

Mayor James Howell

Council:

Angele Bradley
Tyler Cook
Inez Lee
Mary Ann Mack
Town Administrator:
Tim Dargan

Lamar's Monthly Connection

February 2025

www.lamarsc.org www.facebook.com/Town-of-Lamar-SC
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Mayor James Howell presents

2024 State of the Town Address Lamar, South Carolina



On behalf of Lamar Town Council and Tim Dargan, Town Administrator, it is my pleasure as Mayor to report on the progress, accomplishments, and events of Lamar in 2024. Lamar is a special small town located in southern Darlington County, South Carolina, often referred to as “the pearl of the Pee Dee.” Since I became Mayor in 2022, Lamar has become stronger and more prepared to meet its needs and challenges. I contribute this success to this administration **being vigilant** and continuously **looking for improvement; taking care of problems** as they arise; **growing stronger relationships** between citizens and businesses--listening to your opinions, comments, and solutions; and coordinating **good financial management** between the Council, the Administrator, Town Personnel, and yours truly.

In 2025, this administration will diligently work with the water and sewer systems. As a matter of fact, the Railroad Avenue Pump Station and Gravity Sewer Project is scheduled to begin now. However, the administration is working to make improvements in all areas. I ask you as citizens of Lamar to help—keep your property clean, take pride in OUR Town, and SHOP LOCALLY.

The following report on the progress, accomplishments, and events in Lamar in 2024 is based on the Town Council minutes from January through December and on everyday happenings in OUR Town.

- Beginning in January, American Luxury Coach let it be known it had purchased the Craig Industries building and warehouse and plans to hire 70 employees. It will offer manufactured, powder coated, and refurbished parts for the car and truck industry.
- Joe Jebailey, CEO/Owner of American Luxury Coach, gave Lamar \$1,000 for Emergency Disaster Needs for the Town.
- The Martin Luther King March & Celebration was held on January 15.
- In January, the Town signed a contract with Gov.Possible to provide a business license portal and, therefore, the Town is integrated into the State’s business license portal.
- Early in the year, Darlington County Roads & Bridges started replacing missing or damaged street signs around Town.
- When you have helpful information, the Town asks you to call the Anonymous Tip Line at 843-326-1449.
- The trash cans on Main Street are being repainted and given a new look by the Beautification Commission.
- On February 13, the Council decided a customer with a delinquent water bill will have their water disconnected immediately. A \$50 reconnection fee will be charged before the water is restored. A \$200 fee will be charged for tampering with the meter.
- Animal control has been and still is a problem, especially with dogs. Contact Animal Control for strays at 843-398-4011.
- March 10-16 was proclaimed Girl Scout Week.
- The Great American Cleanup was held on March 21-23.
- March 30 was the Community Easter Egg Hunt.
- Water leaks are significantly contributing to water loss. Citizens are asked to report water standing.
- The Egg Scramble Jamboree was held the first weekend in April. This was the 40th Anniversary.
- April was named “Sexual Assault and Awareness Month.”
- Business licenses were due by April 30.
- Brent Bullard was hired in April as the Town’s Code Enforcement Officer.
- Tim Dargan resigned as Town Administrator but signed a contract to work part-time.
- The Town purchased 50 garbage carts.
- A community forum on the “Open Weapon Carry Law” was held in May.
- The Log Cabin Steakhouse opened at Lamar Country Club.
- T & T Tobacco & Vape Shop opened at the corner of Main and Darlington.
- In June, Officer Calip Floyd was hired as a part-time employee of the Lamar Police Department.
- In June the Council adopted the Town of Lamar Municipal Budget for the FYE 2025 in the amount of \$1,075,000 for revenues and \$1,075,000 for expenditures. The mills remained at 81 mills.
- Fireworks on Main, sponsored by Lamar First Baptist Church, was held on July 3.
- A “Christmas in July” raffle for Christmas on Main was held in the month of July.
- A chicken amendment was discussed for the Lamar Ordinances, but a decision was postponed to a future meeting.
- “Lamar Fun Day” was held on July 20.
- Using the County Tax Maps, all ditches and properties located adjacent to them have been identified throughout Town. The purpose is to secure new easements in order to clean these ditches.
- The Town hired U.S. Water to manage its WWTF (Waste Water Treatment Facility) in August.
- The Helen Lane Housing Project is near completion and ready for occupants.
- Late summer, Hometown Pediatrics began getting its building ready—the Dr. Griffin building at the corner of West Jackson and North Railroad. (It opened in October.)
- The Lamar Civitan Reception and Golf Tournament was held on October 10.
- Halloween was held across Town on October 31.
- The “Christmas on Main Committee” decorated the Town the first part of November.


Continued

- In November, W. Foster McKinney of Hamilton McKinney & Moss presented the Financial Statements from the FY2023 Municipal Audit to the Council. McKinney concluded that the Town received a clean opinion (the financial statements were presented fairly and in accordance with accounting principles, and there were no major issues with internal controls), and that the Town was in good financial standing.
- Chief Carl Scott resigned as Chief of Police on November 15.
- The Town will hire a new Chief of Police and one part-time officer. (Look on www.lamarsc.org for applications or come to Town Hall.)
- The traditional “Annual Christmas Tree Lighting” was held on Thanksgiving at 6 pm.
- The “5th Christmas on Main” event took place on December 7 on Main Street.
- At the end of December, work was projected to start on the Railroad Lift Station project.

2024 was the year I began to see planning in all areas come to realization. I am especially happy to report that good financial management has resulted in the audit firm reporting the Town received a clean opinion and the Town is in better financial standing. That speaks volumes for the Town. Let’s continue to go forward! Lamar is a small town, but it has A BIG HEART and a BIG VISION. I couldn’t be any prouder to say that I’m from the small Town of Lamar. Let’s each do our part!

Thank you and pray for continued success of our TOWN of LAMAR.

Mayor James Howell



FEBRUARY 2025


- Day of Prayer & Fasting –
1st Monday, Feb. 3
- Lamar Town Council –
6:15 pm, Feb. 10
- Valentine’s Day – Feb. 14
- Beautification Com. Mtg. –
9:00 am, Feb. 14
- Presidents’ Day – Feb. 17
- Court with Judge LaCross –
1:30 pm, Feb. 17
- Water Bill Due – Feb. 20

*** LAMAR RECREATION ***

Rusty Anderson 843-992-5634

BINGO – Tuesday, Feb. 18, 10:00 am
TRIP – Thursday, Feb. 20
Leave at 10:00 am
Eat at Brown’s Bar-B-Que
Kingstree
Travel cost-\$6, Pay for your food

NOTE: Lamar has purchased a MINI SKID EXCAVATOR with some attachments. The Mayor says, “We plan to get to work!”



Town Council Report 1/13/2025

Codes & Business
Councilwoman Bradley

***Absent: Sick (Brought information)**

-As of 1/13: Letters mailed 121
Renewals 107
New licenses 91
Licenses pending 14

-Renewal Business License letters will be mailed out beginning the week of January 20, 2025.

-Merchants must be current on their licenses before they are issued 2025-2026 Licenses.

Water & Sewer
Councilwoman Lee


-Water bought in Jan.: 4,553,000 gal.
-Water billed: 1,978,399
-Water loss: 2,574,601
-Paid to DCWSA: \$13,485.47

-The Annual Water Report did not give any unsatisfactory findings. It did report two needs are to be added:

1. Date added to loss
2. List of operators & their certificates

-There have been some heavy breaks. Where these are fixed, the street may not be level. The breaks are assessed and repaired as soon as possible. Please call in breaks to 843-230-7137. [Continued](#)

LAMAR POLICE DEPARTMENT IS HIRING!




The Town is looking for a new **Chief of Police**. If interested, visit www.lamarsc.org for an application or go to Town Hall and apply.

The Town is also looking for a **part-time officer**.

JOIN OUR TEAM! SUPPORT LAMAR!

By Mayor James Howell



Chief
Carl
Scott

Resigns

June 2019
-
Nov. 2024

Lamar is appreciative of the five plus years Chief Scott gave to the Town. We truly miss his service, his dedication, and his willingness to help in whatever capacity he was asked to fulfill.

We wish him success in his future endeavor.

[Continued](#)

Streets and Sanitation
Councilwoman Mack
No report

Police Report
Councilman Cook

-Hiring a Chief and part-time officer
Go to www.lamarsc.org for applications or come to Town Hall.

-Watch your speed in town.

-Call 843-398-4011 for stray dog traps.

-The anonymous tip line is 843-326-1449.

-In case of emergency, call 911.

MON

TUE

WED

THUR

FRI

VALENTINE'S RIDDLE
SCAVENGER HUNT
ALL MONTH

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Knit Wits
@5:30 pm

Love Bugs
Craft 5 pm

Make your Own
Valentine Card
5 pm

14 Happy
Valentine
Day

Family Movie
"Little Rascals"
5 pm

Book Club
1st to Die
11am

Knit Wits
@5:30 pm

Popsicle
Bird Feeders
5 pm

843-326-5524