

Always on 6/19, this is a federal holiday that commemorates the end of slavery in the U.S.

Mayor: James Howell
Town Council:
Angele Bradley
Tyler Cook
Inez Lee
Mary Ann Mack
Town Administrator:
Tim Dargan

Editor of Lamar's Monthly Connection: Janie Howell

Lamar's Monthly Connection

June 2025

www.lamarsc.org www.facebook.com/Town-of-Lamar-SC
Lamar Town Hall, 117 West Main St., P.O. Box 267, Lamar, SC 29069
Business Office: 843-326-5551 Police Department: 843-326-5555
Mayor: jameshowell@lamarsc.org

Town Office Hours
M – Th 9 am – 4:30 pm
Police Department Hrs.
M – F 8 am – 12 pm
1pm – 5 pm

NOTICE:

Water payments are due on the 20th of the month.

If you need help paying your bill, call the Darlington County Communication Action Agency at 843-332-1135 to apply.

All “late” payments received after the due date will be assessed a 10% late fee.

A \$50 reconnection fee must be paid before water service is restored to a disconnected residence for non-payment.

Customers that tamper with water service equipment after it has been disconnected will be assessed a \$200 tampering fee.

TextMyGov

Skip a phone call and use your mobile phone's text messaging to find answers to your questions or report issues. Text “Hi” to the Town of Lamar at 843-326-0266.

BUDGET SECOND READING

The second reading of the 2025-2026 Budget for Lamar will be held on Monday, June 9, at 6:15 pm. The fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. This Lamar Council Meeting is open to the public.

THE NEWS & PRESS FEATURED THE TOWN OF LAMAR IN ITS MAY 28 PAPER EDITION. THIS ARTICLE WAS SUBMITTED FROM THE TOWN'S ADMINISTRATION.

To the Citizens of Lamar:

It is a pleasure and with a great sense of accomplishment that the Council, Town Administrator, and I report on the progress of LAMAR for 2024 and half of 2025. Based on planning and our moving forward, we realize this year-and-a-half has been a building time for our town and the surrounding communities. Lamar was incorporated in 1872, and it has gone through many changes in this time. As history often repeats itself, there have been prosperous times and not so prosperous times. We—the Council, Town Administrator, and I—are happy to report that the state of our Town for 2024-2025 has grown and is constantly growing and providing the needs of its citizens. We have always been committed to work to help revitalize Lamar—our goal. Promoting police protection, growing economic development, and improving infrastructure are our ultimate priorities.

Police protection, perhaps better described as public safety and law enforcement, is a priority that is and will always be relevant to the welfare of Lamar. That's putting people first, and at this time the Police Department, under the leadership of a quite capable chief, Chief Dennis Carter, is concentrating on hiring a part-time police officer for safety and protection. Part-time officers hired are enrolled in the South Carolina Police Academy to earn certification. The Police Department is using a grant for \$150,000 from the SC Department of Commerce to furnish needed gear for its officers. This department is looking out for the safety aspect of Lamar's citizens.

To have a thriving Town, economic development is critical, also. We have welcomed more new businesses to Lamar. We continuously highlight old buildings with potential for new economic development. In the 2024-25 year AMERICAN LUXURY COACH moved into the Crowley Manufacturing Building, HOMETOWN PEDIATRICS moved into the Dr. Griffin Building, T & T TOBACCO & VAPE SHOP moved into the building across from the Library, and BRENDA'S PLACE opened in the Tom Langston Building. Also, THE LOGHOUSE STEAK HOUSE opened at Governor's Run, an ICE STATION opened at the carwash, and a LARGE ICE MACHINE is being installed on the lot by the old Subway. As a plus, we must also report that on most days a food truck of some kind is parked somewhere on Main Street. These new businesses are joining the already established ones, “beefing up” the need for jobs. Therefore, employers are hiring employees, citizens are shopping, and visitors are seeking deals. New citizens and prospective citizens are contacting Town Hall to locate housing. New housing is being built on Moonlight Drive and Helen Lane. This is a highly supportive win-win situation--the Town is being revitalized one business at a time.

It is imperative that the Town's infrastructure be brought up-to-date—streets paved, building fronts and awnings refurbished, water and sewer problems addressed, service equipment purchased, and much more. The Town has begun the construction of a new Railroad Avenue Pump Station and Gravity Sewer Project. This project is being funded in part with the South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program and is funded by Federal, State, and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. We deal with ordinances, water breaks, water bills, dilapidated buildings, and other problems from day-to-day. Grants must fill the big bills.

All in all, Lamar has progressed pleasingly since the beginning of 2024. In '24 we began to see planning in all areas come to realization. It is especially awesome to report that good financial management now speaks volumes for the Town. What can predict Lamar's future? The future will take all of us working together to continue to make strides for our Town. We must embrace change, continue to prioritize, and look to each other for answers and solutions to everyday and long term problems. Our future is in our hands. Let's continue to go forward! Lamar is a small town, but it has a BIG HEART and a BIG VISION! We must remember, “Small opportunities are often the beginning of great achievements.” Thank you for living and working in Lamar.

Peace and joy to all,
Mayor James Howell
Lamar Town Council: Angele Bradley, Tyler Cook, Inez Lee,
Mary Ann Mack
Town Administrator Tim Dargan

SUMMER MEALS!

STARTING MONDAY, JUNE 2

SERVING SITES:

- Darlington High School
- Hartsville Middle School
- Lamar High School

SERVING DAYS AND TIMES:

MONDAY - THURSDAY

Breakfast: 7:30 - 8:30 AM

Lunch: 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Serving all children and teens 18 and under.

*Only 1 breakfast and 1 lunch will be served to each child daily and must be eaten on site.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

NOTE

ORDINANCE

Zoning Ordinance Book page 8

Home occupations

- 4-3.4 The home occupation shall be conducted only within the principal structure.
- 4-3.5 There shall be no retail sales in connection with such home occupation except for goods produced as part of the home occupation.
- 4-3.6 No equipment or process shall be used in such home occupation which creates noise, vibration, glare, fumes, odors, or electrical interference detectable to the normal senses off the premises. . . .



Dates to Remember

- Day of Prayer & Fasting – 1st Monday, June 2
- Lamar Town Council – 6:15 pm – Town Hall – June 9
- Beautification Com. Mtg. – 9 am – Town Hall – June 13
- Court with Judge LaCross – 1:30 pm – Town Hall – June 16
- Juneteenth – June 19 - Holiday
- Trash pickup – June 16 and 20
- Water Bill Due – June 20

Lamar Recreation

BINGO – Tuesday, June 17, 10 am
TRIP – Friday, June 20, Pawley’s Island
Register for RECREATIONAL FOOTBALL
JUNE 16 – AUGUST 1 - \$50 FEE



Key Dates:

Register by June 13 and you’ll be entered to win 4 season passes to Neptune Island Waterpark. Start logging your minutes when you register.
July 31: Summer Reading Ends
August 15: Last day to submit READING LOGS. Participants earn an entry into our prize drawing each time they complete a reading log. Winners will be selected and contacted by August 25.

Weekly Events:

Lamar Library

Tuesdays - 2:00 PM

June 10	Spoon Man
June 17	Black Creek Wildlife Center
June 24	Pantasia Steel Band
July 1	Wheels & Wonders (9-11:00 AM)
July 8	Jef the Mime
July 15	Florence Symphony
July 22	Narrow Way Nature Center

Ms. South Carolina Plus America 2025



Lamar is proud to announce that Brittany Glenn has been crowned Ms. South Carolina Plus America 2025. She is the first contestant from Lamar to achieve this title.

Her mission is to serve her community and empower youth to succeed. Her non-profit organization is called Brit-Cares. She works to support the homeless, mentor youth, and provide resources to underserved families.

Brittany states, “As someone who was raised in this town and now raises a child here, it is an honor to not only represent Lamar on a statewide but also a nationwide platform. This win isn’t just for me; it’s for every young girl who needs to see that greatness can come from a small town.”

Brittany will represent SC at the national Miss Plus America Pageant in Houston, TX, this summer. Lamar wishes much success to Brittany Glenn in her future endeavors.
(Information was taken from NEWS AND PRESS, May 14, 2025.)



Time for Decisions

Lamar will vote on two town council persons and a mayor come November. FILING PERIOD IS FROM NOON FRIDAY, AUG. 1, TO NOON FRIDAY, AUG. 15. It’s THINKING time!



Christmas in July prizes!
Tickets are on sale for \$5 each. There are great prizes for each day and 31 chances to win.
Tickets are available at Mercantile213 and The Beehive Hair Salon.

A few examples of the prizes include a gift card to Tina’s Restaurant, a \$50 Gift Card to Amerson’s Nursery, a metal flag hanger from The Barn, and a hand-made wreath for decoration.
Thank you for participating in this drawing. ALL MONEY MADE WILL GO TOWARD PURCHASING CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS FOR THE TOWN OF LAMAR.
Danielle Wilkes

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT 5/12

CODES & BUSINESS
Councilwoman Bradley - No report
WATER & SEWER
Councilwoman Lee –
If you see or suspect a leak, please call 843-326-5551.
Water bought in April: 2,998,900
Water billed: 1,898,347
Water loss: 1,100,553
STREETS & SANITATION
Councilwoman Mack -
-SCDOT has been working on the man covers in the streets. They were patching around the holes.
-DCR&B has not finished putting up new street signs yet. Tim Dargan will check.
-With many serious problems seemingly plaguing our youth, it is imperative we be attentive to their needs, including counseling if needed.
POLICE DEPARTMENT
Councilman Cook –
-Looking for a part-time officer.
-Watch speeding in town.
-Watch out for children: School is out!
-Call 843-398-4011 for animal control.
-The anonymous tip line is 843-326-1449.
-We sent the quarterly SCDOC grant report.

Prizes

SUMMER READING PRIZES

4 Season Passes to Neptune Island Waterpark
Register by June 13 and you'll be entered into the drawing.

Bracelet & Jibbitz
Stop by the library every time you complete 150 minutes to pick out a bracelet & jibbitz.

COMPLETE 900 MINUTES

Art Kits
pick out an art kit (limit of 1).

Neptune Island Waterpark Day Pass
K-12 students only. 1 park pass, redeemable in July.

Grand Prize Drawing
Earn one entry for every 900 minutes read. Complete 7 Summer Challenges for one additional entry (limit one) and/or attend 7 library events for one additional entry (limit one).
Prize choices are: \$100 Visa Gift Card, \$100 Sky Zone (Florence) Gift Card, 4 Tickets to Ripley's Aquarium (Myrtle Beach), or 4 Season Passes to Riverbanks Zoo.