

Scenic Watch

Citizens for a Scenic Florida



News During October 2014



Photo: City of St. Augustine - Adelaide Sanchez Award for Historic Preservation

Placemaking:

Urban Land Institute Award

"St. Augustine Distillery Co. and Ice Plant Bar received the 2014 Award for Excellence for the Reuse/Repurpose Sector by the Urban Land Institute of North Florida"

"In 2012, Philip McDaniel, Mike Diaz, Rich Dettra and Mike McLemore purchased the 100 year old St. Augustine Ice Plant and converted the building into a distillery and restaurant/bar.

The historic St. Augustine Ice Plant was the first commercial ice production in the State of Florida.



Photo: St. Augustine Distillery

Constructed in two phases between 1905 and 1927, it served as a prototype model for Florida Power & Light, which produced 17 more such plants throughout the state.

About the Awards for Excellence: The Awards for Excellence was started in 2012 to showcase ULI North Florida's efforts identifying and promotion the "Best Practices" in all aspects of real estate development and place making. The award recognizes all phases of the development process: planning design, construction, and the economic viability."

-- ULI

[Visit ULI site here>](#)

[Additional Award by City of St. Augustine here >](#)

Events Around Our State



Fun Festivals and Events

Central Florida

Nov 1-2

16th Annual American Indian Arts Celebration, Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation

Nov 8-10

Sebastian Clambake Lagoon Festival, Sebastian

Political Signs:

"Boca Raton Considers Tightening Restrictions on Election Signs"

Nov 1-3

Lady of the Lakes Renaissance Faire,
Tavares

Nov 9

28th annual Highlands Hammock
Civilian Conservation Corps Festival,
Sebring

Nov 2

6th annual Stone Crab Jam, Crystal
River

Nov 2

2013 Blues 'n Bar-B-Que,
Homosassa

Nov 2-3

Ruskin Seafood Festival, Ruskin

Nov 2-3

27th Annual Lake Mary-Heathrow
Festival of the Arts, Heathrow

Nov 2-3

Festival of the Arts, Inverness

Nov 8-10

12th Annual Winter Park Concours
d'Elegance, Winter Park

Nov 3

Conga Caliente Festival, Tampa

Nov 8

Harvest Jamboree and Hunter's
BBQ, Astor

Nov 8-10

RibFest, St. Petersburg

Nov 8-10

38th Annual Festival of the Masters,
Lake Buena Vista

Nov 7-10

Cape Coral Coconut Festival, Cape
Coral

Nov 8-10

21st Annual Holiday Open House,



Photo: Veeoz and Florida Sun Sentinel

"...There are more signs planted at the (early voting site) old Downtown Library than there are early voters,' grouched [Boca] Councilman Robert Weinroth. The research showed political signs are banned from public roadways in Boynton Beach , Coral Springs, Deerfield Beach, Delray Beach , Fort Lauderdale, Miami Beach, Parkland and West Palm Beach."

-- Veeoz, Florida Sun-Sentinel

[Read the entire article here >](#)

Miami Herald Points to National Issue:

"Pesky? Effective? Campaign Signs Spread like Weeds"

"Pesky.

Illegal.

Effective?

Lawn signs touting local and statewide candidates are in full bloom along highways, street corners and other public spaces. It's the sign of the season. And despite legal restrictions, the markers can sprout invasively.

Campaigns hope voters see them as a signal of the community's support for the candidate or issue. But repeat exposure can rub some the wrong way.

'They just mushroom,' said Elizabeth Lessner, a central Ohio restaurateur. 'It used to be they put one sign on the corner, and now there's 50.'

Lessner is one of the **Columbus Sign Ninjas**, a group that sprang up in the

Clermont

Nov 16-24

Festival of Trees at Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando

Nov 9-10

25th Annual St. Armands Art Festival, Sarasota

Nov 9-10

Homosassa Arts, Crafts and Seafood Festival, Old Homosassa

Nov 21-24

SkyQuest 2013, DeLand

Nov 17

14th Annual Cigar Heritage Festival, Ybor City

[Read More >](#)

South Florida

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Nov 8

Harvest Jamboree and Hunter's

perennial battleground state to take down campaign clutter from public spaces.

State and local sign laws can vary. Ohio, like other states, prohibits such advertising from being placed in the public right of way — which would include interstates and state routes. Officials don't want signs to obstruct drivers' views or present safety hazards.

The ninja members use social media to report signs and occasionally call out campaigns seen as big offenders. Some candidates have apologized on the group's Facebook page, which boasts nearly 300 members, for their sign placement.

Karen Thomas, a Columbus resident and ninja member, has been uprooting stray signs since 2008. Her first take came after she passed multiple markers near the interstate exit for a mall. Thomas recalled, 'If I want them to go away, I'm going to have to pull over and pick them up.'

So she did. And she continues to snatch signs when she runs errands, carefully avoiding vehicles that whiz by her.

'I don't lollygag,' said Thomas, a corporate financial consultant.

It's not just residents who get irked by the signage.

In Providence, Rhode Island, large signs for his opponent led to a complaint from Republican mayoral candidate Dan Harrop. Harrop told the city solicitor's office this week that signs for independent candidate Buddy Cianci far exceed the size allowed by city ordinances. The city agreed and cited at least one homeowner.

Signs are a fast, cheap and easy way to grow name recognition and increase a candidate's visibility in a neighborhood. They've been around since the infancy of the country's democracy, said Benjamin Bates, a professor of communication studies at Ohio University.

Candidates and their supporters will place signs near the roadways because they hope more voters will see them.

'It's sort of the principle that any publicity is good publicity,' Bates said.

Ben Donahower, a Pennsylvania-based political consultant who sells lawn signs, said he advises campaigns to place signs on private property. That means supporters have names and faces.

'Any candidate can go out and spend a day putting out a bunch of signs along a highway,' Donahower said. 'It's a different scenario to talk to somebody and say, 'Do I have your vote?' They say yes. 'Can I put a yard sign out in your yard?' They say yes.'

..."

-- Ann Sanner, AP, Miami Herald

[Read the entire article here >](#)

Legal:

Settlement

BBQ, Astor

Nov 8-10

RibFest, St. Petersburg

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38th Annual Festival of the Masters,
Lake Buena Vista

Nov 7-10

Cape Coral Coconut Festival, Cape
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Ybor City

[Read More >](#)

North Florida

Oct 26-Oct 27

Micanopy Fall Harvest Festival,
Micanopy

Nov 5-6

Sea and Sky Spectacular,
Jacksonville Beach

Nov 1

Apalachicola Oyster Roast,
Apalachicola

Nov 1-2

50th Annual Florida Seafood
Festival, Apalachicola

Nov 3

29th Annual Great Chowder Debate,
St. Augustine

Nov 11

Veteran's Day Parade, Jacksonville

Reached in Billboard Battle

Scenic Jacksonville



Photo: Bob Mack, Florida Times Union

"Digital billboards are here to stay in Jacksonville, but more areas of the city would become billboard-free zones, according to settlement agreements that would end a legal battle between anti-billboard group Scenic Jacksonville and outdoor advertising companies.

Scenic Jacksonville, which tried to unplug digital billboards entirely, agreed to settle its lawsuits against CBS Outdoor, Clear Channel Outdoor and the city of Jacksonville.

The companies would be able to keep their existing digital billboards and build a limited number of new electronic signs, which change ads every eight seconds. But the settlement would also expand the areas of the city where all billboards would come down from roadsides...

Scenic Jacksonville Chairwoman Susan Caven said the settlement ensures the results from the 1987 election remain in the City Charter. Scenic Jacksonville grew out of the citizen group that pushed the 1987 vote...

Opponents suffered a setback in 2010 when city lawyers determined previous 1995 settlement agreements didn't prohibit digital billboards — a finding that reversed the prior advice of city lawyers and allowed companies to go digital in Jacksonville.

'We found the world had changed in 2010,' Scenic Jacksonville attorney Bill Brinton said Wednesday. 'That was the new reality.'

Given the stance of the city, he said the settlement is a 'positive outcome' for Scenic Jacksonville.

He said the settlement will hasten the **removal of 85 traditional billboards on 24 other roads over the next 10 years, while 10 other roads would see a reduction in billboards...**

The settlement also maintains current requirements for removal of billboards, including take-downs slated this year for Arlington Expressway, he said.

'The big picture is a lot of billboards are coming down,' Brinton said.

And in one case, the settlement would prevent a digital billboard from going up...

Clear Channel would remove three times as many billboards for any new digital billboard it builds...

Nov 8-10

St. Augustine Pirate Gathering 2013,
St. Augustine

Nov 17-Jan. 31

Nights of Lights Festival and
Celebration, St. Augustine

Nov 17

Sunset / Moonrise Tour, St.
Augustine

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Note from the Editor

Suggestions for improvement are
always welcome.

City Councilman Richard Clark, who had filed legislation to change the city's billboard regulations, said he will support the legislation to enact the settlement agreement. He said the settlement 'allows everybody to be treated fairly' and gives certainty to Scenic Jacksonville, the billboard industry and the city.

'When you get a good settlement, all the parties feel they gave, and no party took advantage of the other,' he said. "

-- David Bauerlein, The Florida Times Union

[Read entire article here >](#)



Video: WJXT

FL Legal:

"Council
Members
Disagree
Over Fines for
Illegal Signs"

"City at odds with illegal signs"

"Jacksonville City Council members met Monday to discuss snipe sign legislation...

The signs are illegal and the city has been robocalling people to remove them. Violators are also slapped with hefty fines...

Monday's meeting got heated at one point.

"I just want to see us clean up the city, and I just don't want to see us working in a divided way, if I could say that," Councilwoman Denise Lee said.

Things got testy quickly when Lee started talking about the best ways to help clean up the city, when a woman in the audience started in on her...

Over the past couple months, Code Enforcement has been cracking down on fining violators who clutter the sides of city streets with the signs.

But there are still plenty all around. For example, one advertises for teenagers needing work, one for a moving company, another for a move-in special, and one for an upcoming race.

The only signs that are allowed are called real estate directional signs, pointing people to an open house or model home.

'I think, probably, that most don't realize that snipe signs are illegal because you see them all over the place, so you don't know,' said Nancy Garcia, of the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors.

As it stands, violators are issued a warning for the first offense, cited \$50 for the second offense, and it increases from there. But changes are in the works. Proposed legislation would hike first-time offenses to a \$150 fine.

At the conclusion of Monday's meeting, Councilwoman Lori Boyer said she plans to introduce an amendment to the bill that would cite violators a total of \$50 for the first five snipe signs, then \$150 for each sign after that.

Fines would increase to \$300 a sign for the second offense and \$500 per sign after that..."

--Hailey Winslow, WJXT

[Read entire article and watch video here>](#)