

2000 Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars now and plan to enjoy a variety of fun-filled events this spring and summer. Please call the contact number listed with each event to confirm dates and locations or request additional information.

- April 22** Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 a.m., Lions Memorial Field, Sponsored by the North Augusta Optimist Club and the Department of Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services, for more information call 441-4300
- May 4** Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, 6:45 a.m., North Augusta Community Center, 495 Brookside Drive, for more information call 441-4290
- May 25** Music in the Park, 7:00 p.m., Creighton Living History Park, Sponsored by the North Augusta Cultural Arts Council, for more information call 442-7588
- June 8** Music in the Park, 7:00 p.m., Creighton Living History Park, Sponsored by the North Augusta Cultural Arts Council, for more information call 442-7588
- June 22** Music in the Park, 7:00 p.m., Creighton Living History Park, Sponsored by the North Augusta Cultural Arts Council, for more information call 442-7588
- July 6** Music in the Park, 7:00 p.m., Creighton Living History Park, Sponsored by the North Augusta Cultural Arts Council, for more information call 442-7588
- July 10-14** Clint Bryant Basketball Camp, Riverview Park Activities Center, 100 Riverview Park Drive, for more information call 441-4311
- July 15-20** NIKE AAU PeachJam Basketball Tournament, Riverview Park Activities Center, 100 Riverview Park Drive, for more information call 441-4311
- July 27** Music in the Park Candlelight Concert, 8:00 p.m., Creighton Living History Park, Sponsored by the North Augusta Cultural Arts Council, for more information call 442-7588.

North Augusta Forward is mailed three times a year 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

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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	441-4300
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
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Human Resources	441-4205
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After-Hours Emergencies	279-2121
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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
PUBLIC UTILITIES	
After-Hours Emergencies	279-2121
Utility - New Service/Disconnects	441-4219
Utility Billing	441-4212
Water and Sewer Repairs	441-4223
ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	
Economic Development	441-4221
Planning	441-4221
Zoning	441-4221
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	278-0880
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

April 2000
Vol. VII, Number 1

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 7:00 p.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.



CONTENTS

- Street Renovations.....2
- Greenway Trail Grows.....2
- Lions Memorial Field Renovations.....3
- Election Year Political Signs.....3
- Mosquitoes.....4
- Employee Recognized.....4
- Reminders.....5
- PhoneMaster System.....5
- Annual Drinking Water Quality Report.....6
- Upcoming Events.....8
- Telephone Directory.....8

North Augusta FORWARD

A Publication for the Citizens of North Augusta, South Carolina

CENSUS 2000 *Be Counted*

The 2000 Decennial Census of the United States is now underway. The US Constitution requires the Bureau of the Census to count the population of the United States every ten years. The first US Census was completed in 1790 and recorded a South Carolina population of 249,073. This year our state population is estimated to be more than 3,900,000. When the 2000 Census count is complete we will have an actual figure.

The Bureau of the Census mails a survey questionnaire form to every household in the United States. You may have already received yours. Most households in North Augusta will receive the short form questionnaire which asks seven questions and takes less than ten minutes to complete. One of six households will receive the long form questionnaire, which asks several more questions and takes a little longer to fill out. North Augusta citizens are encouraged to complete and return the census forms promptly. A complete and accurate census count is important because census figures determine our representation in Congress and the State Legislature. Census Bureau data also determine the distribution of federal dollars that support schools, employment services, housing assistance, highway construction, hospital services, programs for the elderly and other federal programs. Additionally, the significance of census data to growing communities like North Augusta has increased in recent years because businesses increasingly use the information to make location, expansion and investment decisions.

The City has been working with the Bureau of the Census for the last two years to add new subdivisions to the census maps and new homes to the address lists to insure that every household in the City is on the census mailing list and will receive a questionnaire. If you do not receive a questionnaire or do not return the one you receive, a Census Bureau employee will visit to assist you with the form.

The information you give to the Census Bureau on your census questionnaire is strictly confidential. The Census Bureau is prohibited by law from sharing individual answers or information with any other government agency or the public. Census workers are sworn to secrecy and are subject to fines and prison if they reveal any information from a census form. Answers to individual census questions are combined with others to produce statistical summaries. No one can connect your answers with your name or address.

On Wednesday, April 12, from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., a Census Road Tour vehicle will be parked at North Hills Plaza in North Augusta. The vehicle, one of 12 touring the nation, contains exhibits, videos and handouts to answer questions and to promote awareness and understanding of the census. For additional information on Census 2000, visit the Census Bureau's Internet site at www.census.gov or call the Census Bureau at 1-888-688-6948.

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MOSQUITO *Control Tips*

When the weather gets warm in the spring, pesky mosquitoes can sometimes ruin a pleasant evening. Mosquitoes are annoying, sometimes painful and can transmit diseases to both humans and pets.

The City implements a mosquito control program every year and trained crews regularly spray for mosquitoes. However, the spray treatment kills only adult mosquitoes. Mosquito eggs and larvae are not affected. Homeowners and business managers can help to keep the mosquito population down. A mosquito must have water to complete a life cycle and reproduce. Most mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water or in small water-holding containers where thousands can hatch in as little as a day. There are a number of simple and positive steps that can be taken to reduce the number these pesky creatures.

- Remove any standing water from your yard. (Get rid of old tires, tin cans, buckets, drums, bottles, or any other water-holding containers, if you have any.)
- Fill in or drain any low places (puddles, ruts, ditches, etc.) in your yard.
- Keep drains, ditches and culverts clean of weeds and trash so water will drain properly.
- Cover trash containers to keep out rainwater.
- Repair leaky pipes and outdoor faucets.
- Empty the children's wading pool at least once a week and store it indoors when it's not being used.
- Make sure the swimming pool is properly cared for while on vacation.
- Fill water-holding holes in trees and hollow stumps with sand or concrete.
- Change the water in birdbaths, plant pots and drip trays at least once a week.
- Keep the lawn cut short and shrubbery well trimmed around the house to reduce hiding areas for adult mosquitoes.

MOSQUITO MYTHS

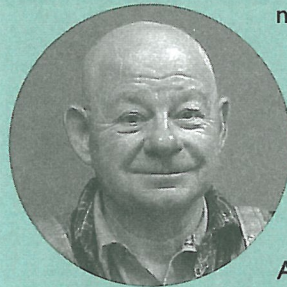
Did you know that nearly 1.75 million homeowners have turned to the use of ultraviolet or black light electrocutors, more commonly known as bug zappers, to control the mosquito nuisance problem. In one study, researchers have found that while these traps can attract and kill thousands of insects within a 24-hour period, mosquitoes comprised only 6.4% of a five-day insect catch. Not only was the mosquito population a small percentage of all insects killed during this particular study, but only half of the mosquitoes killed were the blood-sucking females.

Another common mosquito myth is that the Citrosa plant is a mosquito deterrent. Currently, no studies are available to support the idea that the Citrosa plant actually repels mosquitoes. In fact, some researchers believe that the only way the Citrosa plant can release the Citronella oil is if the plant is touched or disturbed by something much larger than a mosquito.

EMPLOYEE *Recognized*

North Augusta Sanitation Department Employee Eugene Shaw has been recognized as the City's Employee of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of 1999.

Mr. Shaw, a City employee for fourteen years, was selected by the City's Employee Recognition Committee based upon nominations submitted by Sonya Lindley, Sanitation Superintendent, and Tom Zeaser, Director of Engineering and Public Works.



According to Lindley, "Eugene's attitude is outstanding. He is always smiling and cheerful and he always has a kind word. He does not hesitate to provide suggestions on ways to improve the operations of the Sanitation Department. In an often physically demanding position, Mr. Shaw never fails to put forth his best effort." In recognition of his efforts, Eugene was presented with a plaque and gift certificates from SMS Sportsworld and B.C. Davenport.

North Augusta's Employee Recognition Program, established in 1996, honors 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 City employees and citizens and selects an outstanding employee each quarter.

For more information or to nominate an employee, please call 441-4301.

Reminders

Taxes Due

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

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 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 on your bill. If you have any 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.

HOLIDAY SANITATION *Schedule Changes*

North Augusta provides once-a-week curbside collection of residential recyclable material, yard waste, garbage and trash. Normal collection days are Monday through Thursday with a specific day assigned to each neighborhood. The collection schedule is often adjusted in weeks that contain a holiday. Upcoming holidays and their adjusted collection schedules are:

Friday, April 21st - Good Friday

No change to the collection schedule.

Monday, May 29th - Memorial Day

All collections during the week of May 29 will be delayed one day.

Tuesday, July 4th - Independence Day

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday collections during the week of July 3 will be delayed one day.

CITY IMPLEMENTS *PhoneMaster System*

A report in the December 1999 issue of "North Augusta Forward" described the automated telephone notice system recently installed by the Finance Department to notify utility customers of past-due balances. Using a computerized phone message, PhoneMaster speeds up the delivery of past-due notices by notifying customers of past-due balances within a day of a bill becoming past-due. Because notices of past-due utility bills are no longer mailed, customers receive the notice in plenty of time to submit a payment before incurring a late charge. In addition to saving customers time and money, the City saves the time and cost of mailing notices and the PhoneMaster system documents each call and provides an accurate, efficient record of account contacts.

The City maintains a list of all utility customer phone numbers for the PhoneMaster system. If you have not yet provided a preferred contact number to the City, please write it on your return utility payment stub or call 441-4212. Unlisted phone numbers will remain confidential and will not be released. Thank you for your cooperation.

Quality Report



The City of North Augusta is pleased to present the 1999 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is required by the Environmental Protection Agency and is designed to inform you about the quality water and services delivered to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We are committed to ensuring quality water and want to inform you of the efforts we make to continually improve water treatment processes.

The Savannah River is the source of North Augusta's drinking water. Raw water is pumped to the treatment plant where conventional treatment processes are used to produce high-quality drinking water. As required by federal and state laws, the City of North Augusta routinely monitors for more than 80 contaminants in your drinking water. Based on these test results, we are pleased to report that **North Augusta's drinking water is safe and meets all federal and state requirements.**

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. More information about contaminants, potential health effects, and lessening risk of infection by microbiological contaminants can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

The following tables show the laboratory results for samples collected during the 1999 calendar year. **Only those contaminants that were detected are shown.** A complete list of contaminants we test for is available upon request.

In the tables you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

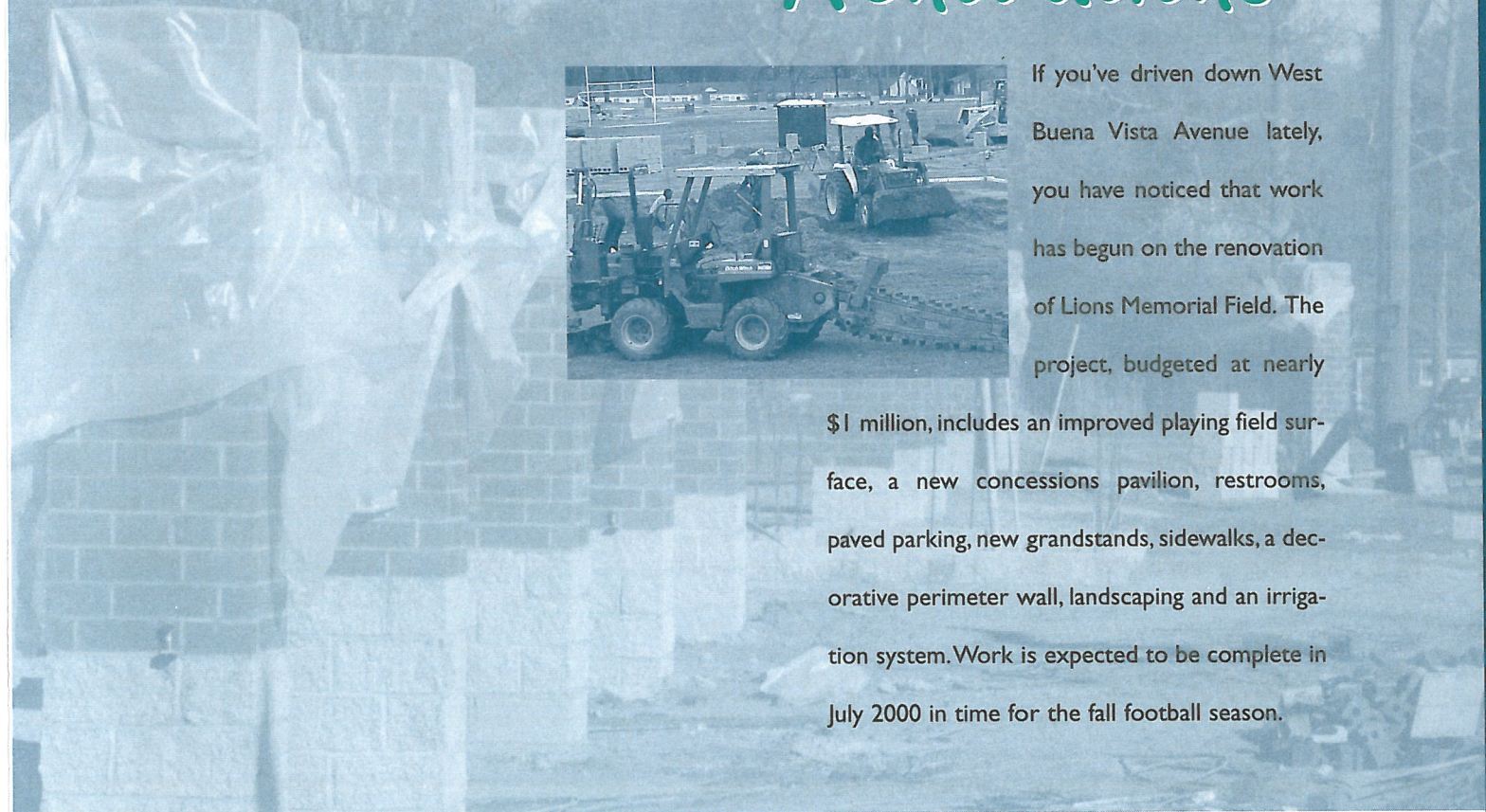
Action Level (AL)- the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The "Goal"(MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

LIONS MEMORIAL FIELD

Renovations



If you've driven down West Buena Vista Avenue lately, you have noticed that work has begun on the renovation of Lions Memorial Field. The project, budgeted at nearly

\$1 million, includes an improved playing field surface, a new concessions pavilion, restrooms, paved parking, new grandstands, sidewalks, a decorative perimeter wall, landscaping and an irrigation system. Work is expected to be complete in July 2000 in time for the fall football season.

ELECTION YEAR

Political Signs

A number of elections will be held in North Augusta this year. The presidential primary was held in February. Several primaries, at least one special election and possible runoff elections will be held between now and the general election on November 7. Political campaign activity and the associated political yard signs will be visible for a good portion of the year. North Augusta, like most communities, limits the size and number of political signs and the amount of time they may be displayed.

On residential property only one sign is allowed per lot and it may be no larger than six square feet. A political campaign sign may be placed in the yard for no more than ten days prior to an election. The political sign must be removed in the two days following the election. Portable signs (the ones on wheels or a small trailer with electric lighted lettering) are not allowed in residential areas.

On commercial and industrial property the regulations are a little different. One sign per property is allowed and it may be displayed

for no more than ten days prior to an election. It must also be removed within two days following the election. Portable signs are permitted on commercial and industrial property but they may not be more than thirty-two square feet in size and may not be illuminated.

For safety reasons, signs located on private property must not block visibility along a roadway or at an intersection. In no event may campaign signs be placed on public property or within public rights-of-way (sidewalks, streets, roads, etc.). It is also unlawful to paste, paint, tack or place any handbill, circular, picture or other advertising material on a bridge, lamppost, fence, corner post or telephone pole. And no political sign may be placed on any property or building without the consent of the owner.

Permits are not required for political signs. However, signs found to be in violation may be removed immediately and without notification, whether on public or private property.

STREET RENOVATIONS

GEORGIA AVENUE Streetscape Proceeds

The South Carolina Department of Transportation has given final approval for the City to begin work on the long awaited Georgia Avenue streetscape improvements. The City has advertised for construction bids and expects to award the contract in April. Construction of Phase I, from the Greenway to Jackson Avenue, will begin in early May and is expected to take twelve months to complete. During construction, one lane of traffic in each direction will be maintained at all times.

The \$1.8 million project includes new curbs, sidewalks, brick crosswalks, road surfacing, landscaped medians, traffic signals, streetlights, street furniture, and other amenities designed to improve the appearance of the downtown area, calm traffic and make Georgia Avenue more "pedestrian friendly." Those wishing to view the updated plans may do so by appointment. For additional information or to set up an appointment, please call Tom Zeaser, Director of Engineering and Public Works at 441-4220.

KNOX AVENUE Improvements

The South Carolina Department of Transportation has announced that major improvements to Knox Avenue will be started this year. The roadway will be widened to five lanes, intersections will be improved, sidewalks will be added and landscaped medians will be installed. Bids on the work will be solicited in May and construction will begin in late summer. The \$4.6 million project will take approximately two years to complete.

In addition to the added lanes, the most noticeable improvements will be to the intersections at Summerhill Road, Old Edgefield Road, Euclid Avenue, Sycamore Road, Whitlows Road, Five Notch Road, Bradleyville Road and Georgia Avenue. The intersection at Clearwater Road and Georgia Avenue will also be improved as part of this project. The road widening and intersection realignment will increase the traffic carrying capacity of the road, reduce travel time and increase the safety of motorists and pedestrians.

STREET RESURFACING TO BEGIN

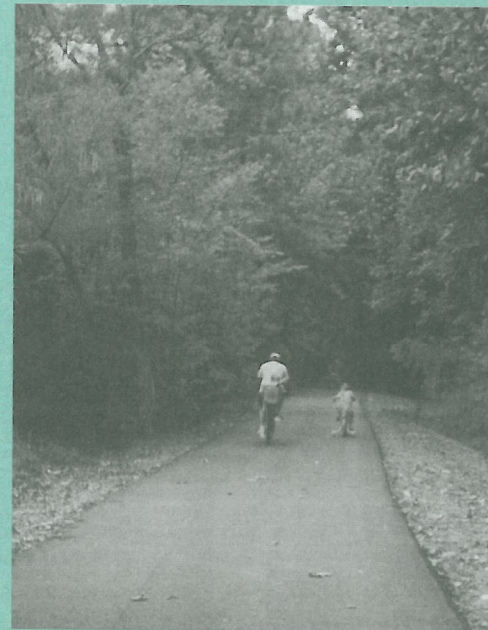
This spring, the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) will repave a number of state-owned neighborhood streets in North Augusta. The streets scheduled for resurfacing are Stanton Drive, Dunbarton Drive, Mokateen Avenue, Spring Grove Avenue, Brooks Drive, Ponce de Leon Avenue and Fairfield Avenue. The work should be complete by October.

Each year the City's Engineering Department recommends a list of state-owned streets for repaving to the City Council. The City Council prioritizes the list and forwards it to SCDOT so the work can be scheduled. Funds for resurfacing are provided through state gas taxes redistributed to the county and allocated through the Aiken County Transportation Committee. For more information, contact Tom Zeaser, Director of Engineering and Public Works at 441-4220.

NORTH AUGUSTA GREENWAY

Trail Grows

Construction on the fourth phase of the North Augusta Greenway is underway. The newest section begins at the "Greenway roundabout" on the east side of the Georgia Avenue tunnel, crosses Riverside Boulevard and parallels The River Club Golf Course access road to the new clubhouse. The \$25,000 project will add another half mile to the 4.8 mile Greenway, resulting in an uninterrupted trail of 5.3 miles. The Phase 4 extension is expected to be open to the public in May.



The latest Greenway construction is being financed primarily with funds remaining from the SCDOT Transportation Enhancement grant awarded for the Phase 2 extension, Martintown Road to Pisgah Road. Because the Phase 2 work was completed substantially under budget, the remaining funds were used to accelerate the construction of Phase 3, the bridge over Martintown Road, and Phase 4. The owners and developers of The River Club Golf Course, North Augusta Golf Venture, provided the right-of-way for Phase 4 of the Greenway in accordance with their development obligations.

REGULATED DETECTIONS

Radiological Contaminants	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	Level Detected	Likely Source of Contamination
(1) Beta/photon emitters	pCi/l	50*	0	1.5 ± 1.05	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
(2) Alpha emitters	pCi/l	15	0	0.05 ± 0.6	Erosion of natural deposits
Inorganic Contaminants					
Fluoride	ppm	2	4	0.7	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	ppm	10	10	0.2	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

*EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Bacteriological Analysis

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Samples are collected from 40 representative sites throughout the water distribution system monthly and analyzed for total coliform bacteria. EPA requires that at least 95% of the samples test negative. We achieved 100% compliance as no coliform bacteria were detected in any of the samples analyzed in 1999.

Lead & Copper

Contaminant	Unit of Measure	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile Value	Number of Sampling Sites Exceeding the Action Level	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper*	ppm	1.3	0.124	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead*	ppb	15	3.1	1	Corrosion of household plumbing systems

*30 samples are collected from designated sites throughout the water distribution system every 3 years for lead and copper analysis. The results shown are from samples collected in June 1999.

Turbidity Measurements

Turbidity is the measure of the cloudiness of water. We measure it because it is a good indicator of both water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration system. Water treatment plant personnel analyzed more than 3,100 post-filtration samples for turbidity level in 1999. We achieved 100% compliance as none of the samples exceeded the MCL of 0.50 NTU.

Contaminant	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Sample Date	Violation Y/N	Likely Source of Contamination
Turbidity	NTU	TT=5 NTU max	0	0.35	05/26/99	No	Soil runoff
	NTU	TT <0.50 NTU	0	< 0.50	—	No	Soil runoff
		95% of the time		100% of the time			

TTHM [Total Trihalomethanes]

Trihalomethanes are a group of compounds formed when chlorine reacts with naturally-occurring organic materials present in the source water. The MCL established by EPA for TTHM is 100 ppb as a running annual average of all samples collected. Samples are collected quarterly from 4 representative sites within the water distribution system. The following table shows the lab results:

Contaminant	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Detection Range	Likely Source of Contamination
TTHM	ppb	100	0	60	34 - 68	By-product of drinking water disinfection

UNREGULATED DETECTIONS

Contaminant	Unit of Measure	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Violation Y/N	Likely source of contamination
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	Not regulated	Not regulated	33 (avg) Range = 3-58	N	EPA requires us to monitor this contaminant while they consider setting a limit on it.

As you can see, the North Augusta water system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. While we have learned through monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected; EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these concentration levels. If you have any questions about this report or your water utility, please contact the **Superintendent of Water Production at 441-4325**. Regularly scheduled City Council meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month on the second floor of the North Augusta Municipal Building, 400 East Buena Vista Avenue.