

SMALL TOWN! BIG VISION!

**Mayor: James Howell**

Council:

Angele Bradley  
Tyler Cook  
Inez Lee  
Mary Ann Mack

Town Administrator:

Tim Dargan

Police Chief:

Carl Scott

# Lamar's Monthly Connection

## February 2023

[www.lamarsc.org](http://www.lamarsc.org)

[www.facebook.com/Town-of-Lamar-SC](https://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

2023

**EGG Scramble coming!**

**The Taste- Saturday 3/25  
4 pm – Admission \$20**

**Night Parade and  
Vendors on Railroad  
Friday night – 3/31**

**EGG Scramble 4/1  
Vendors, Stages, Parade**



2022 State of the Town Address  
LAMAR, SOUTH CAROLINA



As your Mayor, at this time it is my pleasure to report on the 2022 progress and accomplishments of LAMAR and the objectives set for 2023. It has been an exciting year for our town and our surrounding communities. Lamar celebrated its Sesquicentennial, 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, in 2022. It was incorporated back 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. I am honored and rewarded to have worked with the current Lamar Town Council during my first year as Mayor, and we—this Council and I— are happy to report that in 2022 the state of our Town constantly grew and your optimism served as “a paddle to push on.”

The State of the Town is actually you—all of you! As you are aware, during 2022 several new businesses were established, and other businesses have announced their intentions to open. Entrepreneurs love our little town—it is easy to establish their businesses and easy to get to know people. Our business community made strides in providing products for our citizens and those around us. I challenge all of you to find your “wants” and “needs” in Lamar. But, business development is not the only sign of growth and accomplishments in our Small Town with a Big Vision. Lamar is well-known for the best schools in Darlington County. Several communities feed into Lamar—all bringing their children for school, to shop or buy groceries, to bank, to visit Town Hall, or to use our great library, and so on. Lamar is beloved and home for many, and we continue to have many phone calls weekly from those wanting housing in the area. The Council and I are proud of the tremendous economic progress we made, and in relation to this progress, we are more than proud to report that we have significantly improved on the fiscal challenges Lamar has faced. We thank you citizens for your help and we look forward to growing more. Your commitment to our well-being, your willingness to establish and support local shops and businesses, and your decision to make Lamar your home contribute to our success.

Our strength continues to lie in the dedication of you—our citizens, Town employees, commitment and volunteerism of residents, the resiliency of our business community, Town Council, and me, your Mayor.

I am proud of the following progress and/or accomplishments in 2022:

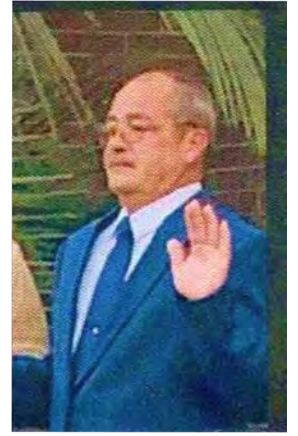
- We celebrated the Town's Sesquicentennial.
- We established a Planning Commission and a Board of Zoning Appeals.
- We transitioned to the SC Business Tax Law.
- We were awarded a \$498,883 grant from RIA (Rural Infrastructure Authority) to rehab the Zion Road Pump Station.
- We wrote and approved a Grease Ordinance for homes and businesses.
- We upgraded the streaming system at Town Hall with \$1,500 provided by the Egg Scramble Committee.
- We were awarded a \$423,652 grant from SRF (State Revolving Fund) to conduct a Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey.
- We were awarded a \$145,200 Storm water Master Plan Grant to show areas needing to be addressed.
- We were presented a grant from Walmart in the amount of \$1,000 to buy equipment and tools needed.
- We repaired the Town Clock.
- We enjoyed EGG SCRAMBLE JAMBOREE OVER EASY.
- We addressed delinquent water bills.
- We were awarded \$1,000 from Quincy Walker from CBS Reality Show “Tough as Nails” for the Water Department.
- We completed the FYE 2020 and FYE 2021 Municipal Audits.
- We acquired two vehicles for the Police Department.
- We received a grant for \$150,000 from the SC Department of Commerce for the Police Department.
- We were recognized for outstanding commitment in safety and excellent loss experience from the SC Municipal Insurance and Risk Financing Fund. Also we were awarded \$2,500 for this recognition.
- We searched for grants to replace the water system.
- We applied for a \$1,108,750 grant from RIA (Rural Infrastructure Authority) to upgrade/replace the Railroad Pump Station. This grant is to replace and move the existing Railroad Pump Station—waiting for approval.
- We re-established the tradition of hanging Christmas lights across Main Street along with other decorations.
- We re-established the tradition of having Santa come on Thanksgiving Night with songs and Tree Lighting.
- We enjoyed Christmas on Main.
- We applied to SCDOT (SC Dept. of Trans.) for upgrade on sidewalks and street through town. (This work has started.)

There was much progress and many accomplishments that have not been listed, like the day-to-day workings at the office and throughout town. At times everything did not have a rosy ending, but problems were managed and the best solutions were put in place. Lamar ended 2022 with a new Big Vision—a vision of looking ahead to making our little town even stronger, safer, and more inviting to citizens looking for a home.

**Continued on back**

What can we predict for 2023? Based on 2022 and our needs, key objectives are to

- continue strong fiscal management.
- encourage more businesses to open their doors.
- upgrade and/or invest in grants to accommodate a replacement water system.
- continue to upgrade equipment to maintain good service for residents.
- continue to provide the Police Department with funds to invest in personnel to protect us.
- help prospective citizens find housing.
- cleanup lots and dilapidated houses.
- continue beautification of downtown.
- work with the Planning Commission to setup guidelines for land and residences.



My final thought is that it will take all of us working together to continue to make strides for our town. We must embrace change, continue to prioritize, work together, and look to each other for answers and solutions to everyday and long term problems. Eleanor Roosevelt once said, “The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” I am a dreamer! I love Lamar and I believe we can be what we want to be. I am proud to be your Mayor, and I am proud of who we are—a town with a Big Vision.

Thank you,  
*Mayor James Howell*



**What's on the Schedule in February?**



- Day of Prayer & Fasting – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday – Feb. 6
- Story Time at Library – Each Tuesday – 10:00 AM
- Beautification Commission Mtg. – Fri., Feb. 10 – 9 AM
- Town Council Mtg. – Monday, Feb. 13 – 6:15 PM
- St. Valentine's Day – Tuesday, Feb. 14
- Court with Judge LaCross – Mon., Feb. 20 – 1:30 PM
- Water Bill Due – Monday, Feb. 20

**SIDEWALK TO BE REPAIRED**



Main St., LAMAR

*Each side will take approximately 1 week. The parking area for the side being repaired will be blocked until the work is complete.*

**Depression Seminar: Let's Get To The Root**  
 Saturday, Feb. 18, 10 am – 12 pm  
 Mary Magdalene Baptist Church, 696 Davis St  
 Ph. #: 843-861-6016  
 Patricia McDonald, Motivational Speaker  
 Other Speakers: Kelvin Durant, Rochelle Graham, Therapists, Hypnotherapist

**Zoning Ordinances – Review at Town Hall**

-Right of Way (Zoning Ordinance Book p. 5)  
 -3-6: Rights-of-way easements for streets and roads shall not be considered a part of a lot or open space, or front, rear or side yard for the purpose of meeting lot dimension or area or yard requirements.

*Check the Zoning Ordinance Book before making plans for houses, buildings, fences, etc. on your property.*

**In Memoriam**



*Mr. Larry Crolley - Craig Industries, Inc.*  
*Mr. Garris Grooms - Grooms Automotive*  
*Ms. Lucille H. Gales - Lamar Employee*

In loving memory of these three so special, whose lights we will always remember.

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give,” said Winston Churchill. These three people surely gave their due to the town of Lamar--two skilled businessmen and one faithful town employee.



NOTICE: If you would like to place information in the newsletter, please contact Inez Lee of the Beautification Committee at ilee@lamarsc.org or contact her at 843-230-7137 by the 20th of the month. Text Janie Howell at Cell 843-326-5224. (This is a cell number.)