

June 2015



St. Johns County, Florida

Quality of Life Recognitions

- 2015
 - St. Augustine Beach ranked #9 on Trip Advisor's Top 25 Beaches in the United States.
 - The County is recognized as the healthiest county in Florida for the fourth consecutive year.
 - Forbes listed Fruit Cove as one of 25 best suburbs for retirement in the United States.
 - Florida Department of Health in St. Johns County received the Governor's Sterling Award.
 - The PLAYERS at TPC Sawgrass ranked #10 on the Top 10 Pete Dye courses on Golf Advisor.
 - Castillo de San Marcos listed at #8 on USA Today's Top 10 Monuments in the US.
 - St. Augustine ranked #4 on Livability's 100 Best Small Towns list.
 - Nocatee is listed as the nation's third best-selling master-planned community by RCLCO and John Burns Real Estate Consulting in their annual master-planned community reports.
 - St. Augustine Beach ranked #9 on Trip Advisor's "Top 10 Beaches in the US" list.
 - U.S. Census Bureau listed St. Johns County #11 of the Top 20 Fastest Growing Counties, based on 2014 population estimates. During a one-year period, County population increased by 4%.
 - St. Johns County School District rates first in the State out of 67 districts in total FCAT points.
 - Printaholic.com ranked St. Augustine in the Top 10 Most Inspiring Cities for Photographers.

- 2014
 - The County is recognized as the healthiest county in Florida for the third consecutive year.
 - The County ranked number one in the State and in the top 4% for best quality of life in the US.
 - St. Augustine made CBS Denver's list of Top Spooky Vacation Destinations for Halloween.
 - St. Augustine and the 450th Celebration are mentioned as a place and event to visit during fall traveling for families.
 - Castillo de San Marcos listed as one of 7 Hispanic Heritage Sites that are Well-Worth the Visit by Huffington Post.
 - Government Finance Officers Association presented St. Johns County the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.
 - Standard and Poor's increased St. Johns County's credit rating two levels from AA- to AA+.
 - Coastal Living Magazine ranked St. Augustine #4 of the Top 10 Happiest Seaside Towns in the US.
 - US News and World Report ranked Flagler College #8 of the Best Regional Colleges in the South.
 - Travel + Leisure listed St. Augustine #12 for America's Best College Towns.
 - ConventionSouth Magazine selected St. Augustine as Florida's Best Southern Hospitality City.
 - St. Johns County School District rated first in the State out of 67 districts in total FCAT points.

- 2013
 - Jacksonville Business Journal recognized St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners as one of the Top 2013 Healthiest Employers.
 - Recognized by the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in a report on statewide health rankings as the healthiest county in Florida for the second consecutive year
 - Florida Department of State's 2013 Florida Main Street Awards presented the Vilano Beach Main Street program with two Honor awards and one Merit Award for Outstanding Florida Main Street Private-Public Partnership, Outstanding Florida Main Street Special Event, and Outstanding Local Florida Main Street Supporter categories.
 - Florida Coordinated School Health Partnership, Florida Action for Healthy Kids, and the Florida Association of District School Superintendents recognized St. Johns County as having a Florida Healthy School District and awarded them the Silver Level.
 - St. Johns County School District rated first in the State out of 67 districts in total FCAT points.

- Nocatee development was recognized as the sixth best-selling community in the country.
 - St. Johns County ranked fourth in the State for permitting single family homes.
 - The Florida Department of Children and Families report card recognized the County as number one in the State for its Community Based Care Lead Agencies.
 - National Geographic Traveler recognized St. Augustine as one of the World's 20 Must See Places.
 - National concert industry publication Pollstar included the St. Augustine Amphitheatre on their "100 Top Amphitheatre Venues Worldwide" list.
 - St. Augustine ranked #5 on Budget Travel's 12 Best Kid-Friendly Destinations list.
 - Sawgrass Marriot Golf Resort and Spa is named the Top North American Golf Resort by Zimbio.
 - Flagler College attained the Top 10 of U.S. News & World Report's 2014 edition of *Best Colleges* for Best Regional Colleges in the South.
 - CNNTravel ranked Ponce de Leon historical site at Ponte Vedra Beach in Top 3rd of 22 can't-miss U.S. beaches.
 - Visit Florida named St. Augustine in Top 5 Spring Break Destinations for Families.
 - CNNMoney Magazine ranked St. Johns County #5 of Top 25 Counties for Where the Jobs Are.
 - Florida Department of Children and Families report card showed St. Johns County ranked as #1 in the State for its Community Based Care Lead Agencies.
 - Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles presented the County Tax Collector the Inaugural Safety Award for restoring the driver education program to local high schools.
 - FOXBusiness highlighted Fruit Cove as the #3 suburb in the United States, utilizing data from Coldwell Banker Real Estate's list of Top Booming Suburbs in America.
 - Florida Coordinated School Health Partnership, Florida Action for Healthy Kids and the Florida Association of District School Superintendents recognized St. Johns County as having a Florida Healthy School District and awarded them the Silver Level.
 - Memorial Presbyterian Church of St. Augustine listed as one of 8 "religious wonders to see in the U.S." according to CNN.
 - USA Today listed St. Augustine #2 in Places to Retire in its article, Retirement Living: 5 Great (Unknown) Places to Retire.
 - Jacksonville Business Journal recognized St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners as one of the Top Healthiest Employers in 2013.
 - University of Wisconsin study ranked St. Johns as the Healthiest County in Florida.
 - Florida Section of American Water Works Association selected St. Johns County as the winner of the Region II Annual Best Drinking Water contest for the third time in ten years.
 - Fodor's Travel Guide listed St. Augustine as one of the 10 Best Small Towns in America.
 - Smithsonian magazine listed St. Augustine as one of the Best 20 Small Towns to Visit in 2013.
 - Florida Beach Patrol Chief's Association awarded St. Johns County with the 2012 Beach Patrol of the Year award.
 - Budget Travel listed Memorial Presbyterian Church on its list of the One of the 12 Most Beautiful Churches in America.
 - Budget Travel editors selected St. Augustine as one of the Top 12 Best Kid-Friendly Destinations when traveling with toddlers, tweens, and teens.
 - Fodor's listed St. Augustine as one of the 7 Most Affordable Destinations for 2013 in the world.
 - Pollstar named the St. Johns County's St. Augustine Amphitheatre #43 in its list of the 100 Top Amphitheatre Venues Worldwide.
 - Florida Communities Trust bestowed Park of the Month honor upon St. Johns County.
 - Government Finance Officers Association presented St. Johns County the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.
 - Nerd Wallet ranked Fruit Cove #4 on their list of Best Cities in Florida for Job Seekers.
 - Travel + Leisure ranked St. Augustine #7 for America's Best College Towns.
- 2012
 - Florida Beach Patrol Chief's Association awarded St. Johns County with Beach Patrol of the Year.
 - Yahoo! News and Reuters Middle East listed St. Augustine's Nights of Lights #9 on their Top 10 Christmas decoration spots list, which cited destinations from around the world.
 - National Geographic Traveler listed St. Augustine among the Top 20 World's Must See Places.
 - National Geographic Traveler for the 2nd year in a row, named St. Augustine in its list of Top 10 Places in the World to View Holiday Lights.
 - Reuters listed St. Augustine as one of Top 10 Places in the World to See Holiday Lights.
 - St. Johns County School District rated first in the State out of 67 districts in total FCAT points.
 - Society of American Travel Writers' Where to Travel names St. Augustine to the Top 10 Lesser Known (But just as Bright) Holiday Lights in the U.S.

- American Heart Association awarded St. Johns County Fire Rescue the Regional Emergency Cardiac Care Committee Award for Best Practices.
 - Triple Crown Sports recognized St. Johns County Recreation and Parks for Outstanding Facilities and Staff.
 - American Bus Association named St. Augustine's Ponce de Leon Commemorative events a 2013 Top 100 Event in North America.
 - Sunshine Review, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to government transparency, names St. Johns County among the winners of the 3rd annual Sunny Awards honoring the most transparent government websites in the nation.
 - CNNTravel named Memorial Presbyterian Church in St. Augustine one of the Top 8 religious wonders to see in the U.S.
 - University of Wisconsin study ranked St. Johns as the Healthiest County in Florida.
 - Forbes Magazine named St. Augustine among the 10 Prettiest Towns in the United States.
 - Florida Department of Education ranked St. Johns County School District Number 1 in Florida with regard to student academic achievements.
 - TripAdvisor ranked St. Augustine among the Top 15 Destinations on the Rise in 2012.
 - American Water Works Association awarded St. Johns County with the Water Conservation Award for Excellence - Best in Class.
 - The Seventh Judicial Circuit Court recognized St. Johns County's Family Integrity Program for the professionalism and good work in protecting families.
 - The Florida Department of Children and Families recognizes the St. Johns County Family Integrity Program with an Award of Distinction for its Outreach Taskforce Unit.
 - St. Johns Builders Council recognizes St. Johns County for service above and beyond to the building industry.
 - St. Johns County Builders Council and the Northeast Home Builders Association recognize St. Johns County for the highest professional standards and dedicated service to the community and building industry.
 - The Association of Energy Engineers recognizes the County for leadership in energy education.
 - Government Finance Officers Association presents St. Johns County the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.
- 2011
 - National Geographic Magazine named St. Augustine one of the Top 10 Places in the World to View Holiday Lights.
 - American Bus Association selected St. Augustine's Nights of Lights a Top 100 Event for 2011.
 - Smart Meetings Platinum Choice Awards recognized St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra, and The Beaches as being among the Best Convention and Visitor's Bureau's in North America.
 - CheapFlights selected Ponte Vedra Beach as one of the 10 Best Getaways Without Kids.
 - Florida Storm Water Association presented St. Johns County with Excellence Award for outstanding and comprehensive storm water program in the state.
 - Government Finance Officers Association presented St. Johns County the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.
 - American Water Works Association awarded St. Johns County with the Water Conservation Award for Excellence - Best in Class.
 - Florida Beach Patrol Chiefs Association presented St. Johns County the Presidents Award for Outstanding Contributions to Ocean Lifesaving and Organizational Excellence.
 - Northeast Florida Builders Association presented the Good Government Award to St. Johns County and recognizes the Building Services Division for dedicated service to the community.
 - St. Johns County School District rated first in the State out of 67 districts in total FCAT points.
- 2010
 - AAA named St. Augustine as one of the 10 Best Cities for Holiday Cheer in the U.S. and Canada.
 - Miami Herald readers chose St. Augustine as one of Florida's Seven Wonders.
 - Travel+Lesiure Magazine selected St. Augustine its Number One Choice for a city where Americans can enjoy a European Atmosphere Without Leaving the U.S.
 - Florida Association of County Attorneys presented St. Johns County Attorney's Office with Ethics in Government Award.
 - The Northeast Florida Regional Council presented an award to St. Johns County for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship – Bio Diesel Project.
 - The Northeast Florida Regional Council presented an award to St. Johns County for Excellence in Economic Development Tourism for the St. Augustine Amphitheater.

- Florida Water Environmental Association awarded St. Johns County with the Albert B. Herndon Award for outstanding performance and professionalism.
 - United States Coast Guard presented St. Johns County with a Certificate of Merit for Contributions to the USCG Search and Rescue Mission in Northeast Florida.
 - St. Johns Builders Council recognized St. Johns County for their dedicated service.
 - St. Augustine Record listed St. Johns Golf Club in their “Best of St. Augustine” survey.
 - Government Finance Officers Association presented St. Johns County the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.
 - St. Johns County School District rated first in the State out of 67 districts in total FCAT points.
- 2009
 - CNNMoney Magazine ranked St. Johns County #12 of Top 25 Counties for Where the Jobs Are.
 - U.S. News and World Report ranked St. Augustine as one of 10 Best Places to Live in the U.S.
 - Florida Association of County Attorneys awarded St. Johns County with Legal Writing Award.
 - The Northeast Florida Regional Council presented an award to St. Johns County for Excellence in Environmental Stewardship – Bio Diesel Project.
 - The Northeast Florida Regional Council presented an award to St. Johns County for Excellence in Economic Development Tourism.
 - Florida Water Environmental Association presented St. Johns County with the Public Education Award in Organization Category.
 - Florida Department of State awarded St. Johns County Library’s bookmobile service with a Library Services and Technology Act Exemplary Project Recognition for the Library Express Outreach Project.
 - St. Johns County School District rated first in the State out of 67 districts in total FCAT points.
 - Florida Library Association presented St. Johns County with the Florida Website of the Year Award for its Public Library System website.
 - The Department of Children and Families recognized St. Johns County for the highest statewide performance in Family Engagement.
 - Florida Law Enforcement Liaison recognized St Johns County Sheriff’s Office for Traffic Safety Education and Enforcement Actions.
 - St. Augustine Record recognized St. Johns Golf Club in their Best of St. Augustine survey.
 - Government Finance Officers Association presented St. Johns County the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.
- 2008
 - Travel+Leisure Magazine and CNN selected St. Augustine as a Top 10 historical destination in the United States as part of CNN’s special report on family vacation travel.
 - CNNMoney Magazine ranked St. Johns County #20 of Top 25 Counties for Best for Job Growth.
 - The First Coast Chapter of the Florida Planning & Zoning Association presented St. Johns County with Before Its Time Award for I-95 / CR 210 Interchange improvements.
 - Florida Government Communicators Association (FGCA) awarded St. Johns County the 1st place Crystal Award for Buckled for Life, a locally produced video about Project Buckle Up car seat education and inspection program.
 - St. Johns County School District rated first in the State out of 67 districts in total FCAT points.
 - The Florida Department of Children and Families recognized the St. Johns County for being the 1st in the state to safely reduce the number of children in out-of-home care by 50%.
 - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency presented St. Johns County with the National 1st Place Clean Water Act Recognition Award for Pretreatment Program Excellence.
 - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 awarded St. Johns County the Pretreatment Program Excellence Award for untiring effort and dedication in achieving Clean Water Act goals.
 - St. Augustine Record recognized St. Johns Golf Club in their Best of St. Augustine survey.
 - Government Finance Officers Association presented St. Johns County the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.