



2000

**REPORT
TO THE
PEOPLE**



A Message from Your City Council

Dear Andersonians,

On behalf of the City Council, management team, and employees of Anderson, I am pleased to present to you the 2000 Report to the People. I hope you will find the results from your city government pleasing.

By any measuring stick you care to use, the past year has been one of success and accomplishments. Receiving the All-America City Award will always stand as one of this community's finest moments. We will continue to reap the benefits for years to come by being named one of the ten best places in the entire United States!

I urge you to take a few minutes and review the information within this report. I believe you will be gratified at the level of commitment and service your city team is providing you on a daily basis. A lot of hard work, attention to the wise expenditure of your tax dollars, and planning for the future of Anderson went in to the results shared within this report.

Anderson has long held the nickname of "The Electric City". While this title refers to our historic past and our embracing of electrical power over a century ago, I firmly believe that today, the title is more appropriate. We are indeed an "electric" place to be! Your government and your fellow citizens who serve you through their devotion and daily work are energized to make our hometown even better. Yes, this 2000 Report to the People is a story of pride, but I already know that the 2001 edition will be even greater!

Thank you for taking the time to review this information. If you have any questions or comments, please know that we would welcome hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Richard A. Shirley
Mayor

- Steven C. Kirven Ward 1
- Philip M. Cheney Ward 2
- A.B. "Buck" Roberts Ward 3
- Tony Stewart Ward 4
- Beatrice R. Thompson Ward 5
- Dennis H. McKee Ward 6
- Blake W. Williamson at-large Seat 7
- Tom W. Dunaway, III at-large Seat 8



Downtown Events Prove Successful



Celebrating success is an integral part of the City's downtown revitalization program. The completion of Phase I was celebrated with the first annual Chili Cook-off. The night was alive with ten downtown restaurants serving their own style of chili, shops were open for business, and a dazzling laser show was the highlight of the evening. Destined to be an annual event, the

Chili Cook-off is expected to expand to become the fall equivalent of Soiree.

Downtown's renaissance requires creative promotion in order to entice patrons to the center of the City. The calendar can now boast about the Soiree and Art and Antique Walk held in April, the Antique Car Show in June, and the Chili Cook-off in October. The year concludes with the Christmas season's first weekend of activities including the Mayor's Tree Lighting, the Holiday Walk, Downtown Christmas Open House, and the Christmas parade.

Such year-round interest and activities spur the private sector into action, too. The Downtown Block Party appeared on the scene to offer live musical entertainment during the summer evenings. The newly chartered Downtown Sertoma Club was established this year with a focus on downtown projects.

City Thrives with Technology and the Information Services Department

To continue utilizing technology to benefit our citizens and to provide for more efficient government operations, the Information Services Department was established last year. Existing personnel assumed new duties in order to modernize and oversee all computer operations for the City.

The first priority was to implement a computer network to allow the exchange of data among City departments and to provide Internet and e-mail access for employees. The IS Department also coordinates all computer hardware and software purchases and provides technical support and basic training to all City departments.

The City's official web site will allow visitors to contact City employees, complete forms and applications, review documents and ordinances, and obtain general information regarding the City of Anderson.

Another important project for the IS Department is the development of the City's official web site. Currently under construction, the web site is expected to be completed in January. It will allow visitors to contact City employees, complete forms and applications, review documents and ordinances, and obtain general information regarding the City of Anderson. Watch for it at www.cityofandersonsc.com.

City Won Recognition and Awards

The City of Anderson, its employees, and several business owners were specifically recognized for their work and their leadership. We can lift our chins and rightly boast about the following accomplishments:

- The Finance Department won its sixth consecutive Certificate of Achievement for



Excellence in Financial Reporting. This award is bestowed by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada, and covered our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999.

- After nearly 2 years of applying and waiting, the City logo has been approved for registration with the US Patent and Trademark Office.
- Anderson welcomed its first female firefighter, Kathe McGee Long, to our City Fire Department staff. Kathe's 10 years as a volunteer firefighter, and six years as a training officer, are evidence of her expertise.
- The South Carolina Downtown Development Association presented the City the Best Public Improvement Award for the Main Street Courtyard. SCDDA also presented to Phil Silverstein the Hometown Hero Award, and to Katie Tillman and Valerie Lowe, the Master Merchants Award. In capturing these three awards, the City topped any other city in the state!

*The South Carolina
Downtown
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Association presented
the City the Best
Public Improvement
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Street Courtyard.*

- No discussion of awards would be complete without mention of the All-America City Award. So many people contributed to this award, representing the spirit of perseverance and achievement. Anderson and its citizens earned this award.

For Recreation, Our Needs are Growing and Growing and Growing

Sorting out our City's recreation needs neighborhood by neighborhood has been a long and arduous task. Now, we have nearly completed the Recreation Master Plan. The City Council is expected to review the Plan for adoption during the first quarter of 2001. What does this mean?

Having an adopted Recreation Master Plan means that the City will have a plan of action to improve and increase recreation opportunities within our boundaries such as developing new neighborhood parks and new district parks to meet our growing population and interest in recreation. Consider the following figures from last year:

- 2,497 youths participated in our youth baseball and softball programs resulting in 85 teams and only 9 fields on which to play and practice
- 405 youths rounded out the 40 youth basketball teams with 1 gymnasium

This is just the tip of the iceberg as participation overall increases each year. Once adult athletics are added to the mix, the demand for recreation becomes even more obvious.

The draft Master Plan includes new park development as well as substantial improvements to existing parks. Portions of the Recreation Master Plan are already being implemented as common sense solutions, such as leasing facilities like the former McCants football field, and entering joint use agreements with school facilities to maximize public use of public facilities. Redevelopment work also is beginning on the neighborhood park in the Quarry Street area.

Watch for more details about improving our parks system.

Community Benefits from Sanitary Sewer Improvements

Technology is paramount in the non-glamorous business of sanitary sewer from the collection lines that serve business and residential areas to computerized reporting and mapping systems to the treatment of wastewater at the end of the line. The City's commitment to environmental quality and to our citizens in general is evident in our accomplishments and our track record.

The \$7 million upgrade of the City's Rocky River and Generostee Creek Wastewater Treatment Plants was completed nearly one year ago. This upgrade has enabled the City to meet more stringent permit requirements of the SC Department of Health & Environmental Control (SCDHEC). Also, the upgrade accomplished three objectives: removing more nitrogen from wastewater going into the river and creek, thus reducing the potential for growth of problem algae; enlarging the pump station and increasing the ability to handle high flows caused by rainy weather; and improving the sludge handling process.

Our state-approved industrial monitoring and pretreatment program resulted in recognition and nomination by SCDHEC for the pretreatment award. The pretreatment program requires major industry to meet specific wastewater limits prior to its discharge into the City's system. The City recognized Plastic Omnium for perfect compliance in pretreatment as well as Frigidaire, Hexcel Schwebel, Ryobi, Springs (Wamsutta), and Vytech for their accomplishments in pretreatment.

The availability of public sanitary sewer facilities allows for efficient land development, reduction in groundwater contamination, and elimination of septic tank difficulties. We'll continue our efforts to maintain and improve the many miles of public sewer lines within our territory through normal daily routines as well as the development of a comprehensive sewer plan, and a remediation plan for inflow and infiltration into the system.

Computerized Signal System Aids Traffic Flow



Work has continued on the computerized traffic signal system that will complete the coordination of 19 intersections on North Main Street from Daniels Street to Salem Church Road. This means the installation of 55,000 linear feet of wire, new signal

controllers, cabinets and signal heads for a total cost of \$680,000. Ninety percent of the

funding is through an SCDOT grant. New equipment has been installed recently at the following intersections with North Main Street/Clemson Boulevard: Salem Church Road, Civic Center Boulevard, Target/Lowe's development, Beltline Boulevard, Mall Road, and Tanglewood Drive.

Although some of the new equipment has been installed and turn arrows are functioning, the computerized coordination among signals won't be complete until the installation of fiber optic cables. Ultimately, the system will consist of a central computer that will monitor each signal for traffic volume and make adjustments ensuring efficient traffic flow. Once complete, a vehicle traveling at the proper speed should be able to flow smoothly through several intersections without prolonged stopping.

One of the goals is to be able to measure and compare, using the same criteria, our services and associated costs with those of other cities.

Police, Fire, and Solid Waste Services Rate High With Residents

The South Carolina Municipal Benchmarking Project, spearheaded by the University of South Carolina Center for Governance, is an effort aimed at developing and implementing standard performance measures concerning municipal services. One of the goals is to be able to measure and compare, using the same criteria, our services and associated costs with those of other cities. This is just one tool to help us as we continually strive to provide our citizens with efficient, quality services in a cost effective manner.

The core services studied last year included police, fire, and solid waste. City residents were surveyed to determine the quality level of existing services in these areas. The results of the survey indicated a service rating of good to excellent



Signs like this one bearing the City logo can be found as you enter the city from East Greenville Street, Belton Highway, US 29 North, South Murray Avenue, and West Market Street. These attractive signs serve to identify the city boundaries and add beauty to our landscape.

in the following categories: overall quality of life, overall service delivery, quality of law enforcement services, safe environment, quality of fire services, and quality of garbage and yard waste collection.

Since this is a multi-year project, expect more information soon as we continue to compare our services with those of Aiken, Clemson, Florence, Georgetown, Myrtle Beach, North Augusta, Orangeburg, Rock Hill, Spartanburg, and Walterboro.

City Continues To Protect and Speak for Its Water Customers

Duke Water Systems, a subsidiary of Duke Energy, supplies water to most of the county. In October 1999 when Duke put the water system on the sales block, city officials were determined to try and maintain local ownership to ensure reasonable water rates for our citizens. The City put together a professional team to analyze the wholesale water system and determine its value - \$46 million. Then, city voters last September with a 93% approval, authorized the City to continue its strong voice in the future of our water utility. Today, more than one year later, that voice remains strong and committed to a reasonable, community-friendly, financially sound agreement on the sale of our water system.



More than just a resting place, this bench, crafted by Bob Doster especially for the City of Anderson, represents the first piece of public art installed as part of the downtown revitalization's Phase I effort. "Barefoot in the Park" is located in the award-winning Main Street Courtyard.

1999-2000 Fast Facts

- Permitted nearly \$57 million in residential and commercial building activity
- Rehabilitated 17 houses and provided financial assistance to 6 first time homebuyers
- Installed 3,673 linear feet of curb & gutter and driveways
- Facilitated 22 downtown building facade improvements
- Hired a new Fire Chief
- Established Safety Committee for detecting safety and health hazards in order to control economic losses

Mission Statement

THE CITY OF ANDERSON EXISTS TO provide for the safety and general well-being of its citizens and visitors. It strives to create, enhance, and maintain a positive quality of life and a healthy environment in which to live, work, and play. The City seeks to create an environment, which fosters economic development and economic opportunity.

The City assumes a leadership role in determining the future of the community and serves as a forum for identifying and addressing the needs of the community. The City actively forms partnerships with other governments, the private sector, community groups and organizations in order to address these needs. Further, the City seeks to be a growing community and also works to enrich the existing community. The City continually strives to provide, through its employees, the highest quality of services in an efficient and effective manner.

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