



# INSIGHT

INTO YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT

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

## City lights up November 22 for Nights of Lights

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

[www.staugustinegovernment.com](http://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

#### Bridge of Lions

Construction continues on Anastasia Boulevard east of the temporary Bridge of Lions to install modern drainage structures and to implement planned roadway improvements. Once construction is complete on the north side of Anastasia Boulevard, workers will return to the south side to adjust the road elevation. Traffic will then be divided between the north and south sides of Anastasia Boulevard until the Bridge of Lions re-opens in late 2009. Construction continues over the water, and the historic arched steel girders are expected to begin arriving onsite by the end of the year. For more information on the Bridge of Lions Rehabilitation Project, please visit the project website at [www.FDOTBridgeofLions.com](http://www.FDOTBridgeofLions.com).

#### City Hall Closed

- Nov. 11 - Veteran's Day
- Nov. 27-28 - Thanksgiving
- Dec. 25-26 - Christmas
- Jan. 1 - New Year's Day

Trash pickup days will remain the same except Christmas Day.

When the *Nights of Lights* begins its 15th year on Saturday, November 22, it will be the continuation of what has become an evening of traditions in this city of age-old traditions, especially for what has come to be called *Light-up Night*.

As an introduction to the exciting evening, at 4 p.m., a musical performance will begin at the gazebo in the Plaza de la Constitucion and at 6:30 p.m. the city's mayor and other officials will stand ready to light-up the city.

Mayor Joe Boles will lead the crowd in the countdown to lighting the city's tree. From its position of prominence in the center of the Plaza, decorated in traditional style with hundreds of handmade red

bows, the tall tree will burst into colored holiday light.

With residents and visitors alike, countdown will begin when over two million white lights will fill St. Augustine's every corner with brilliant and magical holiday sparkle, transforming the Nation's Oldest City into an enchanted city of light.

The City of St. Augustine manages the installation and maintenance of displays at over 100 locations, including buildings, parks, medians and gardens throughout the city, but much credit for the continued success of the *Nights of Lights* goes to area businesses and residents who voluntarily and at their own expense participate in the event.



Because they join in, the city truly becomes a city of light. For more information about *Nights of Lights*, visit [www.nightsoflights.com](http://www.nightsoflights.com).

The *Nights of Lights* is funded by the City of St. Augustine and the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council. For a brochure on all the activities during the 10-weeks of the *Nights of Lights*, contact the St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra and the Beaches Visitors and Convention Bureau at 1.800.653.2489 or online at [www.getaway4florida.com](http://www.getaway4florida.com).

## SJRWMD lawn watering schedule always in effect

The City of St. Augustine is included within the boundaries of the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) which is an agency of the State of Florida. The SJRWMD is responsible for balancing people's need for water with nature's need and as such makes rules for water usage throughout the District.

The following are frequently asked questions but for more information go to the SJRWMD Web site at [www.sjr.state.fl.us/irrigationrule/index.html](http://www.sjr.state.fl.us/irrigationrule/index.html).

#### • What is the purpose of the lawn and landscape irrigation rule?

Lawn and landscape irrigation can account for more than 50 percent of total water use at residential and commercial locations. The purpose of the rule is to ensure lawn and landscape irrigation efficiency to reduce overall water demand.

#### • What is required by the lawn and landscape irrigation rule?

Lawn and landscape irrigation is allowed before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m., with few exceptions. This requirement has been in effect since 1991. Beginning March 1, 2006, lawn and landscape irrigation was limited to no more than two days a week, per zone. Further, the District is developing a new rule which should go into effect early next spring.

A continuous property may be divided into different zones and each zone may be irrigated on different days than other zones of the property. However, no single zone may be irrigated more than two days per week. One exception to the rule is irrigating using a hand-held hose equipped with a spray nozzle which can be adjusted so water flows only as needed is allowed anytime.

#### • To whom does the rule apply?

The rule is mandatory and applies to lawn and landscape irrigation within the boundaries of the St. Johns River Water Management District regardless of whether the water comes from a private well, surface water, or a water supply utility.

#### • Does the rule apply to recreation areas such as soccer, baseball and football fields?

The rule limits irrigation of recreation areas to before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. The rule limiting lawn and landscape irrigation to no more than two days per week does not apply to areas of intense recreation such as football, baseball and soccer fields or playgrounds. Due to the intensity of use, recreation areas require more water and are typically regulated by a consumptive use permit (CUP.)

## UF Strategic Plan for COSA

In May 2008, the University of Florida formed a Steering Committee to develop a Strategic Plan by Feb 1, 2009, for the preservation and management of the state-owned historic properties in downtown St. Augustine. The St. Augustine Historic District Strategic Plan will bring together recommendations for visioning, marketing, physical improvements and educational programming for these properties and their environs.

This committee was formed in response to Chapter 267.1735 F.S., enacted in 2007, to provide for contracting with UF to assume management responsibilities of these historic properties. The committee includes representatives of UF and the St. Augustine community, and has been meeting in St. Augustine since May. The last meeting was held October 6 at City Hall. The results of that meeting will be posted on the committee Web site at [www.facilities.ufl.edu/staugustine/index.htm](http://www.facilities.ufl.edu/staugustine/index.htm).

## New water treatment plant

The City of St. Augustine recently completed construction and state and federal testing for the new low pressure reverse osmosis water treatment plant.

Located at the corner of W. King St. and Palmer Ave. the state of the art low pressure reverse osmosis facility will serve the needs of the city's utility customers for generations to come.



The 14,300 square foot plant is capable of producing over two million gallons of drinking water per day using the newest in membrane technology to guarantee a constant product that exceeds the highest industry standards for safety and reliability.

For more information call the Public Works Department at 825.1040.

A fire hydrant is a valve that allows water to be accessed above ground from the underground water system.

Fire hydrant meters are typically used when a contractor or homeowner wants to purchase water but would rather receive water from various locations or does not have a typical water meter near the project site. The fire hydrant meter functions like a typical water meter where it measures the water used for a period of time.

For more information on installation of a fire hydrant meter, contact the Department of Public Works at 825.1040.

## Installation of permanent street markers

Hopefully lessons can be learned from catastrophic events and such is the case after Hurricane Katrina slammed New Orleans. It was realized afterward that most all the street signs were either damaged or lost and emergency vehicles could not identify where they were in the debris filled streets of New Orleans.



With that in mind, the St. Augustine Police Department (SAPD) requested that the Public Works Department (PWD) investigate the installation of permanent street markers to be placed in the roadways in various locations throughout the city.

Also, the SAPD installed a professional weather station at the St. Augustine Police Department located at 151 King St. The markers were considered Phase 1 and the weather station, Phase 2, to make the City of St. Augustine safer especially during hurricane season.

After researching the available options for permanent street markers, the PWD and the SAPD chose thermoplastic street markers. The thermoplastic signs are visible to vehicles, reflective, will not become a 'trip or slip' hazard to pedestrians and will not damage the city street sweeper. Cost was also a factor and it was determined that the signs fell in the moderate range compared to other options.

A couple of months ago the PWD installed a sample thermoplastic street marker in the roadway at the intersection of Riberia and King streets and placed it purposely in the wheel path of the travel lane. The specific placement was so that it would be run over more than normal and receive in-

tense usage over a short period of time. Pleased with the results on how well the thermoplastic signs worked, the city ordered 35 signs. The signs in the roadway will be placed in specific areas throughout the city limits.

The approximate total cost to the city is less than \$5,000 plus staff time to install the signs. After an intense storm of any kind, emergency vehicles and non-local workers will be able to respond faster and more accurately to assist the residents of the city regardless of whether the vertical street signs are visible.

The second phase to make the city safer was the installation of a professional weather station located at the St. Augustine Police Department. Now, city residents and visitors alike can get up to date, real time weather information in order to make decisions about what they need to do during an approaching storm.

Utilizing grant funding, the SAPD installed a Davis Vantage Pro 2 weather station at the beginning of the hurricane season and linked the station to the internet via the website Weather Underground. Their site can be found at [www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com).

Anyone can download the data by clicking on to the site and then the weather station box and scrolling down to KFLSTAUG9. This information is available 24/7 year around. You can also view weekly and monthly data.

For further information on the roadway signage call the Department of Public Works at 825.1040 and for information on the weather station, call Commander Steve Fricke at the St. Augustine Police Department at 825.1074.

Need installation of speed humps in your neighborhood? Call Public Works at 825.1040 for the procedure.

## Notes of interest

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 commission and citizen boards. To be placed on this list, email [cdupont@ci.staugustine.fl.us](mailto:cdupont@ci.staugustine.fl.us).



ParkNow cards can be obtained from Customer Service at 50 Bridge St.

The cost increments are \$20, \$50 and \$100 with a one time charge of \$2.50 per card.

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

For more information on the ParkNow cards call 825.1034.



The toll free number for Florida Power and Light Company is 1.800.468.8243. Their automated service is for light outage, downed wire, street light outage or dim lights.

For street light outage, locate the number on the pole and the closest street address before calling.



Before clearing land or cutting trees, contact the Planning and Building Department to obtain a permit.

Please call 825.1065 for more information.



The Florida Department of Transportation has installed additional pedestrian crossing signs in downtown areas.

Residents and businesses are reminded that pedestrians have the right of way.

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