



North Augusta FORWARD

A Publication for the Citizens of North Augusta, South Carolina

June 2006

Volume XIII, Number 2

CITY COUNCIL

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



CONTENTS

All-America Application	2
All-America Delegates	2
North Augusta Clean & Green	2, 3
Riverfront Road Extensions	3
New Traffic Signals	3
Powerline Construction Affects Greenway	3
North Augusta's Centennial Update	4

North Augusta Named 2006

— ALL-AMERICA CITY FINALIST —

On April 13, 2006, the National Civic League announced North Augusta a finalist for the 2006 All-America City Award. North Augusta was one of 34 finalist communities selected from across the country for this prestigious designation.

Founded in 1949 by the National Civic League, the All-America City program recognizes communities of all sizes, including neighborhoods, towns, cities, counties and regions where community members, government, businesses and nonprofit organizations work together to identify and solve community-wide challenges and achieve uncommon results.

All-America City Award applicants are initially judged on an application which includes a complete community profile and information about three community improvement projects. The projects must demonstrate cooperation, collaboration, creativity and results in solving essential community challenges.

North Augusta's application was submitted by North Augusta 2000, a non-profit organization established in 1999 by a group of civic-minded citizens working to improve the community. North Augusta 2000 includes volunteers from the city, schools, chamber of commerce, businesses, churches, civic clubs and other clubs and organizations. It focuses on four primary initiatives: Economic Development, Education, Quality of Life and Parks and Recreation.

Earlier this month, representatives from the All-America City finalist communities presented their applications and answered questions before a jury of civic experts at the All-America City Award finals in Anaheim, California. North Augusta's finalist delegation was comprised primarily of individuals directly involved in developing and implementing the program initiatives presented in the application.

After the presentations, 10 communities were selected to receive the 2006 All-America City designation. They are: Richland County, South Carolina; Lincoln, California; Longmont, Colorado; Sarasota County, Florida; Marietta, Georgia; Kansas City, Missouri; Columbus, Ohio; Maumee, Ohio; DeSoto, Texas; and Pharr, Texas.

According to former mayor and North Augusta 2000

Chairman Tom Greene, "To be named an All-America City finalist is a proud accomplishment for North Augusta, particularly during our centennial celebration this year. Our community has strived to make North Augusta the best place to live in South Carolina. This is an accomplishment that will serve to energize our citizens in our continued efforts for an even better North Augusta during the next 100 years." North Augusta 2000 will consider submitting another application next year or the year after.

More information about the National Civic League and the All-America City Awards can be found by calling 303-571-4343 or visiting the NCL website at www.ncl.org.

North Augusta

2*0*0*6[®]

All-America City Finalist

NORTH AUGUSTA 2006 ALL-AMERICA CITY FINALS DELEGATION

Phyllis Britt
Editor, *The Star*

Dr. Angela Burkhalter
Principal, North Augusta Elementary School

April Cox
Student, South Carolina State University

Kathy Gilliland
Executive Director, North Augusta 2000

Skip Grkovic
Director of Economic & Community
Development, City of North Augusta

Victoria Hann
President, North Augusta Chamber of
Commerce

Charles Martin
City Administrator, City of North Augusta

Chuck Smith
Aiken County Councilman

Kathie Stallworth
Retired Teacher

Scott Vasquez
VP, Commercial Lending, Regions Bank

Briton Williams
Investment Representative, Edward Jones

Mim Woodring
Former Owner/Editor, *The Star*

North Augusta's - ALL-AMERICA APPLICATION -



PHOTO: The Star

The North Augusta All-America City delegation in Anaheim for the finals.

The three community improvement projects featured in North Augusta's All-America City application represented several of the initiatives implemented by North Augusta 2000. The first project, the North Augusta 2000 Land Bank, was initiated to acquire critical properties to establish the town center, ensure connectivity and public access between the downtown and the new riverfront developments, extend the Greenway trail system, serve as wetlands mitigation areas, and provide open space for desirable redevelopment projects.

Maintaining and enhancing North Augusta's quality of life was the objective of the second set of initiatives presented in the application. Cultural arts and recreational opportunities along with program initiatives such as Character First and Cultural Diversity demonstrate that North Augusta's quality of life is a vital community asset.

The final project highlighted the importance of education for area children. The North Augusta 2000 Reading Readiness program, which has distributed over 20,000 books to area 2-5 year olds over the past three years, and Real Life 101, an accredited high school course teaching practical life skills to seniors, both demonstrate a strong commitment to the success of future generations.

More information about North Augusta 2000 initiatives can be found at www.northaugusta2000.org or by calling 803-510-0011.

NORTH AUGUSTA CLEAN & GREEN



This year, many projects and events have occurred to enhance, maintain, preserve and further beautify North Augusta for residents and visitors.

Landscaping

In January, a beautification project was completed along the Jefferson Davis Highway (US 1/78) at the Palmetto Parkway (I-520) interchange. City Public Utilities and Property Maintenance crews landscaped the area with 95 Sabal Palms, 95 Crape Myrtles and over 1,000 shrubs and perennials. The \$150,000 project was funded

through the city's capital projects fund. Additional landscaping along US 1 between the Palmetto Parkway and Martintown Road (US 25/SC 230) is slated to begin this month.

Litter Control and Prevention

In March, 30 volunteers, participated in the North Augusta *Clean & Green* Community Clean-Up. Together, this group picked up 5,840 pounds of litter from city roadways in a four-hour time period. The event was planned as part of an overall program to reduce litter and increase awareness of this unsightly problem. The program is funded in part by a 2006 Community Pride Grant from PalmettoPride, the state's anti-litter organization.

Another part of the *Clean & Green* program consists of a Litter Reduction Crew recently formed within the city's Property Maintenance division. The crew, consisting of a supervisor and inmates from the South Carolina Detention Center, work several days each week to control litter and maintain sidewalks along the city's busiest roadways.

Additional *Clean & Green* program activities are being planned. Interested groups and individuals should contact 803-441-4224 for more information.

Environmental Education

Kids Earth Day in April was a great hands-on opportunity to learn about the environment. Plants, animals, water, air quality

Riverfront Access PROCEEDS



Improved public access to North Augusta's riverfront is a few steps closer to reality.

The first roadway project, the extension of Crystal Lake Drive, is essentially complete. A new Greenway pedestrian bridge crosses the Crystal Lake extension which currently serves as the vehicular access road into Hammond's Ferry. The North Augusta Riverfront Company, the developers of Hammond's Ferry, provided the funding for the Crystal Lake Drive extension and the Greenway pedestrian bridge.

Pedestrian access to the riverfront is also in place with the addition of the riverfront Greenway extension, a 1.5-mile loop that starts near the Crystal Lake Drive extension and then travels

along the riverfront and ends at the roundabout at Riverside Boulevard. A new community dock is also in place along this portion of the trail and work is currently underway on a riverfront park near the dock.

Construction will soon begin on two additional roads, the extensions of Georgia and West Avenues, that will further increase access to the riverfront. The Georgia Avenue extension, to be called Central Avenue, will create a triangular parcel of land bounded by Central, Georgia and Bluff Avenues that will become the location of the new municipal complex.

Initial funding for the riverfront road extensions is estimated at almost \$5 million, with federal funding of \$3 million and SCDOT funding of almost \$2 million. Construction is scheduled to commence on the Central Avenue section of the project toward the end of the year.

NEW TRAFFIC SIGNALS ON KNOX AVENUE

The city, in cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Transportation, is currently installing two new traffic signals on the heavily traveled Knox Avenue at the intersections with LeCompte Avenue and Bradleyville Road. SCDOT regulations require that intersections meet certain traffic volumes, turning delays and other considerations before a signal is warranted for installation. Although requested repeatedly by citizens and the city in recent years, the intersections only recently met the signal warrant requirements. SCDOT is funding the signals and their installation. The city is covering the cost to upgrade the poles and mastheads to match the other new traffic signals on Knox Avenue.

POWER LINE CONSTRUCTION AFFECTS PORTIONS OF GREENWAY TRAIL AND ALTA VISTA AVENUE

A portion of the North Augusta Greenway between Georgia Avenue and Hammond's Ferry Road, and a section of Alta Vista Avenue between Bluff and Pershing Avenues have been closed intermittently since April to accommodate the construction of a new SCE&G power line. The power line is being relocated from the riverfront to minimize conflicts with the development of Hammond's Ferry.

Right of way clearing was completed last month. Installation of the new poles and electric lines is now underway. During the periods when construction will conflict with traffic on the Greenway or Alta Vista Avenue, they will be temporarily closed. On days that Alta Vista Avenue is closed, it will reopen at 5:00 p.m. Both the Greenway and Alta Vista Avenue will be open on weekends. The project should be completed in July.

GREEN

and energy were just a few of the issues showcased to help teach area children and adults about the importance of the environment and ways they can help preserve it for future generations. Representatives from the city's Stormwater Management and Recycling departments, along with 30 other agencies and organizations, helped make this fifth annual event another big success.

Stormwater Management

The Stormwater Management department held its annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection event in May, collecting potential pollutants such as paint, motor oil, pesticides and other chemical solutions from North Augusta residents. The event is held annually to ensure the proper disposal of these items. For more information about upcoming Stormwater Management programs and events, please call 803-441-4246.



City employee Michael Burr and daughter Shelby, 5, volunteer for the Community Clean-Up event.

CELEBRATING 100



North Augusta Elementary School students release balloons as part of the April 11 ceremony to unveil a new South Carolina historic marker in John C. Calhoun Park.

North Augusta's centennial has truly been a celebration with a variety of events held to commemorate this historic occasion. All of the events were well organized and successful thanks to the efforts of the Centennial Celebration Committee and the numerous groups and individuals who so graciously assisted them. Please visit the centennial website at www.northaugusta100.com for a complete list of committee members, volunteers, participants and supporters as well as additional photos and highlights from the events. The site will also feature events planned for the fall and winter months.



PHOTO: Mike Adams

Students from all Aiken County Area II schools participated in "Signs of the Times," a musical review at Victory Baptist Church on April 11.



PHOTO: Mike Adams

The Shade Tree "A"s weathered the storm with hundreds of dedicated onlookers for the centennial parade on April 22.



PHOTO: Mike Adams

North Augusta's centennial was celebrated with a huge street party after the parade.

Centennial Souvenirs

Centennial Souvenirs are still available! These items make great gifts and keepsakes and may be purchased at the North Augusta Chamber of Commerce and the Riverview Park Activities Center. Don't wait! Many items are limited editions and won't be available much longer!

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

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 & 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
Stormwater Management	441-4295
PUBLIC UTILITIES	
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
ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	
Economic Development	441-4221
Planning	441-4221
Zoning	441-4221
Code Compliance	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 COUNCIL MEETINGS are held every first and third Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of the municipal building. Citizens are encouraged to attend these meetings.

North Augusta
South Carolina's Riverfront

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 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.