



THE ST. AUGUSTINE REPORT

Local news in our Nation's Oldest City



Published by the Department of Public Affairs, City of St. Augustine, Florida

October 20 2009

450 - the journey begins

Get your passports ready for a journey through 450 years of St. Augustine history.

St. Augustine's 450th Commemoration Commission is gearing up for our commemoration with a seven-part series, *Discover First America: Legacies of La Florida*, November through May, 2010.

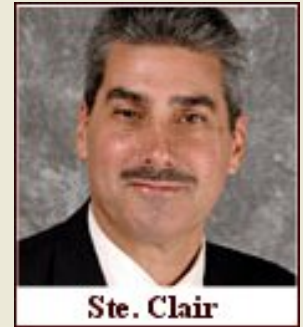
The announcement comes as dates are set to present the 450th strategic plan and organizational chart - first to our City Commission in regular session Monday night and a workshop Tuesday morning, then to the 450th Steering Committee October 28 and a "General Assembly" of our community November 2.

Dana Ste. Claire, 450th Commemoration Commission Executive Director, says, "We hope the First America series will highlight the magnitude and excitement of the Commemoration and the unique multicultural history that makes St. Augustine what it is today."

That General Assembly will provide Passports to Exploration, and "as holders 'travel' from program to program, they document their journey of discovery with passport stamps unique to each event," Ste. Claire said. "At the series' end, those with passports stamped with each program seal will be 'certified' 450th ambassadors and hosts, as well as have a limited edition souvenir."

The series includes *Peoples Before Ponce de Leon* November 5; *First America: Colonial St. Augustine* November 23; *Pirates! Fact & Fiction* December 9; *The British are Coming!* January 7; *The Great Southern Cracker Roadshow* February 5; *Palaces in Paradise: Flagler's Age of Opulence* April 13, and *Road to Freedom: African-Americans in Florida* May 18.

The free programs are scheduled to be held at Flagler Auditorium with a host of reenactors, entertainers, and historians, and is presented in partnership with our city and Flagler College, with funding in part with a Florida Humanities Council grant.



Ste. Claire



Reaching a community goal

An extraordinary event took place last week.

Sparked by a contract-signing ceremony a month earlier for a bronze sculpture representing the St. Augustine "Foot Soldiers" of the 1964 Civil Rights Movement, community activists Phil McDaniel and Patrick Canan and State Senator Tony Hill put their heads together to close the gap on funding for a monument in our Plaza de la Constitución.



Canan and McDaniel

The result: a fundraising event last Monday at McDaniel's home, attended by nearly 100 and supported by dozens more, raising more than \$30,000 in contributions and pledges.

Reliving history

November 6 to December 29, 1702, English forces attempted to breach the newly built Castillo de San Marcos.

Throughout most of the 18th century, fear of such attacks prompted guard stations at the Governor's House and around the town.

Both historic chapters will be reenacted by our volunteer Spanish Garrison and National Park Service (NPS) Saturday evening, with six stages of siege action within the Castillo from 6:30 to 8:30 and the changing of the guard at Government House at 7.

Castillo tours will begin every 15 minutes, with groups of 25 visiting six stations reenacting key siege events, among them a medical room, captured prisoners, and preparations to torch nearby homes. The tours last 30 minutes.

Contact NPS's [Joe Brehm](#) or [Jeffrey Edel](#), or the Garrison's [Mark Schmitt](#).

The non-profit St. Augustine Foot Soldiers Remembrance Project has been laboring for more than three years under the leadership of movement veteran Barbara Vickers to establish the monument. With nearly \$50,000 in funds and pledges, the citizen group was \$20,000 short of the estimated \$70,000 goal.

Said McDaniels of the event, "The greatest part was all these folks coming together." Said Vickers, "I never knew so many cared." Said contributor Troy Blevins, "That's why we live in this community."



Hill and Vickers

Ordinance for outdoor dining

A proposed ordinance to allow outdoor dining on a redesigned Aviles Street hinges on finding a funding stream for the project, which would include widening the west-side sidewalk over existing parking spaces.

Following a report by Chief Operations Officer John Regan, that outdoor dining would be an integral part of the redesign, our City Commission authorized preparation of the ordinance. But Regan also noted he's working with Trinity Episcopal Church to partner with the city on metering its Artillery Lane parking area. This would produce some of the funding for the estimated \$150,000-\$175,000 project.

One concern with an outdoor dining ordinance is whether our city can allow it on Aviles Street without upsetting restrictions on sidewalk activities elsewhere. One argument for the ban on street entertainment along St. George Street was that it congested areas along the pedestrian street.

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Previous Issues

Reunion of Civil Rights leaders



Young, King, and Hayling at press conference in St. Augustine, 1964

Two leaders in the 1964 St. Augustine Civil Rights Movement reunite Wednesday at one of the movement's major sites, the First Baptist Church on St. Francis Street.

Andrew Young, an aide to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and Dr. Robert B. Hayling, leader of the St. Augustine movement, will be honored at a Meet and Greet at the church - one of several where King spoke during a visit here in the summer of 1964.

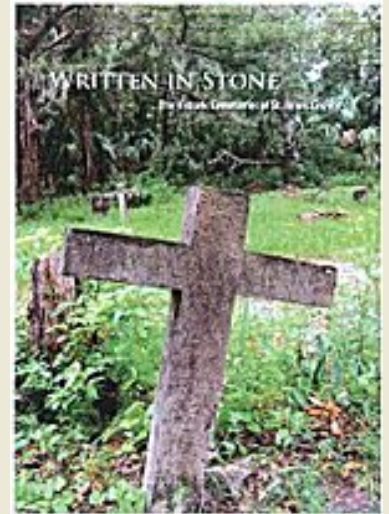
King's visit and efforts of peaceful demonstrators led to passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

For Halloween, visit our cemeteries

Just in time for those ghosts and goblins, our County Historic Resources Division and Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) are providing posters, bookmarks, and information on Historic Cemeteries of St. Johns County.

Historic Resources Coordinator Robin Moore says they're available at our public libraries. The poster features a San Sebastian Cemetery image on the front, with information about 10 other county cemeteries on the back. The fun bookmarks have interesting visual features from two of these cemeteries.

The message on the bookmark: "St. Johns County's diverse heritage is rich in culture, events, religion, and customs. Echoing the details of the communities that lived here before us, these cemeteries are the most enduring elements of our county history. They deserve our respect and our protection." Contact [Robin](#) for information.



North City a National Register District

One added, two to go. Our city has a fifth neighborhood on the National Register, with two more being prepared for U. S. Department of the Interior approval.

North City, an area between US 1 and San Marco Avenue from Castillo Drive to Old Mission Avenue is now on the National Register.

Next in line are Nelmar Terrace and Fullerwood Park subdivisions north of May Street and east of San Marco. Planning and Building Director Mark Knight says these designations are important "because of our history and our desire to keep the historic nature of our city in the forefront."

Check out details on this and other National Register districts here, as well as the designation process, on our city [website](#).

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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