



City of St. Augustine Beach Seal

Beyond the Beach November 2023 Newsletter



Entrance to St. Augustine Beach City Hall

City Hall Update

[Read the Whole Article Here](#)



City Manager, Max Royle

SHAANTI

This is a tale about an elephant and a wedding. Though I never met the elephant, I am giving her a gender as well as a name, Shaanti. In Hindi, one of India’s official languages, Shaanti means “peace”, so I think of her as a mellow, 10-foot-tall elephant from that country. She gazes at the world with a contemplative expression and calmly accepts as her due from life the simple basics: kind treatment from her human caretakers, food and water, comfortable shelter and the companionship of other domesticated elephants. She is, in short, a peaceful elephant who has found her Zen.

[Read the Whole Article Here](#)

Community Memorial Ben LaMendola

On October 26, community members gathered at the St. Johns County Pier Pavilion in St. Augustine Beach to honor the lifelong contributions of Ben LaMendola (1939-2022), who was memorialized with a plaque at the pavilion he took the lead in building.

Some of Ben LaMendola’s family members—including his widow, Dee, his daughter Kim, his 17-year-old granddaughter Savannah, and his nephew Ronald Casacchia—were present for the ceremony. St. Johns County District 5 Commissioner Henry Dean and St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Director Ryan Kane spoke about Ben LaMendola’s work to improve St. Augustine Beach, St. Augustine, and the County as a whole.

Ben’s life was proof that “people with a passion for the community can do great things for future generations to enjoy,” Kane said.

“He did a lot for the County, from helping to bring us the Nights of Lights in St. Augustine to planning the beach festivals that were such a staple

of our community,” Dean said.

Savannah LaMendola remembered her grandfather as “a very humble man,” always thinking of his neighbors. Dee LaMendola recalled how eager and determined her husband was to make the pavilion a reality once he thought of it.



City News

Highlights/Press Releases from the October City Commission Meetings and October Events

City Recognizes 50th Anniversary of Epic Behavioral Healthcare

October 3, 2023, St. Augustine Beach, FL. – At the October 2 Commission meeting, the Board of City Commissioners proclaimed that October 2023 be commemorated as the 50th Anniversary of EPIC Behavioral Healthcare.

[Read the Whole Article Here](#)

City Recognizes October 2023 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October 3, 2023, St. Augustine Beach, FL. – At the October 2 Commission meeting, the Board of City Commissioners proclaimed October 2023 to be recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

[Read the Whole Article Here](#)

**City Commission Selects Members for Charter Review Committee
Update: The next Charter Review Committee meeting will be held on
November 8 at 6pm at City Hall.**

October 3, 2023, St. Augustine Beach, Fl. – At the October 2 Commission meeting, the City of St. Augustine Beach Commissioners selected members for its Charter Review Committee.

[Read the Whole Article Here](#)

City Holds Successful Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

October 5, 2023 - St. Augustine Beach, FL. - On Wednesday, October 4, the city held a ribbon cutting ceremony commemorating the completion of Phase II of Ocean Hammock Park. The city's Vice Mayor, Dylan Rumrell gave a speech recognizing the collaborative efforts of all parties involved to complete this project. Rumrell commented, "This ribbon cutting shows the commitment the commission has to preserving valuable property while upgrading a park for the residents of St. Augustine Beach."

[Read the Whole Article Here](#)

City Recognizes Florida City Government Week - Spotlights Projects

October 16, 2023, St. Augustine Beach, Fl. - According to the Florida League of Cities website, Municipal government is the government closest to the people and receives higher approval ratings than other levels of government. Yet, many residents are unaware of how city services impact their lives.

[Read the whole Article
Here](#)



Full Moon Luau

We want to thank everyone who joined us at the Full Moon Luau on Saturday, October 28th. It was a bittersweet evening as we celebrated with Prince Pele's Polynesian Revue at their last public performance. After over half a century of performing, the city is honored that they chose our event to be their last. We will miss the family but wish them the very best in their future endeavors!

Aloha!

We want to thank the St. Johns Cultural Council for sponsoring this event for the past three years. We also want to thank Julie Olsson and her amazing vendors for putting on a great market that featured local artists and food vendors.

Last but not least, I want to thank Tom Large with our Public Works Department who has worked this event all three years.





Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendars!

Click Here for 2023 Fall/Winter City Events

The City of St. Augustine Beach and The Art Studio invite you to Join Us For

4th Annual Beach Art Walk

2pm to 7pm

Let's Kick-Off The "Light Up the Beach" Season with a Stroll down A1A Beach Blvd.

Enjoy the Lights and visit Businesses and The Outdoor Parkettes that will be filled with Artists and their wares.

Special Way To Start Your Holiday Shopping Give An Artistic Gift

Various Artists and Artisans Paintings, Pottery, Jewelry, Photography and More Gift Items!

For the best experience visit www.staugfbch.com

Saturday, November 25th

Upcoming Events

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH
Light up the BEACH!
Holiday Events 2023

- November 25** **Beach Art Walk**
A1A Beach Blvd. from Pope Road to A Street
Various locations on the Blvd.
2 pm - 7 pm
- December 02** **Surf Illumination**
St. Augustine Beach Pier Park
350 A1A Beach Blvd.
4 pm - 7 pm
- December 09** **Holiday Market**
St. Augustine Beach Pier Park
350 A1A Beach Blvd.
3 pm - 7 pm
- December 31** **Light Up the Night Fireworks Show**
8:30 pm Fireworks
St. Augustine Beach Pier Park 350 A1A Beach Blvd.
3 pm - 7 pm

For detailed information: www.staugfbch.com
Melinda Cotton 864-265-2271 events@cityofstaug.com

City of St. Augustine Beach, FL

UPCOMING MEETINGS

CITY HALL
2200A1A SOUTH
ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH, FL 32080

TOWN HALL MEETING - 7TH, 8TH, 9TH STREETS ROADWAY AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

November 2, 2023
5PM

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

November 8, 2023
6PM

SEPAC

November 9, 2023
6PM

CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS

November 13, 2023
WORKSHOP AT 5PM, REGULAR MEETING AT 6PM

PLANNING and ZONING BOARD

CANCELLED FOR NOVEMBER

ATTENTION:

SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR ALL CITY MEETINGS

*ALL ATTENDEES WILL BE REQUIRED TO PLACE ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS INTO A BIN SUBJECT TO INSPECTION.

*ALL ATTENDEES WILL PASS THROUGH A PASSIVE SCANNER PRIOR TO ENTERING THE SPACE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.



www.staugbch.com

November Holidays - Office Closures Trash pick-up schedules



Veterans Day

City offices will be closed on Friday, November 10, for the observance of Veterans Day.

Friday's solid waste collection will be on Monday, November 13.
There will be no other changes to the schedule.

Thanksgiving



City offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 23-24, for the observance of Thanksgiving.

Thursday's solid waste collection will be on Friday, November 24. There will be no other changes to the schedule.



SEPAC News!

*Sustainability & Environmental
Planning Advisory Committee*

SEPAC Unveils Eco Garden on A1A Beach

When driving on A1A Beach, you may have noticed some new landscaping between 7th and 8th Streets. SEPAC recently created the City's first eco garden! The garden includes a swale filled with many natives plants and flowers and a bordering section of the City's signature white fencing. SEPAC created the eco garden to reduce stormwater runoff and flooding and to filter pollutants from getting into our water system. The eco garden is also a great habitat for butterflies and birds. Be sure to check out the Blanket Flower, Dune Daisy, Seaside Goldenrod, Muhly and Fakahatchee Grasses,

and more to get ideas on how to create an eco garden in your own yard or neighborhood!

Recycling Update – Where to Drop off your Glass for Recycling

The city will have a glass recycling dumpster at the Southwest end of the City Hall parking lot starting the week of November 6th. But did you know that there is already a location on Anastasia Island to drop off your glass items? It's located at 143 Red Cox Drive near the lighthouse. The blue dumpsters have glass bottle/jar-friendly openings, making them super easy to use!

BEACH RESTORATION PROJECT



Update for FCCE re-nourishment of St. Augustine Beach

The project will begin in February of 2024 with an estimated completion date of September 2024.

USACE Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, awarded a \$33.5 million contract Sept. 29 to Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Co., LLC, of Houston, Texas, to execute a Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies (FCCE) re-nourishment of the St. Augustine Beach federal shore protection project. The project will place approximately 2.5 million cubic yards of sand on critically eroded beaches within the city of St. Augustine Beach extending three miles from Anastasia State Park at the north to the vicinity of A St. at the southern end of the shoreline. The main staging area for the project will be located at Pope Road with additional beach access at A St. Sand will be dredged from a Bureau of Ocean Energy Management approved offshore borrow located 6 nautical miles offshore. The estimated start and finish dates of construction and details of the project

timeline and placement sequence will be determined after coordination with Great Lakes and published via USACE and St. Johns County social media channels. St. Johns County is the non-federal sponsor for the St. Augustine Beach shore protection project; the FCCE re-nourishment will be 100 percent federally funded to restore damages from recent hurricanes and nor'easter events. USACE Jacksonville appreciates our strong partnership with St. Johns County and their support for this effort and many other shore protection projects within the county.

Hurricane Preparedness



The graphic features a blue speech bubble on the left containing text about receiving alerts and warnings. To the right is a logo with a Wi-Fi symbol above the text 'Alert St. Johns' in red and blue, and a blue banner below with 'Emergency Notification System' in white. The background is a light blue with a rain effect.

How are you going to receive Alerts and Warnings?

Receive alerts about emergencies by signing up for Alert St. Johns. This system enables us to provide you with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, water advisories, missing persons, evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods and incidents that may threaten public safety.

You will receive time-sensitive messages wherever you specify, such as your home, mobile or business phones, email address, text messages and more.

www.alertstjohns.com

Alert St. Johns
Emergency Notification System

The 2023 Atlantic hurricane season ends on November 30, but there is still time to prepare for the storms.

St. Johns County Emergency Management's 2023 Hurricane Preparedness Guide and other preparedness materials are available to the public at www.sjcemergencymanagement.com/pdf/SJC-Hurricane-Preparedness-Guide.pdf.

St. Johns County encourages its residents to sign up for emergency notifications at www.alertstjohns.com. Alert St. Johns enables St. Johns County to provide residents with critical information in a variety of emergency situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, water advisories, missing persons, evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods, and incidents that may pose a threat to public safety. By signing up, residents can choose to receive time-sensitive messages via phone call, text message, or email.

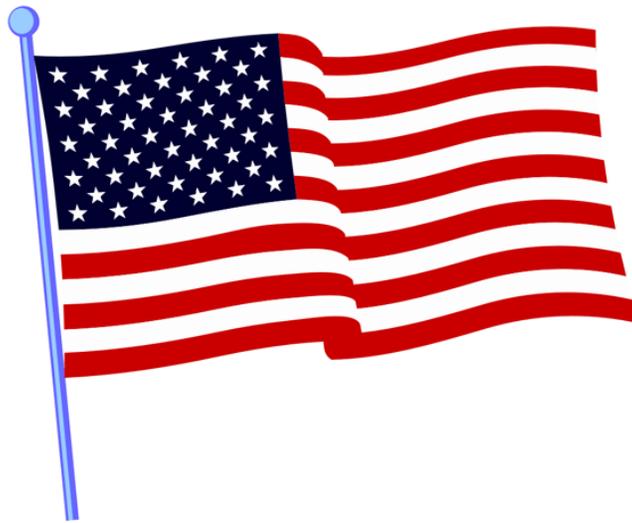
Click on the links below for more information.

[Read the Whole Article Here](#)

American Flag Rescue Program

The American Flag Rescue (AFR) program was initiated in 2019 after St.

Johns County Solid Waste Management staff observed worn and damaged American flags in drop-off garbage containers at the Tillman Ridge facility. Although some flag collection containers already were in place in several stores that sell American flags, more collection points were clearly needed. The initial shipment of new flag collection boxes was funded by local radio personality Kevin Geddings. These units were placed in St. Johns County libraries. Of the nearly 1,000 flags collected in 2020, about 10% were reusable and these are available to the public. Damaged flags are retired according to established protocols by local Scout troops and veteran's organizations. An American Flag booklet provided by Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes is also available. For information about flag collection/retirement or site participation, contact Chris Benjamin at (904) 827-6980 or cbenjamin@sjcfl.us. Flags can be dropped off at City of St. Augustine Beach City Hall.



City of St. Augustine Beach Resident Self-Service module

You can access this module in one of two ways:

Go to our website –www.staugbch.com. Here you will find the link by selecting Resources -> Contact Us -> Self-Service Portal.

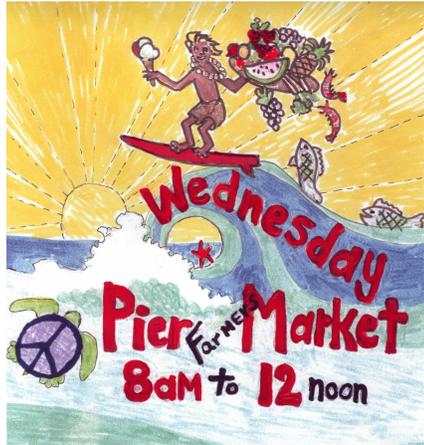
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Thank you to our sponsors and partners!



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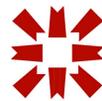


The **Art Studio**
of St. Augustine Beach, FL



**CULTURE
BUILDS
FLORIDA**

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS



ST. JOHNS
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The **Kookaburra**
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