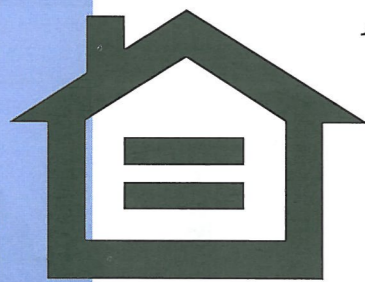


PREPARING FOR THE 2000 CENSUS

The City of North Augusta, like a number of local governments in South Carolina, is assisting the US Bureau of the Census to prepare for the upcoming Year 2000 Census. The City is identifying every housing unit in the City to ensure that North Augusta's population is accurately counted.

In 1990 the census results were widely challenged because many cities and counties believed they were undercounted. An accurate count of the local population is important to North Augusta because census figures determine our representation in Congress and the State Legislature. Most federal programs use Census Bureau population data to distribute grant funds. Additionally, the significance of census data to growing communities has expanded in recent years because the information is increasingly used by business and industrial executives to make location, expansion and investment decisions.

The Department of Economic & Community Development recently completed a review and update of the Census Bureau address list and location maps for a large portion of North Augusta. The additions were numerous because of the growth the City has experienced since 1990. Additional address and map reviews will be completed in 1999. You will hear more about the City's efforts and the need for a "full count" prior to the official Census Survey in February 2000.



Equal Housing Opportunity

APRIL IS NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING MONTH

In accordance with the National Fair Housing Act, the City of North Augusta will recognize April as National Fair Housing Month. Information about Fair Housing will be available on the 2nd Floor of the Municipal Building, 400 East Buena Vista Avenue, throughout the month of April.

Federal fair housing laws make it illegal to discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin:

- in the sale or rental of housing or residential lots;
- in advertising the sale or rental of housing;
- in the financing of housing;
- in the provision of real estate brokerage services; and
- in the appraisal of housing.

Additional information is available from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development at 1-800-669-9777.



The City of North Augusta, in cooperation with the Lower Savannah Council

of Governments, is implementing a housing rehabilitation project in the Carsville neighborhood. Funded by the Community Development Block Grant Program of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and the South Carolina Department of Commerce, the project will renovate fifteen homes in 1999.

1998 BROUGHT STRONG CONSTRUCTION GROWTH IN NA

According to figures recently tabulated by the Department of Building Standards, North Augusta experienced strong growth in construction activity in 1998. The value of all residential and commercial construction in North Augusta reached an all-time high in 1998 of \$36,762,725, an increase of 80% over 1997. This figure includes 103 permits issued for single family detached dwellings, a 14% increase over last year's record of 90 permits. Also significant is the total value of repairs, renovations and additions which increased more than five-fold from \$1,946,950 in 1997 to \$9,959,928 in 1998.

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 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.

FIRE HYDRANT TESTING SCHEDULED

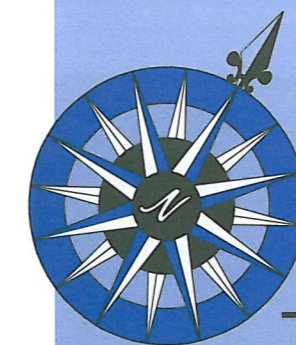
Public Utilities is currently testing water system flows and pressures throughout the area. The tests are conducted annually to measure pressure and flow producing capacities at locations within the water distribution system. The goal is to determine how much water is available for fighting fires and to assess the general condition of the water distribution system. Testing has been scheduled in the following areas on the listed dates:

Savannah Pointe Feb 8-9
Campbell Town Landing Feb 8-9
Hammond Hills Feb 10-11
The Rapids Feb 15-17
Savannah Barony Feb 15-17
Lynhurst Feb 18-22
Martintown III Feb 23-26
The Colony Feb 23-26
Martintown Plaza Area Feb 26-March 2
Green Acres March 3-5
Crestlyn March 8-11
Industrial Park March 12-16
Monticello March 12-16
Chalet North March 17-19
Bradleyville Road March 17-19
Belvedere Ridge March 22-24
Greenfields March 23-25
Belvedere Terrace March 26-31

Water customers may experience discolored water during the testing period. This does not pose a health risk. If you experience discoloration, let both the hot and cold water run continuously for a few minutes until the water runs clear; Check the water for discoloration prior to washing clothes; If the water does not run clear after five minutes please call 441-4240 or 441-4223 for assistance.

CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Fire Emergency	911
Police Emergency	911
Public Safety	
Non Emergency	279-2121
Administration	441-4251
Records/Court Services	441-4271
Investigations	441-4274
Codes Enforcement	441-4258
Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services	
Riverview Park Activities Center	441-4311
Activities Coordinator	441-4311
Community Center	441-4290
General Services and Finance	
Taxes	441-4215
Utility - New Service/Disconnects	441-4219
Utility Billing Services	441-4212
Business Licenses	441-4214
Human Resources	441-4205
Engineering and Public Works	
After-Hours Emergencies	279-2121
Engineering	441-4223
Building Standards	441-4227
Permits	441-4227
Business Licenses	441-4227
Animal Control	441-4237
Sanitation Services	441-4236
Streets & Drains Repairs	441-4235
Public Utilities	
After-Hours Emergencies	279-2121
Utility - New Service/Disconnects	441-4219
Utility Billing	441-4212
Water and Sewer Repairs	441-4223
Economic and Community Development	
Planning	441-4221
Zoning	441-4221
Administration	
Mayor	441-4202
City Administrator	441-4202
Other Frequently Called Numbers	
NA Chamber of Commerce	279-2323
Nancy Carson Library	279-5767
North Augusta Health Center	278-0880
Jones Intercable	733-7712
S. C. Electric & Gas	442-2000
Bell South	780-2335
S. C. Dept. of Transportation	1-800-442-1368
Magistrate - Judge Edmonds	202-3580



North Augusta Forward

A Publication for the Citizens of North Augusta, South Carolina

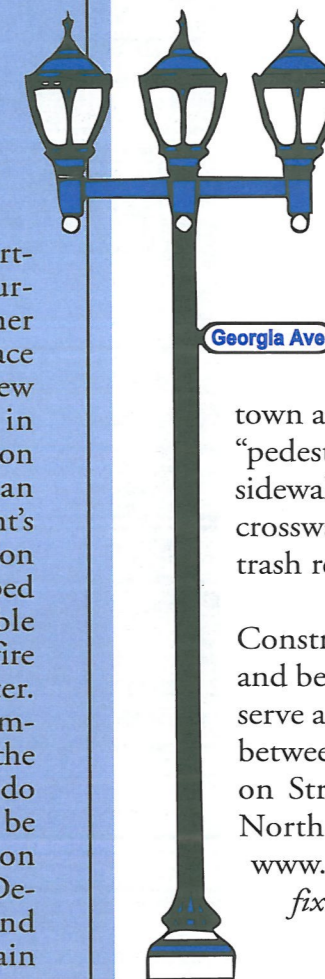
Volume V, Number 3
February, 1999



The new FL-80 pumper/tanker is a welcome addition to Public Safety Station II.

NEW TANKER ARRIVES

The Fire Division of the Department of Public Safety has purchased a new 1999 Freightliner FL-80 Pumper/Tanker to replace its aging 1966 tanker. The new \$119,000 fire truck arrived in December and has a 1,600 gallon water storage tank, more than twice as large as the Department's other trucks. It has a 500 gallon per minute pump and is equipped with a 1,500 gallon collapsible tank which can be set up at a fire scene to store additional water. Water storage capacity is very important in areas, mostly outside the City limits, where fire hydrants do not exist or are too far away to be used. The 1966 1,000 gallon tanker will be assigned to the Department of Public Works and used for street and storm drain maintenance.



Georgia Ave

STREETSCAPE PROGRESS UPDATE

Downtown business owners, property owners and North Augusta citizens reviewed detailed plans for Phase I of the Downtown Streetscape Project, Georgia Avenue from the Greenway Tunnel to Jackson Avenue, on January 25 in the North Augusta Community Center. Citizens who participated in the public review session commented extensively on the details of the design. The input received was incorporated into the plans by the City's design engineer, Cranston, Robertson & Whitehurst, PA, prior to the City Council's final review and authorization to proceed with construction.

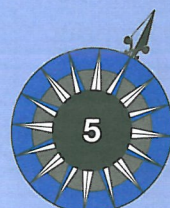
Budgeted at \$1.6 million, the project will significantly improve the appearance of the downtown area, calm traffic and make Georgia Avenue more "pedestrian friendly." Amenities include new curbs and sidewalks, roadway resurfacing, landscaping, paver block crosswalks, new streetlights, traffic signals, benches and trash receptacles.

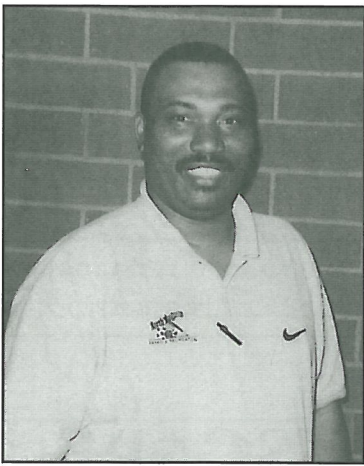
Construction on Phase I is scheduled to begin in May and be completed within twelve months. The City will serve as the general contractor and work will be divided between City crews and sub-contractors. Keep an eye on Streetscape progress reports in future editions of North Augusta Forward or visit the City website at www.northaugusta.net. See other samples of streetscape fixtures throughout this newsletter.

North Augusta Forward

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Bo Rouse

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Riverview Park's Activities Center Coordinator, Bo Rouse, was recently recognized as North Augusta's Employee of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of 1998. Bo has been an employee in the Department of Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services for more than twenty years and was nominated for this award 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." For his efforts, Bo was presented with a plaque and gift certificates contributed by B.C. Davenport and SMS Sportsworld.

DOWNTOWN MOTEL PURCHASED

On December 7, 1998, the North Augusta City Council unanimously approved the purchase of the former Downtown Motel property. The 0.62 acre site is located on the southwest corner of Bluff and Georgia Avenues in the Downtown Redevelopment District. The \$86,000 purchase price was financed through the Downtown/Riverfront Redevelopment Fund. The purchase coincides with the planned streetscape improvements on Georgia Avenue and will be used in the future to leverage the redevelopment of this section of the community.

WEBSITE ON-LINE

You can now visit North Augusta's website at www.northaugusta.net. The site contains information of interest to both residents and visitors - from North Augusta's unique history to news of upcoming events. You can look up facts and figures about North Augusta for a school paper, review the City's exceptional recreation programs or link to the Greater North Augusta Chamber of Commerce webpage.

www.northaugusta.net is a work-in-progress. The information will be expanded and updated regularly to keep you informed of the exciting changes taking place in our community. So stay up-to-date with northaugusta.net!

CITY TACKLES Y2K PROBLEM

Year 2000 (Y2K) computer issues are complex. In the past many computer chips and software programs were date coded using only the last two digits of the year. Accordingly, the year 2000 may be interpreted as the year 1900. Left unresolved, this interpretation could cause problems or a complete shutdown of equipment on January 1, 2000.

To prevent potential Y2K problems, a committee of key City personnel was formed in June 1998 to analyze the impact of Y2K on City services and to plan the steps necessary to become Y2K compliant. To date, a complete inventory of potential problem areas has been completed and software vendors have been surveyed to determine the Y2K compliance of programs used by the City. Later this month, installation of Y2K compliant hardware and software will begin at an estimated cost of \$100,000. In the second quarter of this year, an independent compliance audit will be conducted. The schedule provides for the City to be fully Y2K compliant by July 31, 1999.



PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS RECEIVE SPECIALIZED TRAINING

North Augusta's Public Safety Officers are often the first emergency personnel to arrive at the scene of an accident or medical emergency. The Officers are all well trained in basic First Aid and CPR. In many situations, however, victims require more than basic First Aid prior to the arrival of an ambulance.

With assistance from Aiken County's Division of Emergency Medical Services, the Department of Public Safety is implementing a First Responder Program. The program, which began January 1, 1999, provides each Officer with 40 hours of advanced emergency medical training and the specialized equipment necessary to provide the additional assistance.

Each North Augusta patrol car will be equipped with an advanced life support kit including an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), an emergency jump (ventilator) bag, portable oxygen, stethoscope, cervical collars, obstetrical kits, airways and emergency medical supplies.

RECREATION NEWS

SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATION for youth baseball, softball and soccer will be open through the month of February. Registrants for baseball and softball must be at least 5 years old by August 1 and no older than 17. Soccer registrants must be at least 5 years old by September 1 and no older than 17. Spring adult softball registration will be held during the entire month of March. Program participation rates are:

City Resident, Activities Center Member	\$35
City Resident, Non Activities Center Member	\$40
Nonresident, Activities Center Member	\$50
Nonresident, Non Activities Center Member	\$55

Mark your calendars now for the **OPENING DAY CELEBRATION** for **BASEBALL & SOFTBALL!** The festivities begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 27 at Riverview Park and include carnival rides, food and beverages, team pictures and a two-inning game played by each team. This is a day of fun for the entire family and a great way to welcome Spring. Don't miss it!



The Easter Bunny was a hit at last year's hunt.

For more information contact the Department of Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services at 441-4311.

13th ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

The Easter Bunny will be hop, hop, hopping at the Annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Department of Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services and the North Augusta Optimist Club. The hunt will begin promptly at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 3rd at Lions Field on West Buena Vista Ave. Children ages 0-10 are invited. Lions Field will be divided into three sections, each for a different age group. Special prize eggs will be hidden in each section. The winner in each category will receive a loaded Easter Basket.

Participants should bring a basket for collecting eggs. For more information, contact the Department of Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services at 441-4311.

LION'S FIELD RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY

The renovation of Lion's Field received a high priority from the City Council for funding and construction in 1999 and preparation work on the project has already begun. Budgeted at approximately \$900,000, renovation of the City's primary football facility will include an improved playing field, lighting, fencing, rest rooms, concession stands and paved parking. The project is on a fast track and is scheduled for City Council review in February. Construction is expected to begin in March. The City Department of Engineering and Public Works will serve as the general contractor for the project. The renovation will be completed in time for the beginning of the 1999 football season in September.

OPERATIONS CENTER COMPLETE

The Departments of Public Works and Public Utilities moved in to the City's new Operations Center in January. The Operations Center, located adjacent to the City's Material Recovery Facility on Clay Pit Road, houses 33 Public Works and 22 Public Utilities employees. It includes offices, vehicle and equipment storage space, a parts and equipment warehouse and a modern maintenance garage. The old City Operations Facility on East Buena Vista Avenue and Riverside Boulevard will be torn down. The grounds at both the new Operations Center and the old facility will be landscaped this spring.

ADOPT A PET

In recent years the number of stray or abandoned pets picked up and impounded by the City has decreased slightly. In the same period the number of animals claimed or adopted has increased. The figures are encouraging, but there are still many pets not claimed that need good homes. Anyone interested in adopting a pet can contact the Animal Control Division of the Public Works Department at 441-4237.



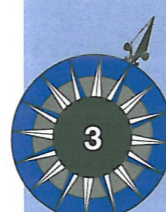
DID YOU KNOW? ANIMAL CONTROL

City regulations provide guidelines on the type and number of pets that can be kept in residential areas. For example, livestock (cows, sheep, chickens, hogs, etc.) may not be kept. A family may include up to three dogs or cats older than four months. Litters of puppies or kittens younger than four months may be kept until they can be placed in a new home. However, pet owners are encouraged to neuter both male and female pets to avoid unanticipated additions to the household.

Pet owners are also required to keep their pets in a fenced yard or on a leash when outdoors. An identification tag and proof of inoculation against rabies should be securely fastened to the animal's collar or harness. A pet allowed to run at large is at risk of being hit by a car or causing a traffic accident. Pets on the loose can sometimes be a nuisance to neighbors and can pose health risks for humans and other pets. The Animal Control Division of the Department of Public Works patrols the City daily to pick up stray and lost animals. Protect your pet by keeping it in a fenced yard or on a leash.



Forward



Forward



Forward