

FLORENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES ACCREDITATION

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CALEA's national accreditation program requires departments to comply with state-of-the-art law enforcement standards in four basic areas: policy and procedures; administration; operations; and support services.

All divisions of the Florence Police Department worked diligently to attain reaccreditation, and the accreditation staff, comprised of accreditation coordinator Jody Garris, Corporal Michael Robinson and Corporal Amelia Miles, directed and coordinated the department's efforts.

This national accreditation provides controlled liability insurance costs, greater accountability within the agency, support from government officials and increased community advocacy for the Florence Police Department. In addition, it provides Florence with national recognition for providing law enforcement excellence. Having this national recognition also makes it easier for the department to obtain state and federal grants for police projects.

"Being recognized by CALEA is a great honor for the entire Florence Police Department force," said Florence Police Chief Anson Shells. "Moving forward, it is our intent to continue to provide City residents the level of protection that they deserve and have come to expect."

CITY CONTINUES STORMWATER UTILITY CAPITAL PROJECTS

In 2003, the City of Florence established a Stormwater Utility with the intent to fund much-needed capital drainage projects. Several small and medium-sized projects were funded as revenue was generated. In 2006, the City issued a \$4,000,000 bond to be paid off with future Stormwater Utility revenue in order to expedite various projects throughout the City. To date, eight projects have been completed at a cost of \$1.3 million. These projects include: Woodmont Outfall Phase I and II, Woods Drive Outfall, Day Street Outfall, Waverly/Evans drainage improvement, Woody Jones Boulevard stormwater management, Dunbar Street drainage improvement and Eleanor Street drainage improvement.

In addition to these completed projects, three more are currently under way. These are: Brigadoone ditch piping, Richmond Hills Outfall pipe replacement and east Florence stormwater improvement and management. Completion of these improvements is currently scheduled for late 2008 at a cost of \$1.4 million.

Bids have been received and a contractor selected for four new projects that will soon be under construction. These projects are: Malloy/Mallory Street drainage system, Conyers/South Irby Outfall,



The Woods Drive Outfall Project helps with stormwater flow.

Huntington/Damon Outfall and Marion Street drainage improvements. Cost for this work will be \$1.5 million, and work is scheduled to begin this July.

There are additional projects currently under design that are estimated to cost \$600,000. These are somewhat smaller scale projects and include Franklin Drive Outfall repairs, Beverly Drive/Alton Circle drainage improvement,

Oakland Avenue Curb Inlet improvement, Ingram/Dunbar Outfall, Boyd Street drainage improvement, Cheraw and Woodstone ditch piping, Northview Cemetery ditch piping and Yellowstone Drive ditch piping.

FLOOD INSURANCE FOR CITY RESIDENTS

Did you know that the City of Florence participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which makes flood insurance available to residents throughout the City?

Through the National Flood Insurance Program, there is a 10 percent premium reduction for all Florence residents, as the City takes additional measures to help reduce flooding and promote flood awareness. Flood insurance is available to all City residences, not just those located within a floodplain area, as national research shows that 25 percent of flood damage nationwide comes from properties not located in a designated floodplain.

This flood insurance is designed to provide an alternative to disaster assistance to reduce the escalating costs of repairing damage to buildings and their contents caused by floods. Flood damage is reduced by nearly \$1 billion a

year through communities, like the City of Florence, implementing sound floodplain management requirements and property owners purchasing flood insurance. Additionally, buildings constructed in compliance with NFIP building standards suffer approximately 80 percent less damage annually than those not built in compliance.

It is recommended that residents check to see if their homes are at flood risk by visiting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Web site at www.fema.gov, or by calling the City's Urban Planning and Development Department at 665-2047.

Development in the mapped floodplains is carefully monitored, and elevation certificates are maintained on file for all buildings located within the Florence city limits. Copies of current flood maps are available at the City's Urban Planning and Development

Department, which is located at 167 North Sanborn Street and at the Florence County Library.

In addition, it is recommended that you do not wait for the next threat of a flood to occur before buying insurance protection. There is a 30-day waiting period before National Flood Insurance Program coverage takes effect. Please contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and coverage.



National Flood Insurance Program

UPCOMING CITY EVENTS

- **September 6 and 7**
S.C. ASA "Southern Exposure" Softball Tournament at Freedom Florence
- **October 11 and 12**
S.C. NSA "Make-A-Wish" at Freedom Florence
- **November 1**
Florence Pecan Festival
- **November 11**
Dedication of Veterans' Park



City of Florence
City-County Complex
180 North Irby Street
Florence, SC 29501-3488
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NEW WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITY RECEIVES APPROVAL

Construction on Florence's new state-of-the-art wastewater management facility is one step closer to coming to fruition. A final draft of a preliminary engineering report (PER), which proposed that the new facility be built on the City's current wastewater treatment plant site, was presented to, and received approval by, City Council in December 2007.

Prepared by the team of CDM, Inc., BP Barber & Associates and Davis & Brown, Inc., the report was reviewed by City staff during the final week of October 2007 and was then presented to Council for final approval.

Following review and approval by City Council, the PER was submitted to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). This report was approved by SCDHEC in early January. The City and its engineering team are now moving into active design and the federal funding initiative of the Phase I facilities.

Phase I of the plan calls for construction of a new 18 million gallon per day (mgd) treatment facility for the City by 2012. This facility will provide three mgd of additional treatment capacity and will feature treatment units which will be covered in order to manage the odors normally associated with wastewater plants. A second phase, targeted for completion by 2017, will add an additional four mgd capacity, resulting in a total of 22 mgd.

"We're pleased to be moving forward with the new wastewater treatment facility plans," said David Williams, Florence City manager. "As Florence continues to expand and grow, we're remaining steadfast in providing the most technically reliable, convenient and efficient services to City residents."

Much of the cost for this project will be financed through revenue bonds, bank loans and/or low interest state infrastructure loans. In addition to these funding sources, City Council is actively pursuing a

federal grant initiative. Although City Council anticipates receiving significant federal grant assistance for the project, the remaining project costs will come from the City's combined water and wastewater utility operating revenues. In June 2007, City Council adopted water and sewer rate adjustments to provide sufficient revenue for completion of the project.

Current plans call for the final design of Phase I to be complete in mid-2009, with construction beginning in 2010.



The City is moving forward with a new wastewater management facility.

FLORENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES ACCREDITATION

Achieving and maintaining national accreditation status is a very arduous and time-consuming process for police departments throughout the United States. On November 16, 2007 in Colorado Springs, Colo., the Florence Police Department (F.P.D.) was recognized as one of the best law enforcement agencies in the nation.

This recognition for national accreditation came after the department was subjected to a rigorous assessment. From August 25 through August 29, 2007, representatives from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) was in Florence to examine every aspect of the police department. The purpose of CALEA's accreditation program is to improve the delivery of public safety services primarily by: maintaining a body of standards developed

by public safety practitioners; covering a wide range of up-to-date public safety initiatives; establishing and administering an accreditation process; and recognizing professional excellence.



The EPD. recently received CALEA accreditation.

CALEA was created in 1979 through the combined efforts of four major law enforcement organizations: the International Association of Chiefs of Police; the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives; the National Sheriffs' Association; and the Police Executive Research Forum. The goals of CALEA are to: strengthen crime prevention and control capabilities; formalize essential management procedures; establish fair and nondiscriminatory personnel practices; improve police service delivery; solidify interagency cooperation and coordination; and boost citizen and staff confidence in the police department.

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Florence City Council

- Frank E. Willis,**
Mayor
- Billy D. Williams,**
District 1
- Edward Robinson,**
District 2
- Frank J. Brand, II,**
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



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RADIO ROAD

As a part of the development of Magnolia Plaza, Preitt Rubin, the plaza's developer, was required to complete the first phase of improvements along West Radio Drive.

These road improvements included the addition of turn lanes, stacking lanes and traffic signals. This phase features a three-lane road section that helps to manage traffic flow as well as minimize congestion in the area.

Phase II improvements will provide additional traffic lanes, signalization and some enhanced pedestrian movement elements. These improvements are being funded by the City of Florence, Preitt Rubin and Byrd Properties in response to anticipated additional commercial development. Engineering plans have been completed and construction of Phase II is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2008.

GREENSPACES AND GREENWAYS

The City of Florence adopted a vision that consisted of the creation of a greenway and greenspace system that provides for recreational opportunities, facilities and community enhancements and preserves ecosystems that support existing wildlife populations.



VETERANS' PARK

STORMWATER MITIGATION AND CAPITAL PROJECTS

The City recently purchased property from the estate of R. P. Byrd along Woody Jones Boulevard near Jeffries Creek. This property will be used to protect the water quality of Jeffries Creek by filtering stormwater discharge from several outfall pipes through wetland vegetation. No development will be allowed on this property, and it will be protected in perpetuity as a riparian buffer.

FLORENCE TRAIL SYSTEM

In 2004, City Council took actions that have resulted in a significant expansion of the original Trail System. Council envisioned a citywide system of trails providing access to publicly owned sites that highlight the City's unique history, culture and environmental resources. To create this system, Council adopted a package of strategies and funding sources.

The City provided direct support in the form of funds appropriated from hospitality taxes, grants and in-kind services. Partnerships with individuals, businesses and philanthropic groups in the Florence area generated additional support in the form of monetary gifts and donations of easements. By ordinance, Council enabled the City to accept donations of property, conservation easements and trail easements. Council has actively encouraged the acquisition of natural areas which have become the backbone of the Trail System.

In just a few years, this initiative by Council has resulted in the creation of more than 18 miles of trails and additional urban streetways. These trails, while interconnected, are organized in three distinct groupings:

- Rail Trail Connections** – Based around the original "Rails-to-Trails" facility, these trails feature access to the Civic Center and surrounding commercial areas, natural areas and public parks.
- Urban Connections** – These streetways provide access to venues that showcase arts and cultural events, as well as access to urban parks, all of which contribute to an improved image for Florence's traditional downtown area.
- Freedom Florence Connections** – Recreation, history and environmental protection are the focus of these trails, located adjacent to Pye Branch and Jeffries Creek on the east side of Florence.

For more information, or to obtain a copy of the City's Trail System Brochure, call (843) 665-3236.



CITY FUNDS TENNIS COMPLEX

DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT

Several years ago, the City began working toward redeveloping the downtown area into the cultural and economic center of the Pee Dee region.

This redevelopment is being anchored by the Florence County Library, the Florence Little Theatre's new building and the proposed FMU Center for the Performing Arts. These projects have been approved and will be in compliance with the City's design guidelines. The new City design guidelines, which were adopted in July 2005, ensure that all new buildings follow the same criteria when it comes to aesthetic compatibility. These criteria include the types of building materials and building structures and features.

BARNES STREET

The City has completed the purchase of a facility on Barnes Street at a cost of \$300,000 and has completed demolition of a structurally unsafe portion of the building on Barnes Street at a cost of \$35,000. The anticipated renovation cost for the proposed center is \$700,000. This includes site work and building renovations/construction. Completion of the project is scheduled for late summer 2008.

The City is committed to providing all staffing requirements and operating costs for the center. The City is also seeking additional capital funding for the construction of a gymnasium at the Barnes Street location.

CITY RESUMES ATHLETIC OPERATIONS

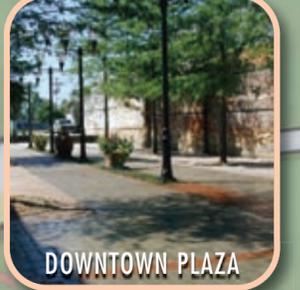
In 2007, the City assumed full responsibility for providing all athletics and recreational services inside the city limits. Along with these programming responsibilities, the City also assumed full operational control of all City-owned parks and recreation areas such as McLeod Park and Freedom Florence.



CITY ATHLETICS



BUSH RECYCLING



DOWNTOWN PLAZA

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Francis Marion University (FMU), in cooperation with local partners, is developing plans for a new Center for the Performing Arts on a four-acre site at the corner of Dargan and Palmetto Streets. With assistance from Senator Hugh Leatherman, FMU's request for funding by the state of South Carolina was approved. Additional major funding for the project will be provided by grants from the Drs. Bruce & Lee Foundation and the City of Florence. The Center will be used for theatrical and musical performances. Architectural design for the building is in progress.

FLORENCE LITTLE THEATRE

The Little Theatre complex is expected to be completed by fall 2008. Funded by a \$10 million grant from the Drs. Bruce & Lee Foundation, the new Florence Little Theatre complex will be a 35,000-square-foot facility located on Dargan Street, between Pine and Elm Streets, just north of the Florence County Library. The facility will be used for theatrical and musical performances.



S.W.I.M. PROJECT

NATIONAL CEMETERY AND FRIENDS OF THE STOCKADE

The City has collaborated with the Friends of the Florence Stockade for the creation of interpretive trails which allow visitors access to an area highlighting Civil War era fortifications. The Stockade site is located adjacent to the Florence National Cemetery. The Friends of the Florence Stockade, the City and the Drs. Bruce & Lee Foundation are the owners of the property encompassing the Stockade and its outlying fortifications.



WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITY



SCIENCE SOUTH