

## MAYOR'S MATTERS



Hello North Augusta,

I am so excited about the newsletter you are now reading. One of Council's priorities the last 2 years has been Communication. We want to give you a voice and more opportunities to be informed. We have initiated several initiatives in order to make that a reality:

- Public Power Hour\***: This is held the first Monday of each month at 5:30pm and provides you the opportunity to come in front of Council in a casual setting to share the good and bad regarding what we need to be aware of in the City.
- Citizen Involvement Form\***: This allows you to tell us if you want to be a volunteer in the Community. It may be that you want to serve on a Committee or just help at an event the City maybe putting on. This has given us a great inventory of citizens the ability to be involved in our Community over the last 2 years. Visit my Mayor Website where this form can be filled out.
- Meet the Mayor\***: Several meetings have been held where we go into specific neighborhoods to listen to citizens and discuss what is happening in the City. We are planning several of those for 2024 and will let you know when those dates and locations have been set.
- VLOGS** on social media are done periodically to inform citizens on what Council is doing and what is happening in the City.
- Mayoral Facebook** page that I post on regularly and there are several Departments that have Facebook pages as well: The City of North Augusta-Public Information, Public Safety Department, Parks & Recreation Department, and Tourism Department all which have a wealth of information for you.

\*Mayor's Website Link:

<https://www.northaugustasc.gov/government/mayor-city-council/mayor>

However, we are now starting one more initiative to better communicate with you. I proposed this during my campaign and we have continued to be asked about this by citizens over the last 2 years. We know a lot of people like to get information by paper, so we are going old school. You no longer have to wait. This newsletter will be going out on a Quarterly basis for the next year. We have put money in the budget and this newsletter will be included in your water bill each quarter. I want to give a big thank you to Michaela Canady, Environmental Technician and Jamie Paul, City Clerk. They have worked hard to put this newsletter together. I hope this newsletter will be a success and something you find value in receiving so we can continue it for years to come.

Please mark your calendars for the National Day of Prayer Event on May 2, 2024 where a light breakfast and fellowship will be held at a location and time TBD. Please follow the Mayor's webpage, City's website, or ask your local North Augusta Church for more details as the time gets near.

Our Future Is So Bright North Augusta!  
Mayor Briton S. Williams

## Weekly Recycling Starts Monday March 4, 2024

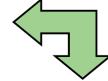


### Recycling Collection Moving to Every Week

The City of North Augusta is pleased to announce the implementation of every week collection for recycling totes as opposed to our current bi-weekly collection. Customers will be able to place their recycling totes out for collection every week on their normal day of sanitation collection. No other changes are being made to the sanitation and recycling collection route.



#### What Goes in the Bin



#### Tips on Recycling

- ▶ No need to remove address labels, cellophane address windows, metal fasteners, paper clips, plastic tabs, spiral bindings, stamps, and staples.
- ▶ Please place recycling bins at least 3 feet from roll carts and other obstructions.
- ▶ Large cardboard and/or additional bulky recyclable items may be placed beside your tote for collection.

(803) 441-4240

For more Recycling info please visit us at [www.northaugustasc.gov](http://www.northaugustasc.gov)

## UPCOMING EVENTS



South Carolina's Riverfront

Week of April 15th  
Property Maintenance Installing  
Annual Spring Flowers

### PARKS & REC EVENTS

#### APRIL

- 5 - 7 Basketball Tournament
- 13 - 14 Baseball Tournament
- 19 - 21 Basketball Tournament
- 26 - 28 Basketball Tournament

#### MAY

- 3 - 5 Basketball Tournament
- 4 - 5 Baseball Tournament
- 17 - 19 Basketball Tournament
- 24 - 26 Basketball Tournament
- 31 Basketball Tournament

#### JUNE

- 1 - 2 Basketball Tournament & Baseball Tournament
- 14 - 16 Basketball Tournament
- 17 - 20 Pat Carpenter Cheer Camp
- 21 - 22 Basketball Tournament
- 28 - 30 Basketball Tournament

Pickleball Availability (March -June)  
Monday Wednesday 6am - 9pm

Table Tennis Availability (March - June)  
Tuesday Thursday 6am - 9pm



Remember to Look Around the Tax-Free Gift Shop when you visit

- March 7-28 SpringFest
- March 21 Reception, 5 - 8 pm
- April 4 - 26 Eyes Wide Open Photography Invitational
- April 18 Reception, 5 - 8 pm

#### More info at:

[artsandheritagecenter.com](http://artsandheritagecenter.com)

Looking to Volunteer Contact  
Mary Anne Bigger at 803-441-4380  
for details

### NORTH AUGUSTA CHAMBER

- April 18 Good Morning NA, 7:30am  
Education Update: ACPD + ACCTC
- May 9 Good Morning NA, 7:30am  
Tourism & Economic Development
- May 15 Women in STEM, 9:00am
- June 4 Power Lunch, 11:30am  
CSRA Alliance + Fort Eisenhower
- June 11-27 Junior Leadership Academy, 8:00 am

More info at: [northaugustachamber.org](http://northaugustachamber.org)



Third Thursday's  
April 18, May 16 & June 20

SpringFest — April 27

More info at: [northaugustafoward.org](http://northaugustafoward.org)



visit  
**North Augusta**

SOUTH CAROLINA'S RIVERFRONT



Thursday's  
at 7:00pm  
Maude Edenfield Park  
495 Brookside Ave

#### Concert Series

- May 9 Swing Shift (Beach Music)
- May 16 Wayne Hoey Big Band (Big Band Classics)
- May 23 North Augusta High School Wind Ensemble (Concert Band)
- May 30 Gift of Dance
- June 6 Over the Hill Gang (60's & 70's)
- June 13 Matthew Dickerson (Dulcimer)
- June 20 Keith Gregory (Solo Guitar & Vocals)
- June 27 Savannah River Brass Works (Patriotic)



NORTH AUGUSTA  
**Cultural Arts**  
COUNCIL

More information on upcoming Tourism  
Department Events at: [visitnorthaugustasc.com](http://visitnorthaugustasc.com)



# The Resource

A City of North Augusta Stormwater Department Publication

## Harmful Algal Blooms

This winter there is an obvious difference in West Pond at Brick Pond Park, the water is GREEN. It is lighter or darker depending on what time of day it is and how warm the weather is. Looking at it, you may think, is this normal? What is causing the difference in color? The issue is likely because there are too many nutrients being added to the water, nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen. As you may know, Brick Pond Park is a stormwater treatment wetland that collects rain water from much of the downtown and riverfront areas of North Augusta. Stormwater drains into grates and inlets along the streets and flows through the storm pipes into the park. As it drains into the park, the stormwater picks up pollutants like trash, oils, grease, dog poop, lawn debris, and anything else the rain water runoff can carry. The water carries these pollutants right into the ponds. In Brick Pond Park, the plants and microbes in the water and soils immobilize toxins and breakdown pollutants. Even though the park is designed as a stormwater treatment system, it can get overwhelmed with pollutants and nutrients.

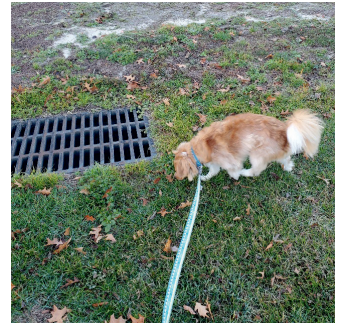


What would be overwhelming Brick Pond Park with pollutants? We have a few educated guesses that may help us answer this question. We think that the green color of West Pond is connected to the amount on pet waste and/or fertilizers coming into the system. Water sampling is being conducted to truly pinpoint the issue and help us come to a better solution. Either source, pet waste or fertilizers, can add too much nutrients to the system and cause negative impacts to water quality.

Pet waste can certainly be one of the main reasons for an algal bloom. Many of the common areas around the park contain storm drains that dump out into West and East Ponds. These grassy common areas can also make the perfect place to walk your dog. However, walking a dog in a public area or even in your own back yard comes with the responsibility of picking up after your pet. A single dog can produce about 275 lbs. of waste every year. If dog poop is left on the ground, when it rains it is washed into nearby waterways. The same can be said of other pollutants like fertilizers. Higher levels of waste and pollutants can fuel the growth for bacteria and algae that can negatively impact fish, aquatic life, pets and humans. Pet waste from dogs is not a type of fertilizer and it carries bacteria and parasites that can be very harmful to humans. Bacteria like E. coli or salmonella, and

parasites like ringworm are some of the few that you may have heard of before.

An overabundance of waste can cause harmful algae blooms (HABs). An algal bloom is a rapid increase in growth of algae that can be seen as a change in color of the water. The blooms can look like bubbles, mats, or foamy areas that are blue, green, white, or reddish in color. This typically happens in warmer times of the year, but in South Carolina it is not all that uncommon to see them in colder months. Some HABs contain cyanobacteria and other potentially harmful bacteria. Blue-green algae is one of the more concerning types as it can contain toxins that can make people and pets very sick. Do not touch the algae as it can irritate your skin. You should not swim or fish in areas where these algal blooms are present either. Please be sure your pets do not drink from bodies of water that may contain harmful algal blooms as it



is dangerous and can make them extremely sick. For Brick Pond Park, no swimming is allowed. Fishing is allowed in West Pond usually, but for now, no fishing will be permitted until the bloom goes away.

Thankfully, this problem is one that everyone can help to solve. If dog waste is the problem, with teamwork from all pet owners in North Augusta, we should see West Pond clear up in the months to come. When you take your dog

for a walk, take pet waste bags with you to pick up after your pet. If your dog uses the backyard, be sure to scoop up all the waste and throw it in a garbage can, especially before rainy days. There are even doggie septic tanks that are small versions of a home septic tank that can easily fit into any sized yard. There will be signage going up in Brick Pond Park about harmful algal blooms and pet waste pick up. Dog poop that is left in the yard or along the street is not just a hazard to your own shoes, it is a hazard for everyone downstream. To all the responsible pet owners and water quality advocates, we appreciate your help in protecting Brick Pond Park, the Savannah River, the water quality of North Augusta. Thank you!

For more information on this type of algae, please visit the Environmental Protection Agency website: <https://www.epa.gov/cyanohabs/learn-about-cyanobacteria-and-cyanotoxins>.

## Earth Day in April

On April 22nd of every year there is nationwide drive to celebrate the Earth. The first Earth Day was held in 1970 as a way to unite the environmental movement. It was led by a graduate student from Harvard University and the Wisconsin Senator at the time. Now, it is both nationally and globally recognized as a way to bring awareness to environmental concerns and take action by caring for our planet. This Earth Day, we would like to see residents in North Augusta love on our community and planet. There are an endless number of ways you can help the Earth and enjoy the outdoors. Even the smallest actions can help to clean up the environment and protect our waterways. Here is a short list to give you some ideas on how to celebrate for Earth Day this April.

- Go camping or take a hike
- Organize a community clean up
- Make something new out of recycled materials
- Plant a tree in your yard
- Ride your bike to work or school
- Switch to rechargeable batteries
- Install a rain barrel
- Plant native flowers in your garden
- Volunteer in the community
- Switch to LED lightbulbs
- Conserve water in your house or office
- Start your own compost pile
- Use a reusable bag at the grocery store
- Donate your read books to a library or school
- Carpool to the destination if possible

**Look for the Stormwater Management Department at these upcoming events:**

**Aiken Technical College Sustainably Expo**

April 3, 2024  
10am to 2pm

**Household Hazardous Waste Day**

May 18, 2024  
10am to 1pm



For Stormwater Department Questions: *Michaela Day Canady, Environmental Coordinator @ 803-442-5711*