



North Augusta
 South Carolina's
 Riverfront

North Augusta FORWARD

A Publication for the Citizens of North Augusta, South Carolina
 December 2008 Volume XV, Number 4

CITY COUNCIL

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Life on the Savannah River, THEN AND NOW

A new interactive website featuring the history of the North Augusta riverfront and the Central Savannah River Area has been created and is available at www.northaugustaheritage.org. The website, which provides historical, geographic and archeological information, downloadable podcasts and a third grade lesson plan, was funded by the Federal Highway Administration, the South Carolina Department of Transportation, the State Historic Preservation Office, the North Augusta Riverfront Company and the City of North Augusta.



Extensive archeological research on the riverfront culminated in the development of the interactive website and the installation of a number of historical markers along the Greenway Trail.

Federal and State funding for the construction of Center Street, which will provide access to the new Municipal Center, Brick Pond Park and Hammond's Ferry, included support for extensive archeological research on the riverfront. The research, completed last year by Brockington & Associates of Norcross, GA, (Continued on page 2)

Life on the Savannah River, THEN AND NOW continued

included the interpretation and public dissemination of the results of the archeological work through installation of a number of historical markers on the segment of the Greenway Trail that encircles the Hammond's Ferry area of the riverfront. The historical markers describe and explain the Native American village that occupied the area, the potteries and industries that were developed on the riverfront and the series of floods that dramatically changed the area in the early years of North Augusta's history.



The interactive website includes all of the information displayed on the Greenway markers and provides considerable additional historical detail. All information is presented in formats that can be easily understood and appreciated by both students and historians.

North Augusta's Brick Pond Park was the site for much of the riverfront archeological research documented on the heritage website.

2009 CITY BUDGET ADOPTED

The 2009 Consolidated Municipal Budget totaling \$27,588,150 was approved by the City Council on November 17, 2008. The City's mill levy for 2009 (2008 tax year) remains at 77.20 mills. Revenue from 68.69 mills will be collected for General Fund operating purposes and revenue from 8.51 mills will be applied to the City's Capital Projects Fund.

The major funds and functional areas of expenditures for 2009 are:

2009 CONSOLIDATED MUNICIPAL BUDGET						
Fund	Personal Services	Operations & Maintenance	Lease Purchase	Capital	Debt Service	Total
General Fund	\$8,829,844	\$3,643,979	\$444,831	\$53,700	\$0	\$12,972,354
Sales Tax 2 Fund	0	0	0	500,000	0	500,000
Street Improvements Fund	0	58,500	0	58,600	0	117,100
Riverfront/Central Core Fund	0	0	0	0	507,493	507,493
Capital Projects Fund	0	360,250	0	320,000	415,337	1,095,587
Sanitation Services Fund	1,893,953	1,265,644	241,517	18,000	0	3,419,114
Stormwater Utility Fund	420,795	90,826	22,703	76,000	0	610,324
Water & Sewer Funds	2,322,048	3,332,462	108,772	558,220	1,954,676	8,276,178
Other Funds	0	40,000	0	50,000	0	90,000
TOTAL	\$13,466,640	\$8,791,661	\$817,823	\$1,634,520	\$2,877,506	\$27,588,150

2009 Business License Renewals

DUE FEBRUARY 1st

Business License renewal applications for calendar year 2009 will be mailed to current license holders during the last week of December. Completed applications must be returned to the City on or before February 1, 2009 to avoid a 10 percent delinquent payment penalty. The penalty will increase by an additional five percent each month until the application and fee are received.

License holders should carefully examine the information on the application to confirm its accuracy. Corrections or additions should be written directly on the application form. Once properly completed and signed, the application should be returned to the City with the correct fee. The turnaround time on a properly completed business license application is usually within ten days.

Questions about Business License renewals can be answered by calling 803-441-4214.

Business Startup Guide AND ECONOMIC PROFILE

The City of North Augusta provides two publications to assist potential business owners in the City. *Getting Started: A Guide to Business Startup and Operation in North Augusta* is a step by step guide that explains the steps in the process of starting and operating a new business in North Augusta. Updated in September 2008, the publication explains the City's requirements and procedures, includes application forms and lists city, county and state agency contact information.

The *North Augusta 2007 Economic Profile* includes current demographic statistics and US Census estimates and projections on population, housing and income. Information about education, employment, transportation, taxes, utilities, development trends and quality of life for North Augusta is also included. To the extent available, the same information is provided for the City of Aiken, Belvedere, Edgefield, Columbia and Richmond counties, the Aiken-Augusta Metropolitan Statistical Area, South Carolina, Georgia and the United States.

Both the *Economic Profile* and the *Business Startup Guide* are produced by the City's Department of Economic and Community Development and are available free of charge at the municipal building, 400 East Buena Vista Avenue and at the Greater North Augusta Chamber of Commerce, 406 West Avenue. The publications are also available online at www.northaugusta.net.

TAX NOTICES COMING SOON

Tax notices on real and personal property and on merchants' inventory for the 2008 tax year will be mailed to property owners in January. Tax payments are due by May 1, 2009. For those property owners whose taxes are escrowed by a mortgage company, tax notices will be mailed directly to the mortgage company.

For questions about property taxes, please call 803-441-4215.

SOME UTILITY FEES TO INCREASE IN 2009

The 2009 North Augusta City budget, approved by the City Council on November 17, 2008, includes modest increases in water, wastewater and sanitation fees. The sum of the utility rate increases will add approximately \$1.02 per month to the average residential bill.

The City property tax rate remains the same as in 2008. The City's fees for stormwater, recycling, custom street lights and outside fire protection also remain at 2008 levels. Questions concerning utility rates should be referred to the City's Finance Department at 803-441-4212.

Development Code AMENDMENTS APPROVED

At its December 1 meeting, the City Council gave final approval to two North Augusta Development Code amendments. The first Code amendment is intended to improve the development review process by correcting inconsistencies and clarifying ambiguities that were identified during the first year of Development Code implementation. Text changes were identified with input from the public, development professionals and City staff.

The second Development Code amendment establishes exterior lighting regulations for new and renovated commercial and multifamily development within the city limits. Single family residential and existing commercial and multifamily properties are not affected by the new regulations. The exterior lighting regulations, developed after public input, research on lighting ordinances in other communities and a review of sampled light readings in North Augusta, set development standards to regulate allowable lighting levels, fixture design and height, and to establish a lighting curfew. The purposes of the new regulations include energy efficiency; improved public safety through more uniform lighting levels; reduction of harsh lighting and glare on adjacent properties and passing vehicles; and the reduction of light pollution that shines horizontally and upward.

Winter Base Period IN EFFECT

The City of North Augusta uses a "Winter Base Sewer Rate System" for calculating sewer service charges. Three months of actual water usage are used to calculate sewer charges for the remaining nine months of the year. The three month base period covers the three water meter readings taken between December 10 and March 9. Water meter readings are based on the actual water consumed for the month preceding the reading.

Each utility customer is billed a sewer service charge based on actual water consumption during the three winter base months. The average consumption of these three months is then used for the remaining nine billing periods of the year. New customers with no winter base history are charged an amount equal to the average of all residential sewer customers. For more information about the Winter Base Period, please call 803-441-4212.

Holiday and Sanitation SCHEDULE

New Year's Day
Thursday, January 1, City Offices Closed

There will be no sanitation service on Thursday, January 1. Thursday's collection will be picked up on Friday, January 2.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, January 19, City Offices Closed

There will be no sanitation service on Monday, January 19. Monday's collection will be picked up on Tuesday, January 20. All routes will be delayed by one day.

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
Code Compliance	441-4258
Permits	441-4227
Business Licenses (Contractors)	441-4227
Animal Control	441-4298
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
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
A T & T	1-888-757-6500
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.