

Municipal News

January 2008

By John Zawacki
City Administrator

Well the holidays are now over all of us at the City hope you had a safe and wonderful Christmas and New Year. The New Year poses many challenges for the City of Barnwell. The immediate one is finding our new Recreation Director. Charles Richardson has resigned and will be leaving on January 15th to pursue other employment opportunities. I have only worked with Charles for 3 months but I have seen in this short time his dedication to the youth of Barnwell and our recreation program, I will surely miss his knowledge and expertise and wish him well. The job description for the Recreation Director is at City Hall. I invite all interested persons to send their resume to John Zawacki at City Hall.

Our architects Virgo-Gambill have already started to measure and draw the existing First Citizens building; this is the first step in the design of our New City Hall. We should see the first preliminary design by the end of February and the final design for approval by May. These drawings will be able to be seen at City Hall when they become available.

The temporary changes of the traffic circle have now been in place for one month; Lynn Cox has distributed "Traffic Change" surveys to the stores located on the circle, the library and City Hall. Please take one and let us know your likes and dislikes of the proposed changes. We would like your response by February 15th. Surveys can be returned directly to City Hall. We will compile all the comments good and bad and have them on display at city hall. Once again please fill out a survey if you have a suggestion or comment with out your input this whole process will be flawed.

The upgrades to the new Main St lift station are approximately 65% complete. Upon completion this station will increase the city's capacity to handle sewage from this area by 50% allowing for further development of this part of Barnwell.

The City has completed its application for renewal of the storm water permit for the waste water treatment plant (NPDES). This state of the art waste water treatment plant is a significant asset for the city. Currently it provides treatment for 1,200,000 gallons of waste water daily, with an additional daily treatment capacity of 1,800,000 gallons. This additional capacity gives the city of Barnwell an upper hand in recruiting industry to our area.

The facility is operated by three City employees Keith McMillan, Shane Baxley and Debra Baxley. These dedicated employees keep the facility spotless and in compliance with all state operational regulations. If you have never seen this facility, take a ride to Seay Rd to view the facility.

Due to a PARD Grant received by the City's Recreation Department, we will be going out for bids for the installation of new lighting at the Fuller Park Basketball courts. The Grant will also allow for new fencing at the courts and landscaping and irrigation for Fuller Park hill.

Other approved uses for the Grant are, the construction of restrooms at the park and walking trails.

There has been concern over the number of Buzzards in the City; we have met with the DNR Biologist to determine what could be done to get these Critters to move out of the City. There are several things that each of us can do to not make the City a desirable place for the buzzards to live.

Keep dumpsters closed tight.

Do not leave food stuffs out.

Do not leave pet food out.

We will continue to have our animal control officer go around and break up concentrations of the birds as per **DRN guidelines**. Hopefully if we all cooperate and do not give the birds a reason to stay they will move on.

Municipal News February 2008

The search for our new Recreation Director is still ongoing; we have received several very good applications. Reference checks and discussions with several applicants are moving forward. I hope to have an announcement of who the successful applicant will be in the March news article.

This years Barnwell Youth Basketball program is in full swing , Bobby McLellan interim Basketball coordinator reports that we have 174 Children signed up for the program. There are 21 teams in various age groups from Pee Wee to Mites. The girl's teams number 4 with 30 participants. Practice has been on going in the evenings and on Saturday mornings. Official Games will start on February 9th at Guinyard Butler Middle School gym.

The request for bids For Fuller Park lighting for the basketball courts have been advertised in the People –Sentinel newspaper and S.C. Business Opportunities. We hope to have a contractor by the end of this month and start placements of the Lights. We will also be going out for bids for new fencing for the Fuller park courts and landscaping and irrigation for the Fuller Park hill.

There have been additional changes to the Circle traffic upgrades. The surveys we have received indicated that the stop sign at main St. going on to the circle created a traffic backlog on Main St. and at the Post Office, so we have replaced the stop sign with the original Yield sign. The surveys indicated that the majority of respondents approved of the stop sign on Burr St. onto the circle. The next two issues that were addressed were relining the parking spaces next to the Moore's store for better visibility and to give traffic more room in this area of the Circle. Several proposed islands were also reduced in size to give more room in making turns off of the Circle onto Burr St and Main St.

To date we have received 145 surveys, these show that we have a 57% positive response, a 18% neutral responses and a 25% negative response rate.

We tried to address the major issues indicted in the surveys and hope we are bring responsive to your concerns. We will keep you informed of our progress, the City Council plans to discuss the circle traffic issue at the March 3rd. city council meeting.

The Festival on the Round committee is moving forward with this years plan. The theme this year is the Sundial's One hundred and fifty year

anniversary. In keeping with this theme we are planning a living history exhibit at Calhoun Park. This is planned to be reenactors who will show just how life was 150 years ago in Barnwell. There will be demonstrations of candle making, soap making and open fire pit cooking.

The festival is still in the planning stages and we welcome any one who would like to help with planning and running the various activities. If you are interested contact Lynn Cox at 541-6555.

Cities, towns and business across South Carolina are celebrating “Cities Mean Business” month in February to encourage new and stronger collaboration between local elected leaders and the business community. During the month of February and all through the year, your local leaders are focusing on the many ways that strong cities and towns support economic growth of existing business and attract new business. In Barnwell the City Council has issued a proclamation declaring February as Business Means Business month.

We are also celebrating a number of businesses that served the Barnwell area for over 50 year sand a few for over 75 years. This says a lot about the strength and vitality of our community. We encourage all of our community to conduct as much business as possible locally. The Barnwell Business depends on our loyalty to continue serving us. As gas prices continue to remain high, keep your dollar bills here, so that our local economy can thrive. A strong economy and the success of our state is a priority for business leaders as well as cities and towns. Working together through a positive partnership is critical for our hometowns to move forward and prosper in the new knowledge economy. For the state to remain competitive with other states and nations, cities and towns must work together with business to ensure a positive quality of life and successful economy.

And finally a” BIG CONGRADULATION “to Chief Dicks in winning a \$30,000 Grant from the V Safe Program. This grant was provided by the State Legislature for Volunteer and Combination Fire Departments. The Barnwell Fire Department will use the funds to equip the new ladder truck the City has purchased this year. This will be a large step in getting the truck into service.

Municipal News March 2008

The City of Barnwell has a new Recreation Director; we are pleased to announce that Melanie Johnson of Barnwell has accepted the position. Melanie graduated from Barnwell High School and went on to the University of South Carolina where she received A Bachelor of Science Degree in Retail Management. Melanie was a member of the USC Women's Basketball team and received awards for most valuable player for the 2005-2006 basketball season. She has been involved with the Barnwell recreation department and is fully knowledgeable in its programs. We feel that Melanie will bring a new vigor to our recreation Department and programs.

The preliminary plans for the new City Hall were approved by City Council at the March 3rd meeting. The next step is for our Architects to develop the construction bid packages that will be distributed to potential general contractors. The request for sealed bids will be announced in the paper and in the South Carolina business opportunity publication in May. Preliminary floor plans for the new City Hall along with conceptual drawings of the buildings exterior can be viewed at City Hall.

To ensure that the proposed changes to the circle traffic pattern are the most effective, the City Council is reviewing the current traffic routing on the circle versus the originally proposed traffic pattern in the Master Plan. The Council will decide at the April City Council meeting on how to proceed with the changes.

There are changes coming to the Fuller Park basketball courts. The City has awarded contracts to West Electrical Contractors to replace the lighting at the courts and a second contract was awarded to Ryan Brewer LLC for new fencing around the courts. Both of these projects will be completed by mid- April. The City Administrator is working with Councilmen Black and Atkinson (City Building and Planning Committee) to develop a plan for the landscaping of the Fuller Park hill and around the basketball courts. This will be the next phase of the Fuller Park project. This project has become possible due to a parks and recreation grant the city has received. Thanks to Senator Brad Hutto and Representative Lonnie Hosey for all their help to make this grant a reality.

The engineering on the Lemon Park Sports Complex is moving into the final phase and bid packages for the project should be ready by Mid April. We expect work should start soon after contract award.

A few weeks ago, a number of people commented on the loud boom noises heard one evening in and around the downtown area. We had requested a demonstration for a fireworks show that is planned for the Festival. As part of the Festival, the City of Barnwell is celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Sundial. We hope you have taken note of the new Sundial Banners that Commemorate this special year, 2008. Look for more information in the coming weeks for all the activities planned for the May 2-3 Events.

MUNICIPAL NEWS APRIL 2008

By: John Zawacki

The City of Barnwell is gearing up for the Festival on the Round a Celebration of the 150 year anniversary of the Sundial, May 2-3; and it is to be packed full of events and activities for everyone. Friday evening there will be a concert downtown with Otis Brown, followed by a Fireworks Display at 9 pm. from Fuller Park.

On Saturday, we will kick off the event with the annual GU Family 5K Fun Run at 7:45. At 8 am, the 20th Anniversary of the Barnwell DNR Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs Fishing Rodeo will begin. The Festival will be in full swing by 9 am with events like the Pie-Bake off Contest (Agricultural Building), the Lower State Fireman's Challenge (Fuller Park), Hoops Skills Contest at Fuller Park basketball courts, Mustang Car Show at B&B Ford, and a Children's Bike Parade on the Circle. Vendors will be up on the circle and will include food, information and crafts. The FFA will have their dunking booth; the BCAC will have the side-walk chalk art contest; and an Old Fashion Encampment will be set up on Calhoun Park to demonstrate how life was 150 years ago. Entertainment is scheduled throughout the day in downtown, with a special performance by "Elvis". Don't miss the Pizza Eating Contest and the Cookie Stacking Contest at noon on the stage in downtown. Barnwell memorabilia (hats, bags and a special 150th Anniversary tumbler glass set, limited time only) will be available from the Barnwell Development Association. Don't miss this fun filled weekend!

The second traffic pattern test is under way on the circle. This pattern is the initial design that came from the Barnwell Master Plan. City Council will leave this in place for 4 weeks so that everyone has a chance to use the circle. Next week, Lynn Cox will be distributing surveys to see how Barnwell residents feel about this pattern versus the first pattern test. We would like to see as much feedback as possible.

The new fencing and lighting are now complete at the Fuller Park basketball courts. Recreation Director Melanie Johnson and her team are currently repairing the court surface. Upon completion the goals will be reinstalled and the courts will reopen. We hope this will happen within the next two weeks.

As we all see there has been much work going on in the city by SCDOT repairing side walks. The SCDOT has a contractor repairing sidewalks that are uneven and pose a tripping hazard. The work crews were in Williston a few weeks ago and are in Barnwell currently. If you have any questions about this work contact the SCDOT Barnwell Office.

The new City of Barnwell website is now on line and can be accessed by going to www.cityofbarnwell.com we at City Hall hope that this website will be a great aid to those needing information on the City, License or Permit information or Contact information. Please let us know what you think of the new site and how we may make it better.

Municipal News for May 2008

By: John Zawacki

The decision has been made!! At the April 17th special called City Council meeting Council members voted to accept the current traffic flow pattern that is now in use on the circle. In moving the project forward Council members at the May 5th meeting accepted a proposal from Roger Dyar (Traffic Engineer) to complete the final drawings and specifications for DOT approval and to prepare the bid package for distribution.

Our schedule now is to have a contractor identified by August and to have the complete project done by November 1st.

We also have moved forward with the Lemon Park Sports Complex project. The final plans have been submitted to the city for review along with the construction drawings. After these are approved by the City Council they will be sent out for bid. We expect to have our General Contractor on board by late June and start demolition of the existing ball fields in July. If all goes well the clover leaf of 4 fields will be completed with the press box and concession building and soccer field by April 15th 2009.

The rest of the complex will be finished by the end of the year.

We have started selling bricks that will be laid down around both buildings. These bricks are currently for sale for \$50.00 on June 1st the price will go to \$65.00 till January 1st at that time the price will increase again to \$75.00.

See Lynn Cox for details 541-6555.

Thanks to Senator Brad Hutto and Representative Loney Hosey the basket ball courts at Fuller Park now have a new fence and sports lighting. Recreation Director Melanie Johnson and her team did a great job in repairing the cracks in the court floor. The Basket Ball Courts are now open for play.

There have been several questions on the new Yard Sale Ordinance which is currently being considered by City Council. A copy of the Ordinance is at City Hall for your viewing, I am always there to answer any questions you may have. The Ordinance is being developed to define the difference between a personal Yard Sale and a Peddler who sells multiple times during the week and requires a business license.

The schedule for the renovation of the New City Hall has been developed.
Bids will be published and sent to document plan rooms the end of June.
Bids will be opened the last week of July.

Construction will start the beginning of August.

Completion of renovation will be March of 2009.

It should be noted that the contractor will be using the parking lot behind the old bank building for his staging area and no parking in the lot will be allowed after August first.

Municipal News June 2008
By John Zawacki City Administrator

Several changes going on in the City this month, on June 6th the first 5 of 20 flower pots were placed on the circle. These flower pots have been adopted by downtown businesses to maintain them. The City was able to provide these flower pots due to a beautification grant received through the Palmetto Pride program. Tourism and Community Development Director Lynn Cox was instrumental in obtaining the grant.

In 2002 the City of Barnwell Development Association helped secure new entrance signs for the City. Since that time, volunteers had been taking care of the area landscaping around the signs. The City of Barnwell recognizes the Allendale/Barnwell Disabilities Board, Barnwell Offset Printing, Mr. Cecil Holcomb, Express Care/ Exxon and Liz Ringus at the Little Red Barn. Thank you for your years of service. The City Street Department will now take over the maintenance of the signs and area landscaping. Two of the six signs have been upgraded to date. These are located on Highway 278 coming from Allendale and Highway 64 coming from Snelling. The remaining 4 will be upgraded with in the next 4 weeks.

On the circle changes are also taking place. Several business have joined into the Cites Master Plan concept, some have been recognized by the City for their effort. These are Common Grounds, The Genesis Store, Velvie's, Vince's, Ruby's/Lancaster Insurance, and Southern Realty. The latest building to be renovated with The Master Plan in mind is the Lancaster building on the corner of Main and Wall St. Mr. John M. Smith and Sally Smith have done an artful job with this renovation which greatly adds to the beauty of our circle.

A change to the traffic pattern around Lemon Park has affected the one way Street (Park St) that circled most of the Park. A portion of this Street has been closed down and is scheduled to be removed within the next two weeks. This is the initial phase in the demolition of the existing park to make way for the new Lemon Park Sports Complex.

A note of pride from the City Staff, Tony Dicks Barnwell Fire Chief has been selected to serve on a state wide committee to address the need for cultural change in South Carolina's Fire Service. Tony will serve along side of Fire Chiefs from Camden, Florence, Ladies Island, Newberry, Anderson, Spartanburg and Greer. This committee in addressing the subject has the potential of making significant impact on South Carolina's Fire Service and quite possibly the entire nation.

Congratulations Chief Dicks !

Municipal News July 2008

By John Zawacki

I would like to start out this month's column with a thank you. The Barnwell County Arts Council and their sponsors did a super job in hosting the Patriotic concert on July 2nd. What a great time in the City of Barnwell. This kind of event truly exemplifies our new slogan BARNWELL- LIVE WELL. Once again Thank You for a great concert.

The City Hall renovation plans are now complete and approved by City Council. The plans will be advertised in the People-Sentinel and in the South Carolina Business Opportunities publication. We hope to have a contractor identified by the end of the month and start work on the New City Hall in August.

I know every one is getting tired of seeing the Cones on the circle, but believe me we are moving forward on this project also. This week we received the contract from SCDOT for the project grant. Now that the Mayor has signed this contract we should receive our notice to precede letter within the next two weeks.

Thanks to the work by Community Development Director Lynn Cox and help from Senator Hutto and Representative Hosey, the City received a grant from the Budget and Control board in the amount of \$24,000 to repair the Circle Fountain. This work will go on at the same time as the road work on the circle. We are planning to have the fountain up and running by the end of November.

The Lemon Park Sports Complex project will go out for Bid request on July 11th. We will be hosting a mandatory pre-bid meeting of interested contractors at Lemon Park on July 23rd. We hope to recommend a contractor to the City Council for their approval at the August 4th City Council meeting. Recreation Director Melanie Johnson and her team have already been moving and dismantling items at Lemon Park in anticipation of an August 11th construction start date.

At the July 7th City Council meeting three new police officers took their Oath of Office given to them by Mayor Lemon. The new officers are Stephanie Adams, Jason Woodruff and Rodney Creel. Officers Woodruff and Creel will be attending the SC Criminal Justice Academy in the next month. Officer Adams is a SC certified law enforcement Officer with 9 years of service with the Charleston Sheriffs Department.

Due to the SC State Climatology Office declaring Barnwell County to be in a moderate drought state, the city council has passed a proclamation that requests residents within the city to voluntarily limit non-essential water use (washing cars, irrigation and other similar uses) while we are in this status. Please be aware of water usage and plan accordingly. We thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Finally, we would like to remind you that our website (www.cityofbarnwell.com) has a great deal of information and it is updated frequently. You can find out information from

all departments as well as read over the last several months of city council approved minutes. Our home page is updated to guide the visitor to links that have been recently changed or updated on important city issues and information. Many questions can be answered by browsing the site.

Municipal News August 2008

By John Zawacki

Sorry for the lateness of this months Municipal News, I wanted to get as much information out on our upcoming projects as I could. So here it goes.

On August 13th we received and opened 9 bids for the Lemon Park Sports Complex. The bids ranged from a low of \$2,454,807 to a high of \$2,820,120.

The winning low bid came from Gene Ray Fulmer Construction of Ridge Spring, SC. City Council awarded the bid to Mr. Fulmer at the August 19th Special Called Meeting. It is expected the City will sign the formal contract with Gene Ray Fulmer Construction this week and that the contractor will mobilize the week of Sept 1.

Several items for the Lemon Park Sports complex still have to be bid, these are the 2 buildings that will house the press boxes, restroom facilities and concession stands and the playground area.

With these additional facilities at the park the expected total cost of the Lemon Park project will be \$2,838,057

During the week of September 15th, the City of Barnwell will hold a special sale on the brick pavers for Lemon Park. 2 bricks for \$99! Regular price for bricks is \$65 per brick. Honor or Remember your loved ones in a special way by placing their name on a paver placed in the new Lemon Park Sports Complex. The funds that we receive for these pavers will help with the maintenance costs for the complex, once completed. This special will only be available September 15-19. Forms are available at our website, at City Hall (9am-5pm) or at the Tourism & Community Development Office at 218 Main Street.

On August 14th the bids for the renovation of the old First Citizens Bank into the New City Hall were received and opened. Four bids were received and they ranged from a low of \$1,461,000 to a high of \$1,620,000. The winning low bid for the city hall came from Query- Pritchard of Barnwell. City Council awarded the bid to Query-Pritchard at the Special Called Meeting on the 19th. It is expected that the City will sign the formal contract with Query-Pritchard this week and that work will start shortly there after.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WHEN WORK STARTS ON CITY HALL NO PARKING WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE PARKING LOT BEHIND THE BUILDING.

The contractor will be using this area as a lay down yard for his supplies and equipment.

All final plans for the traffic circle upgrades have been delivered to DOT; we expect final approval for the plans with in two weeks. The invitation to bid announcement will go out this week and bids will be opened the week of September 15th. Work should commence on this project around September 25th with completion no later than December first.

As you can imagine with both the city hall work and the circle work going on at the same time there will be traffic hold ups and at times, confusion. Please bear with us, the final out come will be something the Citizens of Barnwell can be proud of.

All bids are available to be viewed at city hall to all interested citizens.

There will be several Public meetings coming up; these are for approval of the updated Comprehensive Plan for the city and for the 2008/2009 City Budget. The dates and times will be placed in the paper, announced on the radio, placed on our city website (www.cityofbarnwell.com) and posted at City Hall.

Municipal News September 2008

By John Zawacki

There has been much activity on the City projects in the last four weeks. At Lemon Park the demolition is complete, top soil has been stripped and stockpiled. The cloverleaf Dixie youth ball fields have been laid out and grading is currently under way (Phase1). The park street parking lot has been constructed and the contractor will utilize this area for his lay down area. We should see daily progress on the project from now on. Please note that the parking lot at the TNT building has been fenced please only use only Park Street as the entrance to the lemon park area.

On the City hall project, all asbestos abatement has been completed, and demolition of designated areas is ongoing. The contractor has assured the City that he will require his subcontractors to use the bank parking lot for their vehicles and equipment. This will ensure that parking spaces on the circle will not be affected by the construction.

Now the never ending saga of the circle traffic up grades. On September 15th bids were received and opened at City Hall. Unfortunately the City only received one bid and it was in excess of our transportation grant. The Bid was for \$290,400 our grant with the City match is for \$247,000. At the called City Council meeting on September 15th Council rejected the bid. The City is now negotiating with the contractor, however if we can not get the bid within our Grant budget we will rebid the work. City Council is also concerned about the timing of construction and may postpone the rebid until after New Years.

We have received seven proposals for the repair or rebuild of the circle fountain. These ranged from a high of \$71,000 to a low of \$25,375. City Council at the September 15th called meeting has awarded the work to WPLaw on the low bid of \$25,375. Fountain work will start upon the city's receipt of the Budget and Control Board Grant check which is expected in any time. The proposal that was accepted will rework the current fountain pond and install a Robinson Iron "Janney Crane "Fountain. The Fountain will be lighted with three 250 watt submersible lights. We all hope this work will be completed so that we will have a working fountain for the holidays.

Melanie Johnson City Recreation Director resigned her position on Friday September 12th, to go and play on a women's basketball team in Turkey. This has been one of Melanie's dreams and the City congratulates her and wishes her well. Melanie has done a great job as Recreation Director and she will be missed.

Andy Williams has been hired as the interim Recreation Director to help get the City through this time of transition. Within the next few weeks I will advertize for resume's from candidates the may be interested in the Recreation Department position. Andy's currently acting as a contractor for the City and not a full time City Employee. Please give Andy any help that you can I know he would appreciate it.

The Tourism and Community Development Department Along with the Barnwell Development Association will be planning a fall Community Clean Up Campaign on October 25. Please consider this effort in your fall plans and help clean up the Community you live, work and play in.

It is now time to prepare for the Annual Christmas by Candle light and Tree Lighting, Christmas Parade and Festival on the Round. We need your help in making these three events a success again this year. **PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH WHICH EVER OF THESE THREE FUNCTIONS YOU ARE ABLE TO.** The more volunteers we have the better the events will be.

Municipal News October 2008

From all of us at the City, we appreciate the interest and the enthusiasm from many of you as we move forward with our projects. We have much to update you on this month. As I mentioned last month, the City has awarded a contract to Senn Construction for the Circle Project. Senn Construction has agreed to start the work on January 5th, 2009. On the week of October 6th the city received a stop work order from SCDOT. The Federal DOT has asked SCDOT to review all approved grants to insure that all requirements are being met. Barnwell is in good shape and we do not feel that this review will change any timing issues for us. I will keep you informed as we move forward.

At Lemon Park all fields are at or near sub-grade. The laying of storm water lines is progressing and is on schedule. On October 15th the City received two proposals for financing of the Lemon park project, one from First Citizens and one from BB&T. At a special called meeting on October 15th at 3:30pm City Council reviewed and awarded the bid to BB&T. The deciding factor was ability of the City to finance this project for 15 years with a fixed rate. We expect that our closing date will be October 30th. From that point on, the city will be able to move forward and the work will commence on all phases of the project.

Please note that repaving of the City parking lot will commence the week of October 20th and during that week no one will be allowed to utilize the parking lot. A schedule for the repaving was listed in last weeks People-Sentinel. Please contact City Hall if you have any questions on times when the parking lot will not be available.

The City is currently accepting applications for a Recreation Director; applications are available at City Hall or at the City web site. We will continue to receive applications until October 31st. Job descriptions for this position are also available at City Hall.

City Hall renovations are moving on schedule and now that most of the demolition is over additional activity will be seen. The contractor has asked

the City to let every one know that this is a construction site and has inherent dangers. The whole area is a hard hat area, and no one should enter the building for viewing the on going work. Also the parking lot in the rear of the building is closed and should not be used.

Several City and non-city events are upcoming over the next few months, which will utilize the streets of Downtown.

November 1, 2008 Holy Apostles Episcopal School will hold a Family Fun Run/Walk starting at 8:30am.

December 4, 2008 the annual Christmas by Candlelight and Tree lighting will take place at 5:30pm on the circle, followed by the annual Christmas Parade on December 6th at 4pm.

A new special event for the Circle area will take place on January 15, 2009 this will be the Kick off and Celebration for the 2009 Relay for Life season. The actual Relay for Life Event will be held on the Circle on April 24, 2009 6:00pm to 7:00am.

Please do not forget our Pick Up with Pride Fall Liter Blitz to be held October 25, 2008. The time is from 8:00am to 11:00am the goal is to pick up at least 1300 lbs of trash. We need all the volunteers we can get to get the City ready for the holidays.

Municipal News November 2008

By John Zawacki

This month we will start off with news from the recreation department. We have received 16 resumes for the position of Recreation Director; of these eight have been picked for interviews by the City Council Recreation Committee. The Recreation Committee will hopefully narrow this field down to two or three applicants that will be asked to return for interviews by the whole City council. We are hoping to have the new Recreation Director on board by December 15, 2008

Our Youth football season was a great success; we had 175 football participants ranging in age from 5 years old to 12 years old along with 128 cheerleaders. Barnwell's 11-12 year old Mites Team coached by Rodney Hair finished with a perfect 7-0 Season! Now it is time to get ready for our Basketball season. Sign-ups for boys and girls, ages 3-14 are planned for November 24th through December 12. Come by City Hall during regular business hours, or until 7pm on December 10th and 11th. We are always looking for Coaches that are interested in coaching Recreation League Basketball.

The new fountain is only a few weeks away from completion. On the pond area the bricks have been cleaned and the mortar has been replaced and the interior has been coated with a rubberized sealer and new wiring has been run. Next will be the placement of the fountain and installation of the lights. City Council plans a rededication ceremony when the fountain is complete. The date and time has not yet been set.

Construction workers on the new City Hall building had a surprise when they were removing the tile from the roof; the chimney located on the Jefferson street side of the building was full of honey bees and honey. The contractor has contacted three bee keepers to try to get the bees and hive moved. The new tiles that will be installed on the roof will look exactly as the old ones except that they are made of a synthetic material that is made of 80% recycled materials. Most of the required demolition is complete and construction of the new stairwell is moving forward.

At Lemon Park the storm drains in the area of the cloverleaf baseball fields have been installed and sewer and water lines to the main building are currently being installed. The soccer field is at sub grade and laser grading will start next week. Construction will start on the main building the week of November 17th. The contractor has also indicated that placement of fencing and backstop poles will also start the week of November 17.

We have received several inquires about the increase in garbage fees that the City charges on their monthly bills for dumpster customers. The City has a contract with Fennell to collect and dispose of dumpster trash twice a week. The fee for this service is charged on the monthly city bill. Fennell bills the customer directly for rental of dumpster and additional services of more than twice a week pickups. If any one has additional questions please call City Hall at 259-3266.

Municipal News December 2008

By, John Zawacki

At the December 1, 2008 City Council Meeting City Council interviewed the three finalists for the Recreation Directors position. These were Emily D. Randell from Carmel Indiana, Emily is currently Guest Services Manager for the Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation Department, Andrew Parker from Aiken SC. Andrew is currently the Aiken County Recreation program Supervisor and Andy Williams from Barnwell currently the interim Recreation Director for Barnwell. All the finalists had great credentials and experience. After careful consideration of all candidates Emily Randell was chosen to be the next Recreation Director for the City of Barnwell.

Emily has a Bachelor of Science in Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration from Western Illinois University and is currently completing her Master of Science in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management at Clemson. Emily has seven years of management experience in the recreation field and we look forward to her leadership of the Cities Recreation program. Please welcome Emily to the City of Barnwell's management team. We want to also thank Andy Williams for stepping up and helping the City run the recreation program in the interim. Andy did an outstanding job with the football program, and maintaining the parks. With out his help there most likely would not have been a football program this year.

We have had several questions on the progress of the construction at Lemon Park. Here is what has currently been accomplished to date; installation of 10,050 feet of irrigation pipe, installation of approximately 15,000 feet of electrical conduit, and 5,000 feet of storm water pipe. The foundation for the central building has been set and construction will start with the next few weeks. Approximately 7000 cubic yards of dirt has been moved to obtain the sub grades for the four ball fields and the soccer field .The perimeter fencing for the four fields is currently being installed. Progress, now that most of the below ground infrastructure is complete will be more noticeable.

Lemon Park Bricks will increase to \$75.00 on January 1, 2009, currently the City is having a Christmas sale on these bricks buy one brick for \$55.00 buy two bricks for \$105.00 or buy three bricks for \$155.00 Gift cards are available at City Hall or contact Lynn Cox at 541-6555.

The City currently has two job openings and is accepting applications at City Hall for a Recreation Assistant and for a City Mechanic. Application will be accepted until December 23, 2008.

The City Hall will start new hours on January 5, 2009 City hall will open at 9:00am and will Close at 4:30pm Monday through Friday. A notice will be placed in the paper also.

Once again the City would like to thank Kim Sanders and her family for donating the City Christmas tree. This is the second year in the row that Kim and her family have donated the City Christmas tree. Also a special thanks to SCE&G and Query-Pritchard for helping us set the tree.

The City Council and all the City employees wish all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.