

CITY COUNCIL

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Municipal Center Offers PUBLIC SPACE

Construction on the new North Augusta Municipal Center, under contract to M.B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc., was initiated in June 2007 and is scheduled for completion in April 2009. In addition to housing city offices, 44% of the 68,000 square foot facility will be devoted to use by the public.

The most prominent public space will be devoted to the Arts and Heritage Center. The center will be operated by a joint venture between the North Augusta Cultural Arts Council and the Heritage Council of North Augusta and will occupy a substantial portion of the first floor. It will serve as a place where North Augustans can celebrate the arts and learn about the city's history. It will include two exhibit areas, a gift shop, a reception area, and classroom and meeting space. One of the exhibit areas will contain rotating art displays and the other will be a permanent history exhibit.

The third floor of the municipal center will feature a 152-seat theater-style auditorium. The auditorium will be used for regularly scheduled City Council, Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals meetings and for other public meetings. It will also be suitable and available for use by the public for small gatherings, performances and presentations.

The fourth floor has been designed almost exclusively for public use. It includes a large multi-purpose room ideal for meetings, receptions and similar gatherings. Several covered and open air balconies will provide spectacular views of North Augusta and the Savannah River. A complete commercial kitchen and restroom facilities make this an ideal location for special events, meetings and other group activities.

A large clock tower and flagpole will top the fourth floor. The 22-foot flagpole bearing the American and state flags will be appropriately illuminated. Two nine-foot, internally illuminated clocks, one facing the Savannah River and one facing Georgia Avenue, are also planned.



Center Street Construction Nears Completion GREENEWAY SECTION REMAINS CLOSED

The construction of Center Street, the extension of Georgia Avenue past the municipal center to the Savannah riverfront, was started last May. Completion is now scheduled for September 2008.

Center Street and the realigned Bluff Avenue will provide the primary access to the municipal center and other buildings to be constructed in the new town center area. A project of the South Carolina Department of Transportation, Center Street extends from the realigned intersection of Georgia and Bluff Avenues and through the Hammond's Ferry development to Railroad Avenue.

The Greenway Trail is being realigned to pass under Center Street through a tunnel similar to the one under Georgia Avenue. The section of the trail from Georgia Avenue to Alta Vista Avenue, closed since construction began, will reopen when construction of Center Street is complete.



WEST AVENUE STREETScape PROCEEDS

Two segments of Phase 2 of the Downtown Area Streetscape program on West Avenue are essentially complete. New sidewalks with brick inlays, new curbing, decorative streetlights, new mast-arm traffic signals and new pavement have been installed on both Buena Vista and Spring Grove Avenues between Georgia and West Avenues.

The next road segment to receive the enhanced streetscape will be Clifton Avenue between Georgia and West Avenues. Additional portions of the Downtown Area Streetscape program are forthcoming pending the planned removal of overhead utility lines by South Carolina Electric and Gas Company, Comcast and AT&T. For more information, call 803-441-4220.

PALMETTO PARKWAY UPDATE

Last November the South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank approved the final allocation of funds for the construction of the Palmetto Parkway, I-520. In January, the South Carolina Department of Transportation announced several additions to the project made possible by the additional funding and by cost saving in the initial phases of construction.



Photo: Team United, 2008

The additions include:

- Widening US 25 from Sweetwater Boulevard past Ascauga Lake Road to six lanes plus a turning lane;
- Reconstruction of the I-20/I-520 interchange to include a new US 25 bridge over I-20;
- Widening Clearwater Road from three to five lanes and adding curb and gutter between US 25 (Edgefield Road) and Old Sudlow Lake Road; and
- Constructing a Greenway type walking and biking trail on the west side of the Palmetto Parkway from Atomic Road to Ascauga Lake Road.

A steel beam is installed at Clearwater Road.

While construction is currently on schedule, the additional work is estimated to take about five months to complete, extending the original deadline for completion from July 2009 to January 2010.

Maps, photos, construction updates and answers to frequently asked questions are available on the SCDOT Palmetto Parkway website at www.palmettoparkway.com.

SEWER RATE INCREASE

Effective July 1, 2008, sewer rates will increase for North Augusta utility customers. The increase is a direct result of the recent rate increase approved by the Aiken County Public Service Authority (PSA). The PSA charges the city and other Aiken County utilities for treating the sewage delivered to the Horse Creek sewage treatment plant. The new rate will increase the fee charged by the PSA to the city by an additional \$0.16 per thousand gallons of wastewater treated. Currently, based on a monthly average use of 5,600 gallons for a single family home, the resulting monthly increase will average \$0.90 per month.

CODE COMPLIANCE ISSUES

North Augusta citizens contact the city regularly with questions about regulations that affect the use of private property and with concerns or complaints about properties that may not comply with the regulations. There are several common complaints and violations that the city responds to frequently.

• PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Each year the city receives hundreds of calls with concerns or complaints about the maintenance of residential property including overgrown yards, trash and deteriorating buildings. The North Augusta Municipal Code and the International Property Maintenance Code regulate property maintenance issues and are enforced by the city. Overgrown yards and landscaping, the accumulation of litter, trash or debris, and poorly maintained buildings that exhibit peeling paint, rotting siding or trim are all violations of the codes.

• VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT STORAGE

The Municipal Code also regulates the parking and storage of recreational vehicles and equipment, large trucks, trailers and other major transportation equipment. Recreational vehicles including RV vans, boats, trailers and other equipment must be stored in a carport, enclosed building or behind the front building line of the primary building closest to the street. Large transport trucks and similar heavy transportation equipment may not be on any residentially zoned lot. They may be parked on a public right of way for up to twenty-four hours only. Inoperable and unregistered vehicles may not be parked on any street or other public right of way. They may be parked on residential property only if stored in a carport, enclosed building or behind the front building line of the primary building closest to the street.

• TEMPORARY SIGNS

Temporary signs are those that advertise or promote a temporary cause or event including yard sales, real estate for sale or rent, special events and political candidates. Temporary signs are generally freestanding and are allowed on both residential and commercial property. Permits are not required. However, the number, size, location and duration of display of temporary signs are regulated. The regulations relating to temporary signs were recently changed. The revised regulations provide for the following:

- **Location** – Temporary signs may be placed on any private property where they won't block visibility from a roadway or intersection. Temporary signs may not be posted on or hung from a fence. No sign may be placed on any without the consent of the owner.
- **Public Property** – Temporary signs may not be placed on any public property including parks, street rights of way, sidewalks, bridges, street light or utility poles, fences, stop signs, directional signs, speed limit signs and fire hydrants. The landscaping or grass strip between a sidewalk and the curb or edge of roadway is within the street right signs may not be located there. Temporary signs placed on public property will be removed by the city.
- **Size** – The maximum area is six square feet on residential property and sixteen square feet on property in most commercial zones.
- **Number** – Two signs per lot or parcel are allowed provided the total maximum sign area is not exceeded.
- **Duration** – A temporary sign may be placed on a lot or parcel for no more than 32 days in any 180 day period. A temporary sign may be placed 30 days prior to an event and must be removed within two days following the event.
- **Lighting** – Temporary signs may not be directly illuminated, either internally or externally.
- **Portable Signs** – Portable signs are those mounted on wheels or small trailers and may be used as temporary signs provided they comply with all of the regulations governing temporary signs.
- **Banners** – Banners are not permitted at any time or in any location in the City of North Augusta except on the city approved banner system that spans Georgia Avenue near the intersection with Clifton Avenue. The city will permit, and erect the banner. (Call 803-441-4227 to inquire about the availability of the banner system and the procedure for using it.)

Questions on these and other City Code provisions that affect the use of private property may be submitted to Mac Westbrook, Zoning and Code Compliance Inspector, at 803-441-4258.

— YELLOW JASMINE FESTIVAL —

Despite the threat of scattered thundershowers, North Augusta's second annual Yellow Jasmine Festival was a rousing success. 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 rides and activities, and an evening street party followed by a beautiful fireworks display over historic Lookaway Hall.



Riptide entertains the crowd.

The Yellow Jasmine Art Competition was judged by McCormick artist Clint Scott. Mr. Scott awarded first place honors in the general art competition to Casey Szocinski of North Augusta, second place to Helen Hutson of McCormick, and third place to Deborah Tidwell Holtzscheiter of Aiken. Honorable mention went to Carol Kelly Dorn of Evans, GA.

The winner of the Yellow Jasmine Commemorative Poster Contest was Doris Sofge of North Augusta. Doris' work will be featured on the poster and other materials for the 2009 Yellow Jasmine Festival. Images of the winning entries can be viewed at www.northaugusta.net.

The 2008 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 Georgialina Physical Therapy Associates, SRP Federal Credit Union, Comcast, Energy Solutions, NBC Augusta, Beasley Broadcast Group, Communigraphics and Phoenix Commercial Printers.

Mims Branch/Little Horse Creek Regional — SEWER PROJECT UNDERWAY —

The Edgefield County Water & Sewer Authority, the City of North Augusta and the Aiken County Public Service Authority are working together to construct an expansion of the Regional Sewer System. The existing system currently serves both Saluda and Edgefield counties with five pump stations and approximately 30 miles of pressurized sewer line which discharges into North Augusta's collection system on the way to the Horse Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant in Aiken County.

The new sewer line is being installed between I-20 and US 1 adjacent to Mims Branch and Little Horse Creek. With a flow capacity of 7 million gallons a day, the new line will reduce the burden on the existing Pole Branch sewer line, the one that runs west along I-20 to Martintown Road then through the Rapids and Riverview Park and along the river to Horse Creek. The new line will also allow for increased flows from Saluda and Edgefield counties. In addition, the project will provide additional capacity to support future residential and industrial development in the northern portion of the city.

The \$5.8 million project is a joint venture between the two counties and the city and is funded in part with a federal grant. The project has been planned for a number of years. The design was completed in early 2007, construction began in October 2007, and the scheduled completion is October 2008.

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	441-4298
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
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
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.