

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

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North Augusta

FORWARD

A Publication for the Citizens of North Augusta, South Carolina



On August 6, 2001, the North Augusta City Council adopted a resolution declaring North Augusta a Community of Character. As a Community of Character, North Augusta joins hundreds of cities throughout the country promoting personal character through the Character First! program.

Character First! is a Quality of Life initiative being implemented by North Augusta 2000, a non-profit community foundation established to improve the North Augusta community. The Character First! program is built around 49 specific character qualities that help make up a person's character. Each month, a different character trait is highlighted and reinforced throughout the community.

As part of the initiative, North Augusta 2000 is sponsoring a Character First! Word of the Month Workshop on the second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at the North Augusta Community Center. The meetings are free of charge and all are encouraged to attend. Schools, churches and civic organizations are also participating in the implementation of the program.

The character traits for the upcoming months are listed below. For more information about how you can become involved in this initiative to improve the quality of life of all North Augustans, please call Julie Gazda, Character First! Coordinator for North Augusta 2000 at 510-0011.

Character Word of the Month:

- December 2001** Self-Control - Rejecting wrong desires and doing what is right in all areas of my life.
- January 2002** Punctuality - Being ready to begin each task at the appointed time.
- February 2002** Resourcefulness - Recycling that which we would overlook or discard.
- March 2002** Gentleness - Showing personal care and concern in meeting the needs of others.
- April 2002** Creativity - Approaching a need, a task, or an idea from a new perspective.

BILL PAYING

Made Easy

Beginning in January, North Augusta property owners and utility customers will be able to view and pay monthly utility bills and annual tax bills online via the City's website, www.northaugusta.net. North Augusta will be the first city in the state to provide the option of paying utility and tax bills online via the Internet. The new service is a provided through collaboration between the Municipal Association of South Carolina and VC3, a Columbia based Internet software company. Additional information and instructions about the online payment option will be enclosed with January's utility billing statement.

The automatic payment of utility bills from your checking account is already available. Authorization cards for automatic payments can be downloaded from the City's website or requested from the Finance Department at 441-4212. The cards should be submitted with a

See **Bill Paying** continued on page 3

STORMWATER *Warning*


Unfunded Federal Mandate

In compliance with regulations adopted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), the City of North Augusta is now required to develop and implement a stormwater management program that *“reduces pollutants to the maximum extent practicable.”* The EPA regulations require that the City’s program address six specific areas before a municipal stormwater permit can be issued by SCDHEC:


- 1) Public Education and Outreach
- 2) Public Involvement and Participation
- 3) Elimination of Illicit Discharges
- 4) Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Management
- 5) Post-construction Site Stormwater Runoff Management
- 6) Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping

The City currently has programs in place that address several of the areas required by the EPA regulations. However, the existing programs must be revised and new programs must be added for the City to fully comply.

Although the EPA and SCDHEC are mandating the program, no federal or state funding is available. Each of the 5,000 cities in the country affected by the regulations is responsible for developing, implementing and funding its own program. Communities across the state and country are now struggling with how to pay for complying with the new requirements. Like most of those municipalities, North Augusta will be implementing a service that will require funding beyond what the City currently budgets for stormwater management. Current estimates for additional program costs are up to \$600,000 annually.

The national stormwater permitting requirements regulated by EPA will certainly create additional expense for North Augusta residents, businesses, and the City budget. However, adequate stormwater management is a vital component of the quality of life in North Augusta. Drinking water, recreational facilities, economic resources, wildlife habitat, fish spawning areas, streambeds, and both public and private property are all at risk without an adequate stormwater management program. A comprehensive and effective stormwater management program is necessary to improve and maintain existing stormwater systems and to ensure that increased runoff will not create additional flooding, erosion and water quality problems for future generations. 

TAX NOTICES *Coming Soon*


Tax notices on real and personal property and on merchants’ inventory for the 2001 tax year will be mailed to property owners in January. Tax payments are due by May 1, 2002 and may now be paid online via the City’s website. For property owners whose taxes are escrowed by a mortgage company, tax notices will be mailed directly to the mortgage company. 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. 

Stormwater Management Budget

In anticipation of the new stormwater management requirements the City Council retained the services of an engineering consultant, Woolpert, LLP, earlier this year. Woolpert’s assigned task was to evaluate the City’s current stormwater management program and make recommendations for program enhancements to meet EPA regulations. Woolpert was also asked to evaluate a variety of potential revenue sources to fund the program enhancements.

With adoption of the 2002 City budget, the City Council created a Stormwater Utility Fund. The City council will be evaluating the Woolpert report in December and January to decide on how best to implement the expanded stormwater program. It has initially been determined that a stormwater utility fee is the most dependable and equitable approach available to the City for financing the Stormwater Management Program. At this time it is anticipated that a monthly stormwater utility fee of between \$3.00 and \$4.00 per month per household will be necessary to provide revenues to the fund. It is also anticipated that the fee will be in place by July 1, 2002. All fees collected will be used exclusively for stormwater management related costs. Ordinances necessary to implement the stormwater utility fee are scheduled for consideration by City Council at public meetings beginning in February.

A stormwater utility fee is generally paid by each property owner in the city and is based on the gross area and intensity of development of each property. Both the size of a property and the amount of impervious surface area (surfaces that shed water such as roofs, driveways, parking lots, etc.) affect how much stormwater runs off the property and, therefore, how much that property impacts the public stormwater drainage system. Like other service charges, including those for electricity and water, the fee is based upon how much demand each property places on the drainage system. The stormwater utility fee is often collected in conjunction with a monthly utility bill for water, sewer or sanitation charges.

North Augusta’s stormwater utility fee structure will likely include a credit system that will provide discounts to property owners that have taken the initiative to reduce or eliminate stormwater runoff. The system will also include an appeals process for property owners to present justification for a reduced rate. 

BUSINESS LICENSE *Renewals Due Soon*

Calendar year 2002 Business License renewal applications will be distributed to current licensees during the last week of December. Completed applications are due back to the City’s Finance Department no later than February 1, 2002. 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.

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




WALNUT LANE *Neighborhood Park*

Residents of North Augusta now have a new park to enjoy. The Walnut Lane Neighborhood Park is located on St. Julian Place in the Walnut Grove subdivision. The 14-acre park includes a playground, a ½ mile walking and jogging trail, a picnic shelter and two picnic tables. Home Sites Limited, the developer of the subdivision, donated the land for the park. The project was funded with \$80,000 from the City's Capital Projects Fund



and \$80,000 from the proceeds of the Aiken County Capital Projects one-cent sales tax.

Phase 2 of the project, to be completed in 2002, will extend a sidewalk from the park to Walnut Lane, allowing greater pedestrian access to the park. The \$85,000 budgeted for this phase will be funded through the City's Capital Projects Fund. 

2002 *City Budget*


On November 19 the North Augusta City Council gave final approval to the 2002 Consolidated Municipal Budget totaling \$18,739,716. The City's mill levy for 2002 (2001 tax year) is 81.08, a slight reduction from the 2001 levy of 81.74. In 2002 72.13 mills will be collected for the General Fund and 8.95 for the Capital Projects Fund.

The major funds and functional areas of expenditures for 2002 are:

2002 CONSOLIDATED MUNICIPAL BUDGET						
	Personal Services	Operations & Maintenance	Lease Purchase	Capital Service	Debt	Total
General Fund	\$ 5,524,100	\$ 2,596,514	\$ 342,337	\$ 197,250	\$ 0	\$ 8,660,201
Sanitation Services Fund	1,148,960	688,331	186,729	30,200	0	2,054,220
Water & Sewer Fund	1,571,196	2,131,209	110,335	153,464	1,745,878	5,712,082
Capital Projects Fund	0	110,000	348,813	105,000	0	539,813
Stormwater Utility Fund	0	200,000	0	100,000	0	300,000
Sales Tax Fund	0	0	0	1,305,000	0	1,305,000
Street Improvements Fund	0	107,000	0	0	0	107,000
Other Funds	0	61,400	0	0	0	61,400
TOTAL	\$ 8,244,256 43.99%	\$ 5,894,454 31.45%	\$ 964,214 5.15%	\$ 1,890,914 10.09%	\$ 1,745,878 9.32%	\$ 18,739,716 100.00%

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. 

BILL PAYING

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voided check or deposit slip to the Finance Department, 400 East Buena Vista Avenue.

Also beginning in January, City utility bills will be printed on a letter sized statement and distributed in an envelope. The statement will include a detailed summary of the previous month's services and charges and a return envelope for ease of payment. Because the statements will be mailed in an envelope, the City will be able to enclose recreation program schedules, public notices and other timely information. By combining mailings the City will be able to provide regular dissemination of information to citizens and save on postage expenses.

For more information about the new billing statements, online payments or automatic payments, please call the Finance Department at 441-4212. 

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND ZONING REGULATIONS

To be Revised

Earlier this year City Council authorized a major review and update of both the North Augusta Comprehensive Land Use and Development Plan and the Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance (ZDSO). The purposes of the review and update include complying with the state law, incorporating the results of the 2000 U.S. census and adding several new land development policies the Council has discussed in recent years at its annual spring planning session, North Augusta Forward. The national land use law firm of Freilich, Leitner & Carlisle (FLC) was retained to assist the City with the project. FLC is nationally recognized as a leader in drafting state of the art land use plans and development regulations.

The Comprehensive Land Use and Development Plan establishes the policies by which the City will grow and develop over a ten year period. The ZDSO regulates the use and development of land, buildings and structures within the City to implement the policies in the Plan. The effort to update the City's comprehensive plan, zoning requirements and development regulations will address a variety of land development policies and issues including subdivision design, street construction, allowable signs, required landscaping, tree preservation, parking requirements, traffic control, neighborhood protection, administrative procedures and others.

Participatory Planning Preferred

Members of both the City Council and the Planning Commission insist that the revisions to the Comprehensive Land Use and Development Plan and the ZDSO reflect the needs and desires of the community – residents, property owners and businesses. Accordingly, the most important part of the review and update process will be public participation. The public involvement process will include a series of private focus group sessions and public meetings to collect input and responses to suggested modifications before any changes are drafted.


Mark White, an FLC Partner, initiated the first public participation phase, the focus group interviews, in October. He met with members of the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, City Council and Chamber of Commerce. Additional

Zoning and Land Use Law

In 1994 the South Carolina General Assembly passed a law that redefined how cities and counties utilize regulatory tools that control land use and land development. Those tools have historically included a zoning ordinance, zoning map, subdivision standards, and land development regulations. Under the new law the adoption of a comprehensive plan is a necessary first step. The law prescribes what information must be included in the plan and specifies that the regulatory tools must serve to implement policies defined in the plan. Only after the Planning Commission and City Council approve the plan can the zoning ordinance, map, and related land development regulations be adopted and enforced. State law also requires that local government comprehensive plans be reviewed every five years and updated every ten years. The North Augusta Comprehensive Land Use and Development Plan was adopted in 1995. It was reviewed and expanded in 1999. The North Augusta Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance (ZDSO) was adopted in 1996.

meetings were held with realtors, developers, consulting engineers, building contractors, sign makers, landscape contractors, historical society members and representatives of several neighborhoods.

The second phase, to be initiated after the first of the year, will include a series of presentations on proposed policy modifications and changes to regulations. Meetings will deal with a variety of issues and different stakeholders will be specifically invited to each meeting. For example, developers and consulting engineers will be invited to the meeting on subdivision regulations, sign makers and small business people will be invited to the meeting on sign regulations, landscape contractors will be invited to the session on landscape standards and maintenance. All meetings will be publicized and open to the public. Many meetings will be held in conjunction with regular Planning Commission meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Municipal Building.

The third phase will be comprised of one or more public hearings convened by the Planning Commission. The final phase will be formal adoption by the City Council and is scheduled for the last quarter of 2002. 

EMPLOYEE *Recognized*



Deloris Bodie, Secretary for the Department of Parks, Recreation, & Leisure Services, was recognized by the City's Employee Recognition Committee as the Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2001.

Deloris works in the Administration office of the Riverview Park Activities Center and has been employed by the City of North Augusta since February 22, 1995. Deloris stays busy scheduling concession workers for all events, fielding numerous phone calls, taking reservations for picnic shelter rentals and handling many of the day-to-day tasks of the department. Deloris also serves as event coordinator for the Labor Day Rest Fest and the Jack-O-Lantern Jubilee and serves on the Employee Recognition Committee.

Deloris performs her job to the fullest and then goes the extra mile to plan great events that are enjoyed by all who attend. Her co-workers appreciate her frequent baked treats and everyone

who knows her enjoys her pleasant personality and ready smile. In recognition, Deloris received a plaque and gift certificates to SMS Sportsworld and BC Davenport's.

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 employees and citizens and selects an outstanding employee each quarter.

For more information or to nominate an employee, please call 441-4301.



2002 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 August 1*)
- Youth Soccer - Ages 4-13 (*Birthday cut-off March 1*)

March 1-18

- Spring Adult Softball

March 23

- Dixie Youth Baseball Opening Day Ceremonies
- Girls Softball Opening Day Ceremonies

April 1-15

- 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 4-13 (*Birthday cut-off September 1*)

October 21-November 11

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

Registration Fees	Basketball, Soccer, & Football	Baseball & Softball	Cheerleading
City Resident, Activities Center Member	\$35	\$40	\$50
City Resident, Non-Member	\$40	\$45	\$55
Nonresident, Activities Center Member	\$55	\$60	\$70
Nonresident, Non-Member	\$60	\$65	\$75
Out of State	\$110	\$110	\$110

For your convenience, registration forms can be downloaded from the City's website at www.northaugusta.net. Registrations will be accepted at the Riverview Park Activities Center Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm., Saturdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, and Sundays from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm 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.

JUBILANT JUBILEE



A record crowd enjoyed October's Jack-O-Lantern Jubilee this year. The event included a Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the recently completed Streetscape Project and a costume contest. Winners of the contest were Larkyn Rogers as a pile of leaves, Connor Usry as Uncle Sam, Alexandra Jane Smith as a bowl of spaghetti with meatballs and Lacy Brantley as a clothesbasket.

CITY IMPLEMENTS LANDSCAPED MEDIAN PROGRAM

The City of North Augusta recently initiated a Landscaped Median Program. Businesses, organizations and individuals may sponsor the landscaped beautification of a roadway median. Annual sponsorship contributions help to defray the cost of plants and materials installed and maintained in the median planting beds each year by City crews. Sponsors are recognized on a sign placed in the median. Sponsorship fees vary depending on the size and location of the median planting bed.

If you are interested in helping us keep our community beautiful by sponsoring a median planting bed, please contact Mark S. Tate, P.E., Director of Public Utilities, 441-4240, mtate@mail.n-augusta.sc.us.



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:

Christmas Holidays	Monday's collection will be picked up on Wednesday. Tuesday's collection will be picked up on Thursday. Wednesday & Thursday's collection will be picked up on Friday.
Monday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)	
Tuesday, December 25 (Christmas Day)	
New Year's Holiday	Monday, December 31 – No change in collection. Tuesday's collection will be picked up on Wednesday. Wednesday's collection will be picked up on Thursday. Thursday's collection will be picked up on Friday.
Tuesday, January 1 (New Year's Day)	
Martin Luther King Holiday	Monday, January 14 - No change in collection. Tuesday's collection will be picked up on Wednesday. Wednesday's collection will be picked up on Thursday. Thursday's collection will be picked up on Friday.
Tuesday, January 15	

The Holiday Sanitation Schedule is also available online at www.northaugusta.net or by calling 441-4239.

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.



Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

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

www.northaugusta.net

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

POLICE & FIRE EMERGENCY	911
PUBLIC SAFETY	
Non Emergency	279-2121
Administration	441-4251
Records/Court Services	441-4271
Investigations	441-4274
Codes Enforcement	441-4258
PARKS, RECREATION & LEISURE SERVICES	
Riverview Park Activities Center	441-4300
Activities Coordinator	441-4311
Community Center	441-4290
GENERAL SERVICES & FINANCE	
Taxes	441-4215
Utility - New Service/Disconnects	441-4219
Utility Billing Services	441-4212
Business Licenses (Non-Contractor)	441-4214
Human Resources	441-4205
ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS	
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
PUBLIC UTILITIES	
After-Hours Emergencies	279-2121
Utility - New Service/Disconnects	441-4219
Utility Billing	441-4212
Water and Sewer Repairs	441-4240
ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	
Economic Development	441-4221
Planning	441-4221
Zoning	441-4221
ADMINISTRATION	
Mayor	441-4202
City Administrator	441-4202
OTHER FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS	
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

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