



## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 16

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At its July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the City Commission approved a proclamation to declare July as Poll Worker Recruitment Month as a way to encourage more citizens to volunteer to serve as poll workers. Also, the proclamation recognized those County resident who have volunteered to serve as poll workers in past elections. Shown above left to right: Cheryl Manucy and Mayor George.

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## IN RECOGNITION



plaque to Mr. Chattin to mark his ten years with the City. Shown above: Mr. Chattin (left) receiving his plaque from Mayor George.

Mr. Marc Chattin has been the City's Public Works Director since July 1997. Before working for the City, he had been employed by civil engineering firms and for five years was the Public Works Director for the city of Holly Hill, Florida. For St. Augustine Beach, he's performed important oversight work on the new city hall project and has been involved with the planning and implementation of a \$1 million drainage improvements project, the splash park fountain project, and the 1600-foot beach access walkway that's to be constructed from A1A Beach Boulevard to the beach. At its August 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Commission presented a



Mayor George (right) presents certificate to Mr. Richard Davis, Public Works Equipment Operator, to mark his five years of employment with the City. Mr. Davis is a Florida native and grew up in the Tampa Bay area. He owned a dump trucking business in North Carolina. He was hired by the City as a maintenance worker in May 2002 and has since been promoted to equipment operator. One of his main duties is to drive one of the City's solid waste collection trucks.

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## 2007 BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS



At its September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City Commission and members of the Beautification Advisory Committee presented the 2007 beautification awards to the owners of residential and business properties that the Committee's members had nominated for the award. The categories the awardees were:  
Residential: 420 Ocean Drive (Ms. Susan Harry)  
Xeriscape: 137 Kings Quarry Lane (Ms. Michelle Carroll)  
Uniquely St. Augustine Beach: Two awardees:  
406 F Street (Ms. Kate Parkhurst) and 375 High Tide Drive (William and Nina Genovese)

Outstanding Business: Anastasia Dental Associates, 3534 A1A South (Dr. Woody Domingoes)  
Streetscape: Ponce Landing, 826 A1A Beach Boulevard (Sandy and Mike Mitchell)  
Artscape: Castillo Real Dumpster Enclosure, 530 A1A Beach Boulevard (Mr. Manoj Bhoola)  
Honorable Mention: 685 16<sup>th</sup> Street (Mel and Louise Kennedy)

The purpose of the yearly awards is to give recognition to property owners in the City who've done an outstanding job to improve the property's appearance by landscaping and related activities, and to raise public awareness about the importance of landscaping. Each awardee received a gift certificate from a local nursery or garden supply store. Shown in the photo above are the recipients of the awards and members of the Beautification Advisory Committee.

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

During the months of October, November and December, the City will take the following holidays that will change its garbage/trash collection schedule: Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, Veterans' Day; Thursday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Thanksgiving Day; Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas. These holidays will cause the following changes to the City's garbage/trash collection schedule:

Monday, November 12:	VETERANS' DAY. CITY OFFICES CLOSED. NO PICKUP OF HOUSEHOLD WASTES.
Tuesday, November 13:	Residents scheduled for pickup on Monday will have pickup on TUESDAY.
Wednesday, November 14:	Residents scheduled for pickup on Tuesday will have pickup on WEDNESDAY. THERE'LL BE NO PICKUP OF YARD TRASH/SPECIAL WASTES.
Thursday, November 15:	Normal pickup of household wastes.
Friday, November 16:	Normal pickup of household wastes.

There'll be no change to the recycling pickup schedule during the week of the Veterans' Day holiday.

Monday, November 19:	Normal pickup of household wastes.
Tuesday, November 20:	Normal pickup of household wastes
Wednesday, November 21:	Residents scheduled for pickup on Thursday will have pickup on WEDNESDAY. THERE'LL BE NO PICKUP OF YARD TRASH/SPECIAL WASTES.
Thursday, November 22:	THANKSGIVING DAY. CITY OFFICES CLOSED. NO PICKUP OF HOUSEHOLD WASTES. NO PICKUP OF RECYCLABLES ON THURSDAY.
Friday, November 23:	Normal pickup of household wastes

The Thanksgiving Day holiday will cause the following change to the recycling pickup service: Residents scheduled for service on Thursday will have service on FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23.

Monday, December 24:	Normal pickup of household wastes
Tuesday, December 25:	CHRISTMAS DAY. CITY OFFICES CLOSED. NO PICKUP OF HOUSEHOLD WASTES.
Wednesday, December 26:	Residents scheduled for pickup on Tuesday will have pickup on WEDNESDAY. NO PICKUP OF YARD TRASH/SPECIAL WASTES.
Thursday, December 27:	Normal pickup of household wastes
Friday, December 28:	Normal pickup of household wastes

There'll be no change to the recycling pickup schedule during the week of the Christmas Day holiday.

## FISCAL YEAR 2008 BUDGET

At a special meeting on July 30<sup>th</sup>, the City Commission conducted its first public review of the proposed FY 08 budget and made the following decisions concerning it:

- adopted 1.5864 mills as the millage levy
- provided a 2.7% cost-of-living increase for the City's employees and authorized up to an additional 2.3% increase in pay based on the work performance evaluation for each employee
- approved the renewal of the employee health insurance plan with United Healthcare for a 15% increase in the yearly premium
- discussed in detail the requests for capital items, such as police cars, the Building Department's budget, and whether the City needed to hire an information technology specialist to help the City's departments with computer problems, to maintain and update the City's website, and to help with the televising of City Commission and Planning Board meetings. The Commission also scheduled the first public hearing on the budget on Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

At that meeting, the Commission approved the millage and budget adoption ordinances on first reading and approved the following: transferring the Building Department secretary to the Public Works Department; keeping the Building Inspector on full time; transferring a Public Works employee to Administration and changing his job title to Information Technology Specialist.

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## PROJECTS

1. Sewer System Improvements. St. Johns County provides potable water and sewage collection and treatment to many St. Augustine Beach residents. However, in a number of the older subdivisions in the City, residents use individual septic systems for sewage treatment. As more and more houses have been built in these subdivisions, the likelihood of pollution of the groundwater by leakage from the individual septic systems has increased. To correct this, the County has obtained \$13 million in State grant and loan money to build sewer mains in the older subdivisions. At this time, the Utility Department is having a company survey the neighborhoods where the central sewer mains will be constructed, while another company is taking soil borings. This preliminary work should be finished by the end of November. Construction plans will then be done and the project started sometime in 2008. Mr. Bill Young, the Utility Department Director, will provide an update report on the project to the City Commission at its November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

2. Beach Access Walkways. Three are scheduled to be constructed in Fiscal Year 2008, which begins on October 1, 2007. The first is the Maratea walkway, which is to be constructed along the south side of the Maratea subdivision from A1A Beach Boulevard to the beach. The walkway will be adjacent to the northern border of the Sea Colony subdivision. A State grant of \$200,000 will pay half the walkway's cost, with the City providing a \$200,000 match. Two smaller walkways will be constructed by the County with State grant money at 13th Street and at D Street.

3. Tree Grants. The City has received two urban forestry grants: one is for a master tree planting and maintenance plan. The purpose will be to designate public land and rights-of-way in the City where trees can be planted and what species the trees should be, and to have a manual for Public Works employees to use for the care and maintenance of the trees. The second grant is for the City to do an inventory of the existing trees on public property. The first grant provides \$15,000, with a match of \$15,000. The second provides \$6,000 for the inventory. The required \$6,000 match will be provided by Mr. Chuck Lippi, a local master arborist and adviser to the City's Tree Board.

4. Comprehensive Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report. State law requires that Florida cities and counties every seven years review their respective comprehensive plan and prepare what's known as an Evaluation and Appraisal Report. The Report is meant to provide a list of the issues currently facing the city or county and what changes in the comp plan's goals, policies and objectives need to be changed to meet those issues. There are as well changes to the plan required by new State laws and new regulations in the Florida Administrative Code. The City Commission at its July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting authorized the hiring of Ms. Janis Fleet of Fleet and Associates, a consulting firm, to help the City's Comprehensive

Planning and Zoning Board prepare the Evaluation/Appraisal Report. At the Planning Board's special meeting on July 31<sup>st</sup>, Ms. Fleet reviewed with the Board the requirements for the preparation of the Report. The Board discussed as well the major planning issues facing the City, such as economic development and redevelopment of the City's "main street," A1A Beach Boulevard: beach access and parking for beach visitors; intergovernmental coordination; traffic concurrency (whether the City's major roads have the capacity for the traffic that new residential and commercial developments will create), housing, hurricane evacuation, and annexation. Ms Fleet is to summarize all the issues for the Board to consider at another meeting. There'll likely be as well a meeting with the planning staff of St. Augustine and the County to discuss issues of mutual concern, such as traffic and hurricane evacuation. Members of the public are invited to attend the Board's meetings on the Evaluation and Appraisal Report, as well as the Board's regular meetings, which are held the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission meeting room at city hall.

5. Traffic Signal at A Street and State Road A1A. The signal is needed to provide a safe means for drivers to enter the State highway from A Street or from the Sea Grove subdivision. The developer of Sea Grove, JNM Beachside Development, is responsible for having the signal system designed and paying for it to be constructed. At the City Commission's September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, Mr. Mike Stauffer of JNM Beachside Development announced that the company had signed a contract to have the signal system installed and that construction of the system would be started in mid-December and completed by the end of that month.

6. New Post Office in the Sea Grove Subdivision. According to the U.S. Postal Service officials, the new post office will occupy the south end of the building where the Chef Says market was previously located. The official believe that modifications to the south end for postal uses should be completed in early 2008, so that the new post office could be opened in late January or in February.

7. 16<sup>th</sup> Street Sidewalk. Most of the length of 16<sup>th</sup> Street between State Road A1A and A1A Beach Boulevard has a sidewalk along the north side. However, there's an area of perhaps 150 feet adjacent to the Anastasia Oaks condos where there's a gap in the sidewalk. Because the right-of-way on the north side is too narrow for a five-foot wide sidewalk, the City will jog 16<sup>th</sup> Street itself four feet to the south. Before the sidewalk can be constructed, the County will have to make adjustments to its underground drainage system. The Public Works Director will meet with County Road and Bridge Department staff members to arrange for this to be done.

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## NOTICES

1. Electronic Delivery of Newsletter. This quarterly newsletter can be sent to you electronically instead of by regular mail. If you would like to receive it electronically, please send your e-mail address to Ms. Sharon Widdifield, Deputy City Clerk at [sabadmin@cityofsab.org](mailto:sabadmin@cityofsab.org).

2. Dog Licenses. Two reminders: First, all dogs owed by City residents must be licensed at the start of each fiscal year (October 1<sup>st</sup>). Residents can get a license at the City Manager's office, 2200 A1A South, during normal business hours. Proof of a rabies vaccination within the last year must be provided. The charges for the license are: males and spayed females, \$3.00; unspayed females, \$5.00.

3. Fireworks Prohibited. Residents are reminded that City regulations prohibit the exploding of fireworks within the City's limits except by licensed pyrotechnic experts in connection with an approved event, such as the South Beaches Area Council's New Year's Eve fireworks show.

4. Fuel Oil Tank Inventory Program. The St. Johns Soil and Water Conservation District is starting a program to identify the locations on private property of old fuel oil tanks that may be leaking and polluting the soil and groundwater. Anyone who knows where such tanks are located is invited to call Ms. Jeanna Allen, the District's secretary, at 386-328-6522, or Mr. Henry Warner, who's a member of the District's board, at 461-3245.

5. Need for Volunteers. The City has three Commission-appointed boards or committees: the Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Board, the Tree Board/Beautification Advisory Committee, and the Code Enforcement Board. From time to time, vacancies on one or more of these boards/committees occur. Residents interested in serving may get an application from the City Manager's office, or one can be sent by fax, e-mail, or regular mail. Just call the City Manager's office (471-2122) and request a form.

6. City's TV Channel. The City has its own channel now. Residents who subscribe to Comcast Cable can turn to Channel 2 and see notices and announcements pertaining to City and civic matters. Also, the City Commission meetings are televised live starting at 7:00 p.m. on the first Monday of every month, unless that Monday is a holiday. The Comprehensive Planning and Zoning Board meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m., and its meetings are televised live. The City staff is researching equipment that will show the meetings via the Internet for those residents who don't subscribe to cable-TV.

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## WHERE WE'VE BEEN...

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

1. Approved the following ordinances:
  - to amend the Land Development Regulations to provide for mixed use zoning requirements.
  - to establish an overlay district for medium density residential properties located east of A1A Beach Boulevard from 16<sup>th</sup> to F Streets.
  - to extend for one year the commencement of construction of the Maratea subdivision, which is located on the east side of the Boulevard between the Bermuda Run and Sea Colony subdivisions.
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2. Approved the following resolutions:
  - to adopt the National Incident Management System
  - to declare two police vehicles as surplus and authorize their disposal.
3. Made the following miscellaneous decisions:
  - approved the County's Emergency Management Division putting a camera on the east side of the former city hall, south of the County fishing pier.
  - selected Mayor George to be the City's voting delegate at the Florida League of Cities' annual conference.
  - decided not to have an ordinance prepared that would have allowed golf carts to be driven on the sidewalk/bikepaths of Mickler Boulevard and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
  - approved the following proclamations: to honor the citizens who donate their time to be poll workers at precincts in the County.
  - approved a special event permit for the Sons of Italy to hold its Italian Festival on Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, at the County pier park from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
  - took no action on a request by Mr. Barry Barnett that the City adopt a special flag to show the City's support of the U.S. armed forces.
  - approved a conditional use permit to allow the rental of beach chairs and umbrellas by Mr. Tory Strange at the St. Augustine Beach Front Resort, 300 A1A Beach Boulevard.
  - approved the drafting of an agreement with the Makarios Condominium Association that allows the City's Police Department to enforce traffic regulations on the subdivision's one street, which is owned by the residents.
  - approved an extension for one year of a conditional use permit for the conversion of the St. Augustine Island Inn at 894 A1A Beach Boulevard to a condominium hotel.
  - took no action on the Florida League of Cities' request for applicants for the League's policy councils.
  - approved three projects related to roads: to pave Atlantic Alley between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets; to provide new curbing to replace damaged curbing at the corner of 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Lake Shore

Drive; to pave a dirt easement to D Street to help a handicapped person in a wheelchair gain access to the street.

- appointed Tree Board/Beautification Advisory Committee alternate member Ms. Hester Longstreet as a regular member because of a vacancy.
  - heard a review of the City's emergency/destructive weather plan from Mr. Darryl Melton, U.S. Navy Disaster Preparedness Specialist.
  - decided not to make a recommendation to the City of St. Augustine concerning the locations of proposed adult entertainment districts in that city.
  - in response to a request from the Northeast Florida Regional Council determined that the City's legislative priorities for 2008 will be requests for funding for sidewalk/bikepaths and for drainage improvement projects.
  - approved a replat of Tracts F and G and of four single-family lots that were annexed by the City in March 2007. The tracts and lots are now part of the Sea Grove subdivision.
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## WHERE WE'RE GOING...

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

1. Regulating Short-Term Rentals of Transient Lodging Businesses. At its September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City Commission approved the City participating in a mediation process to see if the issues between the City and the owners of the transient lodging businesses can be worked out. Commissioner Charles is to be the Commission's representative in the process and former Commissioner/Planning Board member Albert Holmberg will participate as a citizen representative. No date has yet been scheduled for the mediation process to begin.
2. Regulating Weddings on the Beach. Also at its September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Commission decided to require the organizers of weddings of more than 15 persons to obtain a special event permit. A number of regulations were approved, such as no amplified music and no generators for weddings north of A Street; weddings are to be held 50 feet or more from dunes and beach access points; the hours when weddings will be permitted are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; there's to be a \$100 fee for wedding permits and for reception permits; and the Police Department is to enforce the regulations. At its October 1<sup>st</sup> or November 5<sup>th</sup> meetings, the Commission will review an ordinance adopting the regulations.
3. Adopting New Regulations for Tree Protection. At its August 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, the Planning Board discussed new tree regulations with the City's tree care consultant, Mr. Chuck Lippi. The Board agreed on the following: that the tree regulations should include requirements for homeowners who take down valuable trees, even if the trees are in the footprint of a building, to replace the trees on another part of the property with trees of equal value; that developers and contractors of commercial tracts should be required to replace valuable trees that have to be removed to construct a building or a parking lot or be fined and required to pay a fee for every three that's removed and not replaced. The Board's chairman, Dr. Patricia Gill, suggested that the City require developers and contractors of both residential and commercial property to post a bond to ensure that protected trees live at least five years beyond the completion of construction, and if the developers or contractors fail to post a bond, they should be fined so that any trees that die can be replaced. These suggestions, along with other proposed regulations, will be included in a proposed ordinance that the Commission will review at its October or November meeting.
4. Interlocal Agreement with County for Beach Services. By interlocal agreement, St. Johns County manages and provides services to the section of beach that's located in the City limits, from Pope Road to where the City's southern limit ends, several hundred feet south of Ocean Trace Road. The services provided include lifeguards, toll collectors, portable toilets, and trash removal. Because the interlocal agreement governing these services was over 20 years old, the City Commission in August 2006 created a citizens' committee to develop the terms for a new agreement. This was done, and the proposed agreement was sent to the County for review in February 2007. Because of changes to the County's staff, the full review of the new agreement has been delayed. It's likely that in October, Mayor George and the

City Manager will meet with County staff persons to discuss the agreement, so that it can be presented to the City Commission in November or December.

5. Consideration of Possibly Two Requests for Planned Unit Developments. One of the planned unit developments will be for a residential project to be called The Cottages of St. Augustine Beach. A local developer will propose to build eight cottages on eight lots west of A1A Beach Boulevard north and south of 12<sup>th</sup> Street. At this time, a motel, the Seaway, is located on the south side of this section of 12<sup>th</sup> Street. It will be torn down. At its September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City Commission reviewed a request to change the land use to planned unit development. The Commission referred the proposal to the Planning Board.

The second possible development is two hotels on the west side of the Boulevard between 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets. The Commission at its September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting approved on final reading an ordinance to vacate two alleys and a section of 6<sup>th</sup> Street between the Boulevard and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue that's unopened. The developer, Mr. Fred Ashdji, will need to obtain financing and then approval by the City of the development's design and layout.