



# THE ST. AUGUSTINE REPORT

Local news in our Nation's Oldest City



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## **First America fills auditorium**

An overflow crowd filled Flagler College Auditorium Thursday evening, queuing in a long line to get their passports stamped for the first of the free seven-part series *First America Passports to Exploration*.

The 450th Commemoration Commission series opened with Willie Johns and Herbie Jim of the Seminole Tribe of Florida introducing us to the indigenous peoples of Florida, *Peoples before Ponce de Leon*.

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

Those waiting in line were kept busy filling out applications to volunteer for yet-to-be-formed committees and other opportunities in the commemoration. Application forms are available at [gardner@aug.com](mailto:gardner@aug.com). And our City Commission Monday night will consider a request for initial funding to create an official 450 commemoration website.

The First America series continues November 23 with Chaz Mena of the TV series Law and Order, University of Florida Archaeologist Kathy Deagan, and City Archaeologist Carl Halbirt describing *First America: Colonial St. Augustine*.



Willie Johns Speaks to a full auditorium



### **[www.staugustines450th.com](http://www.staugustines450th.com)**

"A website which will function as the official gateway for information to the nation and the world" about our 450th Commemoration is in the works.

The address is [www.staugustines450th.com](http://www.staugustines450th.com) and 450 Commission Executive Director Dana Ste. Claire will ask commissioners Monday for \$5,000 from city reserve funds for its maintenance.

## **Mooring Fields top Commission agenda**

An ordinance "for the creation and operation of regulated mooring fields for anchorage of vessels" goes before our City Commission Monday night.

The session begins at 5 p.m. in the Alcazar Room at City Hall.

## **29th Lincolnville Fest**

Try Lick N Gravey at the 29th Annual Lincolnville Festival this weekend at Francis Field.

That's the band, featuring St. Augustine's own Mickey Cash (pictured), but there promises to be plenty of real food choices, as well as crafts, pony rides and more entertainment.

Lick N Gravey kicks it off from 5-6:30 today, and the music and fun continue until 10, and from 11-10 Saturday and 1-5 Sunday. [Greg White](#) 377-4159 and [Septimus Connor](#) 825-7719 have details.

It's the culmination of three years of planning and public workshops proposing 178 moorings in Salt Run and St. Augustine's bay.

With commission approval, the ordinance will move to public hearing and final action at the commission's December 14 meeting.

If approved in December, General Services Director Jim Piggott said a design/build package will be advertised in January.

Project cost is estimated at \$2,500 per mooring, a total of \$445,000.

## ***Easement to ease flooding***

Commissioners are expected to quickly approve a perpetual utility easement to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) that promises an end to perpetual flooding in the King and Malaga streets area.

Under the agreement, FDOT will take responsibility for developing and maintaining necessary underground drainage, as well as streetscape improvements.

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## ***ParkNow cards city's holiday gift***



Holiday gift-giving begins at our city Financial Services Center, with a limited number of free *ParkNow* cards.

City Comptroller Mark Litzinger says, "In an effort to support our local downtown merchants this holiday season, the City of St. Augustine will be giving away ParkNow cards with 10 hours of FREE parking to the first 500 water customers who come in to pay their water bill in the month of December."

Litzinger will report to commissioners Monday on the plan, which evolved during recent City Commission discussion of promoting both the ParkNow cards and our local business community.

The plastic cards are like credit cards, and can be "recharged" for continued use. With the ParkNow card, parking at any city meter or terminal and in our Visitor Center parking facility is just 50 cents an hour.

See details on the ParkNow card program [here](#).

## **City water plan for the future**

More water, a different source, and a better treatment system are on tap with recent City Commission approval of \$104,800 in Utility Fund reserves to prepare state permit applications.

More water through three new wells, a new source in the Upper Floridan Aquifer, and better treatment through a reverse osmosis system. Public Works Director Martha Graham says the plan will double the city's water supply, while replacing the older lime softening water treatment.

Expansion of our water treatment plant on West King Street, completed last year, included a partial start of the reverse osmosis system. As concerns rise statewide over drawing down the Floridan Aquifer, the new wells to a deeper source will ease the burden.

But the treatment process will also increase discharge of remaining concentrate, and the city is seeking approval from the state Department of Environmental Protection to discharge that concentrate safely into the San Sebastian River.

The project will increase the city's water supply to 6.5 million gallons a day. While the city's population is not increasing,

our utility service area extends beyond our city limits, to areas likely to be developed in the future. See the report 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](mailto:gardner@aug.com)

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