

**CITY COUNCIL**

Lark Jones, Mayor  
Carolyn Baggott  
Pat Carpenter  
Phil Mottel  
Ken McDowell  
Arthur Shealy  
Kent Sullivan

**CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

are held every first & third Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers on the second floor of the Municipal Building, 400 East Buena Vista Avenue. Citizens are encouraged to attend these meetings.



**North Augusta**  
South Carolina's  
Riverfront

**CONTENTS**

Recreation Registration .....2  
Business License Renewals...2  
Tax Notices .....2  
Activities Center Fees.....2  
What's Up Downtown.....3  
Employees Recognized.....4  
Greenway Trail Grows .....4  
Winter Base Period .....4  
Utility Bills .....4  
Land Developments.....5  
Water and Sewer Extensions ..... 5  
Telephone Directory .....6

# North Augusta

## FORWARD


A Publication for the Citizens of North Augusta, South Carolina

### CAPITAL PROJECTS SALES TAX PASSES

*City Council Reduces Hospitality Tax*



On November 7 the voters of Aiken County passed the One-Cent Capital Projects Sales Tax referendum. Effective May 1, 2001 the sales tax in Aiken County will be increased from five to six cents on all retail sales. Proceeds from the seven year tax will generate approximately \$54.6 million and will support the largest local road paving, drainage improvement and recreation construction program in the history of the County.

In 1999, the City adopted a two-cent Hospitality Sales Tax on all prepared foods sold in North Augusta. Proceeds from the tax go directly into downtown and riverfront redevelopment projects. Total sales tax on this industry is seven cents and equal to sales tax levels in Augusta/Richmond and Columbia Counties. Earlier this year the City Council agreed to reduce the local hospitality tax in North Augusta from two cents to one cent if the Capital Projects Sales Tax was approved by County taxpayers. In adopting the reduction, City Council stated its intent to assure the hospitality industry that a customer would not pay more sales tax in North Augusta than the seven cents in surrounding areas. The cut will be effective the same day the Aiken County one-cent sales tax goes into effect, May 1, 2001. This action assures the restaurant and food preparation businesses in North Augusta of no increase in the tax level. The reduction will remain in effect as long as the One-Cent Capital Projects Sales Tax is in place. 

## CITY 2001 BUDGET APPROVED

On November 20 the North Augusta City Council gave final approval to the 2001 Consolidated Municipal Budget totaling \$17,354,298. The City's mill levy for 2001 (2000 tax year) remains at 81.74, 72.72 for the General Fund and 9.02 for the Capital Projects Fund. There has been no change in property tax rates for nine years.

The major funds and functional areas of expenditures for 2001 are:

2001 CONSOLIDATED MUNICIPAL BUDGET						
	Personal Services	Operations & Maintenance	Lease Purchase	Capital Service	Debt Service	Total
General Fund	\$5,218,756	\$2,532,538	\$270,870	\$213,590	\$0	\$8,235,754
Sanitation Services Fund	1,088,564	653,815	276,896	54,000	0	2,073,275
Water & Sewer Fund	1,517,702	2,037,799	133,145	546,220	1,711,940	5,946,806
Capital Projects	0	7,000	320,063	450,000	0	777,063
Street Improvements Fund	0	200,000	0	50,000	0	250,000
Other Funds		71,400	0	0	0	71,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,825,022</b>	<b>\$5,502,552</b>	<b>\$1,000,974</b>	<b>\$1,313,810</b>	<b>\$1,711,940</b>	<b>\$17,354,298</b>
	45.09%	31.71%	5.77%	7.57%	9.86%	100.00%

See 2001 Budget on page 3

# 2001 RECREATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION SCHEDULE

## February 1-18

Dixie Youth Baseball - Ages 5-12 (Birthday cut-off August 1)  
 Dixie Boys Baseball - Ages 13-14 (Birthday cut-off August 1)  
 Girls Softball - Ages 5-16 (Birthday cut-off to be determined)  
 Youth Soccer - Ages 4-16 (Birthday cut-off September 1)

## March 1-17

Spring Adult Softball

## March 31

Dixie Youth Baseball Opening Day Ceremonies  
 Girl's Softball Opening Day Ceremonies

## March 25 - April 10

Dixie Majors Baseball - Ages 15-18 (Birthday cut-off August 1)

## August 1-19

Youth Football - Ages 7-12 (Birthday cut-off September 1)  
 Youth Cheerleading - Ages 7-12 (Birthday cut-off September 1)  
 Fall Youth Soccer - Ages 4-16 (Birthday cut-off September 1)

## October 20 - November 11

Youth Basketball - Ages 6-18 (Birthday cut-off March 1)

Registration Fees	Soccer, Softball Football & Basketball	Baseball	Cheerleading
City Resident, Activities Center Member	\$35	\$40	\$50
City Resident, Non-Member	\$40	\$45	\$55
Nonresident, Activities Center Member	\$50	\$55	\$70
Nonresident, Non-Member	\$55	\$60	\$75
Out of State	\$105	\$105	\$105

For your convenience, registration forms can be downloaded from the City's website at [www.northaugusta.net](http://www.northaugusta.net). Registrations will be accepted at the Riverview Park Activities Center Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. during the registration periods. Birth certificates are required at the time of registration for first time participants. A \$10 late fee will be added to registrations submitted after the deadline.

Volunteer Coaches are needed for all sports. For more information on registration or coaching contact the Department of Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services at 441-4311 or visit [www.northaugusta.net](http://www.northaugusta.net).


**Birth certificates are required for all new participants at the time of registration.**




## BUSINESS LICENSE *Renewals Due Soon*

Calendar year 2001 Business License renewal applications will be distributed to current licensees the last week of December. Completed applications are due back to the Finance Department not later than February 1, 2001. A delinquent payment penalty of ten percent will be added to any application received after February 1. The penalty will increase by five percent each month until received.

Business licensees should carefully examine the information on the application to confirm that it is correct. Corrections or additions should be written directly on the application form. Once properly completed and signed, the application should be returned to the City with the correct fee. Turn around time on a properly completed business license application is usually within ten days.

Questions concerning the business license application process can be directed to the Finance Department at 441-4214. 

## TAX NOTICES *Coming Soon*

Tax notices on real and personal property and on merchants' inventory for the 2000 tax year will be mailed to property owners in January. Tax payments are due by May 1, 2001. For those property owners whose taxes are escrowed by a mortgage company, tax notices will be mailed directly to the mortgage company. Property tax notices are now printed in a new, easier to read format and include a pre-addressed return envelope. Questions about property taxes can be directed to the Finance Department at 441-4215. 

## ACTIVITIES CENTER *Fees to Increase in 2001*

The City budget for 2001 includes a modest increase in Riverview Park Activities Center membership fees. The increase, the first in seven years, will be effective January 1, 2001 and is necessary to offset the difference between revenues and steadily increasing expenses. Currently, 5,086 Activities Center members generate \$165,000 in annual membership fees. An additional \$167,620, representing 3.4 mills levied specifically for the Activities Center, is allocated from the General Fund to support Center expenses. Operating expenses for 2000 are expected to total \$416,009, an amount that exceeds the total of fees received and the earmarked mill levy by \$83,389. The City will continue to support the Activities Center with an annual General Fund appropriation. The increase in fees will help to offset the increasing cost of Activities Center operations.

Membership Category	Current Fees	2001 Fees
Individual - City Resident	\$ 25	\$ 35
Individual - Nonresident	\$ 50	\$ 70
Individual - Out of State	\$100	\$140
Family - Inside City	\$ 75	\$105
Family - Outside City	\$150	\$210

# WHAT'S UP?

## Downtown

Work on the Downtown Streetscape Project continues. The installation of landscaped center medians and underground utilities from the Georgia Avenue Bridge to Buena Vista Avenue is complete. Sidewalks and driveways have been reconstructed where necessary and sidewalk ramps have been constructed at the intersections of Bluff and Clifton Avenues.


The reconstruction of concrete sidewalks, curbs and driveways in the 400 block of Georgia Avenue, from Buena Vista to Pine Grove Avenues, is currently underway. Landscaping in this block will begin as soon as the concrete work is completed. Landscaping will consist of grass, ground cover, low-growing shrubs, and some shade trees planted between the sidewalk and the roadway. All landscaped areas will be irrigated.

The installation of new decorative street poles and lighting from the Georgia Avenue Bridge to Buena Vista Avenue will begin in January. New traffic signals at the intersections of Buena Vista

Avenue and Spring Grove Avenue will also be installed after the first of the year. The current concrete pole and cable signal system will be eliminated. The new traffic signals will be mounted on decorative mast arm poles that match the street-light poles. To provide an additional safety measure, pedestrian signals and controls will be installed with the new traffic signals.

Stamped asphalt crosswalks will be constructed at all intersections from the Bridge to Spring Grove Avenue. The asphalt stamping process, StreetPrint, replicates the appearance of brick pavers. The textured surface is colored with a special surfacing system to appear as red brick. A test of the StreetPrint pedestrian

crossing was constructed on the Greenway where it crosses Riverside Boulevard.

To stay informed about downtown streetscape progress and plans, visit the City's website at [www.northaugusta.net](http://www.northaugusta.net). 



## 2001 BUDGET


*Continued from page 1*

The **General Fund** is the main operating fund of the City. It is used to account for financial resources designated for general government - public safety, public works, general administration, and leisure services including parks, recreation, Community Center and Riverview Park Activities Center. (Please refer to the related article on Activities Center Membership fees.)

The **Sanitation Services Fund** is an enterprise fund. Sanitation service charges support the entire cost of sanitation and recycling services. This fund also supports animal control, street sweeping, and sanitation vehicle maintenance.

**Water and Sewer Fund** revenues are allocated entirely to pay the expenses of the utility system. Water and sewer rates are not changed in 2001.

The **Capital Projects Fund** is used for the acquisition, construction, and financing of major capital facilities. The 2001 Budget continues the 9.04 mill levy earmarked for major capital projects. The funds appropriated in 2001 will be used to retire the annual debt on Riverview Park Activities Center and to continue park enhancements around the City. Improvements will be made to the Greenway System, Summerfield Park, Creighton Living History Park, Waterworks Park and a new park will be developed on Walnut Lane.

Revenues from the **Street Improvement Fund** are used for street and storm drainage needs in the City. Projects scheduled for 2001 include landscaping and beautification of the Industrial Park entrance road, beautification of median islands on US 1, and the continuation of the directional sign program incorporating the City's new logo. 

# EMPLOYEES *Recognized*

The City of North Augusta Employee Recognition Committee recognized Barbara Watson as the employee of the quarter for the third quarter of the year.



Barbara has been a maintenance worker in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services since February 1997.

Barbara was nominated by Bob Brooks, Director of Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services. According to Bob, "It was very apparent from the day she started work that the Activities Center looked better. Members were quick to point out her quality work." She is an individual who always has a kind word and smile and is always willing to step forward and do what is necessary to get the job done as quickly as possible. Barbara also assists with concession stand operations at the Activities Center and Lions Memorial Field and at special events including the summer concert series at Creighton Living History Park.

The Employee Recognition Committee also selected Sandy Barrs as the 2000 Employee of the Year. Sandy, a Customer Service Representative and Business License Clerk in the Finance Department, has been with the City for over twenty years. Sandy is described as someone who always has a smile and kind word. She is a true team player, a dedicated employee and a great asset to the North Augusta community.



North Augusta's Employee Recognition Program was established in 1996 to honor employees who distinguish themselves through unique accomplishments, cost-saving efforts, customer service and consistent performance above normal expectations. A committee of City employees accepts nominations from City employees and citizens and selects an outstanding employee each quarter. Toward the end of each year the Committee selects one of the four Employees of the Quarter as the Employee of the Year. Recent Employees of the Quarter include Eugene Shaw, Sanitation Department, and Tim Pearson and Mack Williams of the Department of Public Safety.



## NORTH AUGUSTA *Greenway Trail Grows*



Phase 4 of the North Augusta Greenway, from the Georgia Avenue Greenway tunnel at Riverside Boulevard to the River Golf Club clubhouse, is now complete and open to the public. The section added a half-mile to the trail. The Greenway now boasts a total length of 5.3 miles.



## WINTER BASE PERIOD *In Effect*

The City of North Augusta uses a "Winter Base Sewer Rate System" for calculating sewer service charges. Three months of actual water usage are used to calculate sewer charges for the remaining nine months of the year. The three month base period covers the three water meter readings taken between December 10 and March 9. Water meter readings are based on the actual water usage for the month preceding the reading.

Each utility customer is billed a sewer service charge based on actual water consumption during each of the three winter base months. The average consumption of these three periods is then used for the remaining nine billing periods of the year. New customers with no winter base history are charged an amount equal to the average of all residential sewer customers. The Finance Department, 441-4212, can answer questions about sewer billing calculations.


## PAY UTILITY BILLS *Automatically*

Save time and money by paying your utility bills automatically. You can authorize an automatic payment from your checking account for the amount of your monthly bill. Simply sign an authorization card and submit it with a voided check or deposit slip to the Finance Department, 400 East Buena Vista Avenue. You will continue to receive a statement each month ten days prior to the due date and you can call with any questions before your bank processes the transaction. Authorization cards for automatic payments can be downloaded from the City's website at [www.northaugusta.net](http://www.northaugusta.net) or requested from the Finance Department at 441-4212.




## LARGE SCALE — Land Developments Planned —

The Planning Commission recently held public hearings and approved two new large scale planned developments in North Augusta. Sweetwater Junction, a 278 acre project, is located north of I 20 on the east side of US 25 at Walnut Lane. The developer, B & H Land Company, will develop the property in phases. Large scale commercial uses will front US 25, 248 multi-family housing units and 168 single family homes will be constructed behind the commercial property. A 2½-acre park is planned near the residential areas. The City hopes to safely accommodate increased traffic flow by realigning the intersection of Walnut Lane with US 25, extending Walnut Lane across US 25 into Sweetwater Junction and signalizing the intersection. Discussions with property owners and the South Carolina Department of Transportation are underway.

Triple Crown Development is planning a 1,500 acre mixed use development on the “Blanchard Tract” located east of US 25 and south of Ascauga Lake Road. The property straddles Old Sudlow Lake Road near the Mim’s Branch crossing. Plans for the development include an 18 hole golf course, extensive single and multi-family residential areas, neighborhood commercial centers and a business park that will include offices, warehouses and distribution facilities. Several neighborhood parks are also planned within the property. The developers are providing land and, at some time in the future, the City will construct a water storage facility and a Public Safety Station to serve the growing neighborhoods north of Belvedere. 

## WATER AND SEWER — Extensions Underway —

The City recently initiated construction on a six-mile water transmission main extending from the North Augusta Industrial Park on US 1 to Ascauga Lake Road. The 24 inch line will provide additional capacity to the Breezy Hill Water District service area and will serve the developing areas in the northeastern part of the City. Planned for several years, the waterline project was designed by the Department of Engineering and Public Works and is being installed by the Utilities Department. The waterline project is estimated to cost \$1.625 million and is expected to be complete in the spring of 2001.

The City of North Augusta recently entered into an agreement with Aiken County and the Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority to construct a 5.7 mile Sanitary Sewer trunk line from US 25 near the Edgefield County line to the Horse Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant in Aiken County. The project will provide additional transportation capacity to the Regional Sewer System serving Edgefield and Saluda Counties and will make sewer service available to developing areas in the northeast section of North Augusta and nearby unincorporated areas of Aiken County. The project, estimated to cost \$6.55 million, is funded by a \$2.65 million dollar grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, \$2.9 million from the City of North Augusta and \$1 million from Aiken County. Currently in the design phase, the project is scheduled to begin construction in early 2001 and be completed in 12 to 18 months. 

## NEW ON THE NET *New on the Net*

The City’s website, [www.northaugusta.net](http://www.northaugusta.net), has again been improved to better serve our citizens. A site map linking to the services provided by City departments has been added as well as a complete City telephone directory.

Visitors to the site can now search from a library of forms and download recreation registration forms, automatic utility payment draft forms, employment applications and numerous other documents pertaining to planning, zoning, inspections and permitting. New forms are added frequently so visit us often.

These forms must currently be printed and delivered to the appropriate City department. The City has recently given consideration to the option of a secure interactive website that would allow customers to pay bills and even register for recreation programs online. Those with an interest in online City services are encouraged to *Contact Us* via [www.northaugusta.net](http://www.northaugusta.net).

Beginning in 2001, visitors will be able to view City zoning maps and search for specific land information such as size of parcel, appraised value, zoning and more.

Stay informed with your website -

[www.northaugusta.net](http://www.northaugusta.net)!



# HOLIDAY Sanitation Schedule



North Augusta provides once-a-week curbside collection of garbage, yard waste, trash and recyclables for all residential properties in the City. Normal collection days are Monday through Thursday with a specific day assigned to each neighborhood. The collection schedule is adjusted in weeks that contain a holiday. Upcoming holidays and the adjusted collection days are:

<b>Christmas Holiday</b> <b>Monday, December 25</b>	All collections during the week of December 25 will be delayed one day.
<b>New Year's Holiday</b> <b>Monday, January 1</b>	All collections during the week of January 1 will be delayed one day.
<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b> <b>Monday, January 15</b>	All collections during the week of January 15 will be delayed one day.



**NORTH AUGUSTA**  
*Recycles*

North Augusta Forward is mailed three times a year to every City water customer. If your address is incorrect or if you're not receiving a copy of this publication and would like to be added to the mailing list, please write to:

**North Augusta Forward, P. O. Box 6400, North Augusta, SC 29861-6400 or call 803-441-4221.**



**CITY of NORTH AUGUSTA**  
400 East Buena Vista Avenue  
PO Box 6400  
North Augusta, SC 29861-6400

[www.northaugusta.net](http://www.northaugusta.net)



*Have a Safe & Happy Holiday Season!*

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
North Augusta, SC  
PERMIT No. 26

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

<b>POLICE &amp; FIRE EMERGENCY</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>	
Non Emergency	279-2121
Administration	441-4251
Records/Court Services	441-4271
Investigations	441-4274
Codes Enforcement	441-4258
<b>PARKS, RECREATION &amp; LEISURE SERVICES</b>	
Riverview Park Activities Center	441-4300
Activities Coordinator	441-4311
Community Center	441-4290
<b>GENERAL SERVICES &amp; FINANCE</b>	
Taxes	441-4215
Utility - New Service/Disconnects	441-4219
Utility Billing Services	441-4212
Business Licenses (Non-Contractor)	441-4214
Human Resources	441-4205
<b>ENGINEERING &amp; PUBLIC WORKS</b>	
After-Hours Emergencies	279-2121
Engineering	441-4223
Building Standards	441-4227
Permits	441-4227
Business Licenses (Contractors)	441-4227
Animal Control	441-4227
Sanitation Services	441-4223
Sanitation - New Service	441-4219
Streets & Drains Repairs	441-4223
<b>PUBLIC UTILITIES</b>	
After-Hours Emergencies	279-2121
Utility - New Service/Disconnects	441-4219
Utility Billing	441-4212
Water and Sewer Repairs	441-4240
<b>ECONOMIC &amp; COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Economic Development	441-4221
Planning	441-4221
Zoning	441-4221
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	
Mayor	441-4202
City Administrator	441-4202
<b>OTHER FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS</b>	
North Augusta Chamber of Commerce	279-2323
Nancy Carson Library	279-5767
North Augusta Health Center	278-0880
ComCast (cable)	706-733-7712
S. C. Electric & Gas	442-2000
BellSouth	780-2355
S. C. Department of Transportation	1-800-442-1368
Magistrate	202-3580