



North Augusta

South Carolina's Riverfront

North Augusta **FORWARD**

A Publication for the Citizens of North Augusta, South Carolina

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Special Edition MUNICIPAL CENTER GUIDE

CITY COUNCIL

Lark Jones, Mayor

Jimmy Adams

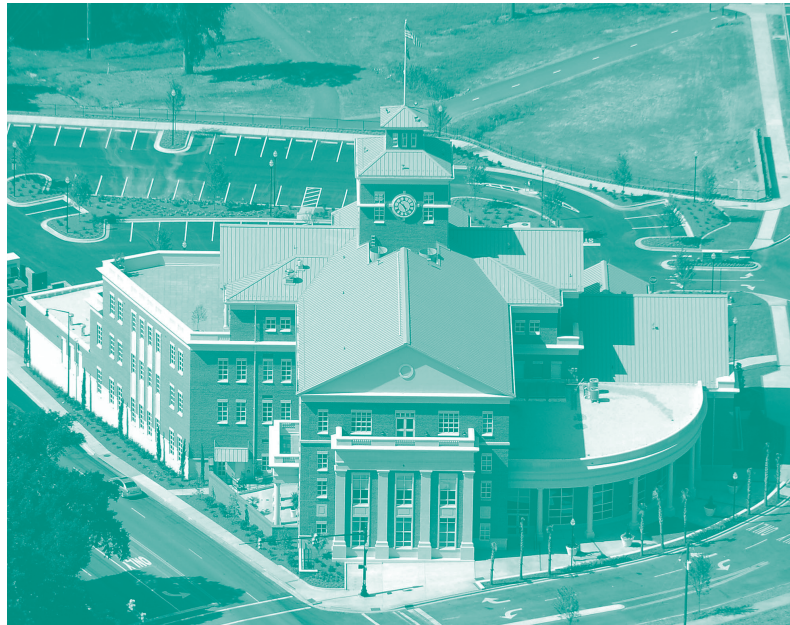
Carolyn Baggott

Pat Carpenter

Ken McDowell

Arthur Shealy

Jason Whinghter



www.AerialPhotosElite.com

The North Augusta Municipal Center, at the intersection of Georgia Avenue and Center Street, opened on July 13th. A description of City departments and other uses located in the Center can be found on pages 3 and 4.

NORTH AUGUSTA MUNICIPAL CENTER NOW OPEN

“This Building Belongs to the Citizens of North Augusta”

It is City business as usual in a new location, 100 Georgia Avenue, the home of the North Augusta Municipal Center. In late June, hundreds of area residents took the opportunity to tour the building. Traversing the building's four floors, citizens inspected the City Council Chambers, the fourth floor Palmetto Terrace special event space with skyline views, the first floor Arts and Heritage Center and office space for City departments. The City staff completed the move and the building was officially opened for business on July 13.

Preliminary planning for the Municipal Center began in 2002, the land was purchased in 2005 and construction began in 2007. The primary goal of the City Council in authorizing the new Municipal Center project was to design, fund and construct a building that will grow with the City through the current century. Building design and construction costs were funded through Aiken County capital project sales tax funds and other sources.

The North Augusta Municipal Center is the first project located in the planned Town Center redevelopment area. Visitors can access the Municipal Center from the recently completed Center Street located at its signalized intersection with Georgia Avenue or from Georgia Avenue (southbound travel only).



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CENTER STREET OPENS

Signalized Intersection Will Improve Riverfront Access

North Augusta's newest street, Center Street, officially opened on June 28. One-third of a mile in length between Georgia Avenue and Railroad Avenue, the new road was designed as a primary access to the Municipal Center, the Town Center redevelopment area and the developing Riverfront. The project is a result of a ten year cooperative effort with the South Carolina Department of Transportation. A combination of local, state and federal funds was used to complete the project.

Center Street runs through Brick Pond Park providing improved access to the City's constructed wetlands recreation site. Plans for the next phase of Hammond's Ferry include the extension of Center Street to the River. The currently unimproved section of Railroad Avenue will soon be paved between Riverside Boulevard in the River Club to Center Street and into Hammond's Ferry.

The traffic signal on Georgia Avenue at Center Street became operational in early July and provides access to the Municipal Center. It also improves access to West Avenue, a major connector to Martintown Road.

Center Street connects Georgia Avenue and downtown North Augusta through the Town Center area to the Riverfront and can be accessed from its signalized intersection with Georgia Avenue or from Bluff Avenue.



Mayor Lark Jones, members of City Council and JoAnn Woodrum, South Carolina Department of Transportation District 7 Administrator, cut the ribbon commemorating the official opening of Center Street on June 28.

Utility Payment Drop Box Offers Option to Customers

The new Municipal Center does not have a drive through window as it did at the former Municipal Building on Buena Vista Avenue. However, utility customers still have the option to leave payments in the drop box located in the lower portion of the parking lot near the Center Street entrance. When entering from Georgia Avenue it is straight ahead. Vehicles can access the drop box from two sides. The payment drop box is emptied twice daily during the work week.

The drop box is for check payments only. Customers who want to start new service, reestablish service or make past due payments are asked to come to the Finance Department on the first floor.

Utility customers retain the options of making payments online, through the mail or in person in the first floor Finance Department.



WHERE DO I FIND...?

A Guide to Facilities and Services at the North Augusta Municipal Center

There is no doubt that the North Augusta Municipal Center is, in the words of *The North Augusta Star*, a “structure of significance”. The Center serves as a complementing bookend to the City’s landmark Lookaway Hall and is the first structure seen when crossing the James U. Jackson Memorial Bridge from 13th Street in Augusta. In short, it stands out. The following brief directional and informational guide is designed to assist citizens and other visitors in learning about the Municipal Center and its services.

ADDRESS

The Municipal Center’s physical address is new: 100 Georgia Avenue, North Augusta, SC 29841-3843. The City’s mailing address has not changed: P.O. Box 6400, North Augusta, SC 29861-6400.

PHONE NUMBERS

Department telephone numbers have not changed and are listed on page 4 of this newsletter.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From the north: Travel past the Municipal Center on Georgia Avenue and turn right into the parking lot.

From the south: Turn left at the Center Street traffic light, travel around the curve and turn left into the parking lot.

From West Avenue: Turn left on Bluff Avenue, right on Center Street and then left into the parking lot.

PARKING

The parking lot is located on the south side of the building with entrances from both Georgia Avenue and Center Street. Overflow parking is currently located in a temporary parking area west of the building across Center Street.

ENTRANCE

The main building entrance is on the parking lot side of the Center. Handicap parking and access are available there.

FIRST FLOOR

The Municipal Center was designed to provide most citizen and vendor services on the first floor and many visitors will find answers to questions there.

The **Finance Department** is on the right after entering the building. The following services are available there:

- Utility bill payments
- Utility account setup or reestablishment
- City tax payments
- Business license applications (except contractors)
- Blue recycling bags

The **Building Standards Department** is on the left after entering the building and provides the following services:

- Building permit applications
- Building inspections
- Contractor license applications
- Municipal and building codes enforcement

The office of **Events and Facilities Management** is located in the Building Standards Department on the left after entering the building.

- Municipal Center management
- Reservations for special events



The Palmetto Terrace on the fourth floor of the Municipal Center offers banquet and event space and scenic views up Georgia Avenue, up and down North Augusta’s Riverfront and across the River.

Beyond the City Seal in the center of the four story **Atrium** is a set of steps that leads to the **North Augusta Arts and Heritage Center**. The Arts and Heritage Center houses displays representing North Augusta’s past and present, includes a gift shop, and is open to the public five days a week. For additional information on the Arts and Heritage Center, please visit <http://artsandheritagecenter.com/>.

The **Palmetto Training Room** is also located across the Atrium on the first floor and may be reserved for public use.

(continued on next page)

Two public elevators serving the Center's four floors are located on the left after entering the building. A multipurpose elevator, which also provides "half floor" access to the Arts and Heritage Center, the Palmetto Training Room and the Council Chambers Gallery, is located opposite the Municipal Center's main entrance across the Atrium.

SECOND FLOOR

The second floor houses two City departments, Engineering and Stormwater Management and Planning and Economic Development. Both are accessed through the reception area to the right of the elevator.

Engineering and Stormwater Management Department:

- Design and construction of City infrastructure, including streets, sidewalks and utility lines
- Stormwater management and environmental systems

Planning and Economic Development Department:

- Certificates of Zoning Compliance
- Commercial sign permit applications
- Development applications (subdivisions and site plans)
- The North Augusta Development Code (zoning and land development regulations)
- City economic development efforts, including planning and publications

THIRD FLOOR

The dominant feature on the third floor is the 152 seat **Council Chambers**, on the left after exiting the elevator. The City Council, Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals hold regular public meetings in the Chambers. The adjoining **Gallery** includes a balcony overlooking Georgia Avenue and provides space for small events.

The **City Administration** offices are on the right after exiting the elevator and include:

- Mayor
- City Administrator
- City Attorney
- City Clerk

The **Human Resources Department** is on the left of the elevator past the Council Chambers.

- Job applications
- Employee benefits

The **Information Technology Department** is on the left side of the elevator.

- Computer and telephone systems
- Geographic Information Systems

FOURTH FLOOR

The fourth floor of the Municipal Center is designated and available for public use. The **Palmetto Terrace** offers indoor & outdoor event space for up to 600 people and is supported by a commercial kitchen.

The Palmetto Terrace includes a ballroom and large balconies with breathtaking views. The ballroom and balconies, including an outdoor covered terrace, may be rented for events.

Additional information on facility rental is available through Nancy Payne, Events and Facilities Supervisor, 803-441-4350, or npayne@northaugusta.net.

The North Augusta Municipal Center was planned and constructed to serve the City's residents for many years. Stop by and look for the same friendly and knowledgeable employees that have been of service in the past.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

POLICE & FIRE EMERGENCY ----- 911

PUBLIC SAFETY

Non Emergency----- 279-2121
Administration----- 441-4251
Records/Court Services----- 441-4271
Investigations ----- 441-4274

PARKS, RECREATION & LEISURE SERVICES

Riverview Park Activities Center----- 441-4300
Activities Coordinator----- 441-4311
Community Center ----- 441-4290
Events and Facilities Supervisor ----- 441-4350

GENERAL SERVICES & FINANCE

Taxes----- 441-4215
Utility - New Service/Disconnects----- 441-4219
Utility Billing Services----- 441-4212
Business Licenses (Non-Contractor) ----- 441-4214
Human Resources ----- 441-4205

ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS

After-Hours Emergencies----- 279-2121
Engineering----- 441-4223
Building Standards----- 441-4227
Code Compliance ----- 441-4258
Permits----- 441-4227
Business Licenses (Contractors) ----- 441-4227
Animal Control ----- 441-4298
Sanitation Services----- 441-4223
Sanitation - New Services ----- 441-4219
Stormwater Management ----- 441-4295

PUBLIC UTILITIES

After-Hours Emergencies----- 279-2121
Utility - New Service/Disconnects----- 441-4219
Utility Billing----- 441-4212
Water and Sewer Repairs ----- 441-4240
Streets and Drains Repairs----- 441-4240

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development ----- 442-4221
Planning----- 442-4221
Zoning----- 442-4221

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----- 278-3621
Comcast (cable)-----706-733-7212
S.C. Electric & Gas----- 442-2000
A T & T ----- 1-888-757-6500
S.C. Department of Transportation-- 1-800-442-1368

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS are held every first and third Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers of the Municipal Center. Citizens are encouraged to attend these meetings.



CITY of NORTH AUGUSTA
100 Georgia Avenue
PO Box 6400
North Augusta, SC 29861-6400

www.northaugusta.net

North Augusta Forward is mailed quarterly to every city water customer. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please write to:

North Augusta Forward
P.O. Box 6400, North Augusta, SC 29861-6400
or call 803-441-4221.