



# THE ST. AUGUSTINE REPORT

Local news in our Nation's Oldest City



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## 'Bishop's Building' reprise proposed

### Bank of America building design

The commercial/residential Bishop's Building, similar to the adjacent former McCrory's building, stood in today's Bank of America parking lot at St. George Street and Cathedral Place for half a century. If plans can pass muster with two citizen boards and our City Commission, the design will return to the St. George Street half of the parking lot.

Architect Don Crichlow goes before our Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) February 19 and Planning and Zoning Board (PZB) March 2. At issue: the design is not colonial as called for in the Historic Preservation District, and there's an issue with lot coverage, according to Planning and Building Director Mark Knight.

Crichlow, a city commissioner, will seek an opinion of appropriateness from HARB and a Planned Unit Development (PUD) from the planning board. While the design is not early colonial, it is historic, Crichlow says, reflecting the Bishop's Building that stood there from 1889 to the 1960s, with such businesses as the Neptune Grill, Rector's Restaurant, and Leonard's Jewelers. It was named appropriately as a commercial enterprise of the St. Augustine Diocese. Plans call for retail along the street and a 16-18 room boutique hotel upstairs.

## Go west, old bridge (work)

The scene - of road barriers and lane-changing - shifts from east to west as work continues on our Bridge of Lions, still slated for completion by the end of this year. Major work on the Davis Shores side has been completed, now work begins on our downtown side.

Setting of those familiar barricades and barrels begins this week, and they'll be shifted about through the end of the year as work progresses.

### New turnaround at Bridge of Lions

Sidewalks, crosswalks, traffic lanes, and the original park-like approaches to the bridge on the downtown side are all on the improvement schedule - along with something new: the Ponce de Leon Circle will be narrowed a bit to add a traffic turnaround lane.

The original steel arch girders, refurbished at a Lakeland area company and complete with the historically accurate green paint, are being installed from the east side, the towers are being renovated, and specialists in lift span installation will supervise their precise placement.

And remember the teeth-rattling steel grating on the lift spans? New technology will provide a smoother, lightweight concrete surface on the restored bridge.

## Black history programs

Black History Month programs continue next weekend:

*Freedom Never Dies*, film on leadership of Florida NAACP Voting Rights Activist Harry T. Moore, 6 pm Friday, St. Paul AME Church; *Flight to Freedom*, reenactment, Fort Mose, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday; *Making Civil Rights Right: From Dreams to Reality*, service featuring State Sen. Tony Hill, 4 p.m. Sunday, Greater St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church.

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## St. Augustine artist depicts Pensacola

### Artist Quigley displays painting

A highlight of Pensacola's 450th Anniversary will be a series of ten paintings tracing its history - by a St. Augustine artist.

Dean Quigley was commissioned by the non-profit Celebrate Pensacola to paint the 24-by-30-inch acrylics for \$1,000 each. The first four, including "The Battle of Pensacola," will be ready for the visit of King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia of Spain this week. The artist will visit Pensacola April 15 to May 15 to complete the series - 1559 to 2009 - at a downtown location.

"Dean's work is remarkable, photographically detailed," Celebrate Pensacola committee member Dr. Steve Zieman said. "He does a phenomenal amount of research down to the type of tattoos the Indians had on their bodies and the instruments used to duplicate them." See the [Pensacola News Journal](#) story.

### 450 - We could learn from Pensacola

We don't have to go far to see how to conduct a major anniversary - or appreciate the time it takes to put together. The [Celebrate Pensacola](#) website describes an array of events and programs extending from 2008 through 2009 and beyond. Among the headier events: visits by Spain's monarchs, the Tall Ship Juan Sebastian de Elcano, the Navy Blue Angels, and a Spanish band.

### Car top 'carers'

### Bags atop cars

Valentine's Day weekend seemed an ideal time for "*Loving Hearts - Helping Hands*," as Anastasia Baptist Church parishoners gathered and presented funds and supplies for St. Francis House and the Homeless Coalition's transitional housing program.

Among the features: donated items on car tops for pickup by the organizations' volunteers, and an 11-foot 'lighthouse' tower of paper towels in the church atrium.

### Show me what you got

The Ides of March will have the eyes of city commissioners and guests on the variety of facilities through which our city government serves us. An all-day bus tour will range from our Visitor Information Center downtown to our well fields in the county, and everything in between.

City Manager Bill Harriss said such a tour was last conducted 15 years ago, "and was well-received." In recent years, the city manager has taken new commissioners on personal tours to familiarize them with city operations. Each commissioner will be able to bring four guests on the March 11 tour.

**The St. Augustine Report** is published by the Department of Public Affairs of the City of St. Augustine each Tuesday and on each Friday prior to regular 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 by email at [gardner@aug.com](mailto:gardner@aug.com), by phone at 904.825.3648, or by mail at 57 Fullerwood Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32084.

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