

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

July 2011

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City of Auburn



Annual Fourth of July Celebration Sponsored by Briggs & Stratton

Celebrate Independence Day with the entire Auburn Community on Monday, July 4 beginning at 6 p.m. behind the home side of Duck Samford Football Stadium, 1600 East University Drive. Enjoy great food, live music, free goodies and THE best fireworks display in the area - courtesy of Briggs and Stratton!

Don't miss out on musical entertainment by The Weston Burt Band! Fresh off of recording their second album in Nashville, this dynamic up-and-coming country group is a crowd favorite, combining strong vocals with drums, guitars, the fiddle, and banjo. The band takes the stage for a FREE performance beginning at 7 p.m.

Grab your picnic basket, blanket, and the family and join us for a fabulous night of entertainment and a chance to show your patriotic spirit! Gates open at 6 p.m. Entertainment begins at 7 p.m., followed by fireworks at 9 p.m. In the event of rain, join us for the fireworks on Tuesday, July 5 at 9 p.m.

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

PARKING NOTICE: The parking lot off Airport Road between the Bo Cavin fields and the New Duck fields will be closed to the public during the event to accommodate our fireworks shoot site. The parking lot off of East University Drive (across from the Winn Dixie Shopping Center) will be OPEN to the public for parking.



Route Changes for Trash, Recycling and Debris Pickup

The City of Auburn Environmental Services Department will implement route changes this summer to help reduce costs by increasing efficiency and reducing fuel usage. Approximately two-thirds of current customers will be affected by the routing change. Throughout July, information will be distributed door-to-door to those customers whose route will change, with the new routing schedule going into effect on August 1, 2011.

Over the past decade, the number of customers receiving weekly garbage, recycling and yard waste collection has grown by almost a third. To accommodate this growth, 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. These advances in collection equipment have helped the Environmental Services Department run lean, with only 31 collection employees providing garbage, recycling and yard waste services for approximately 12,563 customers weekly. Despite a growth of approximately 4,000 customers in the past decade, the Environmental Services Department hasn't increased its collection workforce since 2001.

The new routes, developed jointly by extensive collaborative efforts between the City's IT Department - GIS Division and the Environmental Services Department, will allow collection crews to better serve Auburn's citizens. A similar route study was done by the IT Department - GIS Division and the Public Safety Department - Fire Division in 2007 to ensure that Fire vehicles arrived at emergency calls as quickly and efficiently as possible.

To find out how your home will be affected by the garbage routing change, visit www.auburnalabama.org and view the Public Services Interactive Map (www.auburnalabama.org/gis); select the Interactive Maps button and then click on the "Public Services Map". The map will allow users to locate any address and not only find out which day the garbage is collected but also which school zone, voting location, voting ward, fire zone, and City Council member is associated with that address.



2011 Citizens Planning Academy

The City of Auburn's Planning Department will begin its third offering of the Citizens Planning Academy on Thursday, September 15th, 2011. It is open to all Auburn residents. Classes will be held in the Development Services Building Conference Room at 171 North Ross Street. The course will consist of six (6) sessions held on Thursday evenings from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm, beginning September 15 and ending on October 27(excluding Thursday, October 6).

The City's Planning Department carries out comprehensive planning, regulatory planning and data management and research. Comprehensive Planning addresses long range planning goals that relate to all services provided by the City. The department engages in comprehensive planning both within the City limits and in outlying areas regulated by the City's subdivision requirements. The Planning Department has developed an Auburn Interactive Growth Model (AIGM), which serves as the basis for future land use planning decisions. Regulatory Planning includes all work associated with the administration of the City's zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations. Data Management and Research involves the maintenance of several databases including demographic information and address updates for the decennial census, as well as zoning and land use data for the City of Auburn GIS.

Participants in the academy will learn the basics of planning and how different departments, developers and individuals interact in the planning process. The City of Auburn's Comprehensive Plan and other ongoing projects will also be discussed. Other topics include Planning in Auburn (Requirements and responsibilities of the Planning Department), The Roles and Responsibilities of Auburn's Boards and Commissions, Long-Range Planning, The Role of Other City Departments in Planning, A Professional Engineer's View on Planning in Auburn, Auburn University Campus Planning, Historic Preservation, Zoning Enforcement and Online Resources.

Citizens interested in participating in the academy are encouraged to apply early due to limited seating and the popularity of this offering. The program is free to Auburn citizens. For more information, including registration, please contact James Weaver at 501-3040 or jweaver@auburnalabama.org.



Going on Summer Vacation?

If your summer plans include a family vacation, be sure to protect your home and its contents while you are out of town. The Auburn Police Division has a number of safety tips for residents traveling out of town. The most important and easiest safety precaution you can take is to lock your doors and windows. According to the Police Division, unsecured door and window locks are the #1 cause of home burglaries in Auburn. Before traveling out of town, be sure to contact the Police Division and ask that your home be placed on a "House Check" list for extra patrol. To make this request during regular business hours, contact the Auburn Police Division at 501-3150. For after hours or weekend requests, please call the City's 24-hour non-emergency number at 501-3100. For more information or safety tips on how to keep your home safe while traveling, visit www.auburnalabama.org/police or contact the Auburn Police Division at 501-3150.

Avoiding Mosquito Bites

The Environmental Services Department of the City of Auburn provides mosquito control services by citizen request. For isolated problems, an evaluation is scheduled to assess the situation. For widespread problems, where the use of a truck-mounted sprayer is necessary, notice will be provided to alert the area of the spray schedule. Notification is typically accomplished via signage placed at stop signs, intersections, etc. on the morning prior to the scheduled spray event. Spraying is done during the late evening/night hours in an attempt to maximize the effect on the mosquito population while minimizing the effect on the human population.

Residents are reminded that wearing mosquito repellent will help reduce the risk of being bitten. Repellents with the chemical "DEET" (diethyl toluamide) are effective in reducing mosquito bites and are recommended by the Alabama Department of Public Health. The City's mosquito program is coordinated with assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Auburn University's Entomology and Plant Pathology Department. For more information, please contact Environmental Services at 501-3080.

MEETING SCHEDULE

JULY

- 5 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**, 5:15 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- 6 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 11 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- 12 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., AHS Multi-Media Room, 405 South Dean Road
- City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 14 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 19 City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 21 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue
- 26 Library Board**, 2 p.m., Auburn Public Library Board Room, 749 East Thach Avenue
- 26 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.

Auburn High Senior Wins Poetry Competition, Meets President Obama

Auburn citizens have yet another national champion in their midst. Auburn High School senior Youssef Biaz won the 2011 Poetry Out Loud National Poetry Recitation Contest in Washington, DC. Biaz advanced to the national contest from a field of more than 365,000 students who tested their skills in poetry recitation in more than 2,000 schools nationwide. To become the national champion, Biaz competed against 53 students from other states, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Guam and Puerto Rico.

Biaz, the two-time Alabama state champion, won the national contest by reciting the poem *Filling Station* by Elizabeth Bishop. As a result, Biaz earned a \$20,000 college scholarship, and the Auburn High School library received a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books.

The poetry winner was invited to recite Bishop's poem for President Barack Obama on Wednesday, May 11. The Auburn City Council also recognized Biaz and commended his outstanding achievement at the May 17 City Council meeting. The Auburn High School graduate plans to attend film school at the University of Southern California.

Now in its sixth year of national competition, Poetry Out Loud is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, which encourages the study of great poetry by offering educational materials and a recitation competition to high school students. Poetry Out Loud gives students an opportunity to master public speaking skills, build self-confidence and learn about their literary heritage.

Youssef's achievement is one of many examples of excellence that can be found in the students and faculty of Auburn City Schools.



Speeding in Neighborhoods

We all notice when we see someone speeding in our neighborhood, but no one is quite as aware of a speeder as a parent keeping an eye on children as they play outside. Drivers should always operate a motor vehicle within the speed limit, but we should all be especially aware in neighborhoods where cyclists, pedestrians and children are more likely to be present.

At higher speeds, motorists are not as likely to see a pedestrian and cannot stop as quickly if they see a child or pedestrian unexpectedly in the road. Statistics show that the chances of death or serious injury rise dramatically with increased speed, with a pedestrian facing a 5% chance of death if struck by a vehicle traveling 20 mph, a 45% chance of death at 30 mph, and an 85% chance of death if the vehicle is traveling 40 mph.

Those who are guilty of neighborhood speeding can typically be found speeding in their own neighborhood. Be considerate to your neighbors and their peace of mind by slowing down. Keep your eyes on the road at all times, slow down once you enter a neighborhood and watch out for children at play. Watch closely for stop signs, pedestrian signs and signs indicating the presence of children. Remember children do not always watch out for motor vehicles so you must watch out for them.

Auburn Veterans Scholarship Foundation

Each year, the Auburn Veterans Scholarship Foundation seeks to provide a minimum of two \$2,000 scholarships to assist a local veteran or their dependent in attending a local, post-secondary educational institution. The goal of the Foundation is to fund a \$100,000 endowment.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for citizens or businesses interested in contributing to the Foundation. To make a donation, please fill out a pledge card and make checks payable to the Auburn Veterans Scholarship Foundation. Pledge cards can be printed at www.auburnalabama.org/veterans and may be mailed, along with a check, to the following address:

Auburn Veterans Scholarship Foundation, 144 Tichenor Avenue, Suite 2, Auburn, AL 36830

The City of Auburn and the Auburn Veterans Committee established the Auburn Veterans Scholarship Foundation in 2008. The Foundation was created to show the Auburn community's appreciation for the sacrifices made by our service men and women and their families. For more information, please contact the City of Auburn Economic Development Department at 501-7270 or visit www.auburnalabama.org/veterans.

Board Vacancies

- One vacancy on the **Auburn Downtown Redevelopment Authority** will be filled at the July 12, 2011 City Council meeting.
- One vacancy on the **Planning Commission** will be filled at the July 19, 2011 City Council meeting.
- Two vacancies on the **Greenspace Advisory Board** will be announced at the July 12 meeting and will be filled at the August 2, 2011 City Council meeting.
- One vacancy on the **Lee County Youth Development Center Board** will be announced at the July 19 meeting and will be filled at the August 16, 2011 City Council meeting.



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

Keep Auburn Beautiful Neighborhood Clean Up

City of Auburn employees and neighborhood residents cleaned up an area in the heart of the city on May 27-28 in association with Keep Auburn Beautiful, the local affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. The event included the removal of debris and waste items from Payne Street, Hare Avenue, Moore Avenue and Pinedale Drive. It also included removal and trimming of vegetation in the City right-of-way, repairing broken sidewalks, replacing street signs, painting of fire hydrants, tree planting and abatement of code violations among other clean-up activities. While the actual clean-up was held on May 27-28, City crews were in the designated neighborhood for several weeks prior to the clean-up, upgrading and repairing City infrastructure. The City of Auburn would like to thank all who contributed to this cooperative effort to Keep Auburn Beautiful.

For more information on the Keep Auburn Beautiful Program, please contact the City of Auburn Environmental Services Department at 501-3080 or visit www.auburnalabama.org/es.

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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

Youth Services' Summer Reading Program is continuing through July. Youth from ages 3 - 18 are invited to participate and win prizes. For more information call Youth Services at 501-3196. Summer reading ends August 9.



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.

Tween Movie Day - Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. for rising grades 5 - 8. Join us for a family friendly movie each week. 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.



Salmagundi - Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. for students in rising grades K - 5. This program features a variety of entertainment each week. For more information, contact Auburn Public Library Youth Services at 501-3196.

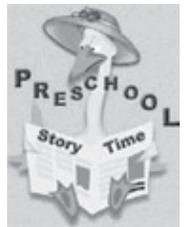
Preschool Time - Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. for preschoolers ages 3 - 5 years and their caregivers. For more information contact Auburn Public Library's Youth Services at 501-3196.



Teen Café - Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. for teens in rising grades 8 - 12. Two hours of fun with refreshments. For more information, contact Auburn Public Library Youth Services at 501-3196.

Lego Play All Day - Fridays all day for students ages 5 - 13. This is an open play opportunity where students may come in and build their own Lego creations. For more information, contact Auburn Public Library Youth Services at 501-3196.

Legos for Young Adults - Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. for young adults in rising 9th grade and up. This is an organized program teaching the fundamentals of physics, construction, design and engineering using Legos. For more information, contact Auburn Public Library Youth Services at 501-3196.



Parks and Recreation



Open Daily...Auburn City Pools - Beat the heat at Auburn City Pools this summer! Auburn Parks and Recreation maintains two pools for public use: Samford Pool, 328 Samford Ave (behind Auburn Junior High School) and Drake Pool, 653 Spencer Ave (behind Drake Middle School). Daily schedules and pool rules are posted at the pools and online at www.auburnalabama.org/pools. Purchase your 2011 Splash Pass, good for daily admission to the pools through Labor Day, at the Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 S Dean Rd. Individual passes are \$50 and family passes are \$100. Daily admission is \$2. Children 1 & under are free. For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org/pools or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

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.

13th Annual Juried Art Exhibition, through June 24. A competitive exhibition open to artists and craftpersons residing or employed in Lee County.

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



July 1...First Friday Night Tennis Mixer - Join the Auburn Community Tennis Association (ACTA) for the First Friday Night Tennis Mixer on July 1 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.auburnalabama.org/tennis or contact the Yarborough Tennis Center at 501-2920.



Beginning July 25...Online Soccer Registration - Online fall soccer registration begins July 25 and continues through August 10. Log on to www.auburnalabama.org/soccer to sign up. Walk-in registration will be held August 10 from 6 - 7 p.m. at the Auburn Soccer Complex. For more information, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930 or visit www.auburnalabama.org/soccer.



The City of Auburn would like to thank Briggs and Stratton for their sponsorship of the Annual Fourth of July Celebration. The company is a long-standing corporate citizen of Auburn and has sponsored the fireworks for the Fourth of July Celebration for more than 10 years. We salute Briggs and Stratton for their support of the Auburn community.