



THE ST. AUGUSTINE REPORT

Local news in our Nation's Oldest City



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The REAL First Thanksgiving

"As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, school children everywhere are dusting off their Pilgrim costumes and asking their parents for contributions of turkey, dressing, and cranberry sauce for classroom recreations of the famous Plymouth meal.

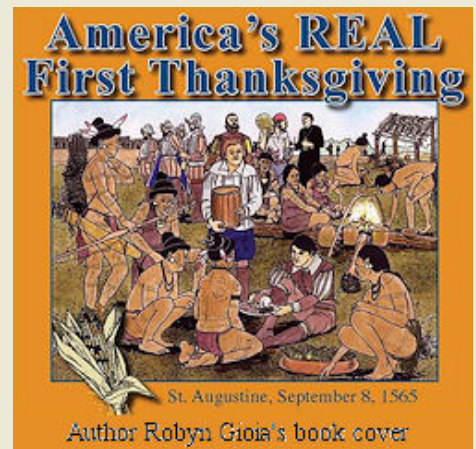
"But Florida schoolchildren in particular should really be researching the attire of Spanish soldiers and Timucuan Indians and asking grandma to help them find garbanzo beans and chorizo sausage for their communal school meal."

So starts a treatise on the Florida Humanities Council [website](#), setting the record straight on America's traditional holiday.

It echoes the assertion by Historian Michael Gannon that earned him the title "The Grinch Who Stole Thanksgiving" in New England circles.

"The REAL first Thanksgiving took place in St. Augustine, Florida in 1565. . . . The meal, shared by Spanish soldiers and natives of the Seloy tribe, was a celebration of the safe arrival of the Spanish expedition of Pedro Menéndez de Avilés."

Ponte Vedra's [Robyn Gioia](#) is bringing that message to young students in her book, *America's REAL First Thanksgiving*.



Regional Council seeks local growth control

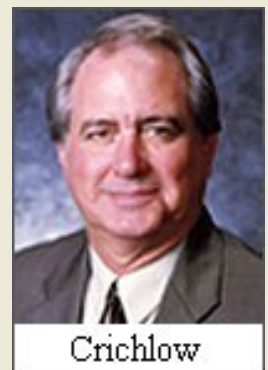
The [Northeast Florida Regional Council](#) has unanimously endorsed a proposal to wrest control of regional growth management from Tallahassee.

"It just makes sense to have representatives right here in our communities make decisions affecting our future," says City Commissioner Don Crichlow, St. Augustine's representative on the regional board.

Echoing the grassroots movement Florida [Hometown Democracy](#), representatives on the seven-county regional board approved pursuit of a five-year pilot program to shift from Florida's Department of Community Affairs to the regional body decisions on comprehensive plans and land development.

Currently such decision-making must be reviewed and approved by the state agency.

Florida Hometown Democracy's successful effort to get an amendment on the 2010 ballot goes a step further, calling for voter approval of local



Holiday schedule

City offices are closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Thanksgiving Day's solid waste, recycling and debris pickup will be Friday, and all Friday's scheduled pickups will be Saturday.

There will be a flat all-day rate of \$7 at our Visitor Center parking facility Friday, Saturday and Sunday (\$3.50 for *ParkNow* card holders), to handle peak periods during the holiday weekend.

boards' comprehensive plan changes. Comprehensive plans are long-term master plans for growth.

The pilot program would leave in place state jurisdiction over plans with significant impact on state resources.

Next steps will be to convince state legislators of the wisdom of the pilot program idea.

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Harbor Management Plan online



The newest draft of the Harbor Management Plan is available [here](#). The plan goes to public hearing and final action at our City Commission's December 14 meeting.

It's the culmination of three years of planning and public workshops that resulted in a proposal for 178 moorings in Salt Run and St. Augustine's bay.

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

Project cost is estimated at \$2,500 per mooring, a total of \$445,000. Mooring fees will be developed after study of other cities' programs.

1st America: British (and pirates) are coming

Our modern explorers - passports in hand - have visited *People before Ponce* and, Monday night, *Colonial St. Augustine* in our *Discover First America, Legacies of La Florida* series; now they brace for pirates (December 9) and the British (January 7).

450 Commemoration Executive Director Dana Ste. Claire says more explorers are picking up their passports and joining the expedition with each program in the seven-part series, offered free at Flagler College Auditorium.

We next get fact separated from fiction from arguably the world's most intense scholar of the colonial pirate era, Pat Croce, Key West's Pirate Soul Museum creator, author and entrepreneur. The December 9 program will also include our own Brendan Burke of the Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program, describing ships - pirate or otherwise - that didn't make it.

We open the new year with the British invasion January 7, borrowing Colonial Williamsburg's Thomas Jefferson to describe that American Revolution era, along with our own John Stavely as Jesse Fish, who spent some profitable years selling Spanish holdings to the English during the 1763-83 British Period, and back to the Spanish after their reoccupation.

All programs in the series begin at 7 p.m. at Flagler College Auditorium.



450 Wants You!!



The 450 Community Corps continues gathering volunteer applications to match with numerous potential committees both selected and yet to come. Corps Chair George Gardner hopes to have some initial matches in the near future.

"We're looking for general areas of interest and skills at this point," he said. "Gardening and landscape skills, for example, will be needed for everything from dressing up city streets to beautifying our A1A and Bartram scenic highways."

Your application awaits [here](#) or at any of the First America program series.

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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