

# CITY STARTS UP STORMWATER PHASE II PROGRAM

THE CITY OF FLORENCE RECENTLY APPLIED FOR ITS NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT FOR THE STORMWATER PHASE II PROGRAM FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL (DHEC).

The Stormwater Phase II program is the next step in the EPA's effort to preserve, protect, and improve the nation's water resources from polluted stormwater.

Through the program, the City of Florence is working to minimize stormwater pollution in the city. The goal of the Stormwater Phase II program for cities, such as Florence, is to establish long-term stormwater management activities and projects that fulfill the six NPDES permit requirements, which include:

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Involvement and Participation
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Runoff Control
5. Post-Construction Runoff Control
6. Pollution Prevention / Good Housekeeping



Stormwater is rainwater that has traveled across properties through gutters, storm drains, and ditches before emptying into streams and rivers. While flowing across streets and parking lots, stormwater also picks up trash, oil, and other debris, turning it into stormwater pollution.

Through the program the City of Florence recently formed the Stormwater Advisory Board, composed of engineers, business owners, developers, contractors and city personnel, to help plan the Stormwater Phase II program for the city. The board will help manage and

determine the best activities and projects that meet the six requirements set forth by the EPA.

In the coming year, the City of Florence will also be developing new land development regulations and city ordinances relating to storm water. These regulations and ordinances will help control the pollution associated with stormwater.

For more information about the City of Florence's Phase II Stormwater Program, please contact the Public Works Department at **665-3236**.

## SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM GEARED TOWARD ALL AGES

The City of Florence Parks and Leisure Services Department is responsible for formulating a comprehensive cultural, social and physical leisure service program; as well as providing safe, well-maintained parks and facilities that serve the City of Florence residents.

One such program is the Summer Playground Program designed for school age kids ages 6 through 17. This summer program was held at Levy, Maple and Northwest Park. The program began on June 2 and ended on August 1, 2003 with 93 participants at the three community centers. Hours of operation for this program were from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. each Monday through Friday. Participants were provided lunch and an afternoon snack. Participants were required to pre-register for this summer playground program and the cost was \$30 per participant.

The Summer Playground Program is geared toward various age groups with programs and activities designed that are both educational and fun. Our

goals for the program are to provide a fun, safe environment; to improve self-esteem; to teach behavior and social skills; and to teach respect for one another and their surroundings. Activities scheduled for the summer playground program include fitness, athletic skill training, swimming, crafts, games, music and drama; as well as several off-site day trips.

Some of the specific events scheduled for this summer included various classes taught through Clemson Extension Service, a session by Circle Park on smoking prevention, swimming, tennis lessons and a fun day of track and field events. Several day trips were also planned for participants which included a trip to Sumter for the International Double Dutch Competition, a trip to the State Museum in Columbia to visit the King Tut Exhibition, a trip to Bishopville to visit the Emmett Acres Alpaca Farm, two trips to Georgetown to participate in the Tour of African-American Georgetown (Gullah Roots) and to enjoy an exciting day of sailing on the tall ship, The Jolly Roger. The Summer



Playground Program concluded with a visit to Myrtle Beach for a fun-filled day at the water park and a picnic lunch with the participant's families.

## Florence City Council

**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 the second Monday of every month at 1 p.m. in Room 604 at the City-County Complex, 180 North Irby Street, Florence, SC.

[www.cityofflorence.com](http://www.cityofflorence.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

★★★★ PEE DEE ★★★★★  
**Patriotic Parade**  
Featuring  
**82nd Airborne Division Band**  
**Saturday, September 13**  
11:00 A.M.

**Patriotic Concert**  
Featuring  
**82nd Airborne Division Band**  
**Sunday, September 14 • 3:00 P.M.**  
Florence Civic Center • FREE CONCERT

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City of Florence  
City-County Complex  
180 North Irby Street  
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# Florence



# Fountain

NEWS & HAPPENINGS FROM THE CITY OF FLORENCE & ITS UTILITY SYSTEMS · SUMMER 2003

# PROTECT Yourself This Season Against MOSQUITOES

AS MOSQUITO SEASON ARRIVES, THE CITY OF FLORENCE ENCOURAGES RESIDENTS TO ASSIST IN MOSQUITO CONTROL EFFORTS. RESIDENTS CAN HELP ELIMINATE MOSQUITO BREEDING SITES AROUND THEIR HOMES AND NEIGHBORHOODS USING THE TIPS FOUND IN THIS ARTICLE.



## THE WEST NILE VIRUS

The West Nile Virus (WNV) is one of several mosquito-borne viruses that can infect humans, birds, mosquitoes, horses, and some other mammals. It was first identified in North America in New York City in 1999, but is believed to have originated in Uganda, Africa.

The virus exists through a transmission cycle involving mosquitoes and birds. Humans can become infected with the WNV when bitten by a mosquito that carries the virus from an infected bird. However, according to the Center for Disease Control, human illness from the WNV is rare, even in areas where the virus has been reported. The chance that any one person

experiences illness from a mosquito bite is low.

A small percentage of individuals infected with the WNV may develop flu-like symptoms. However, according to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, the virus may result in a very mild disease in which many people who are exposed are not affected. In addition, symptoms from the WNV last only a few days and do not appear to have any long-term health effects.

Encephalitis may develop in less than one percent of people infected with the WNV. Severe symptoms of encephalitis include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, disorientation, tremors, convulsions, paralysis, and coma. If you or someone

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## BIO-TERRORISM LAW AIMS TO PROTECT WATER SUPPLY

Strengthening its system against potential terrorist attacks will be the subject of a vulnerability assessment study being conducted by the City of Florence Public Works Department.

A vulnerability assessment is an analysis used to develop a security protection plan for water supply, treatment, and distribution systems. In June 2002, President George W. Bush signed the Public Health Security and Bio-terrorism Preparedness and

Response Act (H.R. 3448) into law. This law is designed to strengthen the public health system, tighten controls on dangerous pathogens, and protect the nation's food and water supplies.

Concerning drinking water security and safety, the law requires each water system serving more than 3,300 people to conduct a vulnerability assessment to evaluate the system's vulnerability to a terrorist or disruptive attack and to prepare and revise its Emergency

Response Plan.

The vulnerability assessment will identify the City of Florence's vulnerabilities and help provide a plan for security upgrades, modifications of operational procedures, and/or policy changes to identify risks to critical assets. This analysis also provides a basis for comparing the cost of protection against the risk it poses.

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## EPA'S CMOM PROGRAM TO IMPACT FLORENCE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is in the process of developing the Capacity, Management, Operation, and Maintenance (CMOM) program to control overflows of sanitary sewage. CMOM regulations will require the City of Florence and other cities to develop management and financial plans to insure that their wastewater collection systems are designed and operated to convey wastewater without any spills or discharges to the environment. Although the program is still being developed, it is anticipated that the regulations may become effective late in 2004. Both the costs and benefits associated with the program will likely be significant for our community. Therefore we will provide updates in future issues of The Florence Fountain when the full scope of the new regulations is set forth by EPA.

## Project List for Fiscal Year 2003

The following is a list of City of Florence projects for the 2003 fiscal year and their approximate cost.

- South Florence Sewer (\$861,000)  
Green Acres (\$110,000)
- Miscellaneous Water Line Extensions (\$275,000)
- Celebration Centre Sewer Lift Station (\$263,000)
- Hallmark Drive Sewer Extension (\$101,000)
- Rutherford Drive / YMCA Lane Water Sewer Extensions (\$67,000)
- West Palmetto Street Sewer Extension (\$20,000)
- Freedom Florence Senior Citizens Center Water / Sewer (\$47,000)
- Hoffmeyer Road Utilities Relocation (\$510,000)
- Spaulding Heights / Sam Harrell Road Sewer (\$605,000)
- Quinby Sewer Collection System (\$1,900,000)
- High Hill / Two Mile Creek Sewer (\$3,800,000)
- S.C. Hwy. 327 Corridor Sewer Improvements (\$3,400,000)
- James Turner Road Lift Station / Gravity Sewer (\$215,000)
- Sopkin Avenue Lift Station Renovations (\$62,000)
- Vance Drive Sewer Extension (\$25,000)
- Frank Monroe Blvd. Water Line Extension (\$55,000)

Keep Florence Beautiful

National Cleanup Initiative  
"Swept" the Country

Think Americans don't care about keeping America beautiful? Think again. Millions of volunteers across the country mobilized to take part in the 2003 Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest organized litter prevention, beautification, and community improvement program. Locally, 2,500 volunteers collected more than 36,000 pounds of litter, planted twenty trees on Earth Day, and through a partnership with the City, County, and Firestone Tire and Service Center, collected 1,689 tires.

According to Mayor Frank Willis, "The mission of Keep Florence Beautiful is to inspire individuals to take responsibility for their own areas. The Great American Cleanup brought the entire community together and really created momentum to Keep Florence Beautiful."

For more information on how you can participate in making Florence a cleaner place to live, contact Keep Florence Beautiful at 665-3113 or log onto our website at [www.cityofflorence.com](http://www.cityofflorence.com). Together, we can make a difference.

**Keep Florence Beautiful Encourages Citizens to Adopt-A-Street**

Keep Florence Beautiful is excited to announce the new Adopt-A-Street program that is now available in the City of Florence. The goal of the Adopt-A-Street program is to enhance the quality of life for all citizens by improving the appearance of our city streets and neighborhoods. To Adopt-A-Street, recruit a team of five or more and adopt (clean) a section of street in the City of Florence. Groups commit for a two-year period and participate in three cleanups per year. The City will post a sign along your adopted stretch of street recognizing your group's efforts to Keep Florence Beautiful. For more information, please call 843-665-3113. Together, we can make a difference.

## FLOOD INSURANCE AND PROTECTION INFORMATION

THE CITY OF FLORENCE AND FLORENCE COUNTY PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (NFIP) AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE AREAS SUBJECT TO A 1% OR GREATER CHANCE OF FLOODING (USUALLY KNOWN AS THE 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN).

New residential construction in these areas must be elevated to minimize risk to people and to property. Commercial developments must be elevated or flood-proofed. The City of Florence goes beyond the minimum NFIP requirements and participates in the Community Rating System which means a 10% flood insurance premium reduction for City residents.

### FLOOD MAPS

There are two major floodplains in the City of Florence, which include Middle Swamp and Jeffries Creek. Detailed maps showing the 100-year floodplain are available in the City of Florence Community Services Department, Room 102A, City-County Complex, 180 N. Irby Street and in the Florence County Municipal Planning and Building Inspections Department, 218 W. Evans Street, Florence.

### LOCAL FLOOD HAZARDS

The relatively flat terrain of Florence puts many areas at risk for flooding, even those not close to rivers and streams. Severe flooding occurred along Jeffries Creek in 1916 and 1945. More recently, flooding caused problems in the winters of 1994 and 1998. The main flood season for the Pee Dee Region is in the summer and fall, which is also the time of greatest risk from hurricanes and their associated rainfall.

### FLOOD WARNINGS

Florence has developed a Flood Warning System, which will be broadcast by radio, TV, weather radio and by police and fire vehicles equipped with public address systems. The Flood Warning will be broadcast up to one hour prior to a flood hazard.

### FLOOD SAFETY

There are several actions you can take to mitigate flooding hazards from occurring, including:

1. Know the flood warning procedures.
2. Plan an escape route to higher ground.
3. During times of heavy rainfall, monitor water levels. Stay tuned to radio and TV for flood warnings.
4. Keep children away from flood

waters, ditches, culverts and storm drains.

5. Do not attempt to cross a flooding stream on foot or by car.
6. If your car stalls in high water, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground.
7. Turn off electricity and gas, if evacuation is necessary.

### FLOOD INSURANCE

Your homeowner's insurance DOES NOT cover losses due to flooding. The City of Florence participates in the National Flood Insurance Program which makes flood insurance available through your insurance agent. The City of Florence also participates in the Community Rating System which entitles all City residents to a 10% reduction in their flood insurance premiums.

You do not have to live in a floodplain to qualify for flood insurance or to be at risk from flooding but you can purchase flood insurance at a lower rate.

Approximately 25% of all flood insurance claims nationwide are from "low-risk" areas.

### PROPERTY PROTECTION

Flood prone structures should be elevated to minimize flood damage. Our local flood ordinance requires the finished floor level of new construction in the mapped floodplain to be elevated to one foot above the Base Flood Elevation. An Elevation Certificate is required to verify this elevation and to obtain flood insurance.

### FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT

A permit is required to do any of the following in a floodplain: build, rebuild, bring in fill dirt, excavate, add onto your home or business, install an underground or above ground tank, subdivide land and place accessory buildings and temporary structures.

Contact the Florence County Municipal Planning and Building Inspections Department at **676-8600** for permit information. If you see work in a floodplain, call to see if the necessary permits have been obtained. We all need to help protect our floodplains.



### NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

### DRAINAGE SYSTEM

Every proposed development must have a drainage system designed by a registered engineer to provide the proper drainage of surface water and to permit the unobstructed flow of natural watercourses.

The City of Florence Code of Ordinances, Sec. 9-20, states that no person shall dump or dispose of litter upon any public or private property including streams, ditches and catch basins within the City limits. A violation of this code is subject to a fine.

### NATURAL AND BENEFICIAL

The City of Florence has four parks located in natural floodplain areas. These include Jeffries Creek Park, Timrod Park and parts of Freedom Florence and McLeod Park. The protected use of these lands as recreation areas leaves them in their natural state without encroachment into the floodplain. It is important to leave these areas open so they can continue to act as natural flood controls.

### CONTACT US

This information is provided as a service by the City of Florence. Inquiries related to flood insurance issues should be made to the City of Florence Community Services Department located in Room 102A, City-County Complex, 180 N. Irby Street, Florence or by calling **665-3175**.

# HOSPITALITY FEE TO FUND QUALITY OF LIFE PROJECTS

IN MAY, FLORENCE CITY COUNCIL ADOPTED A TWO PERCENT HOSPITALITY FEE ON PREPARED FOOD AND BEVERAGES TO INCREASE REVENUE FOR SEVERAL CULTURAL AND TOURISM-RELATED PROJECTS IN THE CITY.

The hospitality fee will be two cents on the dollar and is simply a usage fee for prepared foods and beverages that are sold to consumers. The fee will be effective January 1, 2004.

City officials have said the fee is expected to generate between \$1.7 and \$1.8 million annually and the money will help fund tourism-related projects, such as capital infrastructure improvements, downtown redevelopment, road and bridge maintenance, improvements and support for cultural, recreational and historic facilities, water and sewer infrastructure.

The two percent hospitality fee has been identified as an equitable way for visitors and residents of the City to contribute to the costs associated with keeping up with the growth in Florence. A large percentage of the hospitality fee will be paid by the more than a million tourists and others who visit Florence annually for medical services, education, shopping, dining and entertainment. At least 42 other municipalities in South Carolina currently benefit from the revenue generated from a hospitality fee.



## Youth Corps Beautifies Railroad Overpass

In coordination with the local SC DOT Maintenance Office, the Summer Youth Corps workers beautified a railroad overpass embankment in the median of U.S. 301-76 near the Florence Airport. As all Florence citizens are aware, this overpass is highly visible to all tourists traveling to the beach area. The project converted an unsightly clay embankment covered with chinaberry trees and weeds into an attractive area consisting of a three tiered retaining wall landscaped area.



## PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST MOSQUITOES THIS SEASON (continued from page 1)



mosquito activity is high and weather conditions are favorable.

For more information about the City of Florence's mosquito spraying, please call **665-3236** or log on to [www.cityofflorence.com](http://www.cityofflorence.com).

### MOSQUITO PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Residents can help reduce the number of mosquitoes around their homes and neighborhoods by eliminating the standing water in which mosquitoes grow and breed. Any place where water may stand, even in depths as shallow as a quarter inch, can become potential mosquito breeding sites. The City of Florence encourages all residents to take the following steps to assist mosquito control efforts:

- Dispose of any trash that can hold water, such as tin cans, buckets, containers, and used tires.
- Drill holes in the bottoms of containers and check junk piles for standing water.
- Clean clogged roof gutters every year, and check storm drains, leaky outdoor faucets, and window wells.
- Empty water from wheelbarrows, boats, cargo trailers, pet dishes, toys and ceramic pots. If possible, turn these items over when not in use.
- Do not allow water to stagnate in birdbaths, ornamental pools, water gardens, and swimming pools or pool covers. To prevent stagnant water and mosquito breeding sites, refresh the

water in the birdbaths every 3 to 4 days, add moving water or fish to ornamental pools, and clean swimming pools when not in use.

- Modify the landscape of your property to eliminate standing water. Keep in mind that during warm weather, mosquitoes can breed in any puddle of water.
- Larvicides, which are available at hardware stores, are highly effective in controlling immature mosquitoes when standing water cannot be eliminated. Larvicides are either chemicals or natural bacteria that kill mosquito larvae and can be applied to standing water in the form of a liquid, a spray, granules, or a block. The block form, also called a briquette releases concentrated larvicide slowly over weeks to months.

### PROTECT YOURSELF FROM MOSQUITOES

In addition to eliminating the standing water around your home, you can further protect yourself from mosquitoes using the following tips:

- Avoid going outside during dawn and dusk when mosquito activity is high.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants if you are outdoors.
- Use mosquito repellent containing DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide). The EPA notes that individuals of all ages (age 2 and up) can use DEET-based repellents as long as the label directions are followed properly.

you know experiences these symptoms, contact a physician or hospital immediately. Occasionally, death can occur and the elderly are most at risk from encephalitis.

### CITY OF FLORENCE MOSQUITO PREVENTION

The City of Florence helps reduce the mosquito population in a citywide effort with its seasonal mosquito spraying operation.

Comprised of two trucks utilizing ultra low volume sprayers, the operation is divided into four routes around the city with each route being sprayed once per week. Spraying is conducted in the evening from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. when

## BIO-TERRORISM

(Continued from page 1)

The City of Florence's Emergency Response Plan includes plans, procedures and identification of equipment that can be used in the event of a terrorist or other intentional attack on the water system.

The City will be conducting its vulnerability assessment and working to improve and revise the Emergency Response Plan based on recommendations from HSMM, consulting engineers. The City will also work to improve the security and safety of its water supply, treatment, and distribution systems for its residents.