



THE ST. AUGUSTINE REPORT

Local news in our Nation's Oldest City



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Riberia Street improvement plans advance

Our City Commission Monday will consider advancing a state grant effort, and approving a cost-share agreement with the St. Johns River Water Management district, as funding is lined up for the Riberia Street improvement project.

Also on Monday's regular meeting agenda, beginning at 5 p.m. in the Alcazar Room at City Hall; a public hearing and final action on an ordinance to allow parades along St. George Street; presentations by Save Our Bridge President Theresa Segal on plans for the restored bridge's reopening, and by the Animal Rights Foundation of Florida on carriage horses, and approval of grants for police equipment - including two patrol Segways.



Painting the Region

An area that will figure prominently in our upcoming commemorations - the Bartram Trail - undergoes a painting October 6th-10th.

A week-long plein air, "paint out" event, celebrating the natural beauty and unique history along the Bartram Scenic and Historic Highway, will bring 44 selected artists from around the state-a dozen from St. Augustine, to the area daily from 9-4 to capture on canvas Alpine Groves and Marywood on the St. Johns River, Beluthahatchee's cypress-lined

Progress on Riberia Street

A public workshop before, and hearing during, Monday's City Commission meeting are planned as part of the application process for a \$750,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the Riberia Street improvement project.

The workshop at 4 p.m. and hearing during the 5 p.m. regular session will cover the city's Fair Housing Policy and get citizens' views and comments on the city's economic and community development needs.

The CDBG grant is administered by the Florida Department of Community Affairs.

A public hearing on the completed CDBG application is scheduled for the October 12 regular City Commission meeting.

The cost-share agreement with the St. Johns River Water Management district is for \$100,000 in storm water upgrades for the project, the cost to be divided between the district and city.

Restoring parades on St. George



St. George Street parade during Drake's Raid event

A public hearing and final action are scheduled on an ordinance to allow parades on St George Street.

A 2003 amendment to the St George Street Performer ordinance was recently removed by commissioners on advice of First Amendment Attorney Michael Kahn, and this ordinance will restore it under our city's parade code.

Living History organizers were

lake, and the Bailey Family's ranch next to Julington Creek (pictured).

The North Florida Land Trust and St. Johns Cultural Council are sponsors. Details [here](#).

particularly concerned for events such as the annual British Night Watch, and Drake's and Searle's raids, which include marches along St. George Street.

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Previous Issues

Bridge of Lions - doing reopening right

Theresa Segal, who led a successful Save Our Bridge campaign to restore our Bridge of Lions, wants to make sure the reopening is well-orchestrated.

Segal met recently with Bridge of Lions Public Information Officer Laurie Sanderson, contractor Skanska's Jennifer Brown, City Manager Bill Harriss, and Public Affairs Director Paul Williamson. Monday she will brief commissioners, "to provide historical context and help to define the factors that have a bearing on the planning for this event."

Among elements to be sorted out, County Commissioner and city resident Ken Bryan suggested a charity raffle for the first walker, bicyclist, motor vehicle and the like to cross the reopened span, while the Florida Department of Transportation was considering a "soft opening" by year's end, with formal ceremonies six months later.



Segways on police grant list

Look for beat cops on wheels along St. George Street with approval of more than \$60,000 in grants for our Police Department by commissioners Monday.

The grants are made annually by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Two segways are included in a variety of equipment planned with the grants. "These will give our police much better response time and greater visibility above crowds along St. George Street and during special events," Police Chief Loran Lueders says.

The photo is from the Segway website.

Also on the department's shopping list: an all terrain vehicle (ATV) for waterfront patrol, 12 tasers, speed monitoring equipment, a directional and portable traffic information sign, crime scene net books and internet service, three defibrillators and accessories, and crowd control equipment and signs for special events.

Masters Drive goes from bumps to humps

There's a new look - and less dodging - along Masters Drive.

County crews have completed a transformation of those mini rubber speed bumps into asphalt humps. County Public Works Director Joe Stephenson says the rubber bumps "were worn out after several years of use. The asphalt replacements should be much more durable."

The new humps extend across the width of the road, while the smaller bumps were centered in each travel lane. Those bumps were akin to driving over a curb, and some skirted them by swerving onto lawns or into oncoming traffic.

Speed control efforts along Masters Drive were stepped up after a youngster bicycling out of a cross street, was killed by a passing motorist.

The asphalt humps, tested and used effectively in a number of St. Augustine neighborhoods, will still give drivers a jolt if they're over the 20-30 speed limit, but make a smoother, and safer, ride along Masters Drive.

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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