

# APPLICATIONS DUE BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWAL

Calendar year 2000 Business License renewal applications will be distributed to existing licensees during the last week of December. Completed applications are due back to the Finance Department no later than February 1, 2000. A delinquent payment penalty of ten percent will be added to any application received after February 1. The penalty will increase by five percent each month until received.

Business licensees should carefully examine the information on the application to confirm that it is correct. 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. Turn around time on a properly completed business license application is usually within ten days. Questions concerning the business license application process can be directed to the Finance Department at 441-4214.

## TAX NOTICES

Tax notices on real and personal property and on merchants' inventory for the 1999 Tax Year will be mailed to property owners in January 2000. Tax payments are due by May 1, 2000. For those property owners whose taxes are escrowed by a mortgage company, tax notices will be mailed directly to the mortgage company. Questions about property taxes can be directed to the Finance Department at 441-4215.

## 2000 CITY PROPERTY TAXES SET

At its November 15, 1999 meeting the City Council held the line again on the municipal property tax by setting the property tax rate for 2000 (tax year 1999) at 81.74 mills. There has been no change in the effective property tax rate for the last eight years. Revenue generated from 72.72 mills will support the General Fund (public safety, public works, general government, etc.). The proceeds from 9.02 mills will finance public improvement projects through the Capital Projects Fund.

## PAY UTILITY BILLS Automatically

A growing number of utility customers enjoy the convenience of paying their monthly bills electronically. It's easy to set up. Simply submit a voided check or deposit slip to the City Finance Department and 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 your bank processes the transaction. For more information, or to request an authorization card, call the Finance Department at 441-4212.



## CITY IMPLEMENTS PhoneMaster System

A report in the last issue of *North Augusta Forward* outlined the Finance Department's plans to install an automated telephone notice system to notify utility customers of past due balances. The PhoneMaster system was implemented on December 1. Under the old system, the City notified customers by mailing a second notice of the balance due and scheduled cut-off date. It is City policy to notify customers of past due balances as soon as possible to provide a reasonable period to make required payments. Processing, printing and mailing second notices is time consuming and expensive. Additionally, mail delivery can add several days to the process.

The PhoneMaster system speeds up the delivery of past due balance notices by notifying customers of past due balances with a computerized phone message. The phone message is sent within a day of a bill becoming past due. In addition to saving the time and cost of mailing notices, the PhoneMaster system documents each call and provides an accurate, efficient record of account contacts.

The phone numbers of all utility customers have been entered into the utility customer database. Many utility customers with unlisted phone numbers have volunteered their numbers to be included in the database. Those few customers with unlisted numbers who have not yet offered their numbers to the City are requested to do so. Unlisted phone numbers will remain confidential and will not be released. Please relay your home telephone number to the City by writing it on your return utility payment stub or by calling 441-4212. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Y2K Readiness

Potential "Y2K" computer problems on New Years Day and in the year 2000 have been receiving increased news coverage recently. The issues are complex. Older computer chips and software programs were frequently date coded using only the last two digits of the year. As a result, the year 2000 may be interpreted as the year 1900. Left unresolved, this computer interpretation could cause significant miscalculations or a complete shutdown of equipment on January 1, 2000.

Since June 1998, a committee of key City personnel has been meeting to ensure that all City services will continue to function after December 31. A complete inventory of all potentially effected systems was conducted and each system was identified as either Y2K compliant or non-compliant. Systems identified as non-compliant were upgraded or replaced. All systems have been tested, most by advancing the internal clocks and calendars, and all continue to function properly.

City systems, however, rely on other organizations to operate. As long as SCE&G provides electric power, City water will be treated and pumped. If BellSouth phone lines operate properly, emergency calls to the Public Safety Department will receive immediate response. If the US Postal Service continues to process mail, City utility bills will be delivered. Both SCE&G and BellSouth have provided Y2K performance assurances to the City and no interruptions in their services are anticipated.

Although the City has anticipated and corrected all of the potential problems that could be identified, a Y2K Emergency Response Plan has been prepared. On New Year's Eve Public Safety, Utilities and Public Works personnel will be on standby to respond to any problems that may arise. For example, in case traffic signals fail to function properly, a Public Safety Officer will be stationed at each signalized intersection to direct traffic until a Public Works crew can set up temporary stop signs. The City has attempted to anticipate and correct everything that might create a problem so that on New Year's Day the only indicator of the new millennium will be the calendar.

North Augusta Forward is mailed quarterly to every City water customer. If your address is incorrect or if you're not receiving a copy of this publication 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.**

**North Augusta**  
South Carolina's Riverfront  
CITY of NORTH AUGUSTA  
400 East Buena Vista Avenue  
PO Box 6400  
North Augusta, SC 29861-6400

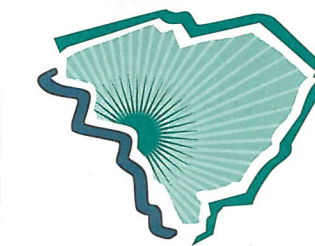
[www.northaugusta.net](http://www.northaugusta.net)

Best wishes for a safe & happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

BULK Rate  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
PERMIT No. 26  
North Augusta, SC

## TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

<b>POLICE &amp; FIRE EMERGENCY</b>	911
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>	
Non Emergency	279-2121
Administration	441-4251
Records/Court Services	441-4271
Investigations	441-4274
Codes Enforcement	441-4258
<b>PARKS, RECREATION &amp; LEISURE SERVICES</b>	
Riverview Park Activities Center	441-4300
Activities Coordinator	441-4311
Community Center	441-4290
<b>GENERAL SERVICES AND FINANCE</b>	
Taxes	441-4215
Utility - New Service/Disconnects	441-4219
Utility Billing Services	441-4212
Business Licenses (Non-Contractor)	441-4214
Human Resources	441-4205
<b>ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS</b>	
After-Hours Emergencies	279-2121
Engineering	441-4223
Building Standards	441-4227
Permits	441-4227
Business Licenses (Contractors)	441-4227
Animal Control	441-4227
Sanitation Services	441-4223
Sanitation - New Service	441-4219
Streets & Drains Repairs	441-4227
<b>PUBLIC UTILITIES</b>	
After-Hours Emergencies	279-2121
Utility - New Service/Disconnects	441-4219
Utility Billing	441-4212
Water and Sewer Repairs	441-4223
<b>ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Economic Development	441-4221
Planning	441-4221
Zoning	441-4221
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	
Mayor	441-4202
City Administrator	441-4202
<b>OTHER FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS</b>	
North Augusta Chamber of Commerce	279-2323
Nancy Carson Library	279-5767
North Augusta Health Center	278-0880
ComCast (cable)	279-9100
S. C. Electric & Gas	442-2000
BellSouth	780-2355
S. C. Department of Transportation	1-800-442-1368
Magistrate	202-3580



## CONTENTS

Recreation Schedule.....	2
New Sanitation Rates.....	2
Greenway Bridge.....	3
Event Calendar.....	3
Employees Recognized.....	4
Sanitation Procedures.....	4
PhoneMaster System.....	5
Property Taxes.....	5
Y2K Readiness.....	6
Phone Directory.....	6

Happy  
Holidays

December 1999  
Vol. VI, Number 3

## CITY COUNCIL

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

## CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

are held every first & third Monday at 7:00p.m. in the Council Chambers on the second floor of the Municipal Building, 400 East Buena Vista Avenue. Citizens are encouraged to attend these meetings.

# North Augusta FORWARD

South Carolina's Riverfront

A Publication for the Citizens of North Augusta, South Carolina

## NEW CITY LOGO Approved

North Augusta  
South Carolina's Riverfront

The redesigned masthead and layout in this issue of *North Augusta Forward* incorporate the City's recently adopted logo and slogan. The logo features a stylized outline of the State of South Carolina with rays emanating from North Augusta's location. The slogan, or tag line, "South Carolina's Riverfront", helps to distinguish North Augusta as a South Carolina City and highlights its unique location on the Savannah River.

Approved by the City Council in July, the logo has been incorporated into the City's letterhead, business cards and website, [www.northaugusta.net](http://www.northaugusta.net). License plates bearing the new logo have been produced and are available at the Municipal Building drive-up window, the Riverview Park Activities Center and the North Augusta Chamber of Commerce for \$5.00 each. The logo will also be featured on City vehicles, equipment and uniforms as those items are purchased or replaced. Next year, in conjunction with scheduled maintenance and repainting, the logo will be applied to the water towers on Five Notch Road at I-20 and Atomic Road. Over time, the logo will also be applied to streetlight banners, a City flag and other specialty items to identify the City.

The "new logo" process was initiated with the City Council's decision in 1997 to develop a new marketing image for the City. Because the Council wanted the logo to clearly establish the City's image, considerable time was spent discussing ideas and developing specifications for the final design. During the second half of 1998 and the first half of 1999, the Council considered and rejected a number of designs. While total agreement is seldom achieved in a subjective design process, the City Council ultimately reached a consensus on a logo that will positively represent the City within the community, within the Central Savannah River Area and to the rest of the world.



## RECREATION PROGRAM

### REGISTRATION SCHEDULE

#### February 1-20

Dixie Youth Baseball - Ages 5-12 (Birthday cut-off August 1)  
 Dixie Boys Baseball - Ages 13-14 (Birthday cut-off August 1)  
 Girls Softball - Ages 5-16 (Birthday cut-off to be determined)  
 Spring Youth Soccer - Ages 5-16 (Birthday cut-off September 1)  
 Adult Basketball

#### March 1-21

Spring Adult Softball

#### March 25

Dixie Youth Baseball Opening Day Ceremonies  
 Girls Softball Opening Day Ceremonies

#### March 25-April 10

Dixie Majors Baseball - Ages 15-18 (Birthday cut-off August 1)

#### August 1-20

Youth Football - Ages 7-12 (Birthday cut-off September 1)  
 Youth Cheerleading - Ages 7-12 (Birthday cut-off September 1)  
 Fall Youth Soccer - Ages 7-12 (Birthday cut-off September 1)

#### November 1-26

Youth Basketball - Ages 6-18 (Birthday cut-off March 1)

Registration Fees	Cheerleading	Softball & Soccer Baseball & Football
City Resident, Activities Center Member	\$50	\$35
City Resident, Non-Member	\$55	\$40
Nonresident, Activities Center Member	\$70	\$50
Nonresident, Non-Member	\$75	\$55
Out of State	\$105	\$105

Birth certificates are required at the time of registration.

For more information, contact the Department of Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services at 441-4300 or visit [www.northaugusta.net](http://www.northaugusta.net).

## WINTER BASE PERIOD

*Beginning*

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 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. The Finance Department, 441-4212, can answer questions about sewer billing calculations.

## CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS

### *New Sanitation Rates*

It is the policy of the City of North Augusta that the Sanitation Department should be self-supporting. Accordingly, the total cost of providing sanitation services must be fully funded through user charges. Sanitation services include residential and commercial waste collection, waste transfer and disposal, recycling, animal control, street sweeping, equipment maintenance and administration. New sanitation service rates, which go into effect in January 2000, represent the first rate increase in residential service charges in seven years. The monthly rate for residential service inside the City will increase from \$9.95 to \$11.90. The monthly residential rate outside the City will move from \$14.95 to \$17.85.

Commercial rates for roll carts and dumpsters will also increase in January. The amount of the increase will vary by the size of the roll cart or dumpster. Questions about changes in sanitation rates may be directed to the Finance Department at 441-4212.

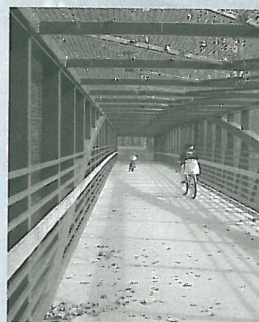
## TRASH TRAILERS

*Available*

Upon request, the Sanitation Department will assist residential customers with large volume waste removal. Any residential customer that needs to discard a large volume of yard waste or home improvement construction debris may reserve a trash trailer for a weekend. There is no charge for the trash trailer provided the resident is doing the work. Contractors must make other arrangements. A \$35 refundable security deposit is required.

Trailers are always delivered on Friday afternoon and picked up on Monday morning but may be reserved for more than one weekend. There are a limited number of trailers available so reservations should be made as far in advance as possible. Reservation requests may be called in to the Sanitation Department at 441-4223.

# NORTH AUGUSTA'S *Greenway Bridge*



A large crowd turned out on September 4th to celebrate and commemorate the completion of Phase III of the North Augusta Greenway, the 180-foot arch-truss pedestrian and bicycle bridge spanning West Martintown Road. The bridge connects the 3.3-mile first phase of the Greenway with the recently completed 1.5-mile second phase to provide almost 4.8 miles of uninterrupted trail.

The \$262,500 bridge was funded through a creative mix of State and Federal grants. A \$200,000 Federal Trails Program grant, awarded through the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism, was matched with a \$50,000 Transportation Enhancement grant from the South Carolina Department of Transportation. The only City investment required for the project was \$12,500 to match the Transportation Enhancement Grant.

A limited number of Greenway Bridge T-shirts are available at the Riverview Park Activities Center. For more information, call the Department of Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services at 441-4300.

## RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

*Grows in 1999*

According to recent reports published by the Department of Economic & Community Development and the Division of Building Standards, 1999 has been a year of exceptionally strong growth in residential development and construction. Through its October meeting, the North Augusta Planning Commission had approved six major subdivisions totaling 91 acres and 244 lots. In the first ten months of 1998 three subdivisions on 17 acres with 44 lots were approved. Additionally, the Department has approved development plans for 289 apartment units. Last year no apartment project approvals were requested.

Residential building activity has also increased significantly. As of October 31, the Division of Building Standards had issued 116 building permits for single-family detached dwellings. During the same period in 1998, 106 permits were issued. In the first ten months of 1997, building permits for 90 single-family units had been processed.

## EMPLOYEES

*Recognized*

The City's Employee Recognition Committee recently selected Riverview Park's Activities Center Coordinator, **Leroy D. "Bo" Rouse**, North Augusta's 1999 Employee of Year. Bo has been an employee in the Department of Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services for more than twenty years and was nominated by J. Robert



"Bob" Brooks, Director of Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services. According to Bob, "Bo is a great asset to the Department and the City. He truly enjoys his work,

enjoys meeting the public and is an excellent problem solver." Bo received a plaque, gift certificates redeemable at BC Davenport's and SMS Sportsworld and a cash award.

The Employee Recognition Committee also selected **Sandy Barrs** Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter of 1999. Another twenty-year employee, Sandy is a Customer Service Representative and Business License Clerk in the Finance Department.



Sandy is described by her co-workers as someone who always has a smile and kind word. She offers to help when another's workload is overwhelming and always takes the time to make customers feel at ease. On several occasions Sandy has volunteered to drive elderly customers home from the Municipal Building during her lunch break. Sandy is always eager to volunteer for community events and has regularly delighted event-goers as Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and the Easter Bunny. Sandy received a plaque and gift certificates redeemable at BC Davenport's and SMS Sportsworld.

For more information about the Employee Recognition Program call 441-4301.

## RESIDENTIAL SANITATION PROCEDURES

The Sanitation Department collects several types of residential waste. Household waste, yard waste and recyclables are each processed differently and usually end up in different processing facilities or landfills with different tipping fees. To prevent mixing waste and to keep operating costs as low as possible, the Sanitation Department has established recommended practices and procedures for the collection of residential waste. Sanitation customers are encouraged to cooperate by following the recommended procedures. Questions can be submitted to the Sanitation Department at 441-4223.

### ROLL CARTS

Roll carts are provided for the disposal of household and recyclable waste. Roll carts should be placed at the curb prior to 7:00 a.m. on collection day and should be removed from the street by 7:00 p.m. the same day. Failure to remove the roll cart from the curbside may result in a \$5.00 charge.

### BLUE BAGS

Blue recycling bags are delivered to residential customers four times per year and are to be used for recyclables only. Full blue bags should be tied shut and placed into the roll cart along with other household waste. When needed, additional blue bags are available at the Municipal Building, 400 East Buena Vista Avenue, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on weekdays.

### YARD WASTE

The Sanitation Department also collects yard waste and bulky items on regular collection days. Because yard waste (grass clippings, leaves and small limbs) can be scattered by wind and rain, it will sometimes block storm drains or become a traffic hazard. Yard waste should be placed in plastic bags at the curb and never in a roll cart. Large bulky items including limbs, logs and boards should be stacked neatly behind the curb line. Because yard waste is collected by special equipment it should never be placed under low wires or tree limbs. It should also never be placed close to potential obstructions like utility poles, mailboxes, parked cars or roll carts.



## SANITATION *Holiday Schedule*

North Augusta provides once-a-week curbside collection of recyclables, yard waste, garbage and trash for all residential properties in the City. Normal collection days are Monday through Thursday. A specific day is assigned to each neighborhood. In weeks that contain a holiday the collection schedule is often adjusted. **This year, because both Christmas and New Year's Day fall on a Saturday, the collection schedule will not be adjusted.**

## 2000 Recreation Events Calendar

- Dec. 31 - Jan. 1** Celebrate 2000 New Year's Eve Party - Broad Street, Augusta
- February 18-19** Youth Basketball RoundBall Classic - Riverview Park Activities Center
- April 22** Easter Egg Hunt - Lions Memorial Field
- May 4** Mayor's Prayer Breakfast - North Augusta Community Center
- July 15-20** NIKE AAU PeachJam Basketball Tournament - Riverview Park Activities Center
- September 4** Rest Fest 2000 - Riverview Park
- October 28** Jack-O-Lantern Jubilee - Downtown North Augusta
- November 20** Christmas Tree Lighting - John C. Calhoun Park
- December 3** Christmas Parade - Downtown North Augusta
- December 7** Carols in the Park - John C. Calhoun Park

Dates and locations are subject to change. For additional information, contact the Department of Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services at 441-4300 or visit [www.northaugusta.net](http://www.northaugusta.net).

