

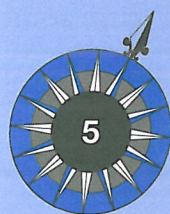
## NORTH AUGUSTA RECEIVES HOUSING GRANT

The City of North Augusta has been awarded a \$350,000 Community Development Block Grant through the South Carolina Department of Commerce. The grant will be used to rehabilitate 15 substandard homes in Carsville, a neighborhood of older homes on Boylan Street, Burnside Avenue, Barton Road, and East Buena Vista Avenue. The homes selected for rehabilitation are owner occupied and all the homeowners meet the federal grant participation guidelines. Many of the homeowners are elderly or disabled. With assistance from the Lower Savannah Council of Governments (LSCOG), the City applied for the grant in response to a request from the North Augusta Community Association. LSCOG staff will assist in the administration of the rehabilitation project.



Mary Bright, Director of the North Augusta Community Association, is flanked by Jennifer Vaz and Jeff Smoak of the Lower Savannah Council of Governments. Ms. Bright and the Community Association initiated the housing rehabilitation program.

A five member Housing Committee will oversee implementation of the Housing Rehabilitation Program. Earnest Duncan, Small Business Banker, Wachovia Bank, will serve as Chairman. Ms. Mary Bright, Director of the North Augusta Community Association; Conrad Hartzog, retired; Reverend Alex Pope, Pastor, First Providence Baptist Church; and Reverend David Thompson, Pastor, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church will also serve on the Committee. Implementation of the program has already started and renovation of the first five homes should begin in January.



Forward

## SPRING RECREATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Registration for spring recreation programs begins February 1 and runs through February 28, 1999. Athletes can register at Riverview Park Activities Center for Soccer, Dixie Youth Baseball, Dixie Boys Baseball, Dixie Majors Baseball, Dixie Girls Softball and Adult Basketball. Program participation rates are:

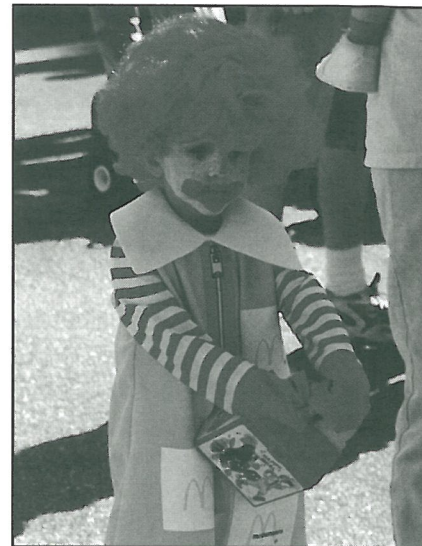
<i>In-City Activities Center Member</i> .....	\$35
<i>In-City Non Activities Center Member</i> .....	\$40
<i>Out-of-City Activities Center Member</i> .....	\$50
<i>Out-of-City Non Activities Center Member</i> .....	\$55

*Birth certificates are required for new participants. For additional information, please call 441-4311.*

## DOWNTOWN STREETScape TO BEGIN

The final design of Phase I of the Downtown Streetscape, encompassing Georgia Avenue from Jackson Avenue to the Georgia Avenue Bridge, is expected to be completed by the end of the first quarter of 1999. Phase I construction will follow in the second quarter.

Planned improvements include new sidewalks, curb and gutter, street pavement, traffic signals, streetlights, landscaping, and street furniture. The design includes the use of special pavers for the sidewalks and crosswalks. The use of paver blocks in crosswalks on state roads is not currently allowed by the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT). In North Augusta, for the first time, SCDOT has agreed to allow the City to install and test a paver block crosswalk. The crosswalk, constructed of several different types of pavers, will be installed at the intersection of Buena Vista and Georgia Avenues. After six months the crosswalk will be inspected by SCDOT officials. The crosswalk design and each of the different types of pavers will be evaluated. If the design is approved, the use of paver block crosswalks will be permitted in the balance of the downtown - and elsewhere in the state.



*A Trick-or-Treater enjoys the Jack-O-Lantern Jubilee*

### City Council

Lark Jones, Mayor  
Carolyn Baggott  
Pat Carpenter  
Phil Mottel  
Ken McDowell  
Don Smith  
Kent Sullivan

### City Council Meetings

are held every first and third Monday at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers on the second floor of the Municipal Building at 400 East Buena Vista Avenue. Citizens are encouraged to attend.

### Distribution & Collection

*North Augusta Forward* is mailed quarterly to every city water customer. If your address is incorrect or if you are not receiving a copy and 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.

## BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT

North Augusta's Department of Building Standards was recently surveyed by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) to evaluate building code effectiveness. The ISO uses a ten point rating scale with "1" being the most effective. The department was awarded a "3" rating, an improvement over the "5" the City achieved in 1994. According to the ISO, those municipalities that effectively enforce their building codes will realize safer new buildings and less property loss due to natural hazards. It is possible that a building code effectiveness rating of "3" or better, if consistently maintained, could reduce the cost of homeowners insurance on newly constructed homes in the future.

## COLD WEATHER FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

Each year in the United States, 240,000 home fires occur during the winter months. The following tips will help you and your family stay safe and warm this winter:

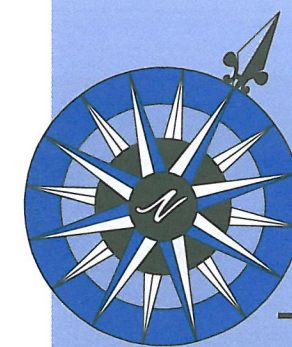
- Have a qualified serviceman check and clean your heater.
- Be sure trash, papers and other flammable materials are kept away from the furnace area.
- Make certain your fireplace opening is covered with a sturdy metal screen or heat tempered glass doors; NEVER leave a fire unattended.
- Before and after each heating season, have your chimney cleaned and checked.
- Never leave small children unattended in rooms with portable heaters; be sure heater shuts off automatically if tipped over.
- Install smoke detectors on each level of your home; test monthly.
- Establish a fire escape plan.

For additional safety tips, call the Department of Public Safety at 279-2121.

## North Augusta Forward

City of North Augusta, South Carolina  
400 East Buena Vista Avenue  
PO Box 6400  
North Augusta, SC 29861-6400

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 26  
North Augusta, SC



# North Augusta Forward

A Publication for the Citizens of North Augusta, South Carolina

Volume V, Number 2

December, 1998



Best wishes for a safe and joyous holiday season from the North Augusta City Council & City employees.

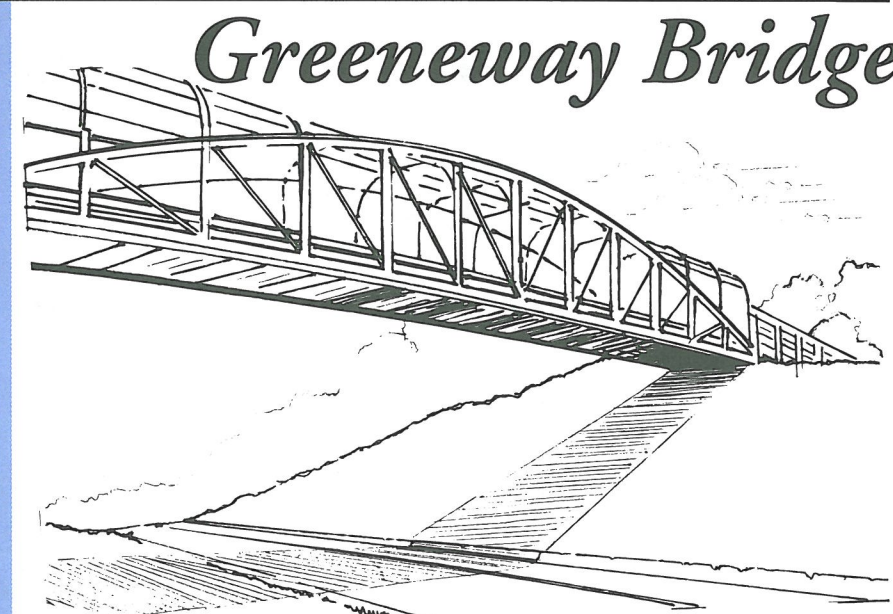
## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CAROLS IN THE PARK

Holiday music will be performed by local church choirs and school organizations on Thursday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m. in John C. Calhoun Park, Georgia and Carolina Avenues. For more information please call 441-4300.

### ANNUAL ROUNDBALL CLASSIC

The annual "Roundball Classic", sponsored by the North Augusta Optimist Club, will be held on Friday, February 19 and Saturday, February 20, 1999 at Riverview Park Activities Center. The Classic celebrates the finale of the youth basketball season. For details, please call 441-4311.



## Greenway Bridge

## TO BE CONSTRUCTED

Phase II of the North Augusta Greenway is now complete and open to walkers, joggers, bikers and skaters. The 1.5 mile second section runs from West Martintown Road to Pisgah Road and was constructed at a cost of \$250,000. The project was funded in part by a grant from the South Carolina Department of Transportation (\$60,000). The balance of the cost was provided by the City in the form of materials, equipment and labor. Phase I and II of the Greenway now total 4.8 miles and are separated only by West Martintown Road. Greenway users are advised not to attempt to cross Martintown Road in the vicinity of the Greenway.

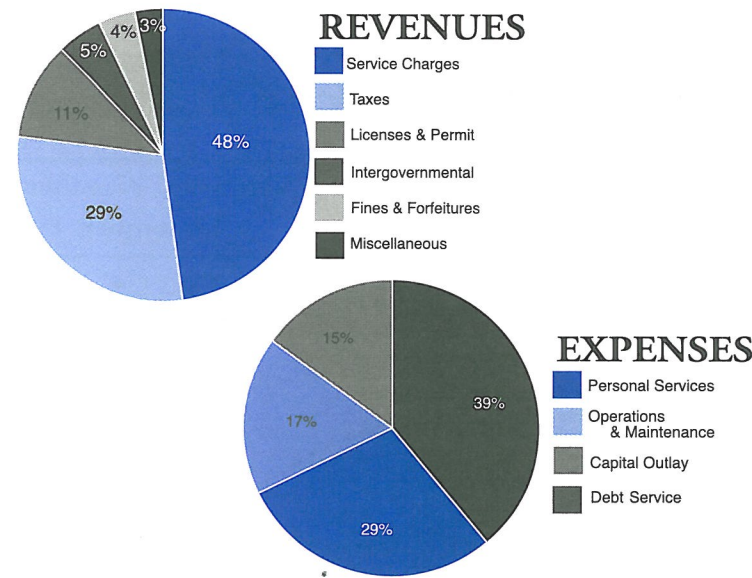
The City of North Augusta has received a \$200,000 grant award from the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism to construct a Greenway Trail bridge (Phase III) over West Martintown Road. The City will match the grant with \$50,000. The bridge will connect the 3.3 mile Phase I with the recently completed Phase II to provide 4.8 miles of uninterrupted Greenway Trail. Bridge construction will begin before Summer, 1999.

The arched pedestrian style bridge will be located where the old "railroad trestle" spanned Martintown Road. The drawing above is an artist's rendering of The Greenway Bridge.

*NOTE: Until the bridge is complete, Greenway users crossing Martintown Road should use the traffic signal or the tunnel under the road at the intersection of Martintown and Bunting Drive.*



## 1999 Consolidated Municipal Budget



## HOSPITALITY & ACCOMMODATIONS TAXES ADOPTED

To partially fund the City's redevelopment of the Downtown and Riverfront Districts, the City has adopted local hospitality and accommodations taxes. Both taxes became effective December 1, 1998. The local hospitality tax is a 2% tax on the sale of prepared or modified food and beverages sold in North Augusta and is expected to generate \$500,000 annually. The local accommodations tax is a 3% tax on motel, bed and breakfast and similar overnight lodgings and is expected to generate \$15,000 annually.

## RE-FINANCING BONDS SAVES CITY \$2,300,000

As a result of the recent interest rate decline in the municipal bond market, the City of North Augusta achieved a savings of \$2,300,000 over the next 22 years by re-financing its three outstanding municipal revenue bonds. The outstanding bonds had been issued for various utility system improvements between 1976 and 1992. Interest rates on the three existing bond issues ranged from 5% to 6.6% with the last issue maturing in 2022. The new bonds will bear interest at 4.45% and will mature in the year 2018.



Forward

## CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS 1999 CONSOLIDATED BUDGET

After several meetings and lengthy discussions the North Augusta City Council has finalized the 1999 Consolidated Municipal Budget. The 1999 budget maintains the level of services currently provided by the City, provides for expanded services in some areas and includes several public improvement projects prioritized by the Council.

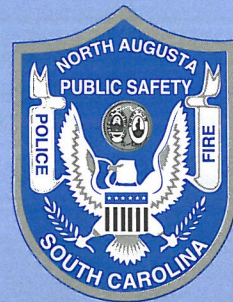
One significant project to be implemented next year is the substantial renovation of Lions Memorial Field. Lions Field will receive new restrooms, concession stands, a second playing field, upgraded lighting, a new fence and paved parking. The Public Safety Department's First Responder Program, which trains and equips Public Safety Officers to provide the first level of emergency medical care, will be continued and expanded.

The 1999 Budget also provides for the implementation of the Department of Public Safety's new Computer Aided Dispatch Program and construction of Phase III of the Greenway, a pedestrian bridge across West Martintown Road. The Public Works Department will add a new four person Streets and Drains Crew to increase the City's ability to maintain storm drains and repair streets. Downtown redevelopment will proceed aggressively in 1999 with construction of the first phase of the Downtown Streetscape. Georgia Avenue from Jackson Avenue to the Georgia Avenue Bridge will be "streetscaped" with new sidewalks, extensive landscaping, brick paver crosswalks, new streetlights and street furniture. Additionally, engineering designs for Phase II of the Streetscape, Riverside Park and Churchill Promenade are also budgeted in 1999 so that construction can be scheduled in 2000 and 2001.

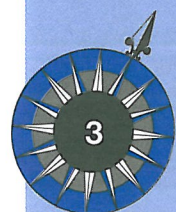
## RIVERSIDE BOULEVARD FEATURES HISTORY LESSON

Riverside Boulevard, under construction since last spring, is now completely paved and provides easy access to the Greenway, The River Golf Club and future riverfront redevelopment projects. Street lighting and final landscaping are scheduled for early 1999.

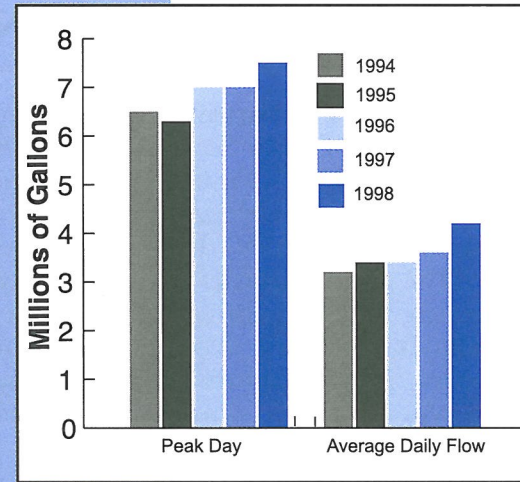
The North Augusta Greenway, which occupies an abandoned railroad right-of-way, now includes a roundabout at its intersection with Riverside Boulevard on the east side of the Georgia Avenue tunnel. The roundabout features a railroad car wheel-truck at its center. The wheel-truck was donated by TTX Company-Hamburg Division and installation was donated by RW Bussey Construction Company and Gold Mech Services Inc. The wheel-truck serves as a significant reminder of our history as a terminal point on the Charleston-Hamburg railroad over 150 years ago.



The Department of Public Safety and the City of North Augusta encourage you to buckle-up and have a safe and joyful holiday season.



Forward



previous record. The average daily flow from January through October increased 11% over the same period in 1997 to 4,158,000 gallons.

The increased demand for water in North Augusta has been expected. An expansion of the water treatment plant from the current capacity of 8,000,000 gallons per day to 14,000,000 gallons per day was designed in 1998 and will be constructed in 1999.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## WINTER BASE PERIOD TO BEGIN SOON

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 covers the water meter readings taken in the periods December 10 through January 9; January 10 through February 9; and February 10 through March 9. The customer is billed a sewer service charge based on actual water consumption during each of the three winter base months. The average consumption of these three periods 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.

## RECORD WATER CONSUMPTION IN 1998

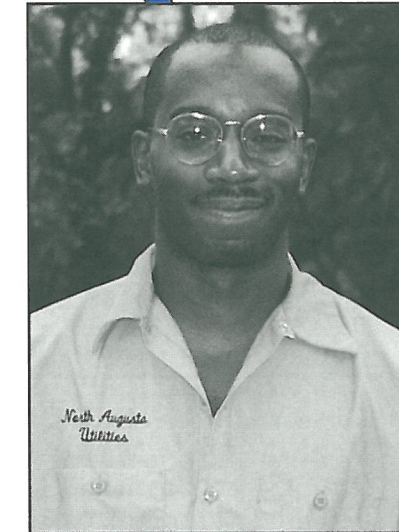
North Augusta's water consumption set new records in 1998. The City's growth and the unusually dry summer this year created the increased demand. The previous one day record, 6,963,000 gallons, set on May 22, 1996, was broken on July 11, when the City's water treatment plant pumped 7,547,000 gallons in 24 hours. The average daily consumption this year also exceeded the

## TAX NOTICES TO BE MAILED IN JANUARY

Tax notices for the 1998 tax year on real and personal property and merchants inventory will be mailed by the City's Finance Department in January, 1999. Tax payments are due by May 1, 1999. For those property owners whose taxes are escrowed by a mortgage company, tax notices will be mailed directly to the mortgage company. City tax millage remains unchanged for 1998 at 81.74 mills.

## 1999 BUSINESS APPLICATIONS DUE SOON

Business license applications for calendar year 1999 will be mailed to existing licensees the last week of December. Completed applications are due back by February 1, 1999. Licensees should carefully examine the information on the application to confirm that it is correct. Corrections 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. Turn around time on a properly completed business license application is usually within ten days. Delinquent charges are added to license applications received after February 1.



Utilities Foreman Randy Nichols, North Augusta's 1998 Employee of the Year

## UTILITIES FOREMAN SELECTED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Polite, knowledgeable, responsive and very helpful are words which describe North Augusta's 1998 Employee of the Year. Utilities Foreman Randy Nichols began his career with the City in 1992 as a Utilities Laborer and earned a promotion to Foreman. His positive attitude, willingness to help and commitment to his job qualified Randy for selection as Employee of the Year. Randy received a plaque,

gift certificates to BC Davenport's and SMS Sportsworld and a cash prize.

North Augusta's Employee Recognition Program was established in 1996 to honor employees who distinguish themselves through unique accomplishments, cost-saving efforts, customer service and consistent performance above normal expectations. A committee of City employees accepts nominations from employees and citizens and selects an outstanding employee each quarter. Each year one of the four Employees of the Quarter is selected by the Committee as Employee of the Year. Recent Employees of the Quarter include Myrtle Johnson, School Crossing Guard; Chuck Roberts, Public Works/Sanitation Supervisor; and Scott Sawyer, Program Coordinator for Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services.

## PAY YOUR UTILITY BILL BY BANK DRAFT

A growing number of City utility customers enjoy the convenience of paying their monthly bills electronically. It's easy to set up. Bring a voided check or deposit slip to the Finance Department in the Municipal Building at 400 East Buena Vista Avenue. You will be asked to sign a card authorizing the City to debit your checking account monthly for the amount of your bill. You will receive a statement each month at least ten days prior to the due date. If you have questions about your bill, you can call within the ten days before the transaction is sent to your bank. For more information, or to have an authorization card mailed to you, call the Finance Department at 441-4212.



Forward