

CITY COUNCIL

- Lark Jones, Mayor
- Jimmy Adams
- Carolyn Baggott
- Pat Carpenter
- Phil Mottel
- Ken McDowell
- Arthur Shealy

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

PALMETTO PARKWAY *Passes*



Last month the South Carolina General Assembly passed a local bill that officially changes the name of I-520 on the South Carolina side of the Savannah River, shown here under construction, from Bobby Jones Expressway to Palmetto Parkway.

After the South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank approved funding for I-520 in December 2001, local elected officials in North Augusta and Aiken County discussed the possibility of changing the name to better reflect the State of South Carolina. Last December the North Augusta City Council and the Aiken County Council adopted resolutions requesting the Aiken County Legislative Delegation to sponsor legislation to change the name. With support from the entire Aiken County Delegation a bill was introduced in the House of Representatives. It passed on February 12. The bill was confirmed by the Senate on February 19.

The City of North Augusta extends special thanks to Representative Don Smith, Representative Roland Smith, Senator Tommy Moore and Senator Greg Ryberg for their support. After the Governor signs the bill the Transportation Commission will be requested to formally recognize the new name. When the newest section of I-520 opens in 2004 it will be called the Palmetto Parkway. 

ROAD Resurfacing

Approximately 8.25 miles of roads in North Augusta will be resurfaced in 2003. About 5.5 miles of these are owned by the State. The remaining 2.75 miles of roads to be resurfaced are owned and maintained by the City of North Augusta. About 80% of the roads in North Augusta are owned by the State. Maintenance of City roads is performed solely by the City. Both the City and the State perform maintenance of State roads.

The resurfacing of State and City roads is funded in several ways. Each year, North Augusta is allocated a percentage of "C"-Funds, appropriations from the State gasoline tax. These funds are used exclusively for the resurfacing of State roads and the SCDOT is responsible for contracting this work.

In addition, the City's annual budget usually includes an appropriation for resurfacing City roads. This work is usually performed under a separate contract from State roads.

The Aiken County Capital Projects Sales Tax, which went into effect May 1, 2001, also included an appropriation for street resurfacing. This funding will be used for both City and State roads.

State roads scheduled for resurfacing in 2003 are:

ROAD NAME	FROM	TO
Arch Drive	Bunting Drive	Bunting Drive
Bobolink Road	Bunting Drive	Tanager Drive
Edgewood Avenue	Jackson Avenue	Pine Grove Avenue
Georgetown Drive	Buena Vista Avenue	End
Gordon Street	Bunting Drive	End
Grant Avenue	Columbus Avenue	Crystal Lake
Lake Avenue	Fairfield Avenue	Highview Avenue
Lake Avenue	Buena Vista Avenue	Clifton Avenue
Linnett Loop	Bunting Drive	Bunting Drive
Oriole Avenue	Robin Road	Robin Road
Park Avenue	Jackson Avenue	Pine Grove Avenue
Robin Road	Bunting Drive	End
Siskin Circle	Bunting Drive	Siskin Circle
Towhee Avenue	Wren Road	Bunting Drive
W. Woodlawn Avenue	Crestview Drive	Amhurst Drive
Lockwood Drive	Medie Avenue	Arrowwood Drive
Arrowwood Drive	Indian Mound Drive	End

The SCDOT will contract for the resurfacing of State roads this spring with an anticipated completion date of October 31st.

City roads scheduled for resurfacing in 2003 are:


ROAD NAME	FROM	TO
Brookview Court	River Bluff Road	End
Creekview Court	River Bluff Road	End
Jackson Avenue	Riverview Drive	Indian Mound Drive
Post Oak Lane	River Bluff Road	End
Post Oak Lane	End	End
Rapids Court	River Bluff Road	End
River Bluff Road	Martintown Road	End
River Bluff Road	River Bluff Road	Rapids Court
River Bluff Road	Rapids Court	End
Shadowmoor Court	River Bluff Road	End
Wateroak Court	River Bluff Road	End

City road resurfacing will start in early April and should be completed by the end of May. 

NORTH AUGUSTA Developments

Construction is almost complete at North Augusta's newest shopping center, The Shoppes at North Augusta on Knox Avenue. In addition to a Wal-Mart Supercenter, the Shoppes will include a Cato clothing store, The Shoe Department, Cost Cutters Family Hair Care and New China Buffet. Radio Shack and Household Rentals & Sales will also relocate to the Shoppes. The project includes six out parcels. Work has started on two. Chick-Fil-A and Murphy Oil USA will open later this year.

Knox Avenue will also be home to several other new commercial developments. Zaxby's will open a new facility near Second Providence Baptist Church. Knox Plaza, on the corner of Marion and Knox will be home to the Party 'N' Dollar and four other retail stores. CVS pharmacy will consolidate to a new building on the corner of Knox and Chalet North Drive.

New developments are happening in other areas of the City also. A building on the corner of Martintown Road and Bunting Drive will become the new dental offices of Owings-Sam and SRP Federal Credit Union will begin construction soon on a state-of-the-art drive-thru facility on the old McDonald's property on East Martintown Road. 

GEORGIA AVENUE FACADE Grant Program

The North Augusta City Council recently approved a financial incentive program to encourage reinvestment in commercial properties on Georgia Avenue. The program, intended to complement the recently completed streetscape, is based largely on recommendations made by the Downtown Reinvestment Task Force. The Task Force, a group of downtown property owners, business owners, chamber of commerce leaders and local bank representatives, advised the City during the period the streetscape was under construction.


The program consists of partial reimbursements for pre-approved facade improvements. Reimbursements can be for half the cost of construction up to \$10,000 for renovations to the exterior of buildings that front on Georgia Avenue between Buena Vista and Spring Grove Avenues. Additionally, to encourage quality storefront design, the city will reimburse up to \$1,500 in professional design cost. Funding is limited and projects will be funded on a first come, first served basis.

Complete program guidelines, application forms and copies of the Georgia Avenue Design and Development Standards are available at the Department of Economic and Community Development, 2nd Floor, Municipal Building, 400 East Buena Vista Avenue or online at www.northaugusta.net. 

PARKS & RECREATION

Master Plan

As noted in the December 2002 issue of North Augusta Forward, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services is working with the planning and engineering firm, Woolpert, LLP, to develop a Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the City. To ensure that the Plan reflects the needs and desires of the citizens of North Augusta, a public meeting and several smaller focus groups were held at the Community Center in February.

Public input revealed numerous suggestions for improvements ranging from continued development of the Greenway to the addition of a rock-climbing wall, indoor putt-putt and a municipal golf course. Other suggestions included a wellness center for seniors, an extreme sports facility for skateboarders and a cultural arts center. Woolpert will combine these suggestions with the results of a recent Citywide survey and an evaluation of current programs and facilities and develop a proposal for the Master Plan that will recommend priorities for North Augusta's parks and recreation facilities and programs for the next ten years. A presentation of the Master Plan will be made to City Council and the community in May. 



One of several focus groups meets to develop recommendations for parks and recreation in the City.

PARTNERSHIP


Benefits All

In an effort to meet the critical need for additional practice and playing fields, a long-term, multi-use agreement is being considered between the City of North Augusta and the Aiken County School Board. Under the terms of the agreement, the City will improve and develop property at North Augusta Middle School for recreational use by both groups.

Planned improvements to the existing field include upgraded turf, a new sprinkler system, security lighting and perimeter landscaping. In addition, the City will improve the existing walking track and develop 4 new multi-purpose fields for baseball, softball and soccer.

The fields will be available for use by the Middle School during school hours and for routine practices. They will also be available to the City at other times for scheduled recreation league practices.


The \$50,000 project will be funded by proceeds from the Aiken County One-Cent Capital Projects Sales Tax.

Similar joint-use agreements already exist between the City and Aiken County School Board. Many of the City's recreation leagues regularly use gyms at North Augusta Middle, North Augusta High and Paul Knox Middle Schools. Aiken County School students and teams also use the City's tennis courts, regulation baseball field, softball field and Lions Memorial Field. 

GREENWAY

Maintenance

A portion of the Greenway, between the Georgia Avenue/13th Street tunnel and the pedestrian bridge at Martintown Road, will undergo extensive renovation this spring. The work will include removing roots, sealing cracks and resurfacing the pavement. Portions of the trail will be widened from 10 to 12 feet. Repairs will also include an improved drainage system to alleviate standing water in the Georgia Avenue/13th Street Greenway tunnel.

The work is scheduled to take place through April and May. While every effort will be made to keep as much of the trail open as possible, it will be necessary to close segments of the trail for short periods of time. The project, budgeted at \$187,250, is funded by the Street Improvement Fund. 

GREENWAY

Parking News

Construction is underway on two projects that will provide additional parking for Greenway users.

The first project will provide a minimum of 10 additional parking spaces, a drinking fountain and perimeter landscaping to the Greenway's Pisgah Road parking area. In addition, the City is negotiating with the owner of the adjacent convenience store to permit the construction of another 10 spaces. These spaces would be available to both Greenway users and store customers.

The second project is a new parking lot near the Greenway Bridge and The Rapids subdivision. A former SCE&G substation, this site will provide 14 parking spaces and one handicap space. The lot will be accessible from Martintown Road by a driveway near the Bridge.

The Pisgah Road parking expansion is budgeted at \$15,000. The Martintown Road lot is budgeted at \$40,000. The projects are funded by the City's Capital Projects Fund. They should be completed by the end of April. 

PAY UTILITY AND TAX BILLS ONLINE



You may now view and pay your utility and property tax bills online via the City's website. It's convenient, saves time and money, and is a completely secure way to pay!

Just visit us at www.northaugusta.net, click on the Online Payment icon, and follow the simple instructions. Your online payment will be immediately posted to your account. For more information or assistance with processing your online payment, please call 803-441-4212.

I-520, PALMETTO PARKWAY PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2003
4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

NORTH AUGUSTA COMMUNITY CENTER

The first South Carolina phase of the I-520 Extension, the 2.5 miles from Sand Bar Ferry Road in Augusta to US 1 in North Augusta, is currently under construction and progressing rapidly. Completion of Phase 1 is scheduled for early 2005. The design of Phase 2, from US 1 to I-20, is also underway and proceeding quickly. Alternative alignments have been mapped and potential interchanges have been identified.

To explain the possible alignments for Phase 2 to interested citizens and property owners, the South Carolina Department of Transportation will hold a public information meeting from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 1, 2003, at the North Augusta Community Center, 495 Brookside Drive. Everyone with an interest is invited to drop in any time between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.



NORTH AUGUSTA
Recycles

POLICE & FIRE EMERGENCY

911

PUBLIC SAFETY

Non Emergency	279-2121
Administration	441-4251
Records/Court Services	441-4271
Investigations	441-4274

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 & SANITATION SERVICES

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

PUBLIC UTILITIES & PUBLIC WORKS

After-Hours Emergencies	279-2121
Utility - New Service/Disconnects	441-4219
Utility Billing	441-4212
Water and Sewer Repairs	441-4240
Streets & Drains Repairs	441-4240

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development	441-4221
Planning	441-4221
Zoning	441-4221
Codes Enforcement	441-4258

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	278-3621
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



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

www.northaugusta.net

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.