



North Augusta
South Carolina's Riverfront

North Augusta **FORWARD**

A Publication for the Citizens of North Augusta, South Carolina
 March 2008 Volume XV, Number 1

CITY COUNCIL

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



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Topping Out CEREMONY HELD

On January 22 city officials gathered at the site of the new municipal center for an official topping out ceremony. Topping out is a traditional ceremony commemorating the erection of the last structural steel beam at the top of the building. An American flag was raised on the building after it reached its full height.

The gathering included members of the construction crew of M.B. Kahn Construction Company, representatives of the architectural firm, The Boudreaux Group, Aiken County officials and members of the community. After the ceremony, a barbeque luncheon was held at the North Augusta Community Center.

Construction of the new municipal center started in July 2007 and is expected to be complete in early 2009.



Mayor Lark Jones points to the flag as he addresses those gathered for the topping out ceremony.



North Augusta Video TOURBOOK DEBUTS

North Augusta's website has an exciting new feature; a series of on-line videos that showcase the assets and attributes the city has to offer newcomers, visitors and businesses interested in investing in our community.

The North Augusta Video TourBook consists of six one-minute video clips including a welcome from Mayor Lark Jones and videos showcasing area Healthcare and Education options, Real Estate and Relocation information, and highlights of North Augusta's Parks and Recreation and Quality of Life.

The videos were produced, at no cost to the city, by CGI Communications, Inc. through a partnership with the US Conference of Mayors. To date, CGI Communications has produced videos for over 1500 communities across the United States.

The videos are sponsored, in part, through the support of local businesses interested in reaching out to potential customers. The advertiser's logos share the screen with the community videos. The business logos are linked to the sponsoring business website or video. Current advertisers include Presley Realty, RH Builders, Summit Christian College, Wetherington Builders and Wright Real Estate. Information about participation is available through the TourBook.

The North Augusta Video TourBook videos are located on the website's home page, www.northaugusta.net, and are designed to play on all computer systems, browsers and internet connection speeds.



Area II Schools Welcome NEW SUPERINTENDENT



North Augusta High School Principal Kyle Smith and Teacher Martha Butts, along with Area II Assistant Superintendent Rosie Berry, talk to Aiken County School Superintendent Dr. Beth Everitt (second from right).

The City of North Augusta, the North Augusta 2000 Foundation and the North Augusta Chamber of Commerce held a public reception on February 19 to welcome Aiken County's new School Superintendent, Dr. M. Elizabeth Everitt.

The receiving line included Dr. Everitt along with Aiken County School Board members Ray Fleming and Nick Flouras, Aiken County Area II Assistant Superintendent Rosie Berry, Mayor Lark Jones, Chamber President Bill Bassham and North Augusta 2000 Executive Director Kathy Gilliland. The reception included display tables showcasing each of the Area II schools: Belvedere Elementary, Hammond Hill Elementary, Mossy Creek Elementary, North Augusta Elementary, North Augusta Middle, Paul Knox Middle and North Augusta High. There were also performances by the Paul Knox and North Augusta middle school jazz bands.

Dr. Everitt assumed her duties in January, replacing Dr. Linda B. Eldridge who retired in 2007. Dr. Everitt is the former superintendent of the Albuquerque, NM Public School District. During her career she has served as a teacher, assistant principal and principal. Her work in the Albuquerque district office included Director for Special Services, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Associate Superintendent for Learning, and Superintendent for Education. She received a BA and MA in special education from East Carolina University. She earned a Ph.D. in special education and public administration, and a certification in educational administration from the University of New Mexico.

Dr. Everitt is looking forward to strengthening the existing partnerships with the citizens of Aiken County to provide a world class education for all students.

Greater Downtown Area MASTER PLAN

The City of North Augusta has entered into a partnership with Augusta Tomorrow and the City of Augusta to develop a Greater Downtown Area Master Plan that will span the Savannah River.

The greater downtown planning area includes the riverfront and downtown areas of the City of North Augusta and the city center area of Augusta including the adjoining neighborhoods, the medical facilities area, and the canal and river corridors. Once implemented, the new plan will guide growth and development in the planning area for the next 25 years.

As a private corporation with representation from the City of Augusta and the City of North Augusta, Augusta Tomorrow has identified development and redevelopment needs and actively worked with developers and the public sector to implement downtown development projects since 1982. Augusta Tomorrow was created as a public private partnership with the City of Augusta to develop a master plan for Augusta's downtown. That plan is now substantially complete and has resulted in the development of Augusta's Riverwalk promenade, the Augusta Riverfront Hotel & Convention Center, the Riverfront Office Center and the Augusta Common.

In looking to the future, Augusta Tomorrow has expanded its vision. The new plan will provide a unique opportunity for Augusta and North Augusta to work together to improve commerce, culture and urban life for all portions of both communities on both sides of the river.

Because North Augusta and downtown Augusta are so close geographically, separated by only a state line and the Savannah River, what happens on one side of the river impacts the other. By combining efforts and generating a master plan for growth that includes both communities, the area as a whole will benefit.

A Request for Qualifications from professional planning firms was published in October 2007 and the process of selecting a firm to develop the plan has begun. After a firm is selected, development of the plan will take about a year. The planning process will include a series of public forums in Augusta and North Augusta to seek input from citizens. The public meetings will be extensive. All interested residents of North Augusta and Augusta will be encouraged to attend and share ideas for a better downtown and a better community. The end result of the process will be a plan that prioritizes sustainable initiatives for economic development coupled with activities and projects that are important to the two communities and their residents.

The estimated cost for developing the plan is \$250,000. Half of the funding, \$125,000 will come from private donations. The City of Augusta will contribute \$94,000 and the City of North Augusta will contribute \$31,000.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 22, 10:00 a.m.
Lions Memorial Field

The Easter Bunny will be the guest of honor Saturday, March 22 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.

KIDS EARTH DAY 2008

Saturday, April 19
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Lions Memorial Field

Join us Saturday, April 19 for Kids Earth Day 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Lions Memorial Field in North Augusta! Kids Earth Day features dozens of exhibitors sharing information and activities about plants, animals and the environment we all share.

This year, PalmettoPride and the Columbia Marionette Theatre will again present two performances of *Litter Trashes Everyone!* The puppet show features 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 creatures from the Savannah River Ecology Lab, visit with NBC Augusta meteorologist Jeff Rucker, and much, much more!



Last year, the Columbia Marionette Theater's Litter Trashes Everyone puppet shows were real crowd pleasers! Performances this year will be held at 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

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 2008 is sponsored by the City of North Augusta, Comcast, Bridgestone-Firestone, NBC Augusta, Communigraphics, SCDHEC, SCE&G and The Family Center. For more information, please call 803-441-4224.

— YELLOW JASMINE FESTIVAL —

Saturday, April 26
11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Downtown North Augusta
"A Bloomin' Good Time"

Arts, crafts, the garden and great music are the focus of the North Augusta's second annual Yellow Jasmine Festival. The festival will take place Saturday, April 26, 2008, from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in downtown North Augusta.

Event highlights include:

- **Art on the Avenue** - Enjoy the work of fine artists and craftsmen from around the corner and throughout the region. View and purchase fine arts and quality handmade crafts.



Festival goers enjoyed viewing last year's submissions in the Yellow Jasmine Art Competition.

- **Community Stage** - Talent abounds from 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. with a variety of talented youth performers.
- **Dancin' in the Street** - At 4:30 p.m., get ready to shag! Refresh your memory or take your first lesson. At 6 p.m., show off your shagging skills with live beach and party music by **Riptide**.
- **Fireworks** - The grand finale will light up the night sky over historic Lookaway Hall and downtown North Augusta!

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 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 and the North Augusta Chamber of Commerce, Georgialina Physical Therapy Associates, SRP Federal Credit Union, Comcast, NBC Augusta, Phoenix Commercial Printers, Augusta Coca Cola and Beasley Broadcast Group stations Kicks99, WGAC 580 News-Talk Radio and 93.9 The Drive.

Saturday, April 26, 2008
11:00am-9:00pm
Downtown North Augusta, SC

- Browse the entries and see who won the **2009 Yellow Jasmine Commemorative Poster Contest** and the **Yellow Jasmine General Art Competition**. Also, don't forget to cast your vote for the **People's Choice Award**. Many of these original works by well known local and regional artists will be available for purchase.
- **Garden Expo** - Attend lectures by garden professionals, bring a plant to swap, and shop for plants and neat gardening tools and accessories.
- **Kraffy Kids** - Make a cool craft to take home! Also, slide the big slide and do the moonwalk.



North Augustans Briton and Jenny Lynn Williams helped beach and party music band Riptide get the crowd up and dancing in the street!

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.