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Dates and Announcements

- *City Council will hold its regular meeting Monday, October 12, @ 1:00pm in the Council Chambers*
- *The next City of Florence Update on the Kinard n' Koffee radio show is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21, @ 8:10am*
- *Investiture of the Municipal Court Judges, The Honorable Debra O Jackson and The Honorable Taft Guiles will be Monday, September 28th @ 3:00pm, 11th Floor Court Room , City-County Complex*

Police Notes

- The 9th annual Florence Police Department's Golf Tournament was held September 11th. The proceeds from this event will offset costs associated with several projects including: the Students Against Violence Everywhere program (SAVE), Gang Resistance And Training Education program (GRATE), the summer youth basketball program, Camp FEVER as well as other city and department recognized charities.
- Justin Head and Johnny Driggers graduated from the South Carolina Criminal Justice academy on September 18th. The two new officers will receive another 10 weeks of practical training with a field training officer before assignment to a region.
- Sergeant Mike Krell (South Carolina Army National Guard), Senior Officer London Jordan (U.S. Army Reserve) and Officer John Davis (U.S. Navy) continue to serve on active duty.

City Has New Grant Research Tool

The City of Florence, along with other cities and towns within the state, has recently subscribed to a Web-based grant search service under the auspices of the Municipal Association of South Carolina, who also subsidized the cost of the service for the benefit of its members.

eCivis, the company offering this service provides a Web-based search system that allows local government officials access to continually updated information about thousands of grants offered through federal and state agencies, as well as foundations. Foundations and private corporation grants have been in the past largely untapped by local governments.

This intuitive Web-based program allows up to three members of assigned City staff to monitor, on an unlimited basis, announcements of grant availability and their updates. Alerts and filters are toggled within the service by the City staff not only to save time and effort in sorting through hundreds of notices, but to insure that no applicable announcements or deadlines beneficial to the City are overlooked. Funding opportunities that match City needs are directed to appropriate staff for further evaluation and application.

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON U.S. HIGHWAY #301 BYPASS WATER TRANSMISSION MAIN EXTENSION

During the first week of September, DS Utilities, Inc. of Little Mountain, SC initiated construction of over 16,000 linear feet of water transmission main extensions along the Bypass and on National Cemetery Road. These line extensions will improve delivery of water from the surface water plant to the city distribution system and will also eliminate three dead-end lines, where lower pressures and rusty water conditions are more likely to occur. The line extensions should be completed and in service by about November 1, 2009.

The project's construction cost of \$1,180,352 will be funded, in part, by an EPA grant of \$433,000, with the balance coming from the City's water and sewer utility construction account. Future extensions are planned along the Bypass and will come in phases, as funding permits.

Pettigrew Millpond Eagles

As part of the City's ongoing greenspace program, the Pettigrew Millpond property was acquired in 2004, utilizing a Recreation Land Trust Grant. This approximately 170 acre site is located along Middle Swamp, immediately downstream from the Forest Lake dam. A major goal of the greenspace program is to preserve ecosystems that support habitat for wildlife populations, in and around the City limits of Florence. This property has a very unique feature that exemplifies the importance of the greenspace program. As reported by the SC Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and observed by many Florence residents, a nesting pair of bald eagles reside in this now preserved tract of City owned land.

DNR has just completed its 33rd year of a very thorough monitoring program of nesting bald eagles. They report that this pair of eagles successfully raised 2 chicks this year. This is significant in that only 310 chicks were reported statewide from 197 nesting territories. Bald eagle populations are recovering, to a large extent, due to the protection of habitat such as the Pettigrew Millpond. At the low point of bald eagle populations, there were only 13 nesting pairs in South Carolina and none were known in Georgia or North Carolina.

West Evans Street Sewer Collapse Repaired

On or about September 3, 2009, a section of 8-inch diameter sanitary sewer line in the 400 block of West Evans Street collapsed, causing backups in areas northwest of the McMillan Federal Building. Because the line is approximately 11' deep at this point, city equipment and crews were unable to safely excavate and replace the defective joints. Therefore, quotes were received from contractors and the repair work was awarded to the low bidder, DS Utilities of Little Mountain, SC, in the amount of \$ 18,525.00.

A forty foot section of sewer line was replaced by the contractor on September 16th and 17th. City crews provided bypass pumping to maintain sewage flow and repaired the asphalt after replacement of the defective line. Two lanes of traffic were closed during the repairs, but all four lanes were opened to traffic on Friday, September 18th.

Sewers in this area of town were constructed of vitrified clay pipe (VCP) and have been in service for approximately 75 years. This type failure in old VCP sewer lines is a relatively common occurrence, and can be expensive to repair when the lines are deep and the work cannot be accomplished by city forces.