



THE ST. AUGUSTINE REPORT

Local news in our Nation's Oldest City



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Heritage sign program under way

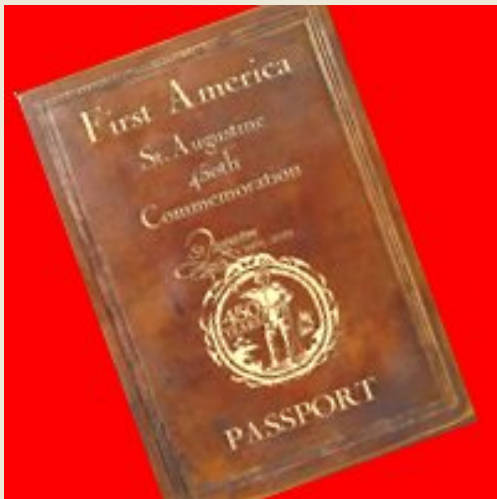
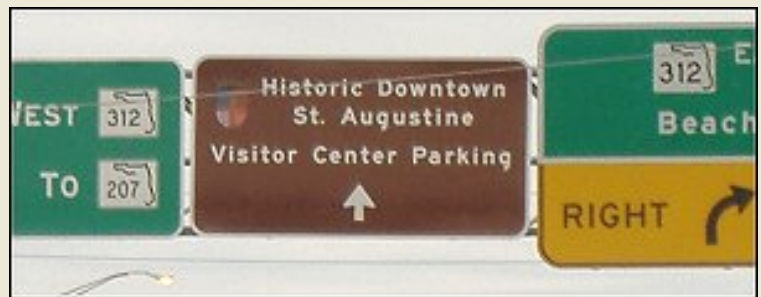
City crews have begun installing wayfinding signage, part of our city's Heritage Signage Program and, 450th Commission Executive Director Dana Ste. Claire notes, "one of many 450th infrastructure projects of the city as it gets ready for the commemoration and guests."

The first of twelve traffic directional signs has been set on US 1 north, just south of SR 312. The distinctive color and city coat of arms set it apart from the traditional highway signage.

Planning and Building Director Mark Knight anticipates all the highway signs along US 1 and intersections will be installed in the next three weeks.

Meanwhile, our city hopes to incorporate the first of pedestrian wayfinding signage into a pedestrian improvement plan for crossings between our Colonial Spanish Quarter and the Castillo.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and National Park Service (NPS) are developing that plan, funded with \$1 million secured by Congressman John Mica.



Mooring fields on November agenda

Our city has received permitting approval from the US Corps of Engineers, and a Harbor Management Plan and mooring field program are expected to go on the City Commission agenda November 9.

Completion of the permitting process moves forward a plan developed over the past three years, which included four well-attended public workshops resulting in reducing the number of moorings from 369 to 178.

Planned are 80 moorings in Salt Run, and 28 north and 70 south of the Bridge of Lions. Cost is estimated at \$2,500 per mooring, a total of \$445,000.

General Services Director Jim Piggott said an ordinance will be introduced November 9, with public hearing and final action at its December meeting and, if approved, a design/build package will be advertised in January.

Salt Run dredging to begin

Salt Run dredging is expected to begin in January, with completion in March, according to St. Augustine Port and Waterway Commissioner Jay Bliss. He added that plans are advancing as well for a dock at the Vilano fishing pier and a fishing pier at Usina North Beach Park.

Historic opening

Commemoration of 500 years of Florida and 450 years of St. Augustine history began Monday evening with a double-barreled opening - recruitment of volunteers for committees, programs, and projects, and distribution of passports for *Discover First America: Legacies of La Florida*, a series beginning Thursday and continuing through May, 2010.

Some 200 were on hand at Flagler College Auditorium as Mayor Joe Boles and 450th Commemoration Commission Executive Director Dana Ste. Claire outlined a strategic plan including extensive committees to be developed for the commemoration period 2013-2015.

"It will be you folks who set the stage to tell our story to the world," Ste. Claire told the gathering.

Details [here](#), and volunteer forms from the 450 Community Corps at gardner@aug.com.

Inlet dredging planned in 2010

The Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) and US Corps of Engineers are gathering necessary permits to dredge the St. Augustine inlet and Intracoastal Waterway in 2010. The sensitive process will be balancing dredging and beach renourishment needs with potential beach erosion along our coast.

Lawn watering winter-style

Our clocks are rolled back, winter's coming on, and the St. Johns River Water Management District is adjusting.

New watering regulations are Saturday for odd number or no addresses, Sunday for even number addresses, and no watering between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Complete details [here](#).

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Previous Issues

Nelmar Park is neighborly success story



Nelmar Terrace Park - a team effort

Bisected by a brick walkway, flanked by native foliage, Nelmar Terrace Park at the end of Nelmar Avenue is the latest public/private success story.

Brett Sendler, Nursery Operations Instructor at Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (FSDB), did the honors before our City Commission recently, recognizing the Nelmar Terrace Neighborhood Association, city Parks Division, and FSDB's Dragon Flowers Program in a collaborative effort to develop the park.

The project was so successful it was recognized by the Florida Nursery, Growers, and Landscape Association with its 2009 Award of Excellence in the Student Project/New Installation category.

It's St. Augustine's early fort



Early fortification rises at Old Florida Museum

That towering 16-foot wall on the former Parker Cadillac lot at San Marcos and Park Avenues is the real thing - or as close as Chuck Ponce can make it to an early St. Augustine fort, following details set down by Albert Manucy.

The work in progress will have a second, shorter wall behind it, the area between them filled with soil for a cannon mount - landmark for an expanded [Old Florida Museum](#), recreating our city's earliest settlement in the late 1500s.



Builder/Curator Chuck Ponce stands before wattle and daub building and Governor's House framing.

Chuck is the son of Sandy Craig of St. Augustine Tours fame, who operated the museum in tighter quarters across San Marco for years. "This area gives us so much more opportunity to develop time periods in our history," Chuck says.

His bible for construction detail is Manucy's Houses of St. Augustine.

The work in progress so far includes a Seloy Indian longhouse and wattle and daub council house, the Governor's House, an archaeology experience, and 1835 schoolroom - part of future development of that period. School groups and tours visiting regularly work around the construction areas as they experience interactive programs of St. Augustine's earliest years.

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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