



**NEWS & HAPPENINGS FROM THE CITY OF FLORENCE & ITS UTILITY SYSTEM**

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Fall 2001

# NEW SOURCE OF WATER

*This abundant new source offers a permanent solution to meet the region's water supply needs.*

The Pee Dee River will soon be an abundant source of water for the City of Florence. With the steady growth of business and transportation in the area, there has been increased demand for water supplies.

By 2003, you could be enjoying a glass of high quality drinking water supplied by the new Pee Dee River Regional Water System. Currently under construction, the system will be located in the new Pee Dee Regional Commerce Center, just south of I-95, with no homes or schools nearby. Cost for construction is estimated to be between \$30 to \$35 million and is funded in part by low interest loans from the South Carolina Revolving Loan Fund administered by DHEC. Automated computer controls will be a key feature for operators in the new facility administration building.



*The Pee Dee River will be a new source of high quality drinking water when construction of the Pee Dee River Regional Water System is completed.*

## THE FUTURE PROBLEM

The rate of groundwater use has more than doubled over the past 20 years. Today, for example, the city is supplying 20,500 residential, commercial and industrial customers 12 million gallons of water per day (mgd). That is the maximum amount of groundwater available for any sustained length of time. Studies conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the S.C.

Division of Natural Resources (SCDNR) confirm that groundwater resources do not have sufficient capacity to meet future water supply needs for Florence.

## A RELIABLE SOLUTION

The S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and Camp Dresser & McKee have identified the Pee Dee River as the most cost-

effective and practical source of additional permanent water supply. Through a year-long water quality study, the Pee Dee River has been proven to be a reliable and easily treatable source of drinking water.

The city will continue to use groundwater resources, but will soon add the Pee Dee River as a new water source. The river offers an average

[See SOURCE WATER on Page 2](#)

# New Fountain Will Soon Welcome You Home



*The City of Florence will soon see a welcoming new fountain at the I-20 entrance into Florence.*

Visitors to the City of Florence will soon be greeted by a new fountain being developed near the intersection of Interstate 95 and Interstate 20. The proposed 12-foot tall fountain will feature a granite structure imprinted with the "City of Florence," as well as a waterfall.

The fountain is part of a larger landscaping and beautification project currently underway on David McLeod Blvd., Freedom Blvd., Woody Jones Blvd. and Church Street. Along with the fountain, enhancements include landscaping and

decorative fencing along Church Street. Funding is provided by a grant from the S.C. Department of Transportation plus a match by the City of Florence.

The project, designed by Seamon, Whitside and Associates, costs approximately \$340,000 and is being developed by the Altman Landscaping Company. The fountain is expected to be completed by early March 2002.



## A CLOSER LOOK AT THE PEE DEE RIVER REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM

# System Will Provide Many Benefits

### Clear Benefits

- ◆ High quality drinking water.
- ◆ Reliable dual source water system.
- ◆ Continued use of existing groundwater facilities to reduce cost of water delivered to customers.
- ◆ Environmentally responsible approach to minimize further regional groundwater level drawdowns.
- ◆ Long term solution to the region's groundwater supply limitations.
- ◆ Streamlined operation and maintenance at a centralized water treatment facility.
- ◆ The lowest present worth cost of all alternatives investigated.

### Answers to your Questions

- ◆ **Is it safe to drink treated river water?**  
Yes! Many other communities rely on river or surface water as their only source of drinking water. Technology enables treatment facilities to easily detect and treat potential problems in water before a drop ever leaves the facility. The Pee Dee River Regional Water System is designed to constantly monitor water quality to ensure safe drinking water.
- ◆ **How is this being funded?**  
Total cost is estimated at \$30-35 million and is funded in part, by low interest loans from the state.
- ◆ **Will construction cause problems for property owners?**  
Most aspects of construction will have no impact on property owners. The system is located in the new Pee Dee Regional Commerce Center, south of Interstate 95, with no homes or schools nearby. The new raw water intake and pump station is in an isolated area, as are the raw water pipelines.
- ◆ **Will this system benefit the entire Pee Dee Region?**  
Yes! The system is in a central location to serve many residents and businesses across the Pee Dee region. Plans are being developed to serve the needs of Florence County, Darlington County, the City of Darlington, and Marion County.

### Features of the Pee Dee River Regional Water System

- ◆ 30 mgd raw water intake and pump station
- ◆ 4 miles of raw water pipeline
- ◆ 10 mgd water treatment facility
- ◆ 16 miles of water pipelines for distribution
- ◆ Room for expansion to pump 50 mgd

**mgd** - stands for millions of gallons per day

# Honoring America's Heroes



*The City of Florence lowered its flags to half-staff in honor and in memory of the innocent victims lost in the national tragedy on Tuesday, September 11, 2001.*

### SOURCE WATER from page 1



*The Pee Dee River Regional Water System was designed by Camp Dresser & McKee of Charlotte, NC, and this rendition shows what the system will look like when completed.*

supply of 6,400 mgd which can be readily treated to produce high quality drinking water. The city plans to use less than 1 percent of the river's water.

The Pee Dee River Regional Water System was designed to allow for future expansion. The system will pump 10 mgd starting in 2003, but by 2020, the system could pump up to 50 mgd.

The benefits of the system are clear. The use of the dual water supply system will reduce the size and cost of the Pee Dee River Regional Water System and will increase reliability. In addition, one centralized treatment plant for the entire region will allow for cost savings in terms of treatment facility operations and maintenance.

## Additional Groundwater Supply For Florence

**T**he city has invested in additional groundwater supply improvements until the Pee Dee River Regional Water System is completed. These improvements will provide residents with a reliable water supply during peak usage periods and will ease the burden on the city's existing network of underground wells, in accordance with DHEC standards.

### Improvements Include

- Two 500,000 gallon capacity elevated storage tanks. Operational in May 2000
- Two new wells. Operational in fall 2000. Each is capable of producing 1,000 gallons per minute of additional drinking water supplies.
- Three new wells and a groundwater treatment facility on Alligator Road. This complex will provide a total of 2.8 million gallons of drinking water per day.

# CONSERVATION STEPS

Help conserve our community's water supplies with these simple conservation steps:

- ◆ Limit watering your yard to 30 minutes twice a week as opposed to 10 to 20 minutes every day.
- ◆ Check and repair system breaks, leaks, or faulty sprinkler heads.
- ◆ Test your system to eliminate overlapping, excessive, or wasteful coverage areas, such as sidewalks, driveways, or streets.
- ◆ Decorate with native plants that are drought resistant and flourish in hot, dry weather.
- ◆ Add mulch to retain moisture in your garden.
- ◆ Limit showers to no more than 5 minutes.
- ◆ Turn off the tap rather than letting water run when brushing your teeth, shaving or rinsing glasses.
- ◆ Run only full loads of dishes and clothes.

# Bruce and Lee Foundation Helps Fund Center



The new Neighborhood Center on Clements Street is proposed to be open in November or December this year.

## PROPOSED FEATURES

- Among the features of the new center:
- Recreation Room
  - Refurbished Restroom Facility
  - Senior Room
  - Playground Equipment
  - Kiln for Ceramics
  - Full Kitchen
  - Outdoor Patio
  - Various Programs and Activities

The neighborhood center for Northwest Community Park on Clements Street will open its doors for fun and games as early as November or December 2001. The City of Florence demolished the old center and constructed a new 3,600 square foot center in its place for both children and adults in the community. The \$265,000 project is being constructed by Fields Construction Company. The new center will feature a senior room equipped with a new kiln for ceramics, a full

kitchen, an outdoor patio area, as well as a universal recreation room with high ceilings. Construction also includes \$30,000 of playground equipment funded by the Bruce and Lee Foundation, a group that funds projects in the Florence metro area. The outdoor restroom facility is also being refurbished and will cost \$20,000. Programs and activities for seniors, adults and afterschool children will be available soon and the City of Florence will manage the center.

# Florence Puts Character First

You may have seen those billboards about character around the City. If you haven't, then you're missing out on the City of Florence's important effort to build a city of character. The City has joined over 95 other municipalities as part of the International Association of Character Cities (IACC) and will promote character through billboards and public service announcements.

In partnership with School District I, the City will emphasize one of 49 character traits each month, such as gentleness and joyfulness. In addition, the City recognizes city employees on the month of their employment anniversary for demonstrating a specific character trait. That person is awarded with a "City of Character" certificate and is reinforced with responsibility to be a model for others.

The IACC was formed in 1998 and connects local government with civic and religious groups to focus citizens on character development. The organization, based in Oklahoma, provides



Florence has displayed its monthly character traits on several billboards throughout the city.

resources, training, contacts, and counsel to leaders committed to character development. According to the organization, character is the inward motivation to do what is right. Other Character Cities in South Carolina include Georgetown, Conway, Beaufort, Allendale and Lexington.

For more information, check out <http://www.charactercities.org>.

# CityLink

COMING IN 2002 . . . AN AUTOMATED CITIZEN INFORMATION SYSTEM

CityLink will be designed to answer the most frequently asked questions about local government operations and services as well as provide expanded information to our citizens and visitors. CityLink will be available by using a touch-tone telephone and will feature city service information including events, schedules, programs, and employment opportunities as well as frequently requested FAX documents.

Access information when you want it - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! CityLink is a FREE service of the City of Florence.

# Log On! [www.cityofflorence.com](http://www.cityofflorence.com)

The City of Florence website contains valuable city service information such as current job listings, emergency preparedness tips, park locations and amenities, fire prevention tips, crime prevention information and much, much more! The site features color photographs, maps and links to related sites.

# Florence Tackles Flooding Problem

After years of coping with troublesome and often expensive flooding problems, homeowners and businesses in the City of Florence can look forward to an upgraded and improved stormwater drainage system for the future.

In excess of \$12 million in capital improvements, which were recognized and named by residents and city staff, will be made to the existing stormwater drainage system in the next few years through the City's newly adopted storm drainage utility fee.

The fee will be \$3.34 per month for the owner of an average size home and lot with between 1,500 and 5,000 square feet of hard surface area. Fee amounts will be based on the amount of hard surface area on a property (See *What Will I Be Charged?* Non-residential fees are based on the amount of impervious property). The hard surface includes driveways, rooftops, pavement and any area that produces runoff. It is the City's intent to direct funds toward capital projects and continue the current level of maintenance and repair to the storm drainage system.

Every community member in the City of Florence uses the drainage system and contributes to stormwater runoff. All properties including homes, businesses, government facilities, churches, and other tax-exempt non-profit organizations will be required to pay the storm drainage utility fee. The new fee began appearing on city services bills in October. The City expects the fee will generate approximately \$1 million per year to help finance



After years of flooding problems, shown at Woodmont subdivision (left) and Friendship Park (right), Florence will soon have an upgraded stormwater drainage system.

improvements for the stormwater drainage system.

Flooding has been a major problem in the City for many years due to its largely flat terrain and poor soil that doesn't drain well. The problem has only gotten worse since many of the existing storm drains are blocked or too small, and the area has seen recent rapid growth and development. City officials say improvements to the City's drainage system must be made to accommodate the growth and to minimize any future flooding.

Stormwater fees are not new to cities in South Carolina and each city has its own unique stormwater issues. Some cities have established fee-based stormwater utilities based on specific criteria. Myrtle Beach has a comparable monthly fee of

\$3.50 per 5,000 square feet of impervious area, Horry County has a \$2.45 monthly fee based on gross area and Charleston is \$4 monthly per 2,200 square feet of impervious area.

## What Will I Be Charged?

Hard Surface Area (in square feet)	Monthly Fee
Less than 1,500	\$2.00
1,501-5,000	\$3.34
5,001-7,500	\$6.68
More than 7,500	\$10.02

## Here Are The Facts

- ◆ Stormwater, or rain runoff, occurs when rain can't soak into the ground.
- ◆ The monthly fee is a method for addressing the stormwater drainage problem.
- ◆ The fees will generate \$1-1.2 million annually for improved stormwater services.
- ◆ The typical Florence single-family home has 2,500 square feet of hard surface area.
- ◆ Hard surface area is not only square footage of living space, but also includes driveways, rooftops and paved areas.

## City of Florence Council Members

Frank E. Willis, Mayor  
 Billy D. Williams, District 1  
 Edward Robinson, District 2  
 Maitland S. Chase III, District 3  
 William C. Bradham, Jr., Member-At-Large  
 Robert C. Holland, Jr., Member-At-Large  
 Richard L. Woodard, Member-At-Large

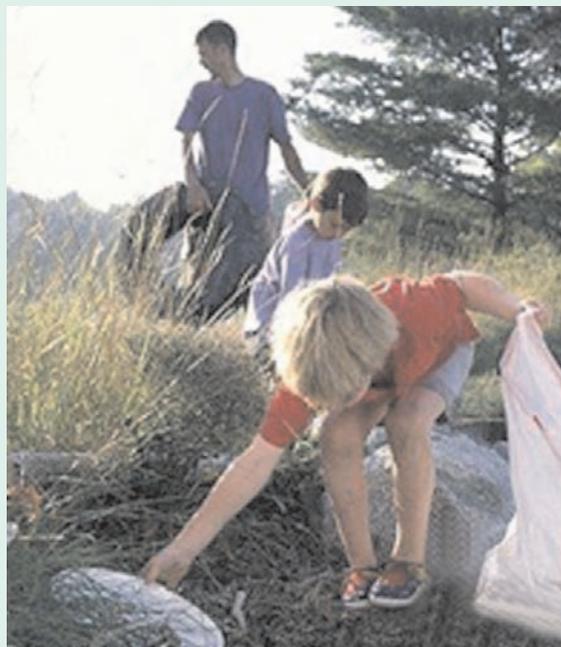
City Council and the Mayor serve four-year terms. City Council meets every second Monday at 1 p.m. at Room 604 at the City-County Complex, 180 North Irby Street, Florence, SC.

## 'Keep Florence Beautiful'

Nobody likes a litterbug and the *Keep Florence Beautiful* campaign helps to change the attitudes and behavior that foster litter. As a certified local affiliate of *Keep America Beautiful*, the City of Florence is focusing on an overall community improvement program that encompasses education, litter prevention and beautification rather than continuous litter pick-ups.

*Keep Florence Beautiful* is energizing citizens to take an active role in caring for Florence through programs such as the "Great American Cleanup" and "Zero Tolerance for Litter". By working together, we can make Florence a cleaner and healthier place to live. If you or your group would like to sponsor a clean-up campaign in your neighborhood or area, *Keep Florence Beautiful* will provide the essential supplies such as bags, gloves and safety training.

For more information, call the *Keep Florence Beautiful* office at 665-3113.



The *Keep Florence Beautiful* campaign is a year-long community effort to beautify the city.