



INSIGHT

INTO YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT

August 2010
Volume 8, Issue 3

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

The dismantling of the temporary bridge adjacent to the rehabilitated Bridge of Lions was finished late last month. A barge of pilings to be used as an artificial reef was also deployed.

Construction continues in the park area at the southwest corner of the Bridge of Lions with the installation of new lights and other aesthetic amenities. Roadwork and median reconstruction east of the Bridge of Lions continues and paving operations are currently scheduled for mid-August. Construction on the new park at the east end of the Bridge of Lions is anticipated to begin this month.

In the remaining months of completion, contractors will be restoring the park approaches, creating a new gateway park on the east approach and enhancing the overall urban design.

For additional information related to the rehabilitation project, please visit www.fdotbridgeoflions.com.

The City of St. Augustine has a city manager form of government whereby the city commission determines policy and appoints the city manager, city clerk and city attorney who oversee all of the administrative operation functions of the city.

The St. Augustine City Commission appointed John P. Regan city manager at its April meeting and Regan appointed Timothy A. Burchfield assistant city manager in June.

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE • THE NATION'S OLDEST CITY City's 445th birthday party features music, cake and ceremony

The City of St. Augustine will commemorate the 445th anniversary of its founding by Pedro Menendez de Aviles beginning September 2 with a cake cutting ceremony at the Plaza de la Constitucion prior to *Concerts in the Plaza* that evening featuring *Skin 'n Bonz & The Big Hungry Boys*.

City officials and St. Augustine's Royal Family will cut the ceremonial birthday cake which will then be served to the public at the Government House until 7:30 p.m. or until it's finished.

Early Americans

The Spaniards were not the first to think of the St. Augustine area as 'home.' Native Americans known as the Timucua had been living here for at least 500 years when the Europeans first arrived. In fact, from the first moments of their arrival, the Spaniards encountered the residents of Seloy, a large Timucuan village located at the present site of the Fountain of Youth Archeological Park.

The celebration at the park which begins Thursday, September 2 and continues through Satur-



day, September 4, will include demonstrations of Pre-Columbian and Seminole gatherings featuring seminars, traditional dancing and native and historical story telling.

Admission is free and the Fountain of Youth entrance is located at 11 Magnolia Ave.

Saturday, September 4 at 10 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 guest speaker Dr. Bonnie McEwan, director of Mission San Luis in Tallahassee who will speak about the development of the first mission, Nombre de Dios and the Spanish missions which followed throughout Florida and the northeast.

At 11 a.m. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Victor Galeone at the rustic wooden outdoor altar on the mission grounds near the landing site.

Adding to a special birthday of the city, the Diocese of Saint Augustine will be relocating Menendez' outer casket to its permanent location at the new Mission Nombre de Dios Museum.

The museum which has been under construction for the past year, will be dedicated with a blessing and dedication ceremony by Bishop Victor Galeone, Diocese of St. Augustine.

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

COSA and St. Johns County DEM say 'be prepared'

If you haven't already, take time now to prepare your family for the 2010 hurricane season.

The 2010 hurricane season which began June 1, continues to November 30 and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecasters say a near-normal Atlantic hurricane season is predicted.

However, as with any season, the need to prepare for the possibility of a storm striking near St. Augustine and St. Johns county is essential.

A good start is by visiting the St. Johns County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) at

their Web site at www.sjcemergencymanagement.org.

The site identifies shelters, evacuation routes, pet shelters and of most importance to many people, the evacuation assistance program.

Evacuation Assistance

If you have a family member, friend or neighbor who may need assistance if evacuation is required, make sure they have completed an evacuation assistance request form at the Web site above or contact the office at 824.5550 and one will be mailed to you.

If the form has been previously submitted and the information is still cor-

rect, a new one is not necessary.

St. Augustine Fire Dept.

Chief Mike Arnold of the St. Augustine Fire Department (SAFD) is the emergency contact and coordinator for the City of St. Augustine. The SAFD is responsible for the coordination of all information and city activities with the DEM.

In case of an emergency and to receive the most up-to-date information, tune in to your local radio station, view the DEM Web site above or the City of St. Augustine Web site at www.staugustinegovernment.com.

Fullerwood Park new designation

The City of St. Augustine has added a sixth neighborhood designated as a National Register Historic District, The Fullerwood Park Residential Historic District.

It's bordered on the north by Hildreth Dr., the south by Macaris St., the west by San Marco Ave. and the east by Hospital Creek.

The Florida Historical Commission unanimously approved the application with minor revisions and will forward the documents to Washington, D.C., for federal listing on the National Register of Historic Places.



Courtesy of the St. Augustine Historical Society

This brings the total number of National Register Historic Districts in St. Augustine to six, with one more application, Nelmar Terrace, in preparation.

The other five designated districts are City of St. Augustine (downtown St. Augustine), Model Land Company, Abbott Tract, Lincolnville and North City.

The City of St. Augustine's Comprehensive Plan calls for the city to attempt to achieve National Register designation status for neighborhoods, however, Mark Knight, Director of Planning and Building stated, "this is a designation the city would pursue anyway because of our history and our desire to keep the historic nature of the city in the forefront."

The Break Room on WFCF

The Break Room is a weekly radio program aired on WFCF-FM and hosted by Public Affairs Director Paul Williamson, which offers a behind-the-scenes look at the workings of city government through interviews with people key to the city's day-to-day operations and upcoming city sponsored events.

The program airs on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. with a re-broadcast at 8 a.m. on Saturdays on WFCF/88.5 FM, Flagler College Radio. The program may also be heard on-line at www.flagler.edu/wfcf.

Public Works FOG and recycling programs

Always seeking new ways to become more environmentally friendly, the City of St. Augustine recently instituted the FOG (fats, oils and grease) program and expanded recycling for businesses.

The disposal of fats, oils and grease into our drainage and/or sewer system has long been overlooked. Disposal of FOG into the drains can interrupt, clog and disrupt the flow of liquids in drainage systems.

While direct outreach efforts to businesses are central in the city's new program, good practices should also become a habit at home.

Although the ordinance (which was mandated by state law) has been in effect since 2002, the city has just recently graduated into its enforcement due in part to an increase in the blockage of local sewer lines.

In an effort to get this information to businesses and homeowners, the city can now schedule staff to visit clubs and organizations to make a presentation and answer questions about the program. Also, a pamphlet is available with frequently asked questions.

Recycling for Businesses

Commercial recycling to businesses within the city recently began in April with cardboard collection. It has now been extended to full recycling for businesses. This includes plastic and glass bottles,

aluminum cans, newspaper, office paper and cardboard all of which can be dropped off at the Solid Waste Facility, 601 Riberia St. from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and any time weekends when the bins will be placed outside the fenced area.

Residential Recycling

Recycling for residential customers has been available since the late 1990's and with the move to include commercial customers, the Division of Solid Waste hopes to also increase the number of residential users who recycle.

The residential recycling program is through a contract with Advanced Disposal. That program represents collection of 2.1% of the total recyclables collected in the city.

As a whole, the city's recycling rate is 12.81%, while the statewide average is 28%. The goal is to increase residential recycling to 30%.

It's noted that the cost of recycling by residential customers is absorbed in the current cost for collection of solid waste which is paid by all customers whether or not they recycle. So all city residents are encouraged by the city to become 'more green' and recycle.

To schedule a FOG presentation, request the FOG pamphlet or request recycling bins call the Department of Public Works at 825.1040.

Labor Day Concerts in the Plaza

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 6 concert is from 1 to 5 p.m. with *The St. Augustine Jazz Society*.

Concerts in the Plaza is produced by the City of St. Augustine and the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council.

For a complete schedule including the month of August and directions to the Plaza and the Historic

Downtown Parking Facility, visit www.plazaconcerts.com.

COSA Budget Hearings

Dates are set for the hearings for the 2010-11 budget.

The budget workshop will begin at 9 a.m. August 24 in the Alcazar Room, 75 King St. with a presentation by Mark Litzinger, City Comptroller.

Public hearings on the budget will be September 9 and 23, at 5:05 p.m. in the Alcazar Room.

Notes of interest

All offices of the City of St. Augustine will be closed Monday, September 6 for Labor Day, reopening Tuesday, September 7 at 7:30 and 8 a.m.

City refuse and recycling pickup will be as usual.

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 metered parking spaces and lots including the Historic Downtown Parking Facility.

Water restrictions set by the St. Johns River Water Management District and the City of St. Augustine are in effect for the entire city.

All homes with an odd number can water Wednesday and Saturday, even number on Thursday and Sunday and businesses, Tuesday and Friday. All watering must be done before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m. with watering for no more than one hour.

Everyone is reminded that these are the minimum restrictions and should it rain, watering by the public should decrease.

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@citystaug.com or call 825.1053.

InSight is Published Quarterly by The City of St. Augustine Dept. of Public Affairs P. O. Box 210 St. Augustine, FL 32085/0210 Phone 904.825.1004 Email: cosa@citystaug.com