



St. Johns County Community Redevelopment Agency

2020 Annual Report

For the Year Ending September 30, 2020



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Our Purpose

The St. Johns County Community Redevelopment Agency was established to promote, coordinate, and fund a variety of residential and commercial redevelopment efforts in three community redevelopment areas:

Flagler Estates

Vilano Beach

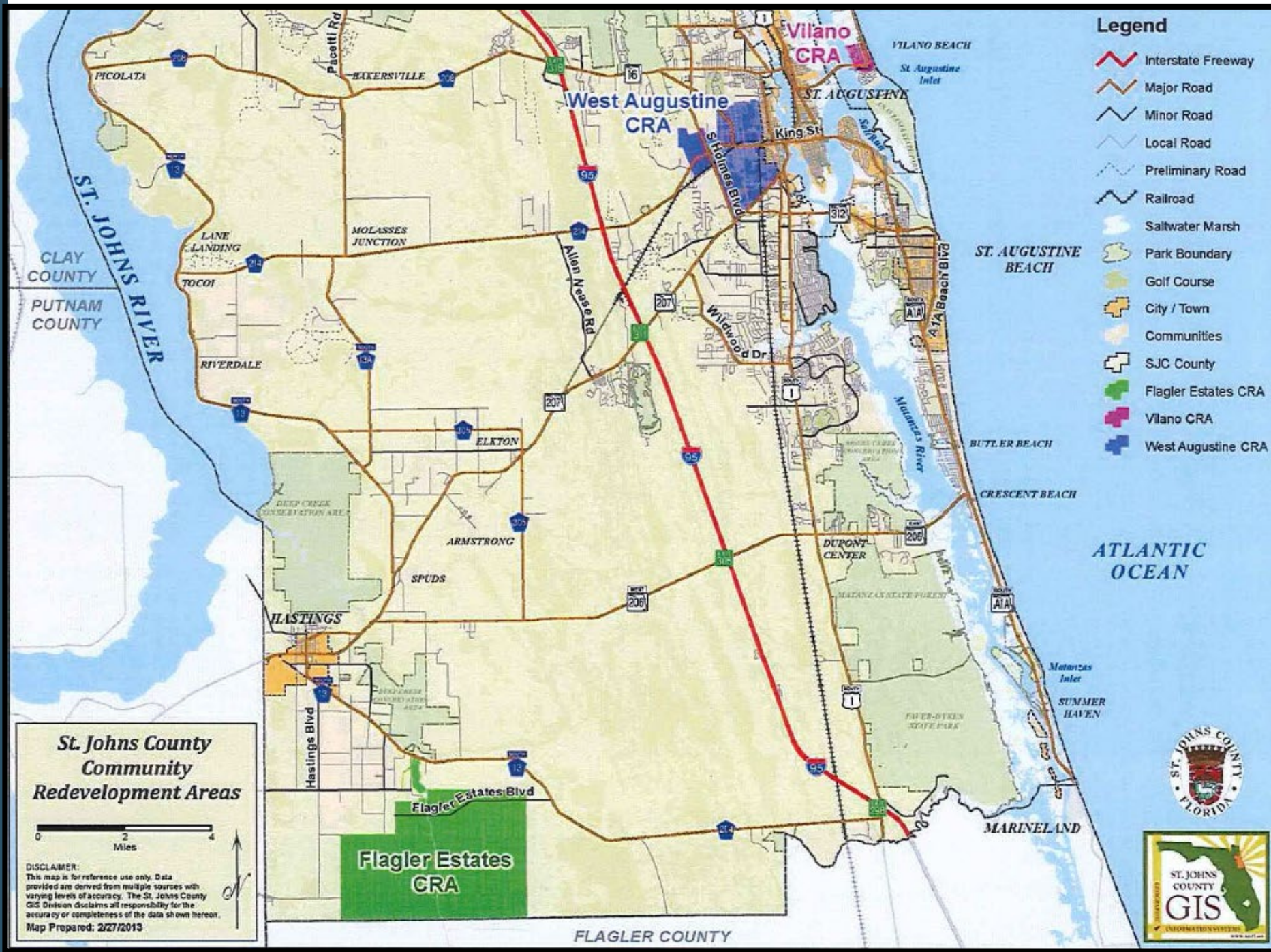
West Augustine

Objectives

The private sector and multiple government agencies have partnered to implement initiatives to improve the overall physical condition of the community and reduce the factors that contribute to slum and blight. Based on priorities established by each community, redevelopment programs have been created to develop infrastructure to encourage and support economic growth and improve the quality of life for the people who live and work in these areas.

The Community Redevelopment Agencies have identified five strategic objectives:

- Infrastructure Improvements
- Economic Development
- Affordable Housing
- Recreation and Community Activities
- Funding, Financing, Management, and Area Promotion



- ### Legend
- Interstate Freeway
 - Major Road
 - Minor Road
 - Local Road
 - Preliminary Road
 - Railroad
 - Saltwater Marsh
 - Park Boundary
 - Golf Course
 - City / Town
 - Communities
 - SJC County
 - Flagler Estates CRA
 - Vilano CRA
 - West Augustine CRA

**St. Johns County
Community
Redevelopment Areas**

0 2 4
Miles

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Map Prepared: 2/27/2013



FLAGLER COUNTY

What is a CRA

The Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is a public entity established under the guidelines of the Community Redevelopment Act (Chapter 163, Part III, Florida Statute) to implement community redevelopment activities.

A powerful redevelopment tool, the CRA uses the growth assessed property values (tax increment financing funds) to reinvest within their boundaries. The Community Redevelopment Act outlines the complete process for creating a CRA.

The first step is to adopt the Finding of Necessity, a field study that formally identifies the conditions of economic distress within the established boundaries of the designated area.

Next, a Community Redevelopment Plan must be developed and then adopted by the County Commission. The plan should address the unique needs of the targeted area and include overall goals. The plan must identify programs and projects to address these goals.

The primary funding source for a community redevelopment agency comes from tax-increment financing. The Community Redevelopment Act allows for the creation of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district within CRA boundaries.

Once a Redevelopment Trust Fund is established, it enables the St John County Board of County Commissioners to locally direct the increase in real property tax revenues to the targeted area's needs.

Tax-Increment Financing Revenue (TIF)

The primary funding source for a community redevelopment agency comes from tax-increment financing. The Community Redevelopment Act allows for the creation of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district within a CRA.

TIF revenue is determined by the formula as established in Florida Statute, Chapter 163, Part III. A base value is established when the Property Appraiser reassessed the property values within the CRA. The Increment Value is the difference between the annual value and the base value.

The TIF Contribution is captured in a trust fund to be spent within the district, as authorized by the CRA Board, on projects and programs identified in the Redevelopment Plan.

TIFs are a significant redevelopment tool available to CRAs. The usual term for both a TIF and the CRA is thirty years.

TIF revenues can only be invested to benefit the CRA in which they are generated. Typically, the needs of a CRA cannot be met with only TIF funds. Alternative financing techniques that can be utilized include bonding, which St. Johns County chose to utilize to ensure redevelopment initiatives identified in their redevelopment plan could be realized.

An annual budget is adopted by the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners for each CRA area. By September 30 of each fiscal year, funds identified for each of the individual CRAs have to be spent, encumbered, or appropriated. These funds must be for the specific redevelopment projects specified in the approved Community Redevelopment Plan and the projects or programs are set to be completed within three years from the date of the appropriation.

CRA Reporting Requirements

Pursuant to Florida Statutes Section 163.356(3)(c), the St. Johns County Community Redevelopment Agency is required to:

...file with the governing body, on or before March 31 of each year, a report of its activities for the preceding fiscal year, which report shall include a complete financial statement setting forth its assets, liabilities, income, and operating expenses as of the end of such fiscal year. At the time of filing the report, the agency shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the community a notice to the effect that such report has been filed with the county or municipality and that the report is available for inspection during business hours in the office of the clerk of the city or county commission and in the office of the agency.

This report of activities is in addition to the independent financial audit of the trust fund as required by Section 163.387(8). The CRA Financial Audit is part of the St. Johns County Annual Audit. The financial audit report is not included in this document.

A community redevelopment agency is also required to advertise in a local newspaper that this report and the statutorily required financial report has been filed with the governing body and that these reports are available for inspection in the office of the County Clerk.

The CRA must also comply with the reporting requirements set forth in Section 189, F.S. for Special Districts.

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE ST. JOHNS COUNTY COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ANNUAL FINANANCIAL REPORT

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF THE ST. JOHNS COUNTY COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT.

Pursuant to Chapter 163, Part III, Florida Statutes, the St. Johns County Community Redevelopment Agency has published the **2020 Annual Report for West Augustine, Flagler Estates, and Vilano Beach**. This report is now available for review during business hours at the following locations: The Clerk of Courts Office at 4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine, FL 32084, The Housing & Community Development Office at 200 San Sebastian View, Suite 2300, St. Augustine, FL 32084 and the County Commissioner's Office at 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, FL 32084.

NOTICE TO PERSONS NEEDING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS AND TO ALL HEARING IMPAIRED PERSONS:

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this activity should contact ADA Coordinator, at (904) 209-0650 at the County Administration Building, St. Augustine, FL 32084. For hearing impaired individuals: Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD): Florida Relay Service: 1-800-955-8770, no later than 4 days prior to the date of the viewing.

Flagler Estates

The Flagler Estates Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) were created to enhance the economic factors and reduce the items that contribute to slum and blight as defined in the Community Redevelopment Act of 1969, Chapter 163, part III, Florida Statutes.

The CRA plan was prepared utilizing input from the community to create redevelopment programs that address the priorities expressed in public meetings of the Flagler Estates Road and Water Control District and Flagler Estates Civic Association. The primary redevelopment project for the Flagler Estates Redevelopment Area is to provide infrastructure to support development of road and drainage projects. This plan also includes programs to address related community needs such as recreation facilities, street and traffic signage and other priority issues identified by members of the community.

The program and redevelopment tools created for the Flagler Estates area will be prioritized based on continued community input and future revenues available for redevelopment from tax increment financing, County funding, grants, and other public or private resources. The tax increment mechanism established for this area provides dedicated revenue for a thirty-year period. The redevelopment program section of this plan should be considered the “tool box” with which to create and implement redevelopment projects.



Flagler Estates Steering Committee

David Williams

Chairperson

chairmancra@earthlink.net

Walt Smith

Co-Chairperson

Wilderness980@hughes.net

Nancy D'Aulizio

Secretary

ndlz31@gmail.com

Francis Brock

Assistant Secretary

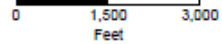
francisbrock15@gmail.com



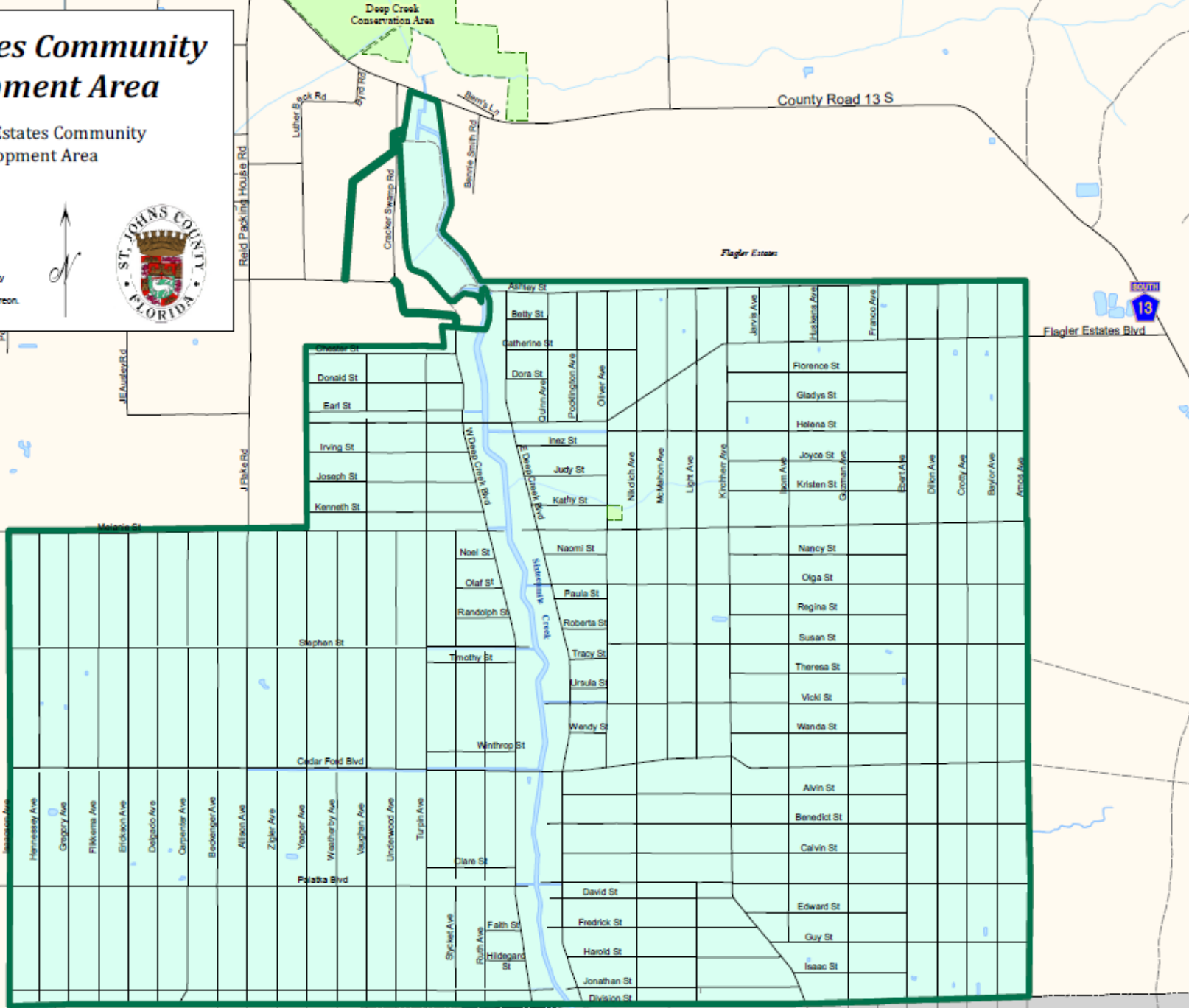
Flagler Estates Community Redevelopment Area



Flagler Estates Community
Redevelopment Area



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Flagler Estates 2019-2020

Highlights, Notable Events, Programs, and Services

The Community Development Block Grant and the St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), on December 19, 2019, to move forward with the improvement of the Flagler Estates Park, located at 9960 Oliver Avenue, Hastings, Florida. The St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department will be responsible for constructing a community center, installing lighting, drinking fountains, benches, bike racks, walking trails, and the expansion of existing playground.

St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department provided funding to complete the design, construction documents, building permits, improvement of parking areas, and ADA access to the park amenities.



Flagler Estates 2019-2020

Highlights, Notable Events, Programs, and Services

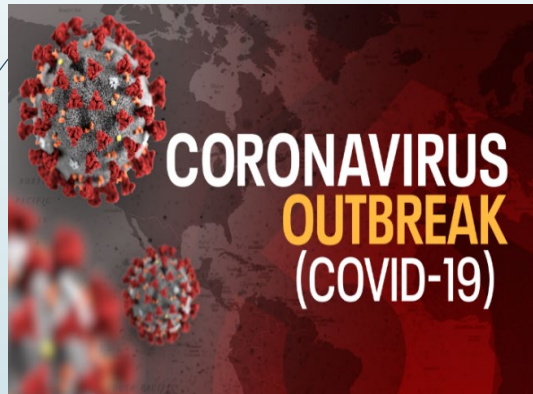
A sidewalk was added to Flagler Estates Boulevard by the St. Johns County Engineering Department in conjunction with AWA Contracting. The sidewalk is approximately 2,800 feet long and runs from Amos Avenue to County Road 13.



Flagler Estates 2019-2020

Highlights, Notable Events, Programs, and Services

Community events suffered during 2020 due to the global pandemic and ensuing lockdowns.



Vilano Beach

The Vilano Beach Community Redevelopment Area plan reflects consistent input from the community to create redevelopment programs that address the priorities expressed in public meetings of the Vilano Beach Waterfronts Florida Community Group, North Shores Improvement Association, and other members of the community.

The programs created for this community will be phased in according to future community input and future revenues available for redevelopment from tax-increment revenues, County funding, grants, and other public or private resources. The tax increment mechanism established for this area provides dedicated revenue for up to a thirty-year period. The program created for the Vilano Beach Community Redevelopment Area has been designed to redevelop the Town Center.

The primary focus of the plan addresses infrastructure improvements, economic development incentives, and encourages the development of activities, which impact the quality of life of the people who live and work in the Vilano Beach neighborhood.

The Vilano Beach community is located on a barrier island peninsula area, which lies two miles north of St. Augustine on the east side of the Usina Bridge which crosses the Intercoastal Waterway.



Vilano Beach

Florida Main Street Community; Waterfronts Florida Community; Florida Trail Town

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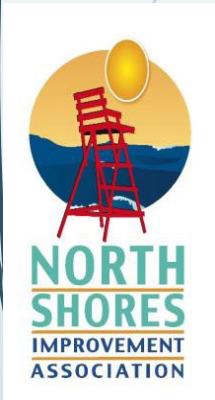
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Vilano Beach Community Redevelopment Area and Town Center Overlay District

-  Vilano Beach Community Redevelopment Area
-  Vilano Beach Town Center Overlay District



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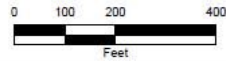




Project: j18314



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Photography Date: 2/2019
 Date Prepared: 2/20/2020

Vilano Beach Town Center



Vilano Beach

Florida Main Street Community; Waterfronts Florida Community; Florida Trail Town

Economic Vitality:

Construction continued throughout the year for the two new hotels in the Town Center. The opening of the Holiday Inn Express, at 140 Vilano Road, is planned for Summer, 2021. The Florida Vernacular Style hotel has 50 rooms, a gourmet diner serving breakfast and lunch, and offers multiple events and rental opportunities for its afternoon and evening restaurant space. Parking is onsite behind the building, just a short walk from the beach and nearby Publix. The Art Deco style Hyatt Place, at 125 Vilano Road, with 120 rooms, is also scheduled to open during 2021. This hotel supports a roof top restaurant overlooking the inlet and a 120 car underground garage. A few retail shops are built into both hotels accessible from on-street parking. Developers and construction companies have been supportive of community needs, alerting residents on a regular basis of impending construction phases.



Vilano Beach

Florida Main Street Community; Waterfronts Florida Community; Florida Trail Town

Economic Vitality

After three years of planning and permitting, the Airstream Row shared office space for Vilano Beach Main Street, opened in November, 2019. Two additional retail units were in operation by July, 2020. The property at 190 Vilano Road serves community needs, offering an outdoor space for meetings and small events.

Beaches at Vilano restaurant expanded its outdoor seating and remodeled the kitchen while under COVID-19 closures. Beaches Marina expanded dock space and acquired two new businesses that will focus on waterway travels.

The annual “Shop Small” campaign promoted businesses in the Town Center during the month of November, as it has done for the past 10 years. Vilano Beach Main Street notified businesses and residents of pandemic orders, opportunities, and safety issues.

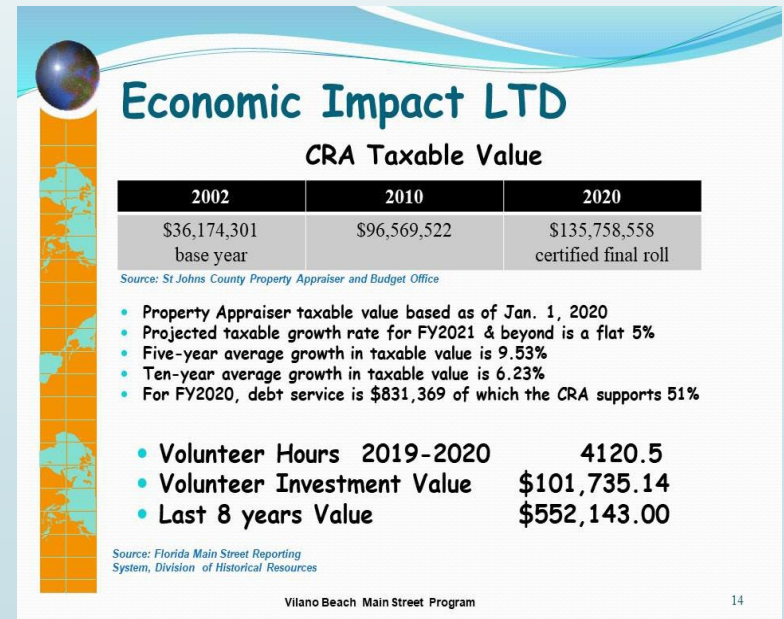


Vilano Beach 2019-2020

Florida Main Street Community; Waterfronts Florida Community; Florida Trail Town

Economic Vitality

Expansion of the Town Center boundaries adds to the growing return on investment for the Vilano Beach Community Redevelopment Agency. A **76% taxable property increase** has been calculated for the 2010 to 2020 period for properties located within the Town Center.



Vilano Beach 2019-2020

Florida Main Street Community; Waterfronts Florida Community; Florida Trail Town

Economic Vitality

A coastal Storm Risk Management Project for \$15.2 million commenced with a kick-off celebration in September, 2020. The South Ponte Vedra and Vilano Beach Coastal Storm Risk Management Project entails the placement of sand over three miles of beach, with sand being dredged from the St. Augustine Inlet Flood Shoal. This project provides an environmentally friendly defense against future storms, beach erosion, and sea level rise. Dredging work on this project is expected to be complete March, 2021, followed by grass planting and fencing along the dunes. This came together after many years of planning by federal, state, and local governments, and residents of the area.



After 14 years of resident efforts through the Vilano-South Ponte Vedra Beach Preservation Association and more recently, the County Commission and County Public Works Department, a 50 year beach nourishment project was started under the oversight of the Army Corps of Engineers and Florida Department of Environmental Protection for this designated critically eroded beach. This project was also made possible through easements and special taxing district from residents.



Vilano Beach 2019-2020

Florida Main Street Community; Waterfronts Florida Community; Florida Trail Town

Awards and Recognitions

Leaders of Vilano Beach Main Street presented updates for Vilano Beach to the Visitor Convention Bureau Hospitality Council in December, 2019. The final trail development feasibility study was issued by the Florida Department of Transportation in September, 2020. The report suggests that the making of the trail is possible.

The organization was selected to present at the Southeast Greenways and Trails Summit in March, 2020; however, the pandemic converted the event to a virtual experience, negating the planned community bus tour. Updates on trails throughout the nation were also discussed.

Vilano Beach Main Street attained its re-accreditation with the National Main Street Center for 2020.

Vilano Beach Main Street was to host the Florida Main Street Quarterly Leadership Workshop in April, 2020, with updates on Trail Town efforts but it was converted to an online virtual conference because of challenges associated with COVID-19.

Vilano Beach Main Street was selected as the April, 2020 Main Street Program of the Month by the Secretary of State.



UPDATE: Quarterly Meeting
We have transitioned into a webinar series for the Spring Leadership Development Workshop. It will be held April 27 & 28 at 10:00 AM. Agenda will be available shortly.
[Click here to register](#)

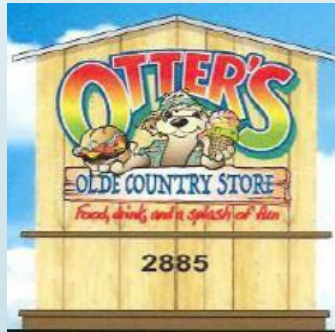
Vilano Beach 2019-2020

Florida Main Street Community; Waterfronts Florida Community; Florida Trail Town

Economic Vitality

CRA leaders participate in Design Review meetings monthly, as scheduled, to ensure community building guidelines are followed for the Town Center and North Corridor Overlay Districts. There are many properties being improved. During the past year, two significant reviews occurred and were approved; a new Dollar General Store on Coastal Highway and the expansion of the Vilano Beach Main Street Town Center boundaries.

If built, Otter's general store and take-out service will accommodate small beach rental items, with take-out service and plenty of outdoor deck seating. Design elements are consistent with the district styles and codes.



2.21 residential acres were approved for rezoning in June, 2020 to be added to the Vilano Main Street boundaries. The property located at 2806 Coastal Highway allows for the beachfront development adjacent to the Town Center. In addition, the property located at 2 Corrunna Street will allow for expansion of the existing Ocean View Lodge.

Vilano Beach 2019-2020

Notable Events, Programs, and Services

Vilano Beach Main Street Music Fest, planned for May 9, 2020, was canceled due to the pandemic restrictions on community gatherings.



In preparation for upcoming conferences, workshops, and events, Vilano Beach Main Street stepped up its clean-up and spruce-up efforts for the Town Center. Weather worn benches and trash cans were refurbished or removed. A special thanks to St. Johns County Parks and Recreation and the Sheriff's Department for their assistance with this project.



To accommodate outdoor meetings and events, a stage at Airstream Row, located at 190 Vilano Road, was constructed with support from community partners, including the St. Johns Cultural Council, which donated 73 stackable chairs with a value of \$3,869.00



Vilano Beach 2019-2020

Notable Events, Programs, and Services

General Main Street meetings were held indoors in January and February until the pandemic precluded the gatherings. In June, 2020, meetings began again on a monthly basis, held in the outdoor venue in Airstream Row garden. St. Johns County staff and other community partners continued to attend the weekend gatherings. Community participation remained steady throughout the year.

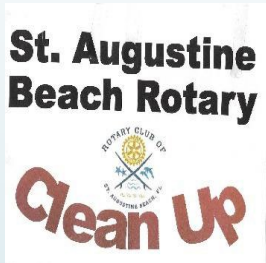
Vilano Beach Main Street provided business status updates with regular communications on its website, as well as bi-monthly e-news and social media messaging.



Vilano Beach 2019-2020

Notable Events, Programs, and Services

Beautification volunteers participated regularly for beach, pier, boardwalk, Town Center, and roadway cleanups. Local school students also gained community service hours by providing their assistance.



In November, 2019, Vilano Beach Main Street met with St. Johns County staff to review essential landscaping and Town Center maintenance infrastructure needs. Due to staff reassignments and temporary office closures, visual changes were not immediately evident. However, with the help from citizen oversight and input, the efforts continued.



Vilano Beach 2019-2020

Notable Events, Programs, and Services

Community events suffered mightily during 2020 with COVID-19 lockdowns. Vilano Beach events that were canceled included:

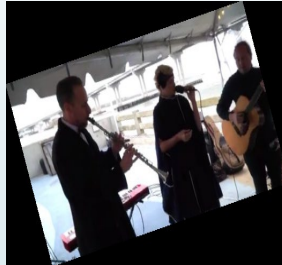
- The Vilano Bridge Run
- Easter Sunrise Services
- Run Drop Slide- ProAm National Skimboard Tournament
- Ancient City Fishing Tournaments
- Oyster Roasts
- Boating Events
- Music Fest
- Community Gardening
- Art Classes converted to virtual



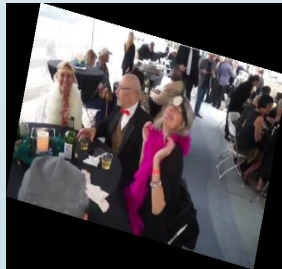
Vilano Beach 2019-2020

Notable Events, Programs, and Services

Vilano Fest, hosted by the North Shores Improvement Association in November, 2019, was again a success, featuring Vilano neighborhood homes in its annual **Tour of Homes**. The event also included a party on the pier, **The Sea Turtle Soiree**, featuring 1920's period costumes. Fun for Everyone!



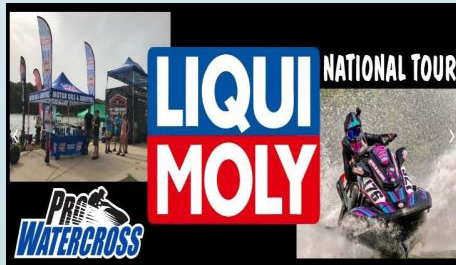
Original artwork from featured stops on the Home Tour.



Vilano Beach 2019-2020

Notable Events, Programs, and Services

The **ProWatercross National Tour** made its debut at Vilano Beach in August, 2020, bringing with it much needed outdoor public entertainment and national publicity. St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department staff streamlined permitting to allow Airstream Ventures the opportunity to showcase its race that had been cancelled at another location. Economic impact from the event was well appreciated. The event filled many local hotel rooms.



ST. AUGUSTINE PONTE VEDRA
FLORIDA'S HISTORIC COAST

MEDIA RELEASE

ST. AUGUSTINE, PONTE VEDRA AND THE BEACHES VISITORS & CONVENTION BUREAU
FLORIDASHISTORICCOAST.COM | 904-829-1711

ProWatercross National Tour Coming to Vilano Beach August 8-9
Nationally televised tour set for two days of racing in the Atlantic Ocean

St. Augustine, Fla - (July 29, 2020)...The Liqui Moly ProWatercross National Tour will make its first trip to Northeast Florida with two days of racing at Vilano Beach on Aug. 8-9.

Airstream Ventures has partnered with the St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches Visitors and Convention Bureau to bring the event to the area, with more than 400 hotel rooms expected to be booked through the event and a nationally televised show recapping the event on CBS Sports Network.

"We are happy to be hosting ProWatercross tour stop in St. Augustine, one of the oldest cities in the country," said AJ Handler, Chairman of ProWatercross. "Vilano Beach is a beautiful venue that will provide great views of the race and a unique experience for our racers."

The races will be the third event for ProWatercross this season, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Each day features more than six hours of action off the coast of the Atlantic Ocean, with the entire course visible from the shore – making a unique experience for all attendees.

"The Visitors and Convention Bureau is excited about the opportunity to show off our spectacular beaches and genuine hospitality to the ProWatercross teams and their families," said Richard Goldman, President & CEO of the St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches VCB.

ProWatercross is a not-for-profit that is focused on safety education, preserving the environment, and amateur competition. They open the event on Saturday morning with practice starting at 9:15 before races in the late afternoon. On Sunday, the racing starts at 8:45 a.m.

"We are excited to add another sports event to our area in bringing ProWatercross to Vilano Beach," said Alan Verlander, Founder and CEO of Airstream Ventures. "Thanks to AJ with ProWatercross and Richard and his team at the VCB, we are going to provide a first-class experience and look forward to making this an annual event. Bringing another national televised event for our region continues the push to make our area of Florida a true sports destination."

For more information on ProWatercross and the event in Vilano Beach, visit www.prowatercross.org

For accompanying media images [Click here](#)

PRO WATERCROSS August 8 & 9, 2020

Vilano Beach 2019-2020

Notable Events, Programs, and Services

A neighborhood mural artist received news coverage for his splash of color. The mural is located on State Road A1A, north of the BP Gas Station.



The local Brownie Scout troop from Ketterlinus Elementary donated a rain barrel for use at the Community Center raised plant beds.



Vilano Beach 2019-2020

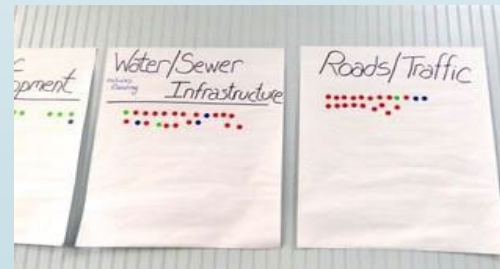
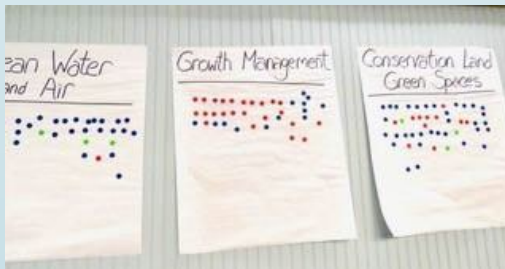
Community Meetings and Concerns

Vilano Beach Concerns

- Developmental zoning in North Beach
- Beach Erosion/Sand Restoration/Dune Restoration
- Florida Department of Transportation road improvements
- A1A Multi-use Trail development along ECG
- Short-term vacation rentals
- Tree clear cutting
- Drainage along A1A



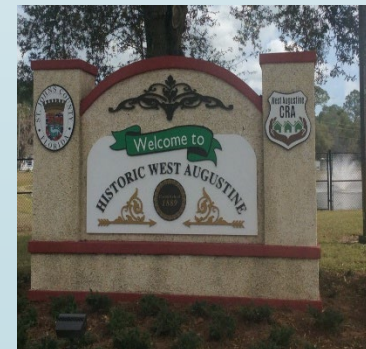
The community residents and businesses remain very active in voicing concerns about Vilano and the North Beach communities. St. Johns County Commissioners and planners attend monthly meetings, including Vilano Beach Main Street and CRA meetings and special project meetings.



West Augustine 2019-2020

The West Augustine CRA was the first of three redevelopment areas. The West Augustine Community Redevelopment Plan was prepared utilizing input from the community to create redevelopment programs that address the priorities expressed in the meeting of the West Augustine CRA Steering Committee. Every effort was made to address each priority issue stated by the members of the community through a redevelopment program.

This Plan is program oriented, not site or project specific. The programs created for this community will be phased in based on future community input and future revenues available for redevelopment from tax-increment revenues, county funding, grants, and other public or private resources. The tax increment mechanism established for this area provides dedicated revenue for a thirty-year period. The Plan should be considered the “tool box” to achieve the community goals. The Plan addresses the elimination of blighted conditions, provides for community policing, affordable housing programs, infrastructure improvement, economic development incentives, and encourages the development of activities, which impact on the quality of life of the people who live and work in the West Augustine neighborhood. The West Augustine neighborhood is within the western development path of the greater St. Augustine area.



West Augustine Steering Committee and Advisory Board

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Erich Terry
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Avis Chase
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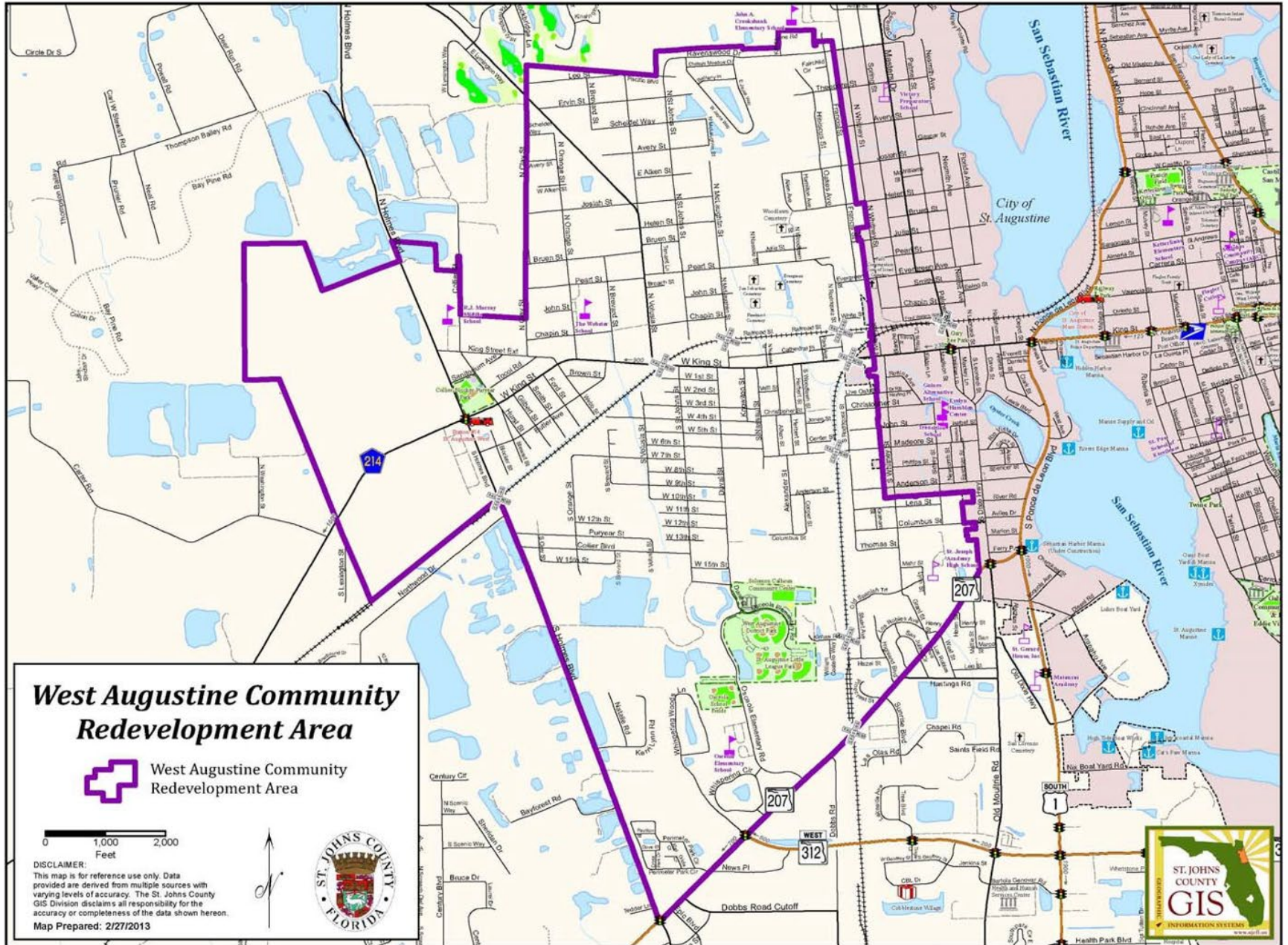
Affordable Housing
(vacant)

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Willie Cooper
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West Augustine 2019-2020

Highlights, Notable Events, Programs, and Services

The West Augustine **Keep Calm and Walk** cancer event, held on October 17th, was a part of the **Cultural & Quality of Life** event that addresses the need to educate the community about cancer.



West Augustine 2019-2020

Highlights, Notable Events, Programs, and Services

The annual **Domestic Violence Awareness** event was held in November, 2019, at the Solomon Calhoun Center. In attendance were the SJC Sheriffs Office, SJC staff, Betty Griffin Center staff, and local community leaders.



West Augustine 2019-2020

Highlights, Notable Events, Programs, and Services

The West Augustine annual Christmas dinner was held in December, 2019. Pamela Prince, a member of the West Augustine Community, was given an award at this event for her hard work and dedication.



West Augustine 2019-2020

Highlights, Notable Events, Programs, and Services

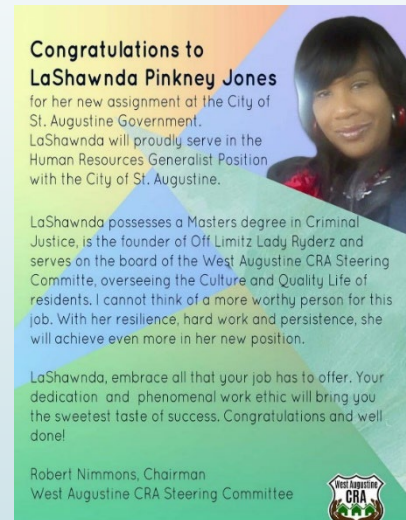
The December, 2019, **Toys for Tots** event was a great success. The event was hosted by the West Augustine CRA Steering Committee and held at the Solomon Calhoun Center.



West Augustine 2019-2020

Highlights, Notable Events, Programs, and Services

In February, 2020, two members of the West Augustine community were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments. Bridgette Greene, of the American, Legion Post 194, was named President of the year. LaShawnda Pickney began a career with the City of St. Augustine.



West Augustine 2019-2020

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Due to the sudden spike in confirmed cases, COVID-19 testing was administered by St. Johns County Department of Health at Church of God in Christ in West Augustine.



**COVID-19
Drive
Up
Get
Tested**

SATURDAY
JUNE 20th
8am - 12pm

Health and Human Services
200 San Sebastian View

The Health Department will be setting up another COVID drive through test site in our parking lot this Saturday from 8am -12pm- open to the public

Due to the pandemic, the West Augustine CRA Steering Committee used social media to host over 26 events. Topics of discussion included COVID-19, voting rights, affordable housing, financial literacy, SJC Schools, and the importance of community partners. The events were viewed by over 4,000 members of the community.

Kyle Dresback
Associate Superintendent
Student Support Services
St. Johns County Schools
with the CRA
Wednesday ON
FACEBOOK LIVE
6/10 @ 7:00

The Student Support Services Department, under the direction of Associate Superintendent Kyle Dresback, is comprised of five departments. Each department plays a vital role in the safety, health and success of our students and our schools.

Please Join Us

**FACEBOOK
LIVE
Wednesday
Sept. 23rd
7:00 pm**

**St Johns County Clerk of
Courts and Comptroller
Brandon Patty will join WACRA
Steering Committee on FB live
at 7:00pm on Sept. 23, 2020**

**FACEBOOK LIVE
TODAY
4/28 at 7pm
Principle
Travis Brown of
Murray Middle School**

The West Augustine CRA Steering Committee Welcomes Travis Brown, Principal of Murray Middle School to our Facebook Live 4/28 at 7pm. Join us for an engaging and informative discussion about:

- Homework Help
- Tutorial Help
- Free Meals
- Ask Questions: Get Answers!

West Augustine 2019-2020

Highlights, Notable Events, Programs, and Services

In July, 2020, then candidate for Sheriff, Rob Hardwick, visited the West Augustine American Legion post to meet with the residents of the community.



In August, 2020, West Augustine Steering Committee and Advisory Board members, Greg White and Dwala Willis, met with Representative John Rutherford and local officials to discuss concerns in the West Augustine area.



West Augustine 2019-2020

Highlights, Notable Events, Programs, and Services

In August, 2020, the West Augustine CRA Steering Committee partnered with local organizations and members of the community to clean up the King Street corridor, bringing awareness to the blighted conditions in West Augustine.



**Nehemiah Project
in Partnership with
West Augustine CRA,
Coquina Community Church
American Legion, & SJSO**

**Don't Say We Can't
Come Together.
We Came Together for
Community Clean-Up Day.**

A group of people, including a police officer and several community members, are standing together for a community clean-up day. They are wearing face masks and some are holding red plastic bags. The background is a bright, colorful graphic.

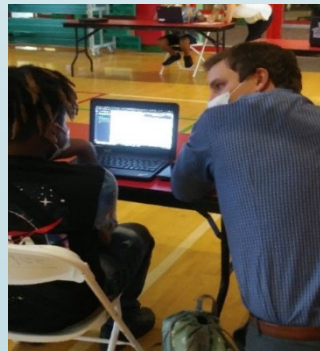
West Augustine 2019-2020

Highlights, Notable Events, Programs, and Services

The West Augustine **Back to School Drive** was hosted at Murray Middle School in August 2020.



With the pandemic came academic challenges for everyone. During the month of August, the Principal of Murray Middle school, Travis Brown, and his staff visited the Solomon Calhoun Center to meet with community children to provide tutoring and to answer questions.



St. Johns County Community Redevelopment Agency Board

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners serve as the Community Redevelopment Agency Board of Commissioners.

2019-2020 St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners



James K. Johns
Commissioner, District 1



Jeb S. Smith, Chair
Commissioner, District 2



Paul M. Waldron
Commissioner, District 3



Jeremiah Ray Blocker, Vice-Chair
Commissioner, District 4



Henry Dean
Commissioner, District 5

County Commission Meetings:

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners meet the first and third Tuesday of each month, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the County Auditorium, located at 500 San Sebastian View, in St. Augustine. The Board reserves the right to cancel and/or change the meeting schedule as needed. All Public Hearings will be advertised for 9:00a.m.. If you have any questions regarding the agenda, please call (904) 209-0530.

Frequently Asked Questions

About Community Redevelopment Agencies

What is a Community Redevelopment Area?

A Community Redevelopment Area (“CRA”) is a geographic area in which the physical and economic conditions meet the definition of slum or blight as provided in the State’s Community Redevelopment Act of 1969 (“Act”) that the local government formally designates for redevelopment. It is a powerful tool that municipalities throughout Florida use to help persistently struggling commercial districts and neighborhoods.

What is the purpose of creating a Community Redevelopment Area?

The basic purpose of creating a CRA is to formally recognize that the designated area deserves dedicated resources to reduce and/or eliminate the conditions of slum/blight and to stimulate community and economic revitalization. A CRA is a long-term, 30-year commitment.

How is a CRA created?

The Act outlines the process for creating a CRA. First, a field study is conducted to document the slum/blight conditions in the area. If legally sufficient documentation is produced, the local government approves a resolution declaring that the area is appropriate for redevelopment under the Act. From there, the local government works with the community’s residents and stakeholders to create a CRA Plan for adoption by the local government.

Are there any special funding sources associated with a CRA?

The Act allows for the creation of a Tax Increment Financing (“TIF”) district within a CRA. When a CRA/TIF is created, the Property Appraiser “freezes” the value of the property in the CRA at its current level (often called the “base value”). Annually thereafter, increases in property taxes collected above the base year amount (“increment”) are deposited in a trust fund and invested in CRA Plan initiatives. Increment revenues must be spent within the CRA in which they are generated.

Who governs CRA’s and the TIF expenditures?

A Community Redevelopment Agency, as provided in the Act, governs community redevelopment areas. In St. Johns County, the Board of County Commissioners serve as the Agency. The Commissioners and Agency are separate and distinct governments with different functions and powers. The primary functions of the Agency are to oversee the implementation of CRA Plans and to administer TIF expenditures.

Are community members involved in the redevelopment process?

Yes. The Agency appoints community advisory committees to serve each redevelopment area. The committees meet regularly with stakeholders to help prioritize redevelopment initiatives. Committee recommendations are then presented to the Agency for consideration.

Additional Information

For additional information regarding the St. Johns County Community Redevelopment Agency, the availability of copies of this report, and the separate audit report, contact:

Roberto Ortiz, Housing Manager

St. Johns County Housing and Community Development

200 San Sebastian View, Suite 2300

St. Augustine, Fl. 32084

904-827-6894

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Annual Report for St. Johns County Community Redevelopment Agency has been prepared in accordance with Section 356(3)(c), Florida Statutes. This report covers the period from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020 **This report is to be transmitted with the audited year-end financial statement as required by statute.**