

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

August 2011

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City of Auburn



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Voluntary Water Restrictions for Auburn Residents

The Water Works Board of the City of Auburn enacted voluntary water restrictions effective June 13, 2011. The voluntary restrictions are based on even/odd street numbers. Watering for all addresses should be restricted to between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. Customers with even numbered addresses should water on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Customers with odd numbered addresses should water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. There should be no outdoor watering on Sundays. Voluntary water restrictions will remain in effect until further notice.

The Water Board is currently meeting well above normal water demands due to persistent drought conditions and above normal temperatures. The current drought began in late July 2010 and recently worsened to an extreme drought. The City of Auburn has an ample supply of water for public health and emergency purposes, but heavy irrigation has greatly increased demand. However, the Water Board is asking customers to be responsible stewards of our natural resources and participate in voluntary restrictions in an effort to control excessive water use and to eliminate the need for mandatory restrictions.

Customers are also reminded of the following steps to make the most efficient use of water year round and especially during voluntary restrictions:

- Check your sprinkler system timer and make adjustments as needed.
- Check sprinkler heads and adjust them as needed to keep water on your lawn, trees and shrubs and to keep water off of the street, driveway and sidewalk.
- Check your sprinkler system for leaks and make repairs in a timely manner to minimize water losses.
- Do not leave manual sprinklers or running hoses unattended. If watering manually, use a timer to remind you to turn off the water.
- Take shorter showers.
- Do not let the water run while brushing your teeth, washing your face or washing dishes by hand.
- Only run full loads of laundry and dishes.

The American Water Works Association defines water conservation as doing more with less, not doing without. By working together we can preserve the water supply, save money, and prevent the need for mandatory restrictions. For more information, please contact the Water Resource Management Department at 334.501.3060.



Send Summer Out in Style at the Farewell Summer Block Party

Join Auburn Parks and Recreation as we send summer out in style at the Farewell Summer Block Party to be held on Thursday, August 4 at 6 p.m. at Town Creek Park. Enjoy a FREE concert with music from Summer Breeze. The first 400 individuals in attendance will receive coupons and specials from Auburn merchants. Limit one bag per family. Attendees will also have a chance to enter to win door prizes, courtesy of local businesses.

Are you an Auburn merchant or restaurant owner with back to school specials or promotions for the sales tax holiday weekend? If so, we want to hear from you! Bring your back to school, sales tax holiday weekend coupons or specials to the Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 S. Dean Road, by 5 p.m. on Friday, July 29 for distribution at the event. Participants must supply a minimum of 400 coupons, specials, or flyers that have been copied, cut, and are ready to be stuffed in goody bags. Participants must have a current City of Auburn business license.

For more information, please visit www.auburnalabama.org/parks or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



Come Party at Auburn City Pools

Not only are Auburn City Pools open for the season, but now you can come party with us! Schedule your next birthday,

wedding, anniversary, or corporate party at one of Auburn's pools. We provide the lifeguards, you provide the guests! Include up to 50 guests for \$75/hour, two-hour minimum, and an additional \$25/hour for up to 80 guests. Waivers must be signed by all participants. Pool rules and regulations apply.

Auburn City Pools are the perfect places to celebrate your next special occasion! Choose from Samford Pool, available on Saturdays from 6 - 8 p.m., or Drake Pool, available daily from 5 - 8 p.m. (available 6 - 8 p.m. only during swim sessions). Outside food and beverages are allowed. Adult beverages and glass containers are prohibited.

For more information, or to book your party, contact the City of Auburn Pool Manager at 501-2957.

How Many Roommates Can I Have?

A Reminder of the City of Auburn's Residential Occupancy Regulations

As we welcome back students from the summer break, residents are reminded that the City of Auburn Zoning Ordinance sets forth limitations regarding residential occupancy in the City limits. Traditional residential neighborhoods are typically zoned to allow for no more than two unrelated persons to reside at an address. Apartment complexes, mobile home parks, and other multi-family housing units are properly zoned to allow for more than two unrelated tenants.

Not sure if you are in compliance with the Zoning Ordinance? Visit the City's website at www.auburnalabama.org/students. The site contains links to the occupancy limitations map, the City's Geographic Information System (GIS) site, a brochure highlighting specific information on the City's occupancy limitations, and information on how to report suspected residences in violation of occupancy regulations. Residential occupancy brochures are also available at the City of Auburn Planning Department, located at 171 North Ross Street, Suite 100.

Property owners found to be in violation of occupancy regulations are subject to fines and possible jail time, as set forth in the City of Auburn Zoning Ordinance. Residents in violation of residential occupancy regulations may be subject to eviction by property owners.

For more information, please visit www.auburnalabama.org/pl or contact the City of Auburn Planning Department at 501-3040.

Board Vacancies

- Two vacancies on the **Greenspace Advisory Board** will be filled at the August 2, 2011 City Council meeting.
- One vacancy on the **Lee County Youth Development Center** will be filled at the August 16, 2011 City Council meeting.
- Three vacancies on the **Building Board of Adjustment & Appeals** will be announced at the September 20, 2011 meeting and will be filled at the October 18, 2011 City Council meeting.



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

Cooking Oil, Grease Curbside Recycling

The City of Auburn's Water Resource Management Department will launch a pilot program on August 1, 2011 in concert with the current Household Cooking Oil/Grease Recycling Program. This new initiative will provide Auburn citizens with another way to participate in the City's Household Cooking Oil/Grease Recycling Program by having their used cooking oil/grease picked-up at their residence.

The program is separate from the City's curbside trash and recycling pickup. The Cooking Oil/Grease Recycling Program is designed to help prevent the improper disposal of used cooking oil and grease in household drains which lead to sewer system blockages and sanitary sewer overflows.

If you would like to utilize this service, please call the Water Resource Management Department at 334-501-3069 to schedule a free curbside collection. Participants should place used cooking oil/grease into a sealed leak proof container and label it as "Used Cooking Oil." You will need to have collected at least one half-gallon of used cooking oil/grease to schedule a pick-up. The collection day for this program will be every Friday excluding holidays. Please call to arrange your pick-up during the week of your requested collection, and no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday. Please have your container placed curbside by 8:00 a.m. on Friday. During the collection, a new container furnished by the City of Auburn will be left for future use.

The following are items that can be collected:

- Cooking Oils - vegetable, corn, peanut, sunflower, canola, olive, soybean, flaxseed, or any combination of edible cooking oils
- Margarines
- Animal Fats/Greases - tallow, lard, butter, shortening, or any combination of animal fats
- Oils and fats can be mixed in a single container

Oil/Grease should not be placed in glass containers for pickup. Water, food sauces, gravies, large amounts of food particles, plastic, paper, motor oil, fuels, chemicals, and detergents should not be mixed with the waste cooking oils.

Used cooking oil containers that are left curbside on your regular solid waste collection day will not be collected. You must separately schedule a pickup for your used cooking oil/grease. Please remember to separate used cooking oil containers from other recyclables and call the Water Resource Management Department at 334-501-3069 to schedule a used cooking oil/grease container pick-up.

This is a residential program and is not available for commercial facilities.

Routes To Change for Trash, Recycling and Debris Pickup

Beginning August 1, 2011, approximately 8,500 of the current 12,505 Auburn households will be affected by a trash pickup routing change being implemented by the City of Auburn Environmental Services Department. The City's residential solid waste collection system has evolved from a manual labor-intensive collection operation to one that utilizes automated trucks for household garbage collection, specialized recycling vehicles for curbside recycling service and knuckle boom loaders for bulky/yard debris collection. A recent efficiency analysis of the current trash collection route identified the need to lengthen some current routes while reducing others. The Environmental Services Department will be providing door-to-door information during July 11-29 to allow customers time to become familiar with the new collection schedule. For more information, please contact the Environmental Services Department at 501-3080 or visit the City's website at www.auburnalabama.org.

City of Auburn Offers Online Filing & Payment of City Sales Taxes

As a convenience to our taxpayers, the City of Auburn now offers the filing and payment of sales, use, rental and leasing and lodging taxes through the Alabama Department of Revenue's website at <http://www.revenue.alabama.gov/salestax/efiling.html>. To begin filing your local taxes, all you need is your City of Auburn customer number.

If you need help locating this number, please contact the Revenue Office at 334-501-7239.

Shop Auburn

The Auburn City Council has declared a week of free parking in downtown Auburn to coincide 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 4-16. 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.



MEETING SCHEDULE AUGUST

- 1 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- 2 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
- 3 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 5 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 East Glenn Avenue
- 9 Greenspace Advisory Board**, 11:30 a.m., City Meeting Room, 122 Tichenor Avenue
- Historic Preservation Commission**, 4 p.m., Development Services Building, 171 North Ross Street
- Board of Education**, 6 p.m., Auburn High School Multi-Media Room, 405 South Dean Road
- 11 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 16 City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 18 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue
- 23 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.

Businessweek Names Lee County Among Best Affordable Places

Lee County has been named the Best Affordable Place in Alabama by Bloomberg Businessweek, the publisher of BusinessWeek Magazine. The publisher cites U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics that show the percentage of households in Lee County spending more than 30 percent of their incomes on housing is only 28.7%, with a median family income of \$57,656. Also among the factors considered were low unemployment and high quality of education in the area.

According to Auburn Mayor Bill Ham, Jr., the ranking by the publisher demonstrates another reason why Auburn and the Lee County area have experienced steady growth. "Auburn maintains a high quality of life and we have a diverse local economy. We're proud of the contribution Auburn makes to the success of the area and we're proud to be a part of the 'best affordable area' in Alabama," Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. said.

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 recently approved an ordinance authorizing Auburn's Sales Tax Holiday Weekend. The Sales Tax Holiday will begin Friday, August 5 at 12:01 a.m. and end on Sunday, August 7 at midnight.

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

- **Clothing** – All human-wearing 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.
- **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** – Items of \$50 or less per item 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 other books with a sales price of \$30 or less per book. An all-inclusive list of exempt school supplies may be found on the City's web site at www.auburnalabama.org.

Items not exempt during the Sales Tax Holiday Weekend include:

- Clothing accessories such as handbags, jewelry, sunglasses, 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.
- Furniture
- Any systems, devices, software, or peripherals designed or intended primarily for recreational use, video games.
- 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.

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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@auburnalabama.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.

Auburn Public Library

There will be no Youth Services programming during August 29 – September 2. Fall programming will begin September 6, 2011.



Baby Time - Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. for babies ages 6 – 18 months and their caregivers. For more information contact Auburn Public Library's Youth Services at 501-3196.

Toddler Time - Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. for toddlers ages 18 months – 3 years and their caregivers. For more information contact Auburn Public Library's Youth Services at 501-3196.



Preschool Time - Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. for preschoolers ages 3 – 5 years and their caregivers. For more information contact Auburn Public Library's Youth Services at 501-3196.



Parks and Recreation

July 18 - August 12...Register for Fall Baseball, Softball, & Flag Football - Registration for fall baseball, softball, and flag football will be held online July 18 - August 12. Register for baseball and softball at www.auburnalabama.org/baseball. Sign up for flag football online at www.auburnalabama.org/football. For more information, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

Register by July 20...Auburn Parks and Recreation Sports Camp - Auburn Parks and Recreation is offering a NEW sports camp for youth ages 9 - 12 years. Enjoy five days of hands-on experience in baseball, soccer, tennis, track, and basketball July 25 - 29 or August 1 - 5 from 9 a.m. - Noon. Camp will be held at a different facility location each day. Participants will be given a schedule at registration. Don't delay - registration is limited to the first 40 campers for each session. Be sure to register by July 20. The cost is \$50/camper. For more information, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



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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, contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.

• **Summer Invitational 2011 - JDCAC Artists**, June 29 - July 28. New works by artists associated with programs at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.

• **Mystic Order of East Alabama Fiction Writers Art Exhibition**, August 1 - 25. An exhibition and reading by six area artists/writers.

New Hours Effective August 1...Auburn City Pools - Effective August 1, Auburn City Pools will have new hours for the remainder of the summer. Log on to www.auburnalabama.org/pools for the latest schedules and sign up for email updates to receive notices of schedule changes and closings. For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org/pools or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



August 5...First Friday Night Tennis Mixer - Join the Auburn Community Tennis Association (ACTA) for the First Friday Night Tennis Mixer on August 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the City of Auburn/Auburn University Yarbrough 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. Yarbrough Tennis Center non-member court fees apply. For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org/tennis or contact the Yarbrough Tennis Center at 501-2920.

August 26...Friday Night Splash - Come celebrate the final days of summer with Auburn Parks and Recreation at Friday Night Splash on August 26 from 6 - 8 p.m. at Samford Pool. Join us for music, trivia, free swim, games, and hot dogs & hamburgers. Admission is free with your 2011 Splash Pass, or \$2/person. For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org/pools or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

Adventures in Art 2011: Twelve Bar Blues

The Adventures in Art program entitled *Twelve Bar Blues* will be held August 29 – September 2 at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Adventures in Art is a field trip component of a community-based, art education program for all fourth and fifth grade students attending Auburn City Schools. The program, in its twelfth year, is sponsored by the City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center, and the Junior League of Lee County and is one of many programs the City of Auburn and its community partners are pleased to present for students from Auburn City Schools.

This year's program will focus on the preservation of Alabama Blues music as a traditional and contemporary art form. The program will begin at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center with a performance by the Alabama Blues Project (ABP). Students will then split into groups and attend four components of the program, each focusing on a visual arts project. Students will be introduced to Alabama folk artist Charlie Lucas, attend an interactive poetry workshop that will introduce students to spoken word poetry, receive a gallery talk, and participate in a performance workshop with ABP. Each component will relate to this year's Adventures in Art theme, Alabama Blues.

For more information, please contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 501-2963 or Cari Philen, Art Education Specialist, at cphilen@auburnalabama.org or 501-2944.

