

Easley City News

Fall/Winter 2011



It's beginning to
look a lot like.....

Christmas

Mayor
LARRY D. BAGWELL

City Council

Ward 1
Brian Garrison
855-6714

Ward 2
Libby Dodson
859-8787

Ward 3
Chris Mann
855-3550

Ward 4
Kim Valentin
354-5036

Ward 5
Thomas H. Wright, Sr.
859-3943

Ward 6
Dave Watson
850-0901

City Administrator
Jonathan Fox Simons, Jr.

Editor
Lisa Garrett

Easley City News is a semi-annual publication by the City of Easley. Some information can be incomplete or dated. Please contact the appropriate City department for any changes and up-to-date information.

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This and That

** Photos on the cover and on the Amphitheater page courtesy of Dunburk's Premier Events.

Department Directory

Administration	855-7900
Business License	855-7900
Finance	855-7900
Community Development	855-7900
Public Works	855-7916
Recreation	855-7933
Police (non-emergency)	859-4025
Municipal Court	855-7915
Planning & Development	855-7907
Fire (non-emergency)	859-8950

Notes from Mayor Bagwell



Welcome to the latest edition the Easley City News. On behalf of the City we wish to welcome our new residents. I know that you will come to love Easley as much as I do. In a short period of time you will learn what many of us "lifers" already know; Easley is a friendly, safe and comfortable place to live, work, and play.

The City Council has enjoyed a busy summer and the next several months will continue to reflect the growing and active community Easley has become. First, City Council approved a new budget for the City of Easley, which avoided a property tax increase. Although the budget will continue to be very tight, it reflects the same belt-tightening efforts that have impacted every household and business in the current economic environment. Our residents and business community should not anticipate a reduction in City services during the next year.

Thanks to the stewardship of City Council, and excellent Department Managers the City of Easley is in a very sound position financially. And while in other communities the economy may have stalled or mothballed some projects completely that is not the case in Easley. Some of the improvements you will read about in this newsletter include a new dog park, sand volleyball courts, and horseshoe pits at Hagood Park. These improvements continue the City's effort to give our parks a fresh look.

Another project currently underway is the Brushy Creek Road intersection improvement at Pearson Road. The project entails the installation of a traffic signal and includes left hand turn lanes. Once the project is completed (estimated by SCDOT to be June, 2012) this will be a more functional intersection by greatly improving the flow of traffic and make travelling through this intersection a much easier experience.

One of the more important under takings by the City Council this summer was the re-districting of City Council Districts. When the 2010 Census was released earlier this year the City Council decided reapportionment was necessary to make the Districts more equal in size. To see the new Districts please visit our website, www.cityofeasley.com and look under the City Council tab.

As we transition from summer to fall well all know that many people will spend their weekends raking the fallen leaves from their yards. To help with the pick-up of leaves the City has purchased another vacuum truck which will make the pick-up of the leaves more efficient and timely. However, despite this additional resource there simply are a lot of leaves and I ask for your patience and understanding while we work to pick them up. Due to the large quantity of leaves we always get behind. Hopefully with the new truck we won't be as far behind as we have in the past.

In closing, I'd like to say that while we have accomplished a lot, there is still much to do and that Easley's best days are in its future. I hope you and your family have a joyous and safe holiday season. I look forward to seeing you in 2012.



During this fall and the first half of the budget year, the Police Department is continuing on its track of implementing technological improvements. At the time of this article, the department is installing close to a dozen more laptops and thermal printers in their patrol cars. If you remember, the department installed its first six mobile units last budget year. Some of you may have seen the article in the Greenville News about this. The main goal of these technologies were 1). To reduce the number of errors, time, and redundancy that was taking place when an officer hand wrote a ticket and how it was receive by the court. 2) Giving the police officers a more efficient and legible way of producing forms on scene of auto accidents to give to the involved parties. 3). Allowing more time officers are out in the community being visible, by giving them the ability to key in reports in the field, instead of having to come back to the office to produce a report.

We knew that installing five or six units a year would take close to ten years to achieve the project, so we did some comparisons of equipment and costs and decide to get more bang for our buck by purchasing refurbished computers from a major computer company. It took us a few days to wrap our heads around this, should we sacrifice the quality of equipment? As it turns out, the only difference was the outer shell of the equipment. The warranties and conditions of the equipment are the same. By being diligent and conscious of cost, the department was able to double the number of units for the same price. There was however a learning curve from the first year, and that was with the "southern summer heat". Originally, inkjet printers were purchased to print documents on the scene of accidents and car stops. On a couple of occasions the ink cartridges were expanding during the extreme heat and would split open causing the cartridges to leak. The printers we are installing now are thermal printers, which produce a heat transfer onto the paper and is inkless. Not only is this more acclimated for our environment, but will be cheaper in the long run by eliminating the reoccurring purchase of those expensive printer ink cartridges.

We should also note that one of the laptops computers were purchased from a "community grant" awarded to the Police Department from WALMART. The department is thankful for organizations such as WALMART and its continued support of the Easley community and the Easley Police Department.



Easley PD
Easley Police Department



DON'T BECOME A VICTIM OF THEFT DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

By practicing the following tips you will reduce the likelihood of your holiday season being spoiled by thefts.

While shopping for gifts:

- * Always keep car doors locked while parked in parking lots.
- * Never leave valuables visible from car window, such as pocketbooks, cell phones, I-Pods, and bags containing items purchased.
- * Always lock presents or merchandise in the trunk of your vehicle if you are leaving them in the car to do more shopping.
- * If shopping at night try to park in the most well lit area possible and have car keys ready before getting to your car.
- * Look around for suspicious people while walking to your car.
- * Always be aware of your surroundings while you pay for your merchandise. Never let anyone crowd you at the register. Keep credit card numbers and personal information on checks out of view from those around you.

Good Home Practices:

- * Never put out gifts that are visible from a window.
- * Always leave a light on when you are away. Timers work good for this.
- * Alternate lights left on in different parts of the house, as to not show a pattern while you're away.
- * Lock all doors to your home, If you're home or not.
- * Do not keep valuables in an open garage.

BE AWARE & BE SMART!!

As with every holiday season, the police will be out in numbers aggressively enforcing drinking and driving laws.

Many parties and gatherings take place over the next few months. If you are going to consume alcohol at these functions remember to have a designated driver.

The Easley Police Department takes a zero tolerance stance on DUI.

Learn more about your police department by visiting our website:

www.easleypd.org

Police Chief: Danny Traber

Non-emergency number for the police department is:
859-4025



The City of Easley Fire Department has a strong Fire Prevention Program in place for all elementary and pre-school aged children. We also house the Pickens County Fire Chief's Association Child Safety House which is used in all Easley area Schools, Church's, and Daycares upon request.

Each year in October, the Fire Department conducts fire prevention classes for school aged children during Fire Prevention Week. This was October 9-15 this year. Our annual Open House was held on Thursday October 13th at our Station #2 located at 180 Glenwood Road from 5:30pm until 8:00pm. Attendance was estimated to be 1300 people.

We also sponsored our annual Smoke Detector Campaign. This year it was held October 17-28 from 4pm-7pm, Monday through Friday only. Random neighborhoods were picked for the daily checks. Our Firefighters and Explorer Post personnel were in uniform and identified themselves before entering any residence. This year the Fire Department visited over **300+** residences, checked **504** smoke detectors with **145** new detectors installed and installed **290** new batteries in existing smoke detectors. This program has been a great success over the past years for our department and for the citizens of Easley. If a smoke detector or battery was needed, the Fire Department provided them at no charge. This is available for CITY RESIDENTS ONLY. Smoke detectors are available at our Administrative office (310 Pope Field Road) and Station 1(1089 S. Pendleton Street) for residents within the Easley Fire District. If you rent your residence remember that the owner of the property is responsible for smoke detectors inside the residence that you are renting from them under **SC Law Section 5-25-1330**. Remember to change your batteries in all smoke detectors when you change your clock

We would like to thank Lowe's for donating smoke detectors and Batteries Plus(+) for the donation of batteries for this worthy project.

This year our **Annual Boot Drive** was held on Saturday November 5th. We were fortunate to raise **\$7, 344.63** for the Jeff Chavis House located at the Joseph M. Still Burn Center in Augusta, Georgia. This House is used by families of burn victims during their stay at the hospital. A big thank you to everyone that stopped at an intersection or at a department store to donate to this project.

If you would like to donate your aluminum cans to the Fire Department you can drop them off at Sta. 1 located at 1089 S. Pendleton Street or Sta. 3 located at 640 Powdersville Road. The funds collected from the aluminum can donations go directly to purchase Fire Prevention materials for school aged children and smoke detectors used for distribution throughout the year.

During the approaching holidays please use extreme caution while decorating your home. Always limit the use of drop cords when decorating. If used, do not overload them, and make sure that nothing is placed on top of the cord. This will limit abrasions on the cord and prevent sparking. When using a live Christmas tree always remember to place it in a safe place away from a heat source, and remember to water the tree daily to prevent drying out. No matter your age, always PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY AND A HOME EVACUATION DRILL.

Please visit us on the web at www.easleyfire.net

Non Emergency Number: 864-859-8950 Fire Chief: Butch Womack

Brushy Creek Road & Pearson Road Intersection Improvements Project
Project Description Summary
October 31, 2011

We are also pleased to provide an update for another roadway improvement project within the City of Easley. The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) is currently performing roadway improvements at the intersection of Brushy Creek Road and Pearson Road. The purpose of the project is to improve safety and traffic flow at the intersection with the addition of turn lanes and a new traffic signal.

Brushy Creek Road and Pearson Road are two heavily travelled roads owned and maintained by the SCDOT. The proposed improvements include adding left turn lanes on Brushy Creek Road, adding a right turn lane on Pearson Road and installing a new traffic signal. The project will also involve relocating Nancy Drive, a local residential street, to align with the intersection. Additional pedestrian safety enhancements consist of installing sidewalks on each street and adding pedestrian signals and cross-walks at the intersection.

The project is being managed by the SCDOT. Construction began on July 17th and is scheduled to be complete by June 22, 2012.



Pinewood Bridge Replacement Project

Project Description Summary

October 18, 2011

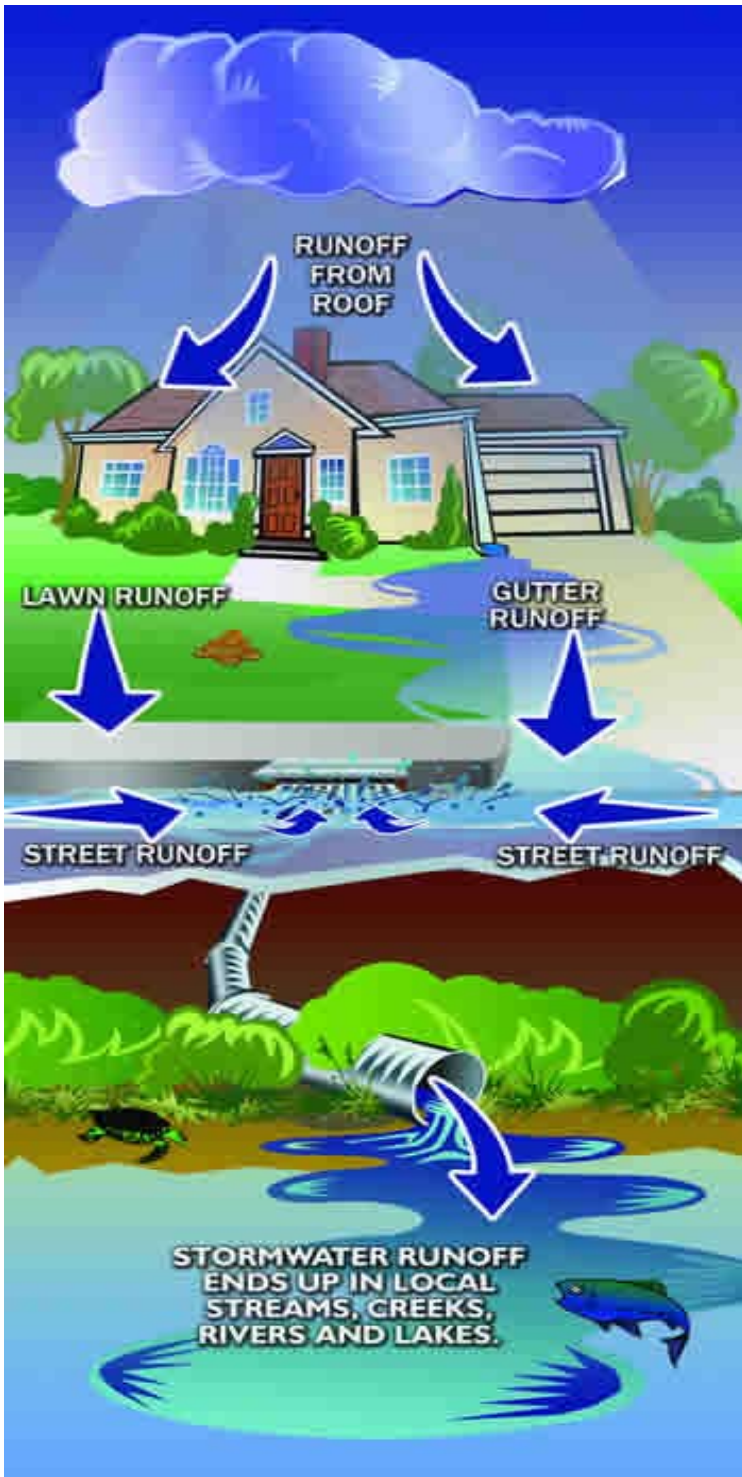
The City of Easley is currently under construction with the Pinewood Drive Bridge Replacement Project. The purpose of the project is to improve safety for the community by replacing the existing deteriorated bridge over Brushy Creek. Pinewood Drive is a two-lane residential street under the jurisdiction of the City of Easley. Pinewood Drive provides access to local residential and commercial property.

Pinewood Drive crosses Brushy Creek with a 21-ft. single span bridge. The bridge consists of a concrete deck and steel beam superstructure supported by timber piles. The bridge has a posted weight restriction of 3 tons (gross) due to the condition of the structure. The load restrictions impact routes for emergency, school transport, and commercial vehicles.

The City recently contracted with Florence and Hutcheson, Inc. to perform engineering, permitting and construction administration services for the project. The City evaluated several options for replacing the bridge which included using large diameter pipes, box culverts and a new bridge. Based on preliminary engineering and cost studies, the City elected to replace the bridge with two 72" diameter reinforced concrete pipes. The engineering design and permitting for the project is complete and construction began on October 3rd. Saddlebrook Construction, Inc is the contractor and is scheduled to complete the project in early December.



STORMWATER



Rainwater runs over our driveways, parking lots and down our streets washing debris and contaminants into storm drains. Rainwater does not go to treatment plants like sewer lines from houses. Stormwater transports rain runoff and pollutants such as detergents, litter, fertilizers, herbicides, paint, pet waste, oil & antifreeze residues directly to our waterways untreated.

Report polluting discharges to:

The City of Easley

201 North First Street – Easley, SC 29640

Phone: 864-855-7907

Website: <http://cityofeasley.net/>



News from the Public Works Department

E-waste -- These items are old discarded electronic devices (desktop and notebook computers, computer monitors, printers and televisions). Consumers must not place a covered device in any waste stream that is to be disposed of in a solid waste landfill effective July 1, 2011, per SC State Law. **THE CITY OF EASLEY WILL NO LONGER PICK UP ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT or "E-WASTE"**. All of these items should be taken to the Pickens County's Recycling Centers -- Old Liberty Rd. (Landfill), Farr's Bridge Rd. (Hwy 183), and North Old Pendleton Rd.

Have you thought about grasscycling? Grasscycling means leaving cut grass clippings on your lawn. This practice will help produce a *healthy lawn*. Grass clippings contain valuable nutrients which allows for less water and chemical fertilizers to be used. Saving time and \$\$\$\$. See www.scdhec.gov/recycle.

Recycling -- Many of you do recycle and we thank you, but many do not. If you know any friends or neighbors who do not recycle, please encourage them to do so. The Public Works office provides one free bin for each household. You will be given a general list of the items that we do recycle or you can go online to www.cityofeasley.com for a listing. Laws are getting stricter each year for items that cannot be put in landfills.

Leaf Season -- Here we go again! It's that time of the year ...leaves. Just a reminder that the City does know where the piles of leaves are, they are marked each day by the garbage trucks. We are limited with men and equipment, even though a new leaf truck should be delivered by the end of November. Please understand that we do get behind due to the huge amount of leaves during this time, but we will get to your house just as quickly as possible. Also, please do not put the leaves in the street (a traffic hazard) or on or around catch basin lids (leaves that are washed into the catch basins can stop them up).

Informational E-mails -- To receive an e-mail from Public Works concerning changes in our garbage pickup schedules and other important information, please go to www.cityofeasley.com web site home page and on the bottom left hand corner, sign up for Constant Contact. We will send you an e-mail the week before each Holiday, reminding you of changes of the pickup schedule.

Public Works Director
Lamar Hunnicutt

Supervisor of Streets and Sanitation
David Lappin

Secretary
Emily Morgan

CITY OF EASLEY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR 2012

Please make note of the following garbage schedule changes for holidays in 2012.
This is the only notice you will receive from the City.

- **New Year's Day- January 2, 2012** Monday no collection. Monday's route will be picked up on Tuesday; Tuesday's route will be picked up on Wednesday. No change Thursday and Friday.
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day- January 16, 2012** Monday no collection. Monday's route will be picked up on Tuesday; Tuesday's route will be picked up on Wednesday. No change Thursday and Friday.
- **President's Day- February 20, 2012** Monday no collection. Monday's route will be picked up on Tuesday; Tuesday's route will be picked up on Wednesday. No change Thursday and Friday.
- **Good Friday- April 6, 2012** Friday no collection. Friday's route will be picked up on Thursday; Thursday's route will be picked up on Wednesday. No change Monday and Tuesday.
- **Memorial Day- May 28, 2012** Monday no collection. Monday's route will be picked up on Tuesday; Tuesday's route will be picked up on Wednesday. No change Thursday and Friday.
- **Independence Day- July 4, 2012** Wednesday no collection. All routes picked up on normal scheduled pick up day.
- **Labor Day- September 3, 2012** Monday no collection. Monday's route will be picked up on Tuesday; Tuesday's route will be picked up on Wednesday. No change Thursday and Friday.
- **Thanksgiving - November 22 and 23, 2012** Thursday and Friday no collection. Thursday and Friday's routes will be picked up on Wednesday. No change Monday and Tuesday.
- **Christmas - December 24 and 25, 2012** Monday and Tuesday no collection. Monday and Tuesday's route will be picked up on Wednesday. No change Thursday and Friday.

Excess garbage and recycling can be taken to Pickens County Recycling Stations. They have three locations that are close to the Easley area. Call (864) 850-7092 for hours of operation.

***Please visit the City's web site at www.cityofeasley.com**



Parks and Recreation Department



The City of Easley Parks and Recreation Department is proud to announce that we should be finishing a project at Hagood Park in November. Additions in this project include a new playground unit, dog park, sand volleyball courts, and some horseshoe pits. We are also, at a later date, hoping to add a new picnic shelter, lighting, fencing and some upgrades to the basketball courts at Hagood.

Easley Little League Baseball, Inc. for 2012 is already off and running. The 2012 Executive Board will consist of Mike McAlister, Scott Price, Lori Simons, John Williams, Heath Cassell, Lance Gregory and Gregg Powell. Easley Little League started this year having early registration. We had a couple of Sunday afternoons in October that we registered. The next dates for 2012 registration are January 14th and January 21st from 8:00am until 4:00pm at the 3-Field Baseball Tower at J.B. "Red" Owens Complex.

Flag Football is a growing sport at Easley Recreation and registration should start in January.

Easley Recreation offered Fall Volleyball for the first time ever in the fall and we had 72 players signed up. We are looking for great things out of our Volleyball program in the future.

Please check our website at www.easleyrec.com for information about our programs and also a link to set up an account to register online for any of our programs.

The Youth Soccer program is run by Easley Soccer Club. If you are interested in that you can find them on the web at www.easleysoccer.com.



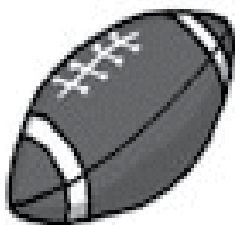
Easley will host the BLWS for the 12th Year in 2012.

The Big League Baseball World Series will kick off the month of championship tournaments to determine the top teams in the world in each division. Easley, S.C., will serve as the home for the Big League tournament for the 12th year as the oldest age division in baseball conducts its 45th championship July 25 to Aug. 1.

Contact the Recreation Department at 855-7933.

Gymnasium hours 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday thru Saturday

Sunday 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.



Cheer





New playground equipment at Hagood Park

New Dog Park Area at Hagood Park



Now you can have fun with your children and your pets at Hagood Park

Easley Community Garden



Public Works doing the initial grading



Master Gardeners lending a helping hand.



Lisa Garrett, Project Manager and Julie Capaldi with the Pickens County United Way



Americorp group volunteering on Make a Difference Day on November 5th



Thank you to Rock Springs Baptist Church for the new tool shed. The following companies contributed to the building.

- EDI, LLC
- Pickens Siding & Windows, Inc.
- Dixie Lumber
- Lowe's
- Alside Products

Thank you to Jim Wilson for coordinating this project.



Scott Mahaffey with Green Wave Distribution improving the soil



Strawberry Plants growing in the garden compliments of Hunter Farms

On October 10, 2011 Easley City Council passed a resolution establishing a Community Garden. You might wonder what a community garden is and what is its purpose? A community garden is nothing more than a piece of land gardened by a group of volunteers. The purpose of the garden is to help address the hunger issue in Easley and Pickens County.

In the recent Hunger Study done by the United Way hunger in Pickens County has grown by leaps and bounds. One out of 17 children in Pickens County does not get adequate nutrition over the week-end. This summer 5,549 meals were served to students at 2 elementary schools in the first week of the summer feeding program. Poverty in Pickens County is 17.5%. Not only are some of our citizens hungry but there is a great sense of "food insecurity", not being able to get nutritionally adequate and safe food. The Community Garden will help to address some of these issues.

The fruits of our labor will go to benefit SHINE so people can take home fresh vegetables and the kitchen can provide meals made with fresh vegetables. Vegetables will also be provided to area food banks as well as the backpack program so children will have fresh, nutritious vegetables over the weekend.

You do not need any special skills to work in the community garden, just a willingness to volunteer a little of your time. The good thing about a community garden is that it brings together all ages, races and people with different skills levels and abilities.

For more information visit our website at www.easleyfarmersmarket.com/community-garden/ or our facebook page. Visit the United Way's website and sign up to volunteer with their new program Get Connected. <http://www.uwpickens.org/agencies/CommunityGarden/>

You can also call Lisa Garrett at 855-7900, ext. 7200 or Julie Capaldi at 850-7094.

Grand Opening of the New Amphitheater in Old Market Square



The Flashbacks provided a free concert for the grand opening celebration.

Members of Easley City Council, Mayor Bagwell, TIF Committee, and members of the Chamber of Commerce cut the ribbon for the new amphitheater.



Crowds packed
Old Market
Square on
Halloween



SunLit Moon provided entertainment at a fundraiser for Meals On Wheels.

October 6th marked the grand opening of the new Amphitheater in Old Market Square. It is an all-purpose outdoor event amphitheater open for community events. There have already been numerous events held in the amphitheater. The City held its "Movies on the Market" series in the new amphitheater to an overflowing audience. Other fall events held in the amphitheater included the Easley High School Food fight and a fundraiser for Meals on Wheels and the annual Halloween Festival. In the spring the City's Music on the Market will be held in the amphitheater.

Renovations of the Amphitheater is phase I of a multi-phase improvement for Old Market Square and its surroundings.

To book the amphitheatre call the Easley Parks and Recreation Department at 855-7933.



Movies on the Market

Upcoming City Events



Tree Lighting
Friday, Dec. 2nd at 7:00
In front of City Hall
Downtown activities beginning at 5:30

Santa Claus will be in front
of City Hall every Friday and Saturday
night from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.
beginning on Dec. 2nd
until Christmas.



Christmas Parade
December 3rd
10:00 a.m.

For information on any City Event
please contact
Dunburk's Premier Events
864-423-4344
or
www.easleyevents.com

This and That

Frequently Asked Questions at City Hall

Does Easley have a Better Business Bureau?
No, it is handled in Greenville
242-5052

Where is the MAGISTRATES OFFICE?
West End Hall
135 Folger Ave.
850-7076

ANIMAL CONTROL is handled by Pickens County
898-5929

The POST OFFICE phone number is
859-9411

All TAX QUESTIONS, city and county, should be directed to the Pickens County Tax Assessors office.
898-5871

The HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT is listed as
S.C. Department of Highways & Public Transportation Motor Vehicle Division
878-1870

TO REGISTER TO VOTE OR FIND OUT WHERE YOU VOTE CALL PICKENS COUNTY REGISTRATION & ELECTION OFFICE
898-5948

The number to the PICKENS COUNTY LIBRARY
850-7077

The chamber of commerce is listed as
GREATER EASLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
859-2693

EASLEY COMBINED UTILITY handles water, sewer, and power.
859-4013

The number for United Christian Ministries & Samaritians Health Clinic is 855-0853

Meeting Schedule

Easley City Council
2nd Monday of each month
7:00 p.m.
Courtroom of the Law Enforcement Center
221 NW Main St.

TIF Committee
1st Thursday of each month 8:30 a.m.
Council Chambers of City Hall
205 N. 1st St.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
2nd Thursday of each month 8:15 a.m.
Conference room of City Hall
205 N. 1st St.

Planning Commission *
3rd Monday of each month
5:30 in conference room of the
Planning and Development office
205 N. 1st St.

Zoning Board of Appeals *
3rd Tuesday of each month at 5:00p.m.
Conference room of the Planning
and Development office
205 N. 1st St.

Architectural Review Board *
4th Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
Conference room of the Planning
and Development office
205 N. 1st St.

*Call the Planning and Development office
to confirm meeting at 855-7908



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Brian Garrison
Bgarrison@cityofeasley.com



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kvalentine@cityofeasley.com



Ward 2
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Ward 3
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Ward 6
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City of Easley
P.O. Box 466
Easley, SC 29641