



THE ST. AUGUSTINE REPORT

Local news in our Nation's Oldest City



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Educator tapped for 450 Commission



General Colin Powell declined, but Dr. James Nathaniel Eaton might fill the third City Commission-recommended seat on the federal St. Augustine 450th Commemoration Commission.

Mayor Joe Boles announced at Monday's City Commission meeting the potential appointment of Dr. Eaton, Professor Emeritus of History, archivist, curator and founder of the Black Archives in historic Carnegie Library. Former Ambassador Andrew Young is also being sought for the seat, and first lady Michelle Obama is considering a request to serve as honorary chair, Boles said.

Other city recommendations for the federal commission include former Governor Bob Graham and Cathedral Basilica's Father Tom Willis.

Boles said he'll travel to Washington this week in hopes of speeding up the filling of fourteen seats on the panel, which will carry with it \$500,000 a year in funding for the commemoration. The appointments will be made by US Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar.

In nearly five decades at Florida A&M University, Professor Eaton rose to chairmanship of its Department of History, Geography and African-American Studies. He's pictured at an antique lectern once used by famous university guests including Booker T. Washington, Mary McLeod Bethune, James Weldon Johnson and Thurgood Marshall.



Aviles Street café tables approved

Our City Commission Monday night approved outdoor dining along the west side of the first block of Aviles Street off King, but diners will have to await an agreement with Trinity Episcopal Church on parking, and reconstruction of the street section, to provide the space.

The outdoor dining ordinance will take effect 90 days after contract signing with the church to convert its parking area on Artillery Lane to metered parking.

The church and city would share parking revenue, the city's portion going toward an estimated \$225,000 rehab of the street. That will include extending the sidewalk on the west side over current parking spaces.

Dedicated garage entry for cycles

A narrowed entry and shortened exit gate will provide parking for motorcycles in our Visitor Center parking facility.

Chief Operations Officer John Regan won commission approval Monday to redesign the southernmost of three entrances to the facility and shorten an exit gate for motorcycle parking. Under the plan, bikers would pay a flat \$4

ML King Day 2010

Historic St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church in Lincolnvillle has a full weekend of events scheduled as plans develop for the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day January 18.

The documentary film *Dare Not Walk Alone* will be shown Friday, January 15 at 7 p.m. in the church sanctuary; Historian David Nolan will narrate a Freedom Trail Tour Saturday at 2 (\$10 charge to benefit ACCORD, contact 823-9688), and St. Cyprian's Gospel Vespers at 5:30 p.m. Sunday will feature the gospel music of the New Mt. Moriah Christian Ministry Choir and Temple Bet Yam Rabbi Mark Goldman, a recipient of the MLK Spirit Award.

Nolan will be featured speaker at the 10:30a.m. Sunday Service at the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine.

And Vice Mayor Errol Jones will be guest speaker Friday at 6 p.m. at St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church in Middleburg.

The 25th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. commemorative breakfast, from 7:30 to 10 a.m. Monday at the St. Johns County Convention Center at World Golf Village, will feature State Senator Tony Hill.

to park - \$2 for ParkNow card holders, exiting around a shortened gate at the manned exit station.

"The biggest problem with motorcycle parking in garages, we found, was bikers getting hit in the head by gates," Regan said. He suggested our advertising should promote that we are a motorcycle-friendly city with the redesign.

It's not the booze, but the noise

Commissioners approved extension of closing from 1 to 2 a.m. for alcohol sales Monday, following comments from hoteliers that noisy patrons at closing is the main problem.

City Attorney Ron Brown will review our noise ordinance to ensure its effectiveness in controlling late night revelers.

The extended hour is temporary, until July 12, as are similar extensions recently approved by the county and St. Augustine Beach.

Commission OKs advance plans

Commissioners Monday advanced to public hearings January 25 ordinances to ban vending in the west garden of Government House and Anderson and Ponce de Leon circles and panhandling at King and Malaga streets, and approved a Greyhound bus stop at our Visitor Center and a new sidewalk along the west side of West Castillo Drive, to be built by the Florida Department of Transportation and maintained by the city.

5 Florida schools among Best Values

Florida State and New College of Florida rank 4th and 3rd respectively in the nation among public Best Value Colleges in the Princeton Review's annual compilation for 2008-2009.

The Review's selections were based on institutional data and student opinion surveys and included undergraduate academics, costs and financial aid.

Other Florida schools: Rollins College and the universities of Florida and Central Florida.

[USA Today](#) has the complete rankings.

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Support for Lightner Museum

Even in death, *Hobbies Magazine* Publisher Otto C. Lightner continues to give to our Lightner Museum, most recently: 6,000 books from Chicago's Lightner Publishing Corporation.

Thanks to great support from the Faith and Joseph Tiberio Foundation, these books will find a home in an enlarged Tiberio Research Library (pictured). Faith, a member of the Museum's Board of Trustees, is a St. Augustine native who lives seasonally here and in Sherborn, MA.



Lightner Museum, earning the epithet "Smithsonian of the South" for Lightner's extensive collections, is community owned and operated, a gift of the late publisher 60 years ago.

Another benefactor is our Junior Service League, collecting funds to restore a room and many of the museum's works of art and furniture.

Their support is just one way to help our "Smithsonian of the South." You can consider an unrestricted or a planned gift, businesses can consider a specific project or exhibit, and gifts in kind - art and furniture of the 19th and 20th centuries, are welcome for consideration.

Volunteers are also urged, to assist in the museum's projects and presentations.

Contact Museum Director Bob Harper at Lightner Museum, P.O. Box 334, St. Augustine, FL 32085 or use the museum's online [donation](#) form.

History's Highlights

Untold chapters in our African heritage

One in a series of historic features as we prepare for our commemorations, drawn from research by George Gardner

American history recalls black Africans kidnapped from their homelands to work as slaves in New World colonies. But long before, African-born blacks, free and slave, helped shape the future Americas in Spanish explorations and colony building.

Juan Garrido, a Muslim slave, was a veteran of the Spanish conquests of Hispanola, Puerto Rico and Cuba, and a member of the Spanish expedition led by Ponce de Leon that discovered Florida in 1513.

Estevancio, slave of a Spanish nobleman, was with Panfilo de Narvaez in 1528, then led explorations through Florida, Arizona, and Mexico. Esteban, a black gun bearer, scout, slave, and soldier, was also with Narvaez.

Juan Valiente, a black slave, was a member of numerous expeditions and fought side by side with Spanish soldiers in Guatemala, Peru, and Chile. Other blacks were members of expeditions led by Lucas Vasquez de Allyon and Hernando de Soto.

And the Africans were with Pedro Menendez as he forged a presidio out of the wilderness at St. Augustine, using their skills and knowledge in carpentry, blacksmithing, cattle ranching, and military defense.

The Africans, in fact, were a vital bridge between the Europeans and the New World. Through centuries of contact, they had developed immunities to most of the common European ailments that proved deadly to Native Americans. Legend suggests that the sickle cell trait carried by some Africans protected them from malaria in the mosquito-infested American coastal lowlands.

Most notable in St. Augustine's early history was the establishment of Fort Mose in 1738, the first free black settlement in today's America, and our nation's first Underground Railroad, which ran south from English plantations to freedom in Spanish Florida.



The St. Augustine Report is published by the Department of Public Affairs of the City of St. Augustine each Tuesday and on Fridays previewing City Commission meetings. The Report is written and distributed by George Gardner, former St. Augustine Mayor (2002-2006) and Commissioner (2006-2008) and a longtime newspaper reporter and editor. Contact The Report at gardner@aug.com

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