



**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

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## Center Street and Municipal Center UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Construction is now well underway on the new North Augusta municipal center and Center Street, the new road that will provide the primary access to the municipal center and ultimately to planned riverfront public parks and Hammond's Ferry.

Work on the new municipal building, under contract to M.B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc., began in June and is scheduled to be completed in late 2008. Once the new facility is complete and administrative offices from the current building have relocated, the Department of Public Safety and municipal court will acquire much needed new space by expanding into the current building.



*Construction is underway on the new municipal center (left) and Center Street (right). Additional images are available at [www.northaugusta.net](http://www.northaugusta.net).*

Center Street, a project of the South Carolina Department of Transportation, will extend from the intersection of Georgia and Bluff Avenues to Railroad Avenue and the Savannah River. Center Street will cross over the Greenway and provide another access point to the city's 10-mile trail system. In addition to providing the primary access to the new municipal building, Center Street will provide access to other buildings to be constructed in the town center area. Center Street is scheduled to be completed and open to traffic in June 2008.

### Reminder: Greenway Trail Section and Bluff Avenue Closed

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. Additionally, Bluff Avenue between West Avenue and Georgia Avenue will be closed to through traffic in the near future for most of the remaining period of construction. The city apologizes for the inconvenience and thanks you for your patience and cooperation during this construction period.

# CITY COUNCIL REVIEWS DEVELOPMENT CODE

The City Council is in the final phases of reviewing the draft North Augusta Development Code approved by the Planning Commission in April. The Council has been discussing the document at weekly study sessions since July and is scheduled to continue through September. It is anticipated that the new Code will be finalized and approved by the Council before the end of the year.

The Development Code is a comprehensive update of the city's zoning and land development regulations. It provides the rules and regulations for the use and development of land and buildings including subdivisions and new commercial projects in the city.

Copies of the draft code are available for public review at [www.northaugusta.net](http://www.northaugusta.net) and in the offices of the Department of Economic and Community Development in the Municipal Building. For more information, call 803-441-4221.

## 2008 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

City Council study sessions will begin in October to review the city's 2008 Consolidated Municipal Budget. A public hearing and the first of three required readings of the proposed budget ordinance are scheduled for the City Council meeting of October 15, 2007. The second reading is scheduled for November 5 and the third reading and final Council vote is scheduled for November 19.

City Council meetings are held every first and third Monday at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, Municipal Building, 400 East Buena Vista Avenue. Study sessions are generally held, as needed, on Monday evenings in the conference room on the first floor of the municipal building. While no formal action is taken at study sessions, the public is welcome to attend. Meeting agendas are posted at [www.northaugusta.net](http://www.northaugusta.net) the Friday prior to the meeting. Meeting minutes are posted as soon as they are available.

## Change Your Clock, Check YOUR SMOKE ALARM

Daylight-saving time will end this year at 2:00 a.m. Sunday, November 4. Time will "fall back" by one hour to 1:00 a.m. The semi annual time change is also an important reminder to test, clean and change the batteries in all residential smoke alarms.

Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms save lives and protect against injury and loss from fire. According to the National Fire Protection Association, smoke alarms more than double a person's chances of surviving a home fire and have contributed to a decrease of almost 50% in fire deaths since 1979.

### Smoke Alarm Installation and Maintenance Tips

- The batteries in 9-volt battery-operated smoke alarms should be replaced at least twice a year. Consider installing smoke alarms with "long-life" (10-year) batteries.
- Test smoke alarms monthly.
- Clean smoke alarms periodically according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Smoke alarms should be located outside every sleeping area and on every level of a house, including the basement.
- Smoke alarms lose sensitivity over time and should be replaced every 8 to 10 years.
- Smoke alarms should not be disabled, even temporarily. If cooking fumes or bath steam causes an alarm to sound, relocate the alarm further away from the kitchen or bathroom.
- Mount smoke alarms high on walls or ceilings. Ceiling mounted alarms should be installed at least four inches away from the nearest wall; wall-mounted alarms should be installed four to 12 inches away from the ceiling. On pitched ceilings, install the alarm near the ceiling's highest point.
- Smoke alarms should not be installed near windows, doors or ducts where drafts might interfere with proper operation.
- Smoke alarms should not be painted. Paint, stickers, decals or other decorations could prevent an alarm from operating correctly.

Source: National Fire Protection Association

Unfortunately, although an estimated 90% to 95% of American homes are equipped with smoke alarms, over half are not in working condition. Sixty-five percent of all reported home fire fatalities between 2000 and 2004 occurred in homes without smoke alarms or with no working smoke alarms. An estimated 890 lives could be saved each year if all homes had working smoke alarms.

Properly working smoke alarms are important, but are not the only answer to making a home fire safe. Families should prepare and practice emergency home exit plans. Regular fire drills can be held to ensure that everyone knows exactly what to do when the smoke alarm sounds. A surprise fire drill after bedtime is a good idea to make sure that sleeping family members awaken at the sound of the alarm. When all members of the family regularly practice general fire safety behaviors, fires and fire fatalities can be prevented.

For additional fire safety tips, call the North Augusta Department of Public Safety at 803-279-2121 or visit the National Fire Protection Association website at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

## — AVOID CONSUMER FRAUD —

Consumers receive offers daily that sound too good to be true – and, as the saying goes, they usually are!

The latest scam to hit consumers is counterfeit payment fraud. In this type of fraud, a scammer responds to an online sale or auction offering to pay by cashier's check or money order. The scammer then sends a check for an amount higher than the sale price and asks the seller to deposit the check and wire the difference back.

The problem: The check is no good!

In the situation described above, the scam works because the check has been deposited and the money wired before the check is processed by the bank and discovered to be counterfeit.

Under federal law, banks are required to make deposited funds available quickly to the account holder, usually within one to five days. Many fake checks and money orders appear to be legitimate and it can take weeks for a forgery to be discovered and a check to bounce.

When a check bounces, the bank deducts the amount of the check from the depositor's account and may also charge a bad check fee. If there isn't enough in an account to cover the amount of the bad check, the bank may deduct funds from other accounts held by the client or sue to recover the funds. In some cases law enforcement authorities bring charges against the victim because it appears that the victim was involved in the scam and knew the check was counterfeit.

There are several variations of counterfeit payment fraud. Education, good judgment, and a healthy dose of skepticism are the best defenses against becoming a victim. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

### Recognize and Avoid Counterfeit Payment Scams

- There is no legitimate reason for someone to overpay and ask you to wire money back. If a stranger wants to pay for something, insist on the *exact amount*. If the buyer refuses to send the exact amount, return the check. Don't send the merchandise.
- If accepting payment by check, ask for a check drawn on a local bank, or a bank with a local branch. Visit or call the bank to make sure the check is valid. Get the bank's phone number from directory assistance or a website. In any transaction, independently confirm the buyer's name, street address and phone number.
- Resist pressure to "act now." If the buyer's offer is good now, it should be good after the check clears the issuing bank.
- Throw away or dismiss any offer that requires payment for a prize or a gift. If payment is required, it is not a gift.
- Don't deposit it – report it! File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) or call 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357). The FTC works for the consumer to prevent fraudulent, deceptive and unfair business practices in the marketplace and to provide information to help consumers spot, stop and avoid them.

## PARKS, RECREATION & LEISURE SERVICES RECEIVES AWARD

The South Carolina Recreation and Parks Association recently announced the selection of North Augusta's Department of Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services as a 2007 Agency of the Year.



*Splash Day is just one of many of the activities and events the Department of Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services presents each year.*

Each year the SCRPA honors four agencies, one agency from each of four different population ranges, that demonstrate excellence in park and recreation planning, programming and management. This year North Augusta's Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services Department was the agency selected to represent communities with a population of 10,000 to 25,000. The department has received this prestigious award twice before, in 1981 and again in 1987.

Visit [www.northaugusta.net](http://www.northaugusta.net) or call 803-441-4311 for information on the variety of recreation programs and facilities offered by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars now for a variety of fun and exciting events this fall and winter. All events are open to the public and, unless otherwise indicated, free. Please call the contact number following the description of each event to confirm dates and times or to request additional information. Details of upcoming community events, official holiday closings and holiday sanitation schedules, are available online at [www.northaugusta.net](http://www.northaugusta.net).

## OCTOBER

**All Quilts Bright and Beautiful - Pieciful Hearts Quilt Guild 2007 Quilt Show Friday October 19, 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. & Saturday, October 20, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.;** Riverview Park Activities Center. Admission: \$4; Call 803-279-6456 or email [bettybmh@aol.com](mailto:bettybmh@aol.com).

### Colonial Times: A Day to Remember

Learn what daily life was like for the people who settled our area through a series of demonstrations and living exhibits beginning at 10:00 a.m. on **Saturday and Sunday, October 20 and 21** at the Living History Park on Lake Avenue, downtown North Augusta. Presented by the Olde Towne Preservation Association. Call 803-279-2323 or 803-279-7560, email [lynn@colonialtimes.us](mailto:lynn@colonialtimes.us) or visit [www.colonialtimes.us](http://www.colonialtimes.us).

### Jack-O-Lantern Jubilee

Dress up the kids for the annual costume contest, enjoy live entertainment, wonderful food and tons of great crafts from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Saturday, October 27** on Georgia Avenue in downtown North Augusta. Call 803-441-4300.



*The children's costume contest is always a big hit at the Jack-O-Lantern Jubilee.*

### Spirits of Hallowed Eve

Listen to ghost stories around the campfire on **Saturday, October 27**, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Living History Park. Presented by the Olde Towne Preservation Association. Call 803-279-7560, email [lynn@colonialtimes.us](mailto:lynn@colonialtimes.us) or visit [www.colonialtimes.us](http://www.colonialtimes.us).

## NOVEMBER

### Veteran's Day Concert

Savannah River Winds will perform a special Veteran's Day concert **Thursday, November 8** at 7:30 p.m. at the North Augusta High School Auditorium. Presented by the North Augusta Cultural Arts Council. Call 803-442-7588 or visit [www.naartscouncil.org](http://www.naartscouncil.org).

### River Days

Celebrate the Savannah on **Saturday, November 10** from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Explore and learn about the local ecology and the Brick Ponds Constructed Wetlands located on the riverfront within Hammond's Ferry. Call 803-613-1641.

### Tree Lighting & Carols in the Park

Get in the holiday spirit at the annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Caroling on **Monday, November 26** at 6:00 p.m. at John C. Calhoun Park. Call 803-441-4290 or 803-441-4300.

## DECEMBER

### Christmas for the Birds

Bring the kids by the Living History Park on **Saturday, December 1** from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. to watch or help create edible decorations for the birds this winter. Bring fruits, peanut butter, lard, pine cones, dried corn, unsalted popcorn, and, of course, bird seed. Presented by the Olde Towne Preservation Association. Call 803-279-7560, email [lynn@colonialtimes.us](mailto:lynn@colonialtimes.us) or visit [www.colonialtimes.us](http://www.colonialtimes.us).

### North Augusta Christmas Parade

Enjoy the annual Lions Club Christmas Parade on **Sunday, December 2** at 2:00 p.m. The parade follows Georgia Avenue from Martintown Road to Buena Vista Avenue. Presented by the North Augusta Lions Club. Call 803-278-7288.

# 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 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](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.