



North Augusta
 South Carolina's
 Riverfront

North Augusta FORWARD

A Publication for the Citizens of North Augusta, South Carolina
 June 2007 Volume XIV, Number 2

CITY COUNCIL

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Center Street and Municipal Center COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION

After years of planning, two significant downtown projects have commenced construction. Center Street, the planned extension of Georgia Avenue that will connect the downtown area with the riverfront, was officially started on May 29. A project of the South Carolina Department of Transportation, Center Street will extend from the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Bluff Avenue through the Hammond's Ferry development to Railroad Avenue, and ultimately to the Savannah River. Center Street will cross over the Greenway Trail and the Greenway will pass through a tunnel below the new road. Direct access from the Greenway onto Center Street will be provided.



An official groundbreaking for the new municipal center was held Monday, June 18. Taking part were Mayor Lark Jones, members of City Council, Department Directors and representatives from The Boudreaux Group, architects, and M.B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc.

Bluff Avenue will be closed to through traffic between West Avenue and Georgia Avenue for most of the period of construction. Center Street construction is scheduled to be completed in June 2008.

Center Street and Bluff Avenue will provide the primary access to the new municipal center and other buildings to be constructed in the town center area. Construction on the city's new 60,000 square foot municipal center will begin in June. Because of the proximity of the two projects, the initial phases of construction on both projects will be closely coordinated. The municipal center is scheduled to be completed in late 2008.

Greenway Trail Section Closing

As a result of the Center Street construction, a section of the North Augusta Greenway, from the Greenway tunnel at Riverside Boulevard (Georgia Avenue/13th Street Bridge) to the new Greenway access near the intersection of West Terrace and Alta Vista Avenue, has been closed and will remain closed through May of 2008. If construction is completed earlier than anticipated the Greenway may be reopened earlier.

The city apologizes for the inconvenience and thanks you for your patience and cooperation during this construction period. Questions regarding the Greenway closing should be addressed to Bob Brooks, Director of Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services, at 803-441-4300.

North Augusta

KEEPING IT CLEAN & GREEN

North Augusta recently teamed with Aiken County and PalmettoPride, the state's anti-litter organization, for Litter Awareness Week. In addition to cleaning up unsightly litter, the purpose of the weeklong event, held April 14 through 21, was to educate people on the effects of litter on our environment and in our communities. Activities during the week included numerous litter collections, public service announcements and educational opportunities for children and adults.

North Augusta's sixth annual Kids Earth Day event offered a unique opportunity to educate area youth and adults on the effects of litter and pollution and other important environmental issues. Dozens of area agencies and organizations participated and provided numerous fun and educational hands-on activities and demonstrations to thousands of event goers.

For the event, the city's stormwater management department brought out its stormwater model which demonstrates how rainwater travels, collecting fertilizers, dirt and other debris as it travels through the storm drains and eventually into streams, ponds and other bodies of water. The city's recycling department brought a large bale of crushed aluminum cans and challenged kids to guess the weight for a chance to win a bike.

Information about North Augusta's Blue Bag Recycling Program was also available as well as a display of items that can, and should, be recycled.



The collected litter was displayed next to the stage where Kids Earth Day guests were treated to two exceptional performances of the *Litter Trashes Everyone* puppet show. The show, sponsored by PalmettoPride and performed by the Columbia Marionette Theatre, uses humor and music to relay the message that everyone can do their part to help prevent and control litter.

Litter can affect the visible beauty of our community and highways. Some of the negative effects of litter are:

- Potential new businesses and industries locate elsewhere.
- Tourism decreases.
- Community pride diminishes.
- Litter encourages criminal activity.
- Litter encourages graffiti.

Every resident can help reduce litter:

- When walking, pick up litter and properly dispose of it.
- Use a litter bag in your vehicle.
- Reduce, reuse and recycle.
- Use returnable, reusable or refillable drink containers.
- Put your garbage out for collection as close to pickup time as possible.
- Organize a community cleanup.
- Set a good example. Don't be a litterbug.

Report litterbugs to the Litter Busters hotline, a 24-hour statewide litter reporting program sponsored by PalmettoPride. Simply call 1-877-7LITTER (754-8837) or dial #LB or #52 on your Cingular or Alltel phone toll free and report the location, time and the litterbug's license number.



North Augusta's litter reduction crew, employees in the Property Maintenance Division of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services displayed a large volume of litter collected in a one day period from three North Augusta roads (Highway 1-78 from Revco Road to the Georgia state line, Atomic Road from Martintown Road to the Highway 1-78 Overpass and Highway 25 from Bradleyville Road to Walnut Lane).

STREETSCAPE PHASE 2 UNDERWAY

A segment of phase 2 of the Downtown Area Streetscape program is currently under construction. The work consists of improvements to West Buena Vista Avenue between Georgia Avenue and West Avenue. The contract, awarded to Beam's Construction, includes new sidewalks, curbing, decorative streetlights, mast-arm traffic signals at West Avenue, new pavement, and storm drainage system improvements. One significant change resulting from the new construction will be the addition of on-street angle parking on Buena Vista Avenue adjacent to Jackson Square.

Although the contract requires that one lane of traffic be kept open at all times, motorists are encouraged to avoid this block and to use alternate routes and alleys as much as possible. The project should be substantially complete by the end of July.

Additional portions of the Downtown Area Streetscape program will start this summer as soon as the overhead utility lines on West Avenue have been removed by South Carolina Electric and Gas Company. For more information, call 803-441-4220.

Drinking Water TEST KITS

In recent months, many North Augusta residents have received kits containing a small plastic bottle and a leaflet offering a free drinking water test. The leaflet states that “for the next two weeks we will be conducting relative tests on the water for the residents in this district.” **The City of North Augusta is not conducting or endorsing these tests.**

The city would like to advise residents receiving these kits that:

- The tests are not being conducted by any state or local agency.
- The city regularly tests its drinking water to ensure that it meets all federal and state guidelines. On this basis no additional testing is needed.
- The city never requests its customers to provide water samples for testing.
- The test offered is conducted by a private company that sells water processors and drinking water systems. It is a sales promotion.
- Participation in the test may result in a presentation of products distributed by the company conducting the test.

Consumers should know that it is not possible to carry out any meaningful analysis on such a small sample of water. Several different samples of water totaling more than a liter are required for expert sampling and analysis.

If you do suspect a problem with your drinking water, contact the city's superintendent of Water Production at 803-441-4325 or your local water company. These people are qualified to take and test samples.

No tap water is 100 percent pure, and many people have limited knowledge about safe water. Also, consumers may have little information about the functions and limitations of home water treatment systems. As a consequence, some people buy expensive water treatment equipment they don't need, to cure problems that don't exist.

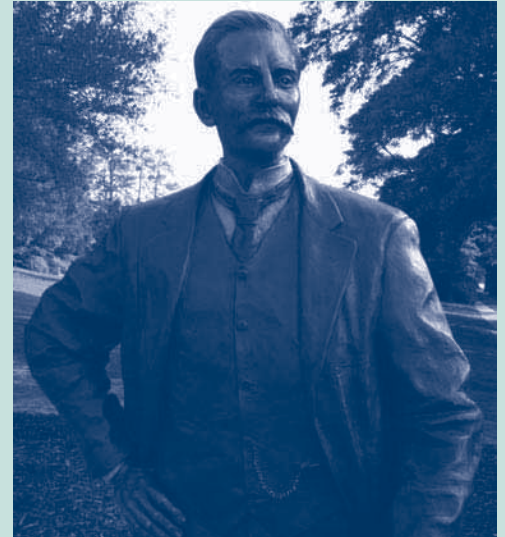
The results of an in-home test will generally show the presence of some minerals in the city's water. All water, except distilled water, contains some minerals. In general, the presence of minerals is not a health threat and many minerals are beneficial.

2006 Drinking Water Quality Report

The Savannah River is the source of North Augusta's drinking water. River water is pumped to the treatment plant where conventional treatment processes are used to produce high quality drinking water. As required by federal and state laws, the City of North Augusta routinely monitors for more than 80 contaminant's. Based on the results of the required tests, **North Augusta's drinking water is safe and meets all federal and state requirements.** The city's 2006 Drinking Water Quality Report, also required by federal law to inform the public about the quality of drinking water, was included in the city's April utility statements. The report is available online at www.northaugusta.net or at the municipal building, 400 East Buena Vista Avenue. For more information, please call the city's superintendent of Water Production at 803-441-4325.

FOUNDER'S STATUE UNVEILED

A life-size bronze statue of North Augusta founder James Urquhart Jackson was recently unveiled in John C. Calhoun Park. A project of the Heritage Council of North Augusta, the statue will eventually be placed in a park dedicated to Jackson and his accomplishments.



The statue is the first of several phases of the Heritage Council's *North Augusta Heritage Tourism Project: Tracing the Footsteps of James U. Jackson*. Future phases of the project will include the development and installation of interpretive signage at designated historic buildings and community historic sites. Many of the buildings and sites are listed on or are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and exist as a direct result of Jackson's achievements.

According to Mayor Lark W. Jones, “The statue is long overdue. Previously, we had no public statues in North Augusta. James U. Jackson is an obvious choice for our first. The likeness is wonderful and the pose shows his visionary character. Thanks to the Heritage Council and the donors who made it happen.”

The Heritage Council of North Augusta is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization whose mission is to preserve, develop and promote the history and heritage of the people of North Augusta. For more information, contact Heritage Council Project Coordinator Jeanne McDaniel at 803-278-2161.

— YELLOW JASMINE FESTIVAL —

The unveiling of the Jackson statue served as the official kickoff of North Augusta's first annual Yellow Jasmine Festival. Festival highlights included an exhibit and sale of entries in the Yellow Jasmine Art Competition, a garden expo with vendors, displays and professional speakers, vendors of fine art and handmade crafts, free children's activities, and an evening street party followed by a beautiful fireworks finale over historic Rosemary and Lookaway Halls.

The Yellow Jasmine Art Competition was judged by Augusta artist David Mascaro. Mr. Mascaro awarded first place to Elizabeth Moretz-Britt (coincidentally, this year's poster artist), second place to Georgene Wright, and third place to Doris Sofge. Honorable mentions were awarded to Jo Ann Taylor and Helen Hutson.



The winner of the Yellow Jasmine Poster Contest was selected by the Yellow Jasmine Festival Committee. Lynda Macaluso's work, shown here, will be the featured art on the poster and other materials for the 2008 Yellow Jasmine Festival.

The Yellow Jasmine Festival was sponsored by the City of North Augusta in partnership with the North Augusta Cultural Arts Council and

the Greater North Augusta Chamber of Commerce. Event sponsors also included Augusta Coca Cola Bottling Company; Beasley Broadcast Group stations 93.9 The Drive; Kicks99 Country and WGAC News-Talk Radio; Busby's Heating & Air and Clear Choice Windows; Comcast; Communigraphics; Miller Printing & Mailing; Phoenix Commercial Printers; SCE&G; and WRDW NewsChannel12.

Additional photos from the event, a list of 2007 festival supporters, and information about next year's event are available online at www.northaugusta.net.

— Planning Commission Approves DEVELOPMENT CODE —

The final draft of the updated Development Code for the City of North Augusta was approved by the North Augusta Planning Commission at its April 19 meeting and has been forwarded to the City Council for approval. The Development Code is a comprehensive update of the city's zoning and development regulations. It will provide the rules and regulations for the use and development of land and buildings including subdivisions and new commercial projects in the city.

The Planning Commission worked for several years on updates to the regulations. The work on the Development Code was done in conjunction with the preparation of the city's 2005 Comprehensive Plan. State law requires that the regulations in the Development Code be consistent with the policies outlined in the Comprehensive Plan.

The City Council began its discussions of the proposed changes to the regulations at the 2007 North Augusta Forward planning retreat on May 10 and 11. The council will meet in a series of workshops during July and August to complete its review and discussion of the document. It is anticipated that the new North Augusta Development Code will be adopted in September.

Copies of the draft Development Code are available for public review at www.northaugusta.net and in the offices of the Department of Economic and Community Development, 2nd Floor, Municipal Building, 400 East Buena Vista Avenue. After final adoption, the Development Code will be available online at www.northaugusta.net or it may be purchased on CD for \$10 or on paper for \$125. For more information, please call 803-441-4221.

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.



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.