



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Police Notes</i>	1
<i>Urban Planning & Development News</i>	1
<i>Harvest Hope Program</i>	2
<i>Public Works News</i>	2 & 3

Dates and Announcements

- *City Council will hold its regular meeting Monday, October 12, @ 1:00pm in the Council Chambers*
- *The next City of Florence Update on the Kinard n' Koffee radio show is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21, @ 8:10am*
- *Pumpkin Patch and Fall Art Show on Saturday, October 10, 2009 @ Barnes Street Activity Center from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.*



Police Notes

- The City of Florence Police Department will host several off campus South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy Courses at the Training Facility located off McIver Road over the next several months . Police departments from across the state will be participating in these training classes.
- Officer John Davis (U.S. Navy) has recently returned to the United States from active duty in Iraq. He will be back to work with the police department by mid-October. Investigator John Graham recently departed for active duty with the South Carolina Army National Guard and will be deployed to Afghanistan around the end of this year. Sergeant Mike Krell (South Carolina Army National Guard) and Senior Officer London Jordan (U.S. Army Reserve) continue their active duty service.

Comprehensive Plan Process Update

The City of Florence Urban Planning & Development Department invites you to be a part of the second in a series of community workshops on the City's Comprehensive Plan. This upcoming workshop will take place on Tuesday, October 27th at 6pm. It will be held at First Baptist Church located at 300 South Irby Street and will last for approximately 2 hours.

The focus of this workshop will be on the future development and redevelopment of property within the City limits. Some concerns that will be addressed include existing opportunities for developing vacant lots and redeveloping vacant buildings for best uses; areas within the City that should be targeted for growth and redevelopment; and, utilities needed to support desired growth and expansion. Several maps of the City will be on hand to help guide the discussion.

The Comprehensive Plan is a reflection of the community's desires expressed in a long-term document that guides development. The purpose of the plan is to establish a vision for the future over the next 10 to 20 years while setting realistic goals of how to get there. It is an essential document for any municipality seeking the best quality of life for its residents. This vision is then achieved when adopted by the governing authority and managed by the planning agent. For these reasons, the community is encouraged to participate in every stage of the planning process and help guide its future in a proactive way.

If you have any questions about the Community Workshop or the Comprehensive Plan, please call the Urban Planning and Development Department at 843-665-2047.

Harvest Hope Helping Hand Program - Seven Weeks of Sharing

The City of Florence is sponsoring a program to assist Harvest Hope Food Bank in providing food to our community. Harvest Hope Food Bank, located at 2513 West Lucas Street in Florence, is a non-profit organization whose mission is to ensure that no one goes hungry. Donations (cash and/or non-perishable items) along with the efforts of hundreds of volunteers make this mission successful.

Beginning the week of October 5, the City is asking employees to contribute one canned good or other non-perishable item per week for a total of seven weeks. If all employees participate, we will be able to present Harvest Hope with over 3,000 items!

Each department will appoint a representative to collect and store collected items. The City's donations will be delivered to Harvest Hope on November 25, 2009, for distribution to the needy during the holiday season. If you have any questions about this program, you may contact the Human Resources Department or Tom Shearin in the City Manager's Office.



This collection activity serves as the kick-off event for the City's Harvest Hope Helping Hand Program. Additional events, including golf and bowling tournaments, are being planned for 2010.

SPONSORSHIP APPRECIATION

The City of Florence Parks & Beautification Department held a Sponsorship Appreciation and Drop-In at Barnes Street Activity Center on September 22, 2009. The purpose of the Drop-In was to recognize those businesses, agencies and individuals that are supporting youth programs at both the Barnes Street Activity Center and our three Community Centers. Light refreshments were provided at the Drop-In by one of the sponsoring groups, the Men's Club of Northwest Park and certificates of appreciation were given to each of the representing sponsors.

Sponsors that have participated with the City in youth programming are:

- *Florence Career Center*
- *Little Caesar Pizza*
- *Stokes Oil Company*
- *Ingram Grocery Store*
- *Bright Futures Learning Center*
- *Wukela Law Firm*
- *King Cadillac*
- *Jackie Postin*
- *Almeta Graham*
- *Willie Mae Fasion*
- *Northwest Men's Club*
- *Wal-Mart (Beltline Drive)*
- *Wal-Mart (Irby Street)*
- *Craig's Convenience Store*
- *Sam' Club*
- *Cooper Bail Bonds*
- *Florence Toyota / Scion*
- *Pastor Jimmy Deas*
- *Pastor Charles Foxe*
- *Pastor Anthony Howard*
- *Pastor Clyde Odom*

LIGHTS ON AFTER SCHOOL

The City will again participate in the nationwide celebration "Lights On After-School" on October 22, 2009. The event this year will be held at Levy Park beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a short program, a flag football game between the Community Center youth and youth from Lake City to be followed up with a hot dog supper. The national celebration is to call attention to the afterschool programs in Florence, as well as nationwide, that keep our kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. Please join us for this fun occasion.

PUMPKIN PATCH & FALL ART SHOW

The City of Florence Parks and Beautification Department will sponsor its annual Pumpkin Patch and Fall Art Show on Saturday, October 10, 2009. The event will be held at Barnes Street Activity Center (513 Barnes Street) from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. The Pumpkin Patch will include an interactive play area, inflatables and treats for children 10 and under. The Art Show will exhibit arts and crafts from both new and experienced artist of the Florence community. Hot dogs, chips and drinks will be available for sale. Please join us at the Barnes Street Activity Center for some harvest fun.



City of Florence receives 2010 Palmetto Pride Tree Grant

The City of Florence has been awarded a 2010 Palmetto Pride Tree Grant. Palmetto Pride has worked in cooperation with the S.C. Department of Corrections Nursery Operations to provide tree grant opportunities across the state. Our grant award includes the following trees:

- 20 Cherry Bark Trees
- 4 Dogwood (White) Trees
- 20 River Birch Trees
- 10 Sweet Bay Magnolia Trees
- 30 Wax Myrtle Trees

City staff will be collecting trees at the S.C. Department of Correctional Facility in Columbia on Wednesday, October 14th. All trees are 4-6' in height, and 1 – 1 ½ " in diameter, and will be planted in various locations along the City of Florence Trail System. These plantings will be a great addition to the City's continued effort to maintain our urban forest as well as increase beautification along City trails.

City of Florence receives Tree City USA for 2008 (29 years)

The South Carolina Forestry Commission recognized the City of Florence as a Tree City USA at the October, 2009 meeting of the Parks & Beautification Commission. This is the 29th consecutive year that the City of Florence has received this honor. The City of Florence maintains certain criteria in order to receive this recognition.

As a Tree City USA, the City is required to have a tree board to review tree removal requests from residents and other tree issues. The City of Florence Parks & Beautification Commission assumes this responsibility and has a Tree Review Committee in place for this purpose. Another requirement is that there is a Community Tree Ordinance which our City Council has approved in an effort to protect trees within the right-of-ways in the City of Florence. The City, as a Tree City USA recipient must have a Community Forestry program that budgets \$2/capita each year for additional tree plantings. The final requirement that the City achieves is an annual Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation. The City of Florence coordinates this event through the Parks & Beautification Commission each year in December. The observance includes a tree planting and has been held at various locations throughout the City.

