



North Augusta
 South Carolina's
 Riverfront

North Augusta FORWARD

A Publication for the Citizens of North Augusta, South Carolina
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CITY COUNCIL

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



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New City Administrator WELCOMED

North Augusta's City Council welcomed its third City Administrator, C. Samuel Bennett II, at his first regular City Council meeting on Monday, March 5. Bennett, whose first day was March 1, replaces long time City Administrator, Charles B. Martin, who retired February 28 after almost 27 years on the job.

According to Mayor Lark Jones, of the four candidates interviewed, "Sam just stood out immediately."

Jones was impressed with Bennett's enthusiasm for North Augusta, relating, "He had investigated North Augusta thoroughly and approved us before we approved him. I told him we had a municipal stadium and he said, 'You mean Lions Field.' He and his family will be a welcome addition to our city."

A South Carolina native who grew up in the Rock Hill and Chester County areas of the state, Mr. Bennett is the former city manager of Clinton, S.C., a position he had held since 2001. Prior to that, he served for six years as the assistant city manager of Goose Creek, S.C. Mr. Bennett has a master's degree in public administration from the University of South Carolina and a bachelor's degree in political science from Winthrop University.

Mr. Bennett is joined in North Augusta by wife Tracey and children, Rossie Kathryn, 9; Rebekah Grace, 7; and Chase (Charles Samuel, III), 5.



Sam Bennett stands in front of the current municipal building. One of his priorities will be construction of the new municipal center.

Municipal Center Update



NORTH AUGUSTA MUNICIPAL CENTER
 SOUTH AUGUSTON, SC ARCHITECTURE DESIGN
 APR 2007
 The Boulevard Group

Final design details, subcontractor negotiations, and construction coordination with the South Carolina Department of Transportation is currently underway on the new municipal center. Grading work on the site will begin this spring.

Buena Vista Avenue DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Construction began in January on the installation of a regional drainage system on East Buena Vista Avenue near the municipal building. The project is one of the largest capital projects in North Augusta to be funded by the Aiken County One-Cent Sales Tax.

The new system is necessary to accommodate the flow of storm water to Buena Vista Avenue from Knox Avenue, East Martintown Road and Atomic Road. The project will also provide better drainage for water originating in natural springs behind Maude Edenfield Park and the Community Center. Storm water currently moves through the watershed on its way to the Savannah River in open ditches and undersized pipes.

Heavy rains with large volumes of storm water runoff have frequently exceeded the current drainage capacity and caused flooding along East Buena Vista Avenue between Metz Drive and the municipal building. The flooding has resulted in significant erosion of the shoulder, under the asphalt roadway and on the adjacent bank.



Construction is underway on the Buena Vista Avenue regional drainage system near the municipal building.

The \$1.8 million project is being funded with \$1.5 million from the Aiken County Capital Projects Sales Tax I fund and \$300,000 from the city's Stormwater Fund. Construction is expected to continue through the end of June with periodic road closures affecting traffic between Georgia Avenue and Atomic Road.

Additional improvements to East Buena Vista Avenue are currently being designed by the South Carolina Department of Transportation. The city drainage improvements will permit SCDOT to widen Buena Vista Avenue from Brookside Drive to East Martintown Road. The SCDOT project, estimated to begin in 2008, will include widening, the addition of turn lanes, and the installation of curb, gutter and sidewalks.

For more information about the drainage improvement project, please call Tom Zeaser, P.E., Director of Engineering, at 803-441-4220. For information about North Augusta's watershed, visit the Stormwater Management pages at www.northaugusta.net or call the Stormwater Management Department at 803-441-4246.

Center Street CONSTRUCTION

The South Carolina Department of Transportation awarded a contract in February for the construction of the new Center Street, the planned extension of Georgia Avenue that will connect the downtown area with the riverfront.

The new street will extend from the intersection of Georgia Avenue at Bluff Avenue almost to the Savannah River through the Hammond's Ferry development and will include a new traffic signal at the intersection of Georgia and Bluff Avenues. Funded with state and federal appropriations, Center Street will provide access to the new municipal center and other buildings to be constructed in the town center area.

The \$5 million construction project will begin this spring and will include streetscape improvements in the 200 block of West Avenue. Substantial completion, essentially the work between Georgia Avenue and the Greenway, is expected in December. Center Street will be under construction at the same time as the new municipal center and grading work associated with both projects will be carefully coordinated.

North Augusta DEVELOPMENT CODE

North Augusta Planning Commissioners and Economic and Community Development staff members have been hard at work preparing a final draft of a new Development Code. Initially researched and drafted by the national land use law firm of White & Smith, LLC, the document is a comprehensive update of the city's 1996 Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance and conforms to the city's updated Comprehensive Plan adopted in December 2005.

The Development Code regulates the use and development of land, buildings and structures within the city in order to implement the policies outlined in the Comprehensive Plan.

The updated Development Code addresses 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.

Some of the objectives of the new code are to reduce the traffic impacts of large developments, protect established neighborhoods, and preserve the character of established residential and commercial corridors on Georgia Avenue, Martintown Road, Carolina Avenue and West Avenue.

The Planning Commission is expected to make a final recommendation to the City Council on the Development Code in March. When adopted by the Council, the Development Code will become part of the official Code of Ordinances of the City of North Augusta.

Copies of the draft Development Code are available for review by the public in the offices of the Department of Economic and Community Development. After final adoption, the Development Code will be available online at www.northaugusta.net, or it may be purchased on CD for \$15 or on paper for \$75 in the Department of Economic and Community Development, 2nd Floor, Municipal Building, 400 East Buena Vista Avenue. For more information, please call 803-441-4221.

Comprehensive Plan Required

South Carolina cities and counties that use land use regulatory tools such as zoning ordinances, zoning maps and development regulations that control land use and development, are required by state law to adopt and adhere to a Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of the plan is to guide the growth of the community over a ten year period. Plans must be reviewed at least every five years and updated every ten years to identify current trends, problems and opportunities and detail specific goals and policies for future growth. The Planning Commission and City Council must ensure that the zoning ordinance, map and related land development regulations are consistent with the goals and policies included in the Comprehensive Plan.

KIDS EARTH DAY 2007

Saturday, April 21
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Lions Memorial Field

Join us Saturday, April 21 for Kids Earth Day 2007 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Lions Memorial Field in North Augusta! Dozens of exhibitors will share information and activities about plants, animals and the environment we all share.



This year, PalmettoPride and the Columbia Marionette Theatre will present two performances of *Litter Trashes Everyone!*, featuring marionettes and hand puppets that convey the message that every citizen has a responsibility to help keep the earth clean and beautiful. Also, don't miss the giant Earth Ball, meet the Savannah River Ecology Lab's Tony Mills and his animal friends, check out a real weather balloon with WAGT TV26 meteorologist Jeff Rucker, experience an earthquake, and much, much more!

Admission is one aluminum can and all activities, plants and fun are free! A complete list of exhibitors is available at www.northaugusta.net. Kids Earth Day 2007 is sponsored by the City of North Augusta, WAGTV26, Energy Solutions, Bridgestone-Firestone, SCE&G, Communigraphics and The Family Center. For more information, please call 803-441-4224 or email amay@northaugusta.net.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 7, 10:00 a.m.
Lions Memorial Field



The Easter Bunny will be the guest of honor Saturday, April 7 at 10:00 a.m. at the annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the North Augusta Optimist Club and the North Augusta Department of Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services.

This year's hunt will be held at Lions Memorial Field and, as always, is free for children 10 and under. For more information about the Easter Egg Hunt, call 803-441-4300.

Yellow Jasmine FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 28 ~ 12:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Downtown North Augusta



Have "A Bloomin' Good Time" at the Yellow Jasmine Festival!

Fine arts, handmade crafts, garden delights and great music are the focus of the Yellow Jasmine Festival, a celebration of spring and South Carolina's state flower. The first annual Yellow Jasmine Festival will take place Saturday, April 28, 2007, from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in downtown North Augusta.

Event highlights include:

- **Art on the Avenue** - Browse and enjoy the work of fine artists and craftsmen from around the corner and throughout the region. View and purchase fine arts, quality handmade crafts and on-site demonstrations.
- Feast your eyes on the entries and see who won Best in Show and the 2008 Poster Contest in the **Yellow Jasmine Art Competition**. Many of these original works by well known artists will be available for purchase.
- **Garden Expo** - Explore entries in the **Themed Garden Competition**, attend lectures by landscaping and gardening professionals, and shop for plants and neat garden tools and accessories.
- **Krafty Kids** - Art, the garden and music for kids! Make your own music and something cool to take home! Also, ride the mini train, slide the big slide and do the moonwalk.
- **Food Court** - Select from a variety of tasty temptations.
- **Street Party** - At 6:00 p.m., dance in the street to beach and party music by **Riptide** who performed to rave reviews at last year's centennial street party.
- Listen to the last song while fireworks light up the night sky over historic Lookaway and Rosemary Halls and downtown North Augusta.

Details, including application forms for festival art, fine craft, garden and food vendors and entry forms for the Yellow Jasmine Art Competition are available at www.northaugusta.net or www.naartscouncil.org. For additional information, artists and craft vendors may call 803-441-4224 or 803-279-8459, food vendors may call 803-441-4300 and garden vendors may call 803-613-1178.

The Yellow Jasmine Festival is sponsored by the City of North Augusta in partnership with the North Augusta Cultural Arts Council, Busby's Heating & Air and Clear Choice Windows, Augusta Coca Cola Bottling Company, SCE&G, Phoenix Commercial Printers, and Beasley Broadcast Group stations Kicks99 Country, WGAC 580 News-Talk Radio and 93.9 The Drive.

James U. Jackson Statue Unveiling



Kicking off the Yellow Jasmine Festival at 12:30 p.m. is the unveiling of a life-size bronze of North Augusta founder James Urquhart Jackson 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.

For more information, contact Heritage Council Project Coordinator Jeanne McDaniel at 803-278-2161j.

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.

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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.