For further information on evacuation routes call the St. Johns County Emergency Management Department at 824.5550 or log on to the Emergency Management website at www.co.st-johns.fl.us/BCC/emgcmgmt/index.html. Or for more information on hurricane preparedness, log on to www.fema.gov/hazards/hurricanes.

Artillery Lane project on target

The multi-faceted Artillery Lane project is on schedule for replacement of the water line from Aviles St. to St. George St. and replacement of stormwater drains from Avenida Menendez to Aviles St. Further, all utility service lines along Artillery Lane between Marine and St. George streets are being replaced as needed. When the infrastructure is completed, the narrow walkway will be bricked.

Approximately 8,000 bricks will be needed to complete the project. The City has a brick inventory, however, if used it will deplete the inventory entirely. With that in mind, the City is searching for sources of either old bricks or new bricks which look old. Old bricks cost about \$1.50 each so the City is doing a price comparison.

Either way, old or new bricks, the street will be attractive for the residents and visitors in the neighborhood when completed.

Leonardi St. gets help from city

Residents of Leonardi St. are happier than they've been in a long time with the realignment of South Dixie Highway.

Last year the City Commission authorized an engineering study of the area and it was recommended to realign the north end of South Dixie Hwy. so that traffic would naturally flow to Pellicer Ln. rather than Leonardi St. This recommendation was based on safety considerations since there was a confusing four way stop at the intersection.

Bill Harding, the city's public works director, said city workers put in overtime to get the job done quickly. The entire project

took two and a half weeks to complete. During that period Leonardi St. was closed to through traffic.

The City of St. Augustine held a ribbon cutting event in mid-July and in attendance were the neighbors of Leonardi St. including Jerry Butterbaugh who appeared before the City Commission as a spokesperson for the neighborhood. Butterbaugh, who was pleased with the results of the work, stated "They did a great job. The city employees are a great bunch of guys. They stayed hard at it."

Did you know? There's 2,088 manhole covers within the city limits. At \$100 each, that's over \$200,000 worth of manhole covers!

Did you know? 17,254 parking tickets were written between July 15, 2003 and July 14, 2004.

At your curbside, sir

Empty or dried paint cans sitting around your garage? Oil or oil cans that need to be disposed of? Did you know that you can set them out at your curb and they'll be picked up by the City's Solid Waste Division?

In fact, each week five trash trucks pass your home; twice weekly for regular trash pickup, once a week for recyclables, once a week for yard debris, and once a week for what's called "junk" collection which includes items such as large appliances, paints, tires and oil.

To be helpful to our collectors, oil and grease should be identified as such or placed in an emptied container.

The City of St. Augustine strives to provide the highest level of service to its customers. For more information on your neighborhood pickup dates or for construction debris requirements, please call 825.1049 or 825.1040.

Notes of interest

The St. Augustine Fire Department has smoke detectors available at no cost to low income families. Please call 825.1098 for further information.



Interested in the development of a Neighborhood Watch program? Call Cpl. John Olsen at 825.1074.



And then there were nine! Yes, there's now nine neighborhood associations either in formation or already formed. If you would like to join your neighborhood association, contact Cathy DuPont, Neighborhood Council Coordinator at 825.1053 for information.



The Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) directed City staff to ask the Planning and Zoning Board (PZB) if it would like to have a joint workshop to address mutual concerns relating to the Historic Preservation (HP) districts.

HARB is presently reviewing Historic Preservation guidelines for all five HP districts due to concerns of height and scale of new construction.

The request will be made at the PZB meeting August 3 when a future workshop may be scheduled.

For more information call the Planning and Building Department at 825.1065.

Tree ordinance change?

The City of St. Augustine Street Tree Advisory Committee recently developed recommendations to be presented to the Planning and Zoning Board (PZB) for a change in the Tree and Landscape Code. The recommendation is to strengthen the tree and landscape ordinance by including more incentives for developers to preserve trees and clarification for application of "after the fact" tree removal permits.

The new recommendations by the Street Tree Advisory Committee will be presented to the PZB at the August 3 meeting and if approved would then be presented to the City Commission. If the City Commission accepts the recommendation, a change in the ordinance would be prepared and brought back to the City Commission for approval.

Did you know? The total area within the city limits is 21.99% water according to the U. S. Census Bureau.

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Dept. of Public Affairs
P. O. Box 210
St. Augustine, FL
32085/0210
Phone 904.825.1004
Email: cosa@aug.com