



THE ST. AUGUSTINE REPORT

Local news in our Nation's Oldest City



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New signage being installed

Our highway signage program is getting closer to home, with more prominent new directional signs - the first appearing on US 1 at King Street and on San Marco southbound and Castillo Drive northbound - directing traffic to our Visitor Center parking facility.

These signs feature the historic street light pole design of our historic district, and carry our city coat of arms. Similar new signage further out on major highways is being attached to existing state signage.

Contractor Landmark Engineering Inc. of Jacksonville plans to complete installation of the fancier signs early next week.

Planning and Building Director Mark Knight, our Heritage Signage Program guru, says the highway portion is nearly complete, and now comes study of concepts for pedestrian wayfinding signage in our historic district, once visitors have parked their cars. City staff will seek input Thursday from our Historic Architectural Review on the pedestrian wayfinding signage.



San Marco traffic sign and pedestrian wayfinding concepts



HARB agenda

Flagler plans welcome center

Flagler College has plans for a Flagler College Welcome Center on Cordova Street adjacent to the Thompson Baker Insurance Agency.

The plan was scheduled for review by our Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) Thursday, but a tabling until the December session was requested by Ken Russom, Flagler's vice president of Business Services.



Rendering of proposed center

Demolition Derby

George Arnold returns to HARB for the third time Thursday with his request to demolish historic properties at 74 and 76 Spanish Street and the former Casa de la Paz at 22 Avenida Menendez. HARB sought additional

It's 'Light-Up! Night'

An orchestra, dancers, and the throwing of switches Saturday opens one of the southeast's premier holiday experiences, St. Augustine's 16th Annual Nights of Lights.

It's being branded "Light-Up! Night."

The festivities begin at 4 with a performance by Showtime USA under the King's Balcony at Government House, continuing at 5:30 with the 20-piece All Star Orchestra in the Gazebo, and climaxing at 6:30 as Mayor Joe Boles and former mayors throw the switches to drench our city with more two million white lights outlining our skyline and landscape.

Our Nights of Lights will continue into January 2010. Complete details [here](#).

information at previous sessions.

While Arnold had gained HARB approval earlier to convert the Spanish Street properties into a restaurant, and made changes to convert 22 Avenida Menendez into a personal residence, HARB's refusal to allow more modern concrete roof tiles on his roof apparently upset him to the extent of starting over - or testing our Historic Preservation District architectural guidelines.

EPIC by 2009 numbers

33 - Years of service by non-profit EPIC (Education, Prevention, Intervention, Counseling)

7,524 - Residents served

988 - Sessions of group counseling

225 - Youth in EPIC's Big Brothers Big Sisters program

4,533 and **1,425** - Youth and parents in the Community Prevention Education program

500 - "*Friends-The Voices of Recovery*" fundraising campaign launched at last week's annual EPIC meeting

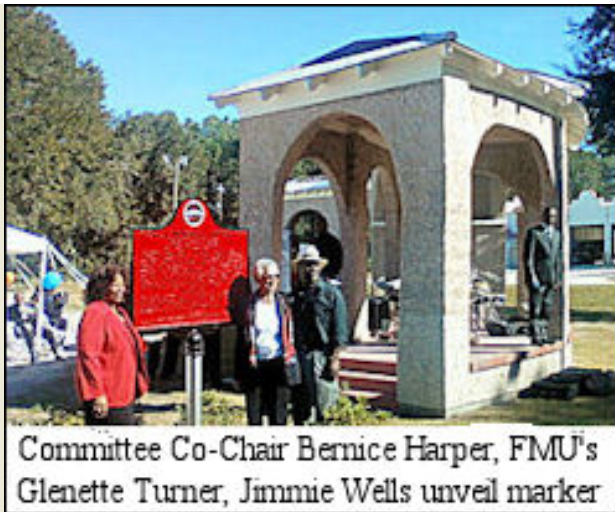
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Previous Issues

Boys/Girls Club groundbreaking

Groundbreaking for a 15,000 square foot Boys & Girls Club is tomorrow at 3 p.m. at Chase Field on West King Street. The Players Championship Boys & Girls Club is named for its primary benefactor. Our City Commission recently gave approval to install temporary modules at Chase Field for our youth, until the permanent facility can be built.

Florida Memorial comes home



Committee Co-Chair Bernice Harper, FMU's Glenette Turner, Jimmie Wells unveil marker

Florida Memorial University returned to St. Augustine Saturday for ceremonies marking 50 formative years here (1918-1968) in its 130 years of history with dedication of its last remaining vestige, the Abraham Lincoln Lewis Archway.

Alumnus Gerald Eubanks' Civil Rights Committee led efforts to restore the archway - relocated to Collier-Blocker-Puryear Park from its original site across Holmes Boulevard, and dedicated an historic marker describing the school's years in St. Augustine.

The school relocated to Miami Gardens in 1968 and gained university status in 2004.

First America enters colonial era

TV Actor Chaz Mena and archaeologists Kathleen Deagan and Carl Halbirt will introduce our modern explorers to the earliest days of our oldest city next Monday, in the second of a seven-part series, *Discover First America: Legacies of La Florida*.

Mena will shift from his recurring role as a judge on TV's *Law and Order* to portray our city's founder, Pedro Menendez, while University of Florida Archaeologist Deagan and City Archaeologist Halbirt will provide documentation from their research.

The programs are presented at 7 p.m. at Flagler College Auditorium, where passports will continue to be available for explorers being groomed as ambassadors for the history of our nation's oldest city.

The 450 Community Corps will also be on hand to provide applications for the growing list of volunteers for commemoration committees. You'll find detailed information [here](#).



College making 450 marks

Flagler College's Communications, Graphic Arts, and Program departments are well under way with plans for our upcoming commemorations.

Graphic Design Assistant Professor Diana Lodi's students, together with students of Escuela Superior de Arte in our sister city of Aviles, Spain, are in developing a collaborative branding project to create an identity and poster series representing the sister cities.

Flagler will share with three other colleges in a \$1 million Teacher Quality Enhancement grant from the Florida Department of Education, using its share for a "tool kit for teachers" in Florida history - *First America; Florida from Founding through Flagler to the Future*. Core of the program: the First America series being videotaped by Flagler's Communications Department.

And Flagler's film students are expected to hone their skills assisting in development of videos for our Visitor Center and other filmography opportunities.

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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