

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

August 2010

City Council

Bill Ham, Jr., Mayor
501-7260

bham@auburnalabama.org

Arthur L. Dowdell, Sr., Ward 1
524-2074

bishopdowdellministries@yahoo.com

Sheila H. Eckman, Ward 2

821-9666

750-9666

sheilaeckman@bellsouth.net

Thomas Worden, Ward 3

740-1783

tworden@charter.net

Brent Beard, Ward 4

821-4302

brent@alabamacontractsales.com

Robin Kelley, Ward 5

501-7947

887-0033

robinkelleylaw@gmail.com

Dick Phelan, Ward 6

887-2071

dickphelan@yahoo.com

Gene Dulaney, Ward 7

887-7908

466-3191

gdulaney@auburnbank.com

Bob Norman, Ward 8

821-1901

bobnorman67@bellsouth.net

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Open Line is produced by
Office of the
City Manager

144 Tichenor Ave., Ste. 1
Auburn, AL 36830
phone: 334-501-7261
fax: 334-501-7299

web:

www.auburnalabama.org

email:

cduggan@auburnalabama.org



City of Auburn



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Casting Your Vote

The City of Auburn's Regular Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, August 24. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Voters will elect a Mayor-At-Large and eight Council members. The City Council will canvass the election results on August 31. If there is a race in which no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, a run-off election will be held on Tuesday, October 5, 2010. Potential Candidates for office, including incumbents, have until July 19 at 5:00 p.m. local time to qualify. A full list of candidates will be available on the City's web site at www.auburnalabama.org/elections immediately following the qualifying deadline.



Any registered and qualified voter unable to vote at the polls on election day may apply for an absentee ballot if any of the following criteria is met:

- If you will be out of the county on election day;
- If you have a physical illness or infirmity which prevents you from getting to the polls;
- If a voter works on a shift which has at least 10 hours that coincide with the hours the polls are open at his or her regular polling place;
- If you are enrolled as a student at an educational institution located outside Lee County and cannot get to the polls on election day;
- If you are a member, spouse or dependent of a member of the armed forces of the United States in which case you may apply under the provisions of "The Federal Voting Assistance Act," or
- If you are appointed as an election officer or named as a poll watcher at a polling place other than your regular polling place.

Voters may apply for Absentee Ballots between Thursday, July 1 and Thursday, August 19. Applications for absentee ballots must be made in writing to the City Manager's Office and either hand-delivered or mailed to:

Auburn City Hall
Attn: Absentee Ballots
144 Tichenor Avenue, Suite 1
Auburn, AL 36830

The application form must be signed by the applicant. Applications may be obtained from City Hall and must state the applicant's name, residence address, information necessary to verify the applicant as a registered voter, and the address to which the ballot should be mailed. Absentee ballots will be mailed to those persons who have made a proper application as soon as the ballots are printed. The completed ballot may be filed with the City Manager and either hand-delivered or mailed to Auburn City Hall up to and including election day on Tuesday, August 24.

Voting Locations:

Ward 1 (District 1, Post 1)
Ward 2 (District 1, Post 2)
Ward 3 (District 2, Post 1)
Ward 4 (District 2, Post 2)
Ward 5 (District 3, Post 1)
Ward 6 (District 3, Post 2)
Ward 7 (District 4, Post 1)
Ward 8 (District 4, Post 2)
Absentee Box

Boykin Center Gymnasium, 400 Boykin Street
National Guard Armory, 1455 Shug Jordan Parkway
Frank Brown Recreation Center, 235 Opelika Road
Frank Brown Recreation Center, 235 Opelika Road
Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
Lexington Hotel, University Convention Center, 1577 South College Street
Lexington Hotel, University Convention Center, 1577 South College Street
Auburn City Hall, 144 Tichenor Avenue

A ward map is available on the City's web site at www.auburnalabama.org/wards. For questions concerning your polling location, please contact the Election Manager at City Hall at 501-7260. Citizens are also encouraged to visit the City of Auburn's Election web site at www.auburnalabama.org/elections for more information regarding polling locations. Unofficial results of the 2010 Regular Municipal Election will be posted online the night of returns.

Newsweek Ranks Auburn High School Among the Best



Auburn High School is one of America's top 400 high schools in the nation, according to *Newsweek* Magazine. The school was ranked 354, which places it in the top 2 percent of all public schools in America. *Newsweek* develops its list of top high schools based on each school faculty's work to challenge students with advanced

placement college-level courses and tests. The national publication teamed up with a data company called Factual to create the list. Auburn High School has been ranked in the top 400 public schools since 2006. Auburn High School was ranked as the second best educational value in the Southeastern United States by School Match in May 2006, as reported in the *Wall Street Journal*.

Conserving Water During Summer

Summer months are when Auburn's water usage peaks. Residents can reduce the amount of water used by taking some simple, common sense approaches to using water outdoors. The Water Resource Management Department of the City of Auburn has provided some tips for conserving water, and ultimately reducing your water bill.



Tips for Outdoor Water Conservation:

- Do not over-water your lawn. As a general rule of thumb, lawns only need watering every 5 to 7 days during the summer. A 3/4 inch rainfall can eliminate the need for watering for 4 days.
- Water gardens and plants early in the morning when the water pressure is higher, plants aren't stressed, and little water is lost from evaporation. Irrigating at midday can lose as much as 40-60% of the water to evaporation.
- Water grass at night. Little evaporation occurs and there is less chance for disease occurring.
- Check with your local nursery for advice on plants that are lower water users and more drought-tolerant.
- Do not leave sprinklers or hoses unattended. A garden hose can pour out approximately 600 gallons of water in 2-3 hours if left running. Use a timer to alert you to turn the water off.

Board Vacancies

- Two vacancies on the **Greenspace Advisory Board** will be filled at the August 3 City Council meeting.
- One vacancy on the **Lee County Youth Development Center** will be announced at the August 17 City Council meeting and will be filled at the September 21 meeting.
- Three vacancies on the **Industrial Development Board** will be announced at the September 7 City Council meeting and will be filled at the October 5 meeting.



Citizens interested in serving are encouraged to contact one of their City Council members or notify the City Manager's Office.

Adventures in Art 2010

The *Adventures in Art* program entitled *Pise de Renaissance* will be held August 30 - September 3 at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. *Adventures in Art* is a field trip component of a community-based art education program and involves all fourth and fifth grade students from Auburn City Schools. The program, now in its eleventh year, is sponsored by the City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center, the Junior League of Lee County, and the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

This year's program will celebrate the cultural movement in Europe that focused on the intellectual and artistic revolution known as the Renaissance. The program will begin at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center with a program-themed performance by an educational Renaissance troupe. Students will then split into groups and attend four components of the program: a visual arts project, introducing students to illuminated manuscripts and letterpress; an outdoor workshop focusing on authentic games from the Renaissance; a gallery talk involving art criticism strategies utilizing an exhibition by Kevin Smith, Auburn University visual communications professor and letterpress artisan; and a performance workshop with the Renaissance troupe. Each component will relate to this year's *Adventures in Art* theme: *Pise de Renaissance*.

The Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center will be closed to the public August 30 - September 3 for *Adventures in Art*. For more information, please contact Cari Philen, Art Education Specialist, at 501-2944 or the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 501-2963.

MEETING SCHEDULE AUGUST

- 2 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4:30 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- 3 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**, 5:15 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 4 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 6 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 East Glenn Avenue
- 10 Greenspace Advisory Board**, 11:30 a.m., City Meeting Room, 130 Tichenor Avenue
- Historic Preservation Commission**, 4 p.m., Development Services Building, 171 North Ross Street
- Board of Education**, 6 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room, 405 South Dean Road
- 12 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 17 City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 19 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue
- 24 Bicycle Committee**, 7 p.m., Development Services Building, 171 North Ross Street

Meeting times and places are subject to change.

For more information, including a map of City meeting locations, please visit www.auburnalabama.org/boards.

Sales Tax Holiday



As students head back to school this fall, parents will receive help from their state and local governments in sending them off. The Auburn City Council approved an ordinance authorizing Auburn's Sales Tax Holiday Weekend at the June 1, 2010 Council meeting. The Sales Tax Holiday will begin Friday, August 6 at 12:01 a.m. and end on Sunday, August 8 at midnight.

Items exempt from state and city sales tax fall into 3 major categories:

Clothing - All apparel suitable for general use is exempt unless it otherwise appears on the taxable list; clothing items must cost \$100 or less per article of clothing to be exempt. Clothing for pets is not exempt from sales tax.

Computers, Computer Software, and School Computer Supplies - A single purchase with a sales price of \$750 or less will be exempt. Exempt items include computers, computer software and any item commonly used by a student in a course of study in which a computer is used.

School supplies - Any item of \$50 or less, commonly used by a student in a course of study, will be exempt. Supplies may include art supplies, reference maps and globes, textbooks on an official school book list with a sales price of more than \$30 but less than \$50, and books with a sales price of \$30 or less per book.

Items not exempt during the Sales Tax Holiday Weekend include:

- Clothing accessories such as handbags, jewelry, sunglasses and umbrellas.
- Protective equipment such as breathing masks, hard hats, helmets, and safety belts.
- Sports or recreational equipment such as athletic gloves, goggles, shin guards, ballet or tap shoes.
- Video and computer systems, devices, software, or peripherals designed or intended primarily for recreational use.
- Magazines, newspapers, periodicals, or any other document printed or offered for sale in a non-bound form.

For a complete list of exempt and taxable items, please visit the City's website at www.auburnalabama.org. For more information, please contact the City of Auburn's Revenue Office at 501-7224.

ShopAuburn!

supporting our community makes cents.

The Auburn City Council has suspended parking meter operations in downtown beginning Friday, August 6 in conjunction with the Sales Tax Holiday Weekend. The City of Auburn encourages citizens to *ShopAuburn* and support Auburn businesses that strengthen our local economy. As a result, citizens will be able to enjoy free parking in metered spaces from August 6 - 13. A map of all metered spaces in the downtown area is available on the City's website at www.auburnalabama.org/maps/Gallery. Click on the downtown parking map to view all available metered spaces.



Enjoy **FREE** parking August 6 - 13!

Travel With Care

Travel Safely As Students Return to the Classroom



Auburn streets will soon be filled with students. Auburn City Schools resume classes on Tuesday, August 10 and Auburn University classes resume on August 18. The City of Auburn reminds you to be aware of students walking, biking, and riding the bus to school.

Motorists are encouraged to exercise caution and obey posted speed limits when traveling through school zones. Drivers should be especially cautious while driving in school zones between the hours of 7 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. and 2 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.

To improve safety, the City of Auburn and Auburn University have made a number of improvements to the College Street and Magnolia Avenue area by installing in-road pedestrian signs, improving street striping, removing sidewalks that do not lead to crosswalks and removing vegetation that limits drivers' view of on-coming traffic.

The City of Auburn and Auburn University have teamed up to educate the public on how to stay safe when traveling. Log onto www.travelwithcareauburn.com to learn more. Pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists can all work together to help keep Auburn's streets safe by following a few simple safety tips:



Pedestrians

- Use sidewalks and crosswalks when they are available.
- Make sure you are visible to motorists. Reflective clothing must be worn between the hours of 30 minutes before sunset until 30 minutes before sunrise.
- Obey traffic laws and signals.

Cyclists

- Wear a helmet.
- Ride with traffic.
- Obey traffic laws and signals.
- Follow proper bicycling techniques.
- Signal your intentions.

Motorists

- Stop for school buses. Alabama law requires vehicles to come to a complete stop for any school bus that is stopped to receive or discharge passengers. This law also applies to opposing traffic, even when separated by a median or safety zone.
- Stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.
- Share the road with cyclists.

Farewell Summer Block Party



As the lazy days of summer come to an end, the City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department invites you to join in one final celebration of summer at the Farewell Summer Block Party on Thursday, August 5 at 6 p.m. at Town Creek Park. Join us for a FREE musical performance by MUSE. Bring a blanket or

chairs and enjoy an evening of outdoor entertainment at Auburn's newest park, located off South Gay Street. For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org/parks or call 501-2930.

City Management

Charles M. Duggan, Jr.
501-7261
City Manager
cduggan@auburnlabama.org

Kevin A. Cowper
501-7262
Assistant City Manager
kcowper@auburnlabama.org

James C. Buston, III
501-7201
Assistant City Manager/CIO
jbuston@auburnlabama.org

Economic Development
Department
Phillip Dunlap, Director
501-7270
pdunlap@auburnlabama.org

Environmental Services
Department
Timothy L. Woody, Director
501-3080
twoody@auburnlabama.org

Finance Department
Andrea E. Jackson, Director
501-7220
ajackson@auburnlabama.org

Human Resources Department
Steven A. Reeves, Director
501-7240
sreeves@auburnlabama.org

Library
Margie B. Huffman, Director
501-3190
mhuffman@auburnlabama.org

Municipal Court
Joe S. Bailey, Judge
501-3180
jbailey@auburnlabama.org

Parks and Recreation Department
Rebecca O. Richardson,
Director
501-2930
brichardson@auburnlabama.org

Planning Department
Forrest E. Cotten, Director
501-3040
fcotten@auburnlabama.org

Public Safety Department
William H. James, Director
501-3110
bjames@auburnlabama.org

Public Works Department
Jeffery L. Ramsey, Director
501-3000
jramsey@auburnlabama.org

Water Resource Management Dept.
Laura A. Koon, Director
501-3060
lkoon@auburnlabama.org

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Auburn City Schools
Terry Jenkins, Superintendent
887-2100
tjenkins@auburnschools.org

Open Line Feedback

Do you have any suggestions, feedback, or story ideas that you would like to share? If so, please contact us at openline@auburnlabama.org or call 501-7255.

up COMING EVENTS

Due to space considerations, we are unable to publicize any events that are not directly affiliated with a City department.



Tuesdays in August...Baby Time - Mothers of babies ages 6 - 18 months are invited on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. for Baby Time, except August 17. The program features music, fingerplays, and books. For more information, contact the Auburn Public Library Youth Services at 501-3196.

Preschool Story Time...Every Wednesday - Preschoolers ages 3-5 years-old are invited every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. for Story Time, except for August 18. For more information, contact the Auburn Public Library Youth Services at 501-3196.



Every Week in August...Toddler Time - Toddlers ages 18 months - 3 years-old are invited every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. for Toddler Time, except for August 19. The program features music, visual aids and simple crafts. For more information, contact the Auburn Public Library Youth Services at 501-3196.

Now Showing...Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Exhibitions - Mark your calendar for the following Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Exhibitions. The exhibits are free and open to the public Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.auburnlabama.org/arts or contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.

- **Summer Invitational 2010**, July 26 - August 21. Puzzles and sculpture by Eric Harshbarger, carved and painted sculpture by Vernon Robinson, and mixed-media boxes by Gail Langley.
- **Adventures in Art**, August 23 - September 3. Letterpress work by Auburn University professor Kevin Smith.



Available this Month...Parks and Recreation Fall Brochure - Be sure to pick up your FREE copy of the Parks and Recreation Fall Brochure, available this month at City facilities and online at www.auburnlabama.org/parks. The brochure is your guide to fall sports and special events, including Downtown Trick-or-Treat and the Fall Concert Series at Kiesel Park. Registration for fall programs will be held August 2 - 27. For more information, visit www.auburnlabama.org/parks or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

August 3...Auburn Area Community Theatre Presents "Sceneworks"...Don't miss the Auburn Area Community Theatre (AACT) as they present "Sceneworks," featuring musical numbers from favorites such as "Into the Woods," "Hairspray," "Sweeney Todd," and more on August 3 at 7 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. This performance is FREE and open to the public. For more information, visit www.auburnlabama.org/arts or contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.



August 6...First Friday Night Tennis Mixer - Join the Auburn Community Tennis Association (ACTA) for the First Friday Night Tennis Mixer on August 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the City of Auburn/Auburn University Yarborough Tennis Center. Citizens ages 19 and up are encouraged to play. All levels of play are welcome. No partner is necessary. The event will be held rain or shine. Yarborough Tennis Center non-member court fees apply. For more information, visit www.auburnlabama.org/tennis or contact the Yarborough Tennis Center at 501-2920.

Coming Soon...Community Art Happening - The Auburn Arts Association and Auburn Parks and Recreation's Community Art Happening originally scheduled for July 30 has been postponed to a date to be determined. Be on the lookout for more information on this exciting, interactive celebration of arts in the community this fall! For more information, contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 501-2963.

Parks and Recreation Fall Sports Registration Dates

Online Fall Baseball, Softball, and Flag Football Registration

July 19 - August 13
www.auburnlabama.org/baseball (for baseball and softball)
www.auburnlabama.org/football (for flag football)

Walk-in Fall Baseball, Softball, and Flag Football Registration

July 19 - August 13
Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Dean Road Recreation Center

Online Soccer Registration

July 26 - August 11
www.auburnlabama.org/soccer

Walk-in Soccer Registration

Wednesday, August 11, 6 - 7 p.m.
Auburn Soccer Complex

Online Tackle Football Registration

August 2 - 14
www.auburnlabama.org/football

Walk-in Tackle Football Registration

Saturday, August 14, 10 a.m. - Noon
Dean Road Recreation Center

Adult Softball Registration

August 2 - 27
Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Auburn Softball Complex

Cheerleading Registration

August 2 - 27
Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Dean Road Recreation Center

Start Smart Registration

August 2 - 27
Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Dean Road Recreation Center

Registration assistance is available for individuals or households meeting HUD income requirements. For more information, please contact the Community Development Division of Auburn's Economic Development Department at 501-7280.