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The Augusta Chronicle

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CONSTRUCTION ZONES



Construction crews continue work on Broad Street on Oct. 9. KATIE GOODALE/AUGUSTA CHRONICLE

Avoid these problem areas downtown

Joe Hotchkiss
Augusta Chronicle
USA TODAY NETWORK

Workers returned to Broad Street on Monday to start the next phase of improvements to downtown Augusta's main traffic corridor. But even Augusta's engineering department needs extra help for bigger lifts.

Construction on Broad Street affecting the 800 block by Augusta Common and the 1300 and 1400 blocks is labeled an improvement by the city. But until it's completed, it's spurring questions about lane closures, traffic detours, and business access that the city can't always answer right away.

The Augusta Commission recently voted to approve up to \$315,000 for

"emergency procured public relations and public communication services," according to a request submitted as information on Sept. 30 to the city's Engineering Services Committee.

Orlando, Florida-based Paquin Public Relations last week provided its update to the city. Here's what downtown motorists and pedestrians can expect starting Oct. 13. When in doubt, just follow the detour signs:

See CONSTRUCTION, Page 2A

Georgia Power upgrades 90 devices

Grid improvements could reduce outages

Erica Van Buren
Augusta Chronicle
USA TODAY NETWORK

Georgia Power recently touted its investment of more than \$10 billion in smart grid technology, which they say

The self-healing grid isolates outages to the smallest area possible while automatically restoring power to as many users as possible, possibly within seconds, after an outage occurs, noted the utility.

reduces the duration and frequency of outages and makes their power grid more resilient to extreme weather events.

More than 90 devices have been upgraded or added to the system that allows the grid to 'self-heal' in the Augusta area,

according to Georgia Power. The self-healing grid isolates outages to the smallest area possible while automatically restoring power to as many users as possible, possibly within seconds, after an outage occurs, noted the utility.

This also aids in pointing crews to the exact location of the downed lines and broken poles to gather resources and complete repairs quickly.

See UPGRADES, Page 2A

4 dead, at least 20 hurt in shooting at bar in SC

Karissa Waddick
USA TODAY

Four people were killed and at least 20 others injured in a shooting at a busy South Carolina bar on Oct. 12, authorities say.

The shooting occurred shortly before 1 a.m. at Willie's Bar and Grill on St. Helena Island, about an hour north of Hilton Head, according to the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office. Multiple victims were transported to area hospitals. Among those injured, at least four were in critical condition.

The office declined to release the

names of those killed pending notification of family members.

"Multiple victims and witnesses ran to the nearby businesses and properties seeking shelter from the gunshots," the sheriff's office said in a statement.

Hundreds of people were at the scene when police arrived.

Authorities said they were looking into persons of interest in the shooting but did not immediately provide further details. USA TODAY has reached out for additional information.

See SHOOTING, Page 2A



Willie's Bar and Grill is seen Oct. 12 after an early-morning shooting at the bar on St. Helena Island, South Carolina, that left at least four dead. SEAN RAYFORD/GETTY IMAGES



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