



## NEWSLETTER

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Mr. Daniel Carswell is sworn in as the City's newest police officer by Mayor Charles in July. Officer Carswell is a native of Jacksonville, Florida. He has an Associate of Arts degree from the University of North Florida. His position as a City Police Officer is his first job in law enforcement after graduating from the police academy.



**PRESENTATION OF FLAG:** St. Augustine Beach Police Officer David Tiller served twelve months in Afghanistan with the U.S. Army National Guard. At the City Commission's August 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, he presented to the Police Department and the City an American flag which had been flown at Camp Lightning in Afghanistan. Shown left to right in the photo: Assistant Chief Joseph Sisti; Officer Tiller; Sheila Bell (Police Department Records Specialist), who is holding a certificate confirming

that the flag was flown at the military compound where Officer Tiller was stationed during "Operation Enduring Freedom"; and Police Chief Richard Hedges.



## **HOLIDAY SEASON EVENTS**

During the 2006/07 holiday season (November through the end of January), the following events will be held in the City: 1) Nights of Lights: For years, the City's Nights of Lights has featured decorative lighting mixtures with a marine theme (lights in the shape of jellyfish, starfish, ships' wheels and lanterns) along the Boulevard and some lighting around the new city hall and on the trees in Lakeside Park south of the police station. The City Commission has approved a multi-year expansion of the Nights of Lights program. The first phase is to make the holiday lighting in the County pier area spectacular because of the popularity of the pier with residents and visitors. Improvements to the electrical system in the pier park will be made so that many more lights can be put up. In succeeding years, more lights will be put in the public areas adjacent to the Boulevard, such as the City's plazas or mini-parks.

2. Surf Illumination: This is an event sponsored by the St. Augustine Beach Civic Association. On Saturday, December 2, 2006, starting at 5:00 p.m. in the County pier park, there'll be a Christmas tree, carolers, musicians, vendors of hot food and drinks, and, of course, Santa Claus. County as well as City residents and visitors are welcome

to attend. Mayor Charles of St. Augustine Beach will flip a switch to light the Christmas tree and thereby mark the official start of the holiday season in the City.

3. New Year's Eve Fireworks Show. It is scheduled for December 31, 2006, weather permitting, at 7:00 p.m. so that families with small children can attend. There may be activities sponsored by the South Beaches Area Council of the Chamber of Commerce. In December, there'll be advertisements about what's planned for that evening.



## BEACH PROJECT

Boy Scout Zachary Longstreet, a Life Scout from Troop 243, has constructed and installed milepost markers for the benefit of residents and visitors to the County's 42 miles of beaches. This has made St. Johns County the first in Florida to have beach mile markers.

With the help of friends, family, and fellow Scouts, Zachary did this project as part of a community service project he was required to do as part of his progress to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. The planning for the mile marker project was coordinated with the County and its Chief of Beach operations, Mr. Dave Williams.

A number of accidents occur on the beach each year. Many problems result when Emergency Medical Service responders are sent to the beach but are unable to locate the emergency quickly. This often happens because it's difficult for persons on the beach to tell where they are, because of the lack of street signs and property address numbers. Through the use of the County's Global Positioning System, the mile markers were put in specific locations on the beach, thus making it easier for EMS personnel to pinpoint exactly the location of an emergency. A side benefit for the health conscious is that they can use the markers to help verify the distance they walk, run or bike.

Zachary Longstreet is a 16-year-old Junior in the Master Track Program for voice at St. Johns County Center for the Arts in St. Augustine High School. He's active in the music and drama programs and is a member of the National Honor Society and the Beta Club. Zachary lives in St. Augustine Beach with his family. He loves the City and feels strongly about giving back something beneficial to the community. Zachary knows firsthand the importance of beach safety and the need for a quick response by rescue services. He lost a close friend five years ago on the beach. "I don't know if having mile markers would have saved her or not, but if we can save or help one person through quicker response with these mile markers, then I feel my efforts were worth it," Zachary

said.

His project is the third Eagle Scout project the City has benefitted from in the past two years. The first two were the beautification of a City plaza at 14<sup>th</sup> Street and the Boulevard by Julian Chalfant; the second was landscaping, benches and other improvements to the City's Lakeside Park by Joshua Longstreet.



## PLEASE VOTE ! ! ! !

The general election will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2006 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The City's two precincts will vote at city hall, 2200 A1A South. Residents may also vote early at the city hall between October 23<sup>rd</sup> and November 4, 2006, Monday through Saturday, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. PLEASE VOTE, EITHER EARLY AT CITY HALL, OR BY ABSENTEE BALLOT, OR ON ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2006.

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## CHANGES TO CITY'S GARBAGE/TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE BECAUSE OF HOLIDAYS

During October, November and December, the City will observe the following holidays, which will change the garbage/trash collection schedule: Veterans Day, Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>; Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>; Christmas Day, Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>. The changes will be as follows:

Monday, November 6:	Regular pickup of household wastes.
Tuesday, November 7:	Regular pickup of household wastes.
Wednesday, November 8:	Residents scheduled for pickup on Thursday will have pickup on WEDNESDAY. There will also be pickup of YARD TRASH, but no other special wastes.
Thursday, November 9:	Residents scheduled for pickup on Friday will have pickup on THURSDAY.
Friday, November 10:	CITY OFFICES CLOSED BECAUSE OF VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY ON NOVEMBER 11 <sup>th</sup> . NO PICKUP OF HOUSEHOLD WASTES.
Monday, November 20:	Regular pickup of household wastes.
Tuesday, November 21:	Regular pickup of household wastes.
Wednesday, November 22:	Residents scheduled for pickup on Thursday will have pickup on WEDNESDAY. There will also be pickup of YARD TRASH, but no other special wastes.
Thursday, November 23:	CITY OFFICES CLOSED BECAUSE OF THANKSGIVING DAY HOLIDAY. NO PICKUP

Friday, November 24:	OF HOUSEHOLD WASTES. Regular pickup of household wastes.
Monday, December 25:	CITY OFFICES CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY. NO PICKUP OF HOUSEHOLD WASTES.
Tuesday, December 26:	Residents scheduled for pickup on Monday will have pickup on TUESDAY.
Wednesday, December 27:	Residents scheduled for pickup on Tuesday will have pickup on WEDNESDAY. There'll be pickup of YARD TRASH, but no other special wastes.
Thursday, December 28:	Regular pickup of household wastes.
Friday, December 29:	Regular pickup of household wastes.



## LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD CITIZENS

From time to time, the City has vacancies on its three boards: Planning and Zoning, Code Enforcement, and Beautification Advisory. The Planning Board meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month to make decisions and/or recommendations about such important matters as variances, land use changes and conditional use permits. The Board is also involved in long-range planning. The Code Enforcement Board meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 3 p.m., IF there's a case to be heard. The Beautification Advisory Committee meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Its members are concerned with planning short- and long-term beautification projects on public land in the City and on encouraging the owners of private property to do landscaping that will enhance the City's appearance.

Residents interested in serving on any of these boards can obtain a copy of the City's standard application form by one of the following means: telephone 471-2122; fax 471-4108 or e-mail the request to the City Manager's Office: [sabadmin@bellsouth.net](mailto:sabadmin@bellsouth.net). Citizen board members perform a very important service to the City. Please consider serving.



## OPENING OF CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

Editor's Note: The information below was provided by Mr. Philip McDaniel, Vice

President of the St. Johns Cultural Council. The Council has leased the former city hall from the City and by means of State grants and private donations, as well as a great deal of work, has partially restored a 60-plus-year-old building. Recently, the Dance Company of St. Augustine took over the new studios in the building.

Nearly 200 local dancers will study the art of ballet, jazz, modern and tap in the new Cultural Arts Center at 370 A1A Beach Boulevard. The new dance studios are part of a multi-phase rehabilitation of the historic St. Augustine Beach Hotel, sponsored by the St. Johns Cultural Council. Architect Craig Thomson, of Thomson & Rainville PA , has designed the renovated space including new dance studios, with office space and changing rooms for student dancers, ages 5 – 18 years old, as well as adult dancers. The 5,500 square feet of space, which is under a multi-year lease contract with the Dance Company of St. Augustine, is the first step toward the complete rehabilitation of the former city hall administration building into a premier cultural arts center. In addition to the interior improvements, new features of the building include clay tile roofing, aluminum and canvas awnings, doors, windows on the first floor as well as a second story balcony on the east side of the building.

“The new dance studios are a blessing for the arts community,” said Philip McDaniel, vice president of The St. Johns Cultural Council. “We look forward to these talented young dancers building both life-long friendships and a strong sense of self and discipline through the art of dance. This is just the beginning of what will be hub of vibrant cultural activity and professional artistic development for St. Augustine Beach.”

According to Les Thomas, the Cultural Council’s building committee chairman, the Dance Company has made a significant investment of nearly \$75,000 to install state-of-the-art dance floors, full-length mirrors and dual dance barres. “This is wonderful news for not only the non-profit’s dance students, but it will also provide an ideal space for future class instruction of compatible art forms such as Tai-Chi and Yoga. In addition, the reception area will have rotating artwork from the Cultural Council’s member artists for the young dancers to see every day as they enter and leave the studios.” The first phase of renovations were completed in July. An official dedication of the building, to be announced at a later date, will include the Cultural Council board, elected officials and members of the arts community.

The project is being funded through the efforts of the St. Johns Cultural Council with help from local individuals and businesses. Over \$700,000 has been raised for the rehabilitation and renovation of the historic facility since the Cultural Council assumed responsibility for building’s make-over, almost half of it coming from state historic preservation grant funding. Future phases are planned for the restoration of the entire building and will include a large multi-purpose room, offices for the Cultural Council, research center for local arts organizations, and visiting artist studios on the second floor. The board members of the St. Johns Cultural Council would like to thank the

following for their efforts in making this first phase of restoration possible: Current and former city commissioners for the City of St. Augustine Beach. The State of Florida - Bureau of Historic Preservation, City Manager Max Royle, along with staff from the Public Works and Building Departments for their ongoing assistance with the project. Finally, our deepest appreciation to those who believed in project from the start – individual and corporate donors without whose support the first phase of rehabilitation would not have been possible.

The mission of the Cultural Council is to promote St. Johns County as one of the nation's premier arts destinations where the lives of both residents and visitors are enriched through arts and culture. For more information on the Cultural Arts Center, contact the St. Johns Cultural Council at (904) 826-4116 or on the web - [www.stjohnsculturalcouncil.org](http://www.stjohnsculturalcouncil.org).



The statue is one of eight original pieces of art that will be placed on the awning on the north side of the Cultural Arts Center. The collection has been commissioned to artist Enzo Torcoletti, world-renowned professional sculptor and Art Professor at Flagler College since 1971. His sculpture work has been shown extensively and is included in numerous private and public collections internationally. His sculpture has been featured in many publications including a textbook on sculpture by Arthur Williams. Torcoletti has completed a number of commissions in a variety of media and in the last few years has directed most of his energies to stone carving.

What the Cultural Arts Center of St. Augustine Beach will look like when it is finished. The original rendering was commissioned by the Cultural Council from the offices of Rainville & Thomson, PA, local architects.



## MONDAY NIGHT LIVE

At its July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City Commission approved an ordinance that adopts a new cable-TV franchise agreement with Time Warner. The term of the agreement will be for ten years. A key requirement of the new agreement is that Time Warner provide the equipment so that City Commission and perhaps Planning Board meetings can be televised live. For several years, videotapes of the City Commission meetings have been broadcast by the County on Channel 3. Starting within 90 days of the adoption of the new franchise agreement, the Monday night City Commission meetings will be televised on Channel 2 as they happen. City crews will operate the cameras, as they're doing now for the taping of the meetings. During the fall months, residents who have cable-TV service will now have an alternative to Monday night football. During the rest of the year, the live Commission meetings will help cable-TV subscribers avoid the tedium of Monday night standard commercial TV fare. So remember on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m., CHANNEL TWO IS FOR YOU.

PLEASE NOTE: The City Commission's October meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:00 p.m., because Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, is the Jewish holiday, Yom Kippur.



Beautification Award Winners for 2006 and Members of the Beautification Advisory Committee. Shown in photo above, left to right: Richard and Lauren O'Brien,

owners of the La Fiesta Ocean Inn and Suites, winner of the Large Business award; Committee member Jan Heusdens; Danial Doan Hoang, owner of Heavenly Nails, 531 A1A Beach Blvd., winner of the Small Business award; Nancy Nevacoff, Vice Chairman of the Beautification Committee; Debbie Brown, 605 11<sup>th</sup> Street, one of the winners of the Residential category awards; Lynne Greene, Chairman of the Beautification Committee; Kim Stone of the Shutters Beach Club, which is to be a condominium hotel on the west side of the Boulevard, and winner of the Uniquely St. Augustine Beach award; Committee member Jeanette Smith; Jamey McCoy and Gary Severse, representing the Magnolia Dunes subdivision, which received the Streetscape award because of the landscaping at its entrance on SR-A1A; and Committee member Elaine Wallace. Not shown are Richard Ayoub, 714 Mickler Blvd., winner of the Residential award, and Marc Chattin, Public Works Director, who was given the Public Open Space award because of the Public Works employees' work on the City's Lakeside Park that is south of the police station.



## WHERE WE'VE BEEN...

During the last three months, the City Commission made the following decisions, among many:

1. Approved the following ordinances:

- to annex the Zaharias Restaurant property, 3945 A1A South, into the City.
- to amend the City's Comprehensive Plan to include the Zaharias Restaurant property in the Future Land Use Element and to designate the land use as Commercial.
- to change the zoning of the Zaharias Restaurant property from its County designation of Commercial General to the City's designation of Commercial.
- to delete certain obsolete provisions in Section 6.07.09 of the Land Development Code that refer to fire inspection services being provided by the City. The County now provides these services.

-to require 1.15 parking spaces per hotel/motel room instead of 1 space.

-to require notification of property owners within 300 feet of City property proposed to be used for private purposes or to be improved. This ordinance would apply if a resident asked the City to allow a fence to extend onto City property, or if the City proposes to build a sidewalk along a street.

-to require the Building Department to notify homeowners' associations of proposed development/redevelopment in their subdivisions.

2. Approved the following resolutions:

-to have the canvassing and certification of absentee ballots cast in the September 5<sup>th</sup> primary election done by the Supervisor of Elections and the County canvassing board.

-to include a section in the Personnel Manual that was left out when the updated Manual was recently adopted.

3. Did the following miscellaneous actions:

-approved the following agreements/contracts: with the St. Johns County Council on Aging to allow that agency to use a bay in the City's Mizell Road Public Works facility for the repair and maintenance of the buses operated by the Council until the Council's new garage has been built; with Grubbs Emergency Services for the company to help the City with cleanup and debris disposal after a tropical storm or hurricane.

-took no action on a citizen's request that the Commission review the Planning Board's approval of the final development plan for Ocean Ridge, a subdivision of 72 single-family homes that was proposed to be built on the 23-plus acres of land east of Mickler Boulevard and south of 11<sup>th</sup> Street. No plans for houses in this subdivision have yet been submitted to the Planning Board.

-designated Mayor Charles as the City's official voting delegate at the Florida League of Cities' annual conference in Jacksonville.

-decided not to propose an interlocal agreement with the County and St. Augustine for these governments to notify our City about developments, land use changes, rezonings, projects, etc. proposed for areas adjacent to our City's borders. The Commission approved the continuation of the informal policy whereby the County and St. Augustine notify our City of any proposed

developments.

-approved the following appointments: Mr. Brud Helhoski as a regular member; and Ms. Undine Celeste Pawlowski as an alternate to the Planning Board; Mr. Robert Beskind as a regular member of the Beautification Advisory Committee; and Mr. Robert Samuels as the City's representative on the County's Scenic Highway Advisory Committee.

-approved a plat for 45 single-family residences on 6.46 acres for a new subdivision, Serenity Bay, which is located on the east side of State Road A1A opposite the Watson Realty office and between the Villa del Rey and Magnolia Dunes subdivisions.

-approved a permit for a special event: the Italian Festival, which is sponsored by the Sons of Italy. It will be held at the County pier pavilion on Sunday, October 15, 2006, between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

-approved the following proclamations: to honor Ms. Shorty Robbins, Administrative Manager of the County's Parks and Recreation Department, for help she's provided the City with the writing of various grant applications (Ms. Robbins is leaving the County to take a position with the city of Jacksonville); to declare August 6-12, 2006 as STOP ON RED WEEK to remind drivers not to run red lights.

-approved the continuation of the City Manager's employment with the City. The Manager's six-year contract expired on September 30, 2006. His employment is now governed by the amendments to the City Charter that the City's voters approved in 2004.

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## WHERE WE'RE GOING....

During the next three months, the City Commission will consider the following topics among many:

1. Implementing the Vision Plan for A1A Beach Boulevard. The first step in the Vision Plan for the Boulevard is for the City Commission to enact zoning/regulatory modifications. This includes creating a mixed-use (residential/commercial) section along the Boulevard and reviewing and adopting modifications to the Land Development Regulations to attain the desired "character" or "look" for the Boulevard. The modifications would apply to new

buildings. At its September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City Commission approved amending the City's Comprehensive Plan to designate the zoning of certain properties between 16<sup>th</sup> and F Streets along the Boulevard as "mixed use." This designation will allow buildings that will have commercial uses on the ground floor and residential uses on the second and third floors. There will be in the future other ordinances to implement the vision plan, such as the adoption of architectural standards and possibly making A Street between the Boulevard and the beach and "activity corridor" with the placement of buildings adjacent to the sidewalk and the parking put behind the buildings.

2. A Street Restrooms. With the completion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Street restrooms and parking area, the City now will concentrate on providing restrooms for beach visitors who use A Street to go to and from the beach. The Commission considered at its September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting a proposal by the owners of the Beachcomber restaurant, 2 A Street, to lease space from them for restrooms on their property. This proposal needs further research because of regulations that limit construction of buildings seaward of the State's Coastal Construction Setback Line and within the Federal government's flood zone. There are two other possibilities for restrooms: one is to have portable restrooms on the beach; the other is to build restrooms on the City's plaza on the east side of the Boulevard at A Street. These possibilities will be discussed at future Commission meetings.
3. Beautification of Plazas Along the Boulevard. The plazas are mini-parks which are located at certain intersections along the Boulevard between 15<sup>th</sup> and F Streets. Several have been landscaped. Some are used for parking by beach visitors and the patrons of adjacent businesses. In August, the City Manager met with Mr. Craig Thomson of the City's Beautification Advisory Committee, and Ms Mimi Vreeland, a landscape architect, to discuss Ms. Vreeland's developing a landscape plan for three plazas on the east side of the Boulevard at 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Streets. Ms. Vreeland will prepare a proposal with costs for her services. This will be reviewed by the Beautification Committee and the City Commission.
4. Purchase of Two Lots on 11<sup>th</sup> Street. When the City in 2004 purchased three lots on 10<sup>th</sup> Street east of the Boulevard, the owner offered the City an option to purchase his two other lots in three years. These are located on 11<sup>th</sup> Street east of the Boulevard. Nine hundred thousand dollars have been put in the FY 07 budget for the purchase of the two lots. The option contract requires that the City have an appraisal of the lots done, so that their value can be determined. The three 10<sup>th</sup> Street lots were used for public restrooms and a parking area. The County contributed \$114,000 towards that project. The Commission, if it decides to purchase the 11<sup>th</sup> Street lots, can use them either for a park or a parking lot, or a combination park/parking lot. The A1A Beach Boulevard visioning plan has the lots landscaped as a park.

5. Additional Streetlights. Vice Mayor Terrill has proposed that streetlights be put along A1A Beach Boulevard between the Bermuda Run subdivision and the shopping plaza. The City Commission approved this at its September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Also, he's proposed that streetlights be put along SR-A1A between 16<sup>th</sup> Street and the shopping Center. In response to a letter from the City Manager concerning this, the Florida Department of Transportation said there were two options: the DOT would send the City's request to its Traffic Operations Safety Department to see if this section of highway qualifies as a high night-time accident location. If it does, then the new lighting would be added to a DOT future work program.

The second option is for the City to ask Florida Power and Light to put new lights on existing power poles and to add any new poles in order to provide proper illumination for the highway. The City would have to pay the initial cost to design and install the lights. Afterwards, the DOT would reimburse the City for the operation and maintenance costs of the lights.

The City will see what the response is from the DOT's Traffic Operations Department. If the response is no, then the City will ask FPL for an estimate of the cost for the new lights and will bring this information to the City Commission for review.

6. Drainage. The projects are a continuation of a program of City-wide drainage improvements that was started in 1992. Over the years, the program has resulted in the Mizell Road retention pond, the drainage canal between Mizell Road and State Road A1A, piping the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue ditch between A and F Streets, underground drainage systems to relieve flooding on 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and C Streets, the Sandpiper Village and Linda Mar subdivisions' stormwater forcemains, the Ocean Court swale project, and the Ocean Drive drainage project.

Several years ago, the City Commission approved the Public Works Director's list of additional drainage projects. The Commission approved also in 2004 the City obtaining \$2.5 million in bond revenue from the Florida League of Cities' bond program to pay for the projects and to buy land for conservation and open space.

There are several new projects to be done: replacing the culvert at 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Mickler Boulevard and for Atlantic Alley between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets east of A1A Beach Boulevard; drainage projects on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street through 4<sup>th</sup> Street west of the Boulevard; D Street drainage improvements; and a few minor improvements in the Woodland subdivision and 16<sup>th</sup> Street. At its September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City Commission awarded the bids for these projects. The total cost is \$1,052,280. Construction will likely be started in October.

7. New Ordinances. There are several; at this time. One is to adopt regulations pertaining to fair-share mitigation for traffic concurrency. Concurrency is a growth management concept intended to ensure that the necessary public facilities, such as roads, are available when development, such as the permitting of a new subdivision or commercial building, occurs. If a road cannot carry the traffic that the development is calculated to produce, then the City can't permit the development unless certain conditions in the State's growth management are met. The fair-share mitigation concept is complicated. Persons interested in reviewing the ordinance to implement it may do so at the Building Department office. The ordinance to adopt the concept will have a public hearing at the Commission's October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Related to the fair-share mitigation ordinance is another ordinance that amends the Capital Improvements Element of the City's Comp Plan. This ordinance will also have a public hearing at the Commission's October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

A third new ordinance will be one that prohibits the operation of all-terrain vehicles, go-carts, golf carts, etc. on the City's beach, unless such vehicles are being used for governmental purposes, such as police patrols. This ordinance will have a public hearing at the Commission's October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

8. Vacation of an Alley. Mr. Fred Ashdji, managing partner of the Castillo Real Hotel between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets on the east side of the Boulevard, has asked the City Commission to vacate an alley between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets. The Planning Board has recommended approval of his request. The Commission will consider an ordinance to vacate the alley on first reading at its October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.