



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

City Manager Bill Harriss recently announced his retirement after 25 years with the city, with the past 12 as city manager.

The city manager is one of three positions, along with city attorney and city clerk, hired directly by the city commission.

Harriss said that his big question as city manager has been always been "How do we continue to deliver the same, or higher level of service to all our constituents without having the cost of those services become a burden? That is the everyday, every hour question a city manager has to ask himself, staff and ultimately the city commission."

Harriss will retire this summer.

The restored Bridge of Lions opened March 17 with *The Club 27* members the first to cross the newly restored bridge.

The dismantling of the temporary bridge began the following day and is anticipated to be completely removed by the end of July 2010.

Following dismantling the temporary bridge and completion of roadwork and median reconstruction associated with the Bridge of Lions Rehabilitation Project, work on landscaping for the east and west approach will begin. For additional information related to the rehabilitation project go to www.fdotbridgeoflions.com.

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

New coupons for customers...not business as usual

Parking, just like anything else, is cheaper when purchased in bulk so the city has made it easier than ever for businesses to make it cheaper for clients, shoppers and diners to park downtown.

By purchasing a Historic Downtown Parking Facility (HDPF) validation coupon booklet, the cost of parking in the 1,200 car facility is half the cost of retail. The booklets include 25 all day (7 a.m.-11 p.m.) coupons costing \$3.75 each or \$93.75 per book including tax. This is half price since all day parking is \$7.50. The all day parking coupon is also popular with brides who use the convenience of the coupons for their bridal party.

Another popular validation coupon is the two-hour free parking. Shop and restaurant owners find these coupons popular

because their customers can easily find a parking space at the HDPF, enjoy a leisurely lunch and/or shop for two hours and use the free parking coupon.

The two-hour free coupon booklets cost \$26.50 including tax and contains 25 validations.

ParkNow Card

The *ParkNow* card is a prepaid card the size of a credit card which, when purchased, has a one-time cost of \$2.50 and can be purchased in increments of \$20, \$50 or \$100. The card can be used again after the original amount is depleted. Then the card can once again be 're-charged.' The card can be

used in any designated city parking lot, on street parking or at the Historic Downtown Parking Facility.



The *ParkNow* card is available at the city's Financial Services Center, 50 Bridge St., Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

For more information on the coupons call the HDPF at 484.5160. For more information on the *ParkNow* cards call the Financial Services Center at 825.1034.



Concerts in the Plaza's 20th year anniversary

Reminiscent of days gone by when friends and families would gather in the early evening to listen to music in the town square, *Concerts in the Plaza* brings a wide variety of musical entertainment to St. Augustine's historic downtown all summer long. Bluegrass and blues, jazz and country, swing and folk, old time and popular rock: *Concerts in the Plaza* has something for everyone.

This year *Concerts in the Plaza* celebrates two decades of great entertainment in a great place. The series has been called "the best way to spend a Thursday night in St. Augustine," and it's easy to understand why when you're sitting under the majestic oaks of the Plaza de la Constitución enjoying quality musical entertainment.

The concert season starts with an afternoon performance on Memorial Day and continues all summer long on Thursdays at 7 p.m. and concludes, as does summer, on Labor Day with another afternoon performance.



Early 1900 concert goers

All concerts are free and attendees should bring lounge chairs for seating. Picnic dinners are popular, but alcoholic beverages

are prohibited.

Concerts in the Plaza prides itself on providing a wide variety of entertainment by showcasing the best in regional musical talent. For many of the series' most faithful followers, a highlight of the weekly concerts is the chance to become acquainted with some favorite performers. Some bands have been playing in the series season after season while others have joined the roster in more recent years guaranteeing a wide variety of entertainment all summer long.

Concerts in the Plaza is produced by the City of St. Augustine's Public Affairs Department with funding support from the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council. For more information call 825.1004.

Zoysia grass success extends

Last spring the city began replacing St. Augustine grass in the downtown area with zoysia grass.

The test program was in the front quarter areas of the Alcazar where city hall is located and areas of the Plaza de la Constitucion.

Since the test was considered a success, zoysia grass was recently planted in the remaining two quarters of the Alcazar closest to the building and further portions of the Plaza.

Zoysia grass is known to be bug resistant, grows more slowly so needs less mowing and adapts to a wide variety of soils. It's also hardy so it has a good tolerance to traffic, shade and salt and provides a density which resists weeds. And the best part is that it needs less regular watering than the St. Augustine grass.

Ordinance prohibits parking

The city commission recently passed Ordinance No. 2010-06 prohibiting certain motor vehicles including RVs, boats and trailers from parking on the pavement or swale of public streets or right-of-ways within residential zones.

The ordinance specifically prohibits those vehicles which exceed 12,000 pounds.

Service call vehicles or emergency parking does not apply to the ordinance.

Commander Steve Fricke of the St. Augustine Police Department states, "the SAPD has been giving warnings but now officers are enforcing the ordinance."

A copy of the ordinance can be obtained by contacting the Clerk's office at 825.1007.

Visit the COSA Web site at www.staugustinegovernment.com.

Saving in an eco-friendly way

The City of St. Augustine's wastewater treatment plant is in the middle of a pilot test to possibly change the way the wastewater is disinfected prior to discharge into the Matanzas River.

In the past, the wastewater was treated with chlorine and de-chlorinated with sodium bi-sulfite prior to discharge into the river.

In the pilot test the plant operations staff is running a side-by-side comparison with the new peracetic acid and the past treatment method.

The benefits of the peracetic acid method are environmentally friendly; its by products are compounds which are harmless in their decomposing state, water, oxygen and acetic acid which is vinegar.

Other benefits include combining two chemicals into one with a reduction in the total cost of treating the wastewater before discharge.

The testing period ends mid-June and if the results are as expected, the entire plant will be disinfected with the new but highly effective method.

The Break Room on WFCF radio

Whether working in an office cubicle, on a factory floor or along the aisles of a retail store, time spent in the break room is usually a quiet time, away from pressure, away from work routines and often a place where co-workers can converse in a relaxed environment.

That's the idea of a new program on WFCF, Flagler College Radio called, appropriately, *The Break Room*. Hosted by Paul Williamson, the city's Public Affairs Director, the 15-minute program offers a behind-the-scenes look at the workings of city government through interviews with people key in the city's day-to-day operations.

"Dan McCook, WFCF station manager suggested a weekly program with information about the city," said Williamson. "I developed the format of having interviews with some of the professionals who work for the city. There are always the big issues that gain a lot of attention, but I wanted to

focus on the day-in and day-out working of local government. I would like for listeners, at least at some time during the program, to say to themselves 'I didn't know that.'"

Since the program started airing in late February, guests have included Jim Piggott, General Services Director; Martha Graham, Public Works Director; Char Putz, Parks Supervisor; Sharon Langford, Manager of the Visitors Information Center and the Historic Downtown Parking Facility. *The Break Room* can be heard each week on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. and again on Saturday at 8 a.m.

WFCF, "Radio with a Reason," is a noncommercial, educational radio station staffed by students in the Flagler College Communication Department and community volunteers. The station operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and may be heard at 88.5 FM or www.flagler.edu/wfcf.

Moorings to be constructed this summer

The City of St. Augustine took another step forward recently in the installation of mooring fields within the city limits by receiving the city's first ever pump-out boat.

The City received a grant in the amount of \$69,000 from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) grant to help pay for the boat with \$23,000 as the cost to the City.

The 22' boat holds approximately 1,000 gallons of waste. Based upon an average of a full 40 gallons of waste on a boat, the pump-out boat can service between 25-30 boats before being emptied at the Marina. At the Marina, the effluent is pumped directly into the city main sewer lines.

The boat will be docked at the St. Augustine Marina.

All private moorings

currently being used within the city limits should be removed by the owners prior to July 1.

City staff has continued to work with identified boat owners to minimize the distance and the amount of time boaters will be displaced during the construction phase of the moorings which begins July 1.

During the first two weeks of June, waterfront residents in the city may reserve specific mooring sites; on June 14, any city or St. Johns County resident may reserve a mooring; and on June 28 the process is open to the general public.

For more information on the program, call the Department of General Services during normal business hours at 825.1010 or the St. Augustine Marina at 825.1026 or email the Marina at marina@citystaug.com.

Notes of interest

The water restrictions once again changed with the change to Daylight Savings Time and are in effect for all of St. Augustine and St. Johns County.

Even numbered addresses can water Sunday and Thursday, uneven addresses can water Wednesday and Saturday.

For more information on watering, go to the St. Johns River Water Management District's Web site address at www.sjr.state.fl.us.

St. Augustine's utility customers can assist their neighbors with the city's Care and Share Program, a fund used to help cover the costs of water and sewer service for those in need. Program funds come from utility customers who request an amount be added to their bills each month. Those donations are deposited into a special account used only to assist others who need help paying their utility bills.

For more information on the Care and Share Program contact the city's Customer Service Division at 825.1037.

If you have professional landscapers or tree trimmers, the contractor must remove the debris prior to leaving the site.

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.

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