

CITY COUNCIL

- Lark Jones, Mayor
- Jimmy Adams
- Carolyn Baggott
- Pat Carpenter
- Ken McDowell
- Arthur Shealy
- Jason Whinghter

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

- Citizens Surveyed for Comprehensive Plan continued . . . . . 2
- Riverview Park Activities Center Meets Needs . . . . . 2
- 2005 Public Improvements Update . . . . . 3
- Riverfront Greenway Extension . . . . . 3
- City Base Map and Parcel Information on CD . . . . . 4
- North Augusta Classic Golf Tournament . . . . . 4

# North Augusta

# FORWARD

A Publication for the Citizens of North Augusta, South Carolina

## CITIZENS SURVEYED FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Earlier this summer the North Augusta Planning Commission undertook a mail survey of a sample of North Augusta residents. The survey was designed to supplement the comprehensive planning citizen participation process initiated in 2001. The survey was sent to current residents of the city to measure attitudes and preferences in several comprehensive plan related areas and to solicit guidance on how to manage growth and development over the next ten years. The survey was not designed to gather information on specific projects or to measure the market demand for types of development.

A random sample of 503 residential properties in the city was created utilizing the city's geographic information system database. 338 surveys were returned resulting in a 67.2% response rate and a sampling error of approximately ±5%. Most of the respondents live in single-family detached homes and have lived in North Augusta for more than ten years.

When asked about the current character of the community the results were generally positive. A significant number, approximately 90%, believe that North Augusta is a vibrant growing community, offers a very good quality of life, and is a friendly, neighborly place to live. A large group, 64.0%, believe that North Augusta is primarily a bedroom community. The city tag line, South Carolina's Riverfront, is a good description of the community to 79.9% of the respondents.

Several questions asked about the effect that new growth has had on the city. 86.1% of the respondents said that the city had improved or improved a lot over the last ten years. 82.8% said that continuing the development of the Greenway system is important to them. A similar percentage, 83.3%, said that efforts to attract new businesses are important.


Respondents were asked to rate the types of businesses that were needed in the community. Not surprisingly, 65.3% indicated that a movie theater was needed or greatly needed and 78.8% identified sit down restaurants as being needed. Only 18.4% supported additional fast food restaurants. Survey recipients were also asked about the need for additional cultural activities. Responses indicated the greatest needs for concerts, arts and crafts fairs, street festivals and plays.

The citizens surveyed were asked to agree or disagree with ways that the city could manage its future growth. Growth management tools ranging from stricter sign regulations and landscaping requirements to tree preservation and the construction of pedestrian connections in new subdivisions were listed. The growth management tool that most respondents agreed with, 91.3%, was the requirement for street trees, sidewalks and streetlights in all new developments. Additional tools that received fairly strong agreement were tree preservation, more landscaping and the construction of neighborhood parks in new developments.

*continued on page 2*

## CITIZENS SURVEYED FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN continued

When asked whether no development controls should be applied so that property owners could do what they want, only 14.3% of the survey respondents agreed. 71.9% indicated that it was important for the city to continue to grow through annexation so that growth and development in areas around the city could be managed in the same manner that city growth has been managed. When asked about design standards for development projects, a significant majority, 80% to 90%, agreed that design regulations should be applied in the downtown area, to the Georgia, Carolina and West Avenue corridors, to new commercial developments, to existing commercial corridors and to new residential developments.

The results of the citizen survey have been incorporated into the goals and policies proposed in the 2005 Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission approved the plan last month and it is currently under consideration by the City Council. The entire survey, survey results and evaluation can be viewed on the City of North Augusta website at [www.northaugusta.net](http://www.northaugusta.net). 

### 2005 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN APPROVED

On August 4, after more than two years of work, the North Augusta Planning Commission unanimously adopted the 2005 Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan, required by state law, identifies current trends, problems and opportunities associated with the growth of the community. It also describes goals and policies for the continued growth of the city through the year 2015. The City Council is scheduled to take action on the plan after a public hearing scheduled for September 19, 2005. The Planning Commission approved plan can be reviewed on the City of North Augusta website at [www.northaugusta.net](http://www.northaugusta.net).

## RIVERVIEW PARK ACTIVITIES CENTER MEETS LOCAL, STATE & NATIONAL NEEDS

For the past ten years, North Augusta's Riverview Park Activities Center has hosted the Nike Peach Jam Basketball Tournament. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) sanctioned tournament is an invitation-only event that offers the nation's top 24 boys high school basketball travel teams the opportunity to showcase their talents before the country's top college coaches.

The tournament's success is due in part to the design of the Activities Center. While most tournaments are played in multiple locations, the Activities Center, with four basketball courts in one facility, offers a unique recreational venue. The design allows four games to be played consecutively and lets players, spectators, media representatives and scouting coaches gather in one location instead of traveling from gym to gym as is the norm with similar tournaments.


Due to the unique facility and the success of the Peach Jam, this year North Augusta hosted the first annual Nike Nationals, another invitation-only NCAA sanctioned tournament. While the Peach Jam is a boys tournament, the Nike Nationals is a talent showcase for the top 24 girls high school basketball travel teams.

Both the Peach Jam and Nationals were well attended and enjoyed by travel teams and college coaches from across the country and Nike officials are eager to bring both events back next summer.



*The nation's top basketball players aim to impress at this summer's Nike Peach Jam and Nike National's.*

Although the Activities Center garners much attention for its tournaments on the national level, the center's courts are also used for a number of local, state and regional tournaments. In 2005 the Activities Center hosted the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) National Boys Basketball Super Regional Championship, the South Carolina Youth Basketball Association of America (YBOA) Boys State Qualifier, the South Carolina YBOA Girls State Qualifier, the North Augusta AAU Boys Basketball Super Regional Championship and the Garden City Girls AAU Roundball Classic.

Locally, over 750 area youth participated in the North Augusta Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services recreation league basketball program in 2004. Registration for the 2005 basketball season is October 25 through November 7. Registration forms are available online at [www.northaugusta.net](http://www.northaugusta.net) or at the Activities Center, 100 Riverview Park Drive. For more information, call 803-441-4311. 

# RIVERFRONT GREENWAY EXTENSION

The 1.5 mile extension of the North Augusta Greenway Trail along the Savannah River is now open to Greenway users. The new extension forks off of the Greenway east of Hammond's Ferry Road. It follows Crystal Creek down to the riverfront, follows the river for almost a mile, and connects to the existing sidewalk at the Riverside Boulevard roundabout. Landscaping along the trail is not yet complete. Greenway users are asked to remain on the trail and be cautious of construction activity in the area.

Parking for the new Greenway extension is available at the Riverview Park Activities Center and at the Riverside Boulevard parking lot near the Georgia Avenue tunnel. Greenway users should not park on the roundabout or under the bridge.

Funding for the extension was provided by the Aiken County Capital Projects Sales Tax and grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund through the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, and from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

## GREENWAY SECTION CLOSED

A section of the Greenway, from the Georgia Avenue tunnel to approximately one mile west of the Crystal Lake Drive intersection, is currently closed to allow for the construction of Crystal Lake Drive into the Hammond's Ferry development. A Greenway pedestrian bridge will be installed over the Crystal Lake Drive extension this fall and the Greenway will be reopened to the Georgia Avenue tunnel and Riverside Boulevard. 🇺🇸

## 2005 PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE

### WALNUT LANE GREENWAY EXTENSION



*Kendra Sterling, 2, and Austin Sterling, 4, learn to ride along the Walnut Lane Greenway Extension.*

An extension of the Greenway system on the north side of Walnut Lane was constructed this year. The mile long trail provides pedestrian and bicycle access between the Butler's Mill and Walnut Grove subdivisions. It intersects with the boardwalk connection to Walnut Lane Neighborhood Park that was completed last year. The North Augusta Bicycle and Pedestrian System plan calls for the eventual connection of the Walnut Lane

Greenway extension with the extension from Pisgah to Bergen Roads that will be constructed next year.

### ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Reconstruction work is near completion on approximately one mile of Lake, Woodlawn and Summit Avenues. The \$960,000 Sales Tax funded project included the installation of curb, gutter and storm drains, resurfacing, and sidewalks in some areas.

### SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION

Approximately 3.25 miles of sidewalks were installed this year on Pisgah and Wells Roads, Woodlawn and Fairview Avenues, and

Bunting and Brookside Drives. The new sidewalks were funded with \$753,000 in Sales Tax revenues. The new sidewalks are located adjacent to schools, parks and other public facilities to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility.



*Construction on Brookside Drive nears completion.*

### HAMMOND'S FERRY SOCCER COMPLEX


Construction of the Hammond's Ferry Soccer Complex has begun. The complex is located across Hammond's Ferry Road from the water treatment plant and existing soccer field number 5. When complete, the new complex will include one regulation size and two junior soccer fields, a covered picnic pavilion, restrooms and parking. The Soccer Complex project includes improvements to Hammond's Ferry Road scheduled to begin this fall. The road will be widened to include a center turning lane, medians, curb and gutter, and sidewalks. Streetlights and landscaping will also be added. One lane of traffic will remain open at all times during construction. The \$1.5 million expansion of city recreational facilities is funded by a combination of Sales Tax receipts and a grant from the National Parks Service Land and Water Conservation fund through the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. 🇺🇸

# CITY BASE MAP AND PARCEL INFORMATION ON CD

The City of North Augusta Department of Economic and Community Development recently developed a CD database containing map and parcel information for properties in North Augusta. In addition to the map, the CD includes street names, tax parcel numbers, street addresses, property owner names and mailing addresses, parcel sizes, zoning districts and other information.

The CD includes special software required to view the data and may be installed on more than one computer. It is available for \$50 and may be purchased on the second floor of the municipal building, 400 East Buena Vista Avenue.

The information on the CD is current with the city's data as of the date of production. However, because the property and parcel information the city receives from the county is frequently several months old and because the data is subject to change on a regular basis, the CD has a built in "time out" feature which automatically disables the map and data after a specified expiration date printed on the disk. After that date, generally one year after production, neither the map nor data will be viewable.

For more information, please call 803-441-4222. 

## NORTH AUGUSTA CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT



Approximately 130 golfers will gather at The River Golf Club on October 11 for the third annual North Augusta Classic Golf Tournament. The tournament is a joint venture of the North Augusta Chamber of Commerce, North Augusta 2000 and the City of

North Augusta with assistance from TTX Hamburg Division and The River Golf Club. Other sponsors include Hammond's Ferry, University Health Care System, Bridgestone Firestone, The Augusta Chronicle, BellSouth FastAccess Internet Service and BNFL.

Tournament proceeds from 2003 and 2004 netted a combined \$44,000. Previous beneficiaries include the Greenway Trust Endowment for perpetual care of the Greenway System, the American Legion Post #71 Building Fund, the North Augusta Police Athletic League (PAL) Boxing Club Building Fund, the North Augusta Yellow Jacket Club Golf Team, and the North Augusta 2000 Town Center Project to help fund property acquisition.

Proceeds from this year's tournament will benefit the American Legion Post #71 Building Fund, the Heritage Council of North Augusta's James U. Jackson Statue Fund, the North Augusta High School Golf Team and the North Augusta 2000 Town Center Project.

For more information, call North Augusta 2000 at 803-510-0011. 

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
<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
Stormwater Management	441-4295
<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
Streets and Drains Repairs	441-4240
<b>ECONOMIC &amp; COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Economic Development	441-4221
Planning	441-4221
Zoning	441-4221
Code Compliance	441-4258
<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	278-3621
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](http://www.northaugusta.net)

North Augusta Forward is mailed quarterly to every city water customer. If you 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.