

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

October 2007

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Pedestrian-Friendly Community

With over 62 miles of sidewalks, more than 7 miles of multi-use paths, and 25 miles of bike paths that are not part of the multi-use path network, Auburn is a pedestrian-friendly community with a large investment in pedestrian friendly resources. The City of Auburn encourages citizens to take advantage of these resources. The City's ongoing installation of sidewalks and bike lanes, as well as upgrades to crosswalks in the downtown area are testament to the City's efforts to provide safe, alternative transportation venues for citizens.

In the fall, many citizens enjoy walking and biking for leisure or exercise. With Auburn University's student population now exceeding 24,000 for the first time, many more students will be utilizing pedestrian facilities in Auburn. The City encourages all who enjoy walking or biking to keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Maintain a safe distance from motor vehicle traffic by using sidewalks and crosswalks.
- Walk on the left side of the road and face oncoming traffic.
- Wear reflective clothing between the waist and shoulders on the front and back from one-half hour before sunset until one-half hour before sunrise to help drivers identify the presence of a pedestrian. This requirement is stipulated in City Ordinance No.1272.
- Walk with a friend, especially early in the morning and in the evening. If you have to walk alone, call someone and tell them where you are going and when you will return.
- Vary your schedule or your route.
- Wait at an intersection for the "walk" signal at a crosswalk.
- Do not ride bikes along the sidewalk. Cyclists should ride in the streets with the flow of traffic or in bike lanes when possible.



While pedestrians can do their part to obey the rules of the road, drivers can help make Auburn more pedestrian-friendly by observing the following safety rules:

- Be alert to pedestrians or bicyclists.
- Slow down when approaching a crosswalk and yield to pedestrians.
- Do not attempt to pass in front of or around pedestrians while they are in a crosswalk.
- Obey the posted speed limit. The risk of a pedestrian being seriously injured or killed from a collision rises rapidly with even small increases in speed.
- Look for pedestrians and cyclists before turning right.
- Do not block the crosswalk when you stop at an intersection.

Earlier this year, the City of Auburn and Auburn University partnered to create the first-ever comprehensive safety campaign, WaCaDa. WaCaDa was designed to remind all Auburn residents that we all "walk and cycle and drive alike" and that a mutual respect of the road and its safety rules will make a better, safer Auburn for everyone. Details of the fall WaCaDa campaign will be available later this month. For more information on WaCaDa or for more pedestrian safety tips, please visit the City's WaCaDa web site at www.auburnalabama.org/wacada.

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Open Line is produced by

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City of Auburn



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Change Your Clock - Change Your Battery

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 4. Remember to move your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, November 3, and don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

Adventures in Art 2007

The 8th Annual Adventures in Art Program, "Rural Wonder," was held at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center August 27 - 31. Adventures in Art (AIA) is a community-based art education program that involves all fourth and fifth grade students from Auburn's five elementary schools. The educational theme of this year's program, "Rural Wonder," focused on Auburn University's Rural Studio and internationally-known Alabama folk artist Butch Anthony. The Adventures in Art program was designed to demonstrate the importance of the arts in education.



State Representative Mike Hubbard presents City officials with a \$5,000 grant for Adventures in Art 2007. Pictured left to right are Cultural Arts Director Julie Westra, Parks and Recreation Director Becky Richardson, State Representative Mike Hubbard, and Mayor Bill Ham, Jr.

The program began with a performance by the Children's Dance Foundation entitled "Math in Motion." This piece investigated math concepts using music and movement. The program was followed by four workshops for students in a variety of areas, including: a performance workshop taught by members of the Children's Dance Foundation; a workshop featuring a book-making project and writing activity; a workshop exhibition of Butch Anthony's folk art; and a program on Auburn University's Rural Studio, the theme of this year's AIA Program.



Internationally-known Alabama folk artist Butch Anthony facilitates a workshop at Adventures in Art 2007.

Adventures in Art is a collaborative effort between the City of Auburn, the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center, the Auburn Arts Association, Auburn City Schools, and Auburn University. This annual event is sponsored by the City of Auburn's Parks and Recreation Department and is funded in-part by a generous grant from State Representative Mike Hubbard. For more information on Adventures in Art, please contact Sara Hand, Art Education Specialist, at 501-2944.

Water Quality Information Now Available Online

Visit the City of Auburn's new water quality webpage online at www.auburnalabama.org/wrm/waterquality.asp. The page contains information from the City's Water Resource Management Department on water quality monitoring processes, local watershed maps, water monitoring locations, and copies of the City's most recent water quality monitoring reports. The creation of the new water quality web site is a collaborative effort of the City's Water Resource Management Department and the Information Technology Department and is just one of the many ways the City is continually working to bring you the information that is important to you, the citizens.

For more information on water quality in the City of Auburn, please contact Matt Dunn at 501-3077 or Daniel Ballard at 501-7367.

Auburn's Dog Ordinance

Citizens are reminded that the Code of the City of Auburn sets forth requirements for all dog owners in the City, including restraint and licensing requirements. For a complete list of requirements and regulations, please see Chapter 4 of the Code of the City of Auburn online at www.auburnalabama.org/code. Some of the more salient portions of the code are listed below.

Restraint

- A dog owner shall keep his or her dog under restraint or immediate and effective voice control at all times.

Barking

- No owner shall permit a dog to habitually bark or yelp in such a loud and frequent manner as to annoy and disturb the public in the vicinity.

Removal of Waste

- It shall be the duty of the owner or person-in-charge of any dog to immediately remove and properly dispose of any waste deposited by a dog on the grounds of any property in the City except for private property owned or controlled by the owner or person-in-charge of the dog.

Dog License

- The City of Auburn requires owners to have a dog license for all dogs ages three months and older. Licenses are issued by the Finance Department and are renewed each calendar year. To download a copy of the dog license form, please visit www.auburnalabama.org/fi and click on the forms button in the left column and select "Dog License."

Any person convicted of violating any provision of this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and is subject to a fine and/or imprisonment as set forth in the Code. For more information on Auburn's Dog Ordinance, please contact the Animal Control Division at 501-3090. For more information on Dog Licenses, please contact the Revenue Office at 501-7239. For a complete list of requirements and regulations for dogs and their owners, please see Chapter 4 of the Code of the City of Auburn online at www.auburnalabama.org/code.

Board Vacancies

- Two vacancies on the **Industrial Development Board** were announced at the September 4 City Council meeting and will be filled at the October 2 meeting.
- Three vacancies on the **Building Board of Adjustment** were announced at the September 18 City Council meeting and will be filled at the October 16 meeting.
- Three vacancies on the **Tree Commission** were announced at the September 18 City Council meeting and will be filled at the October 16 meeting.
- One vacancy on the **Water Works Board** was announced at the September 18 City Council meeting and will be filled at the October 16 meeting.
- One vacancy on the **Educational Building Authority** will be announced at the October 2 City Council meeting and will be filled at the November 6 meeting.
- Two vacancies on the **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board** will be announced at the October 16 City Council meeting and will be filled at the November 20 meeting.



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

Meeting Schedule

Cemeteries Advisory Board

October 1, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center

Industrial Development Board

October 2, 12:00 p.m., City Manager's Conference Room, 144 Tichenor Avenue

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

October 2, 5:30 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center

City Council

October 2, 7:00 p.m., Council Chamber

Board of Zoning Adjustment

October 3, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber

Tree Commission

October 5, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 East Glenn Avenue

Water Works Board

October 8, 4:00 p.m., Water Resource Management Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue

Greenspace Advisory Board

October 9, 11:30 a.m., City of Auburn Meeting Room, 122 Tichenor Avenue

Historic Preservation Commission

October 9, 4:00 p.m., Development Services Building

Board of Education

October 9, 6:00 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room

Planning Commission

October 11, 5:00 p.m., Council Chamber

City Council

October 16, 7:00 p.m., Council Chamber

Bicycle Committee

October 30, 7:00 p.m., Development Services Building, 171 N. Ross Street

Tree Commission

November 2, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 East Glenn Avenue

Cemeteries Advisory Board

November 5, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

November 6, 5:30 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center

City Council

November 6, 7:00 p.m., Council Chamber

Board of Zoning Adjustment

November 7, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber

Planning Commission

November 8, 5:00 p.m., Council Chamber

-Meeting times and places are subject to change-

Downtown Trick or Treat



Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. has declared that children may trick-or-treat in Auburn on Wednesday, October 31 from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. only. During that time, the Auburn Police Division will provide extra patrol in the City for children and their parents/guardians. It is hoped that only small children, accompanied by at least one adult, will participate in this event.

As an alternative to traditional door-to-door trick or treating, the City will host its Annual Downtown Trick or Treat celebration on Wednesday, October 31 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Downtown merchants will be giving away candy, coupons, and other goodies to children. Live musical entertainment will also be provided. Don't miss out on your chance to win the Best Costume Contest. This special event is for children ages 12 years and younger and is free to the public. A parent or guardian must accompany children at all times. Downtown streets will be closed from 5:30 p.m.-8:15 p.m. the night of the event. For more information or if your downtown business or organization would like to participate, please contact Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

HALLOWEEN Safety Tips



Help make your child's Halloween a safe and happy one full of treats and no tricks. Included below are some tips from the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission for Halloween safety:

- For greater visibility during dusk and darkness, decorate or trim costumes with reflective tape that will glow in the beam of a car's headlights. Bags or sacks should also be light colored or decorated with reflective tape.
- Costumes should be short enough to prevent children from tripping and falling.
- Young children should always be accompanied by an adult or an older, responsible child.
- Children should be cautioned against running out from between parked cars or across lawns and yards where ornaments, furniture, or clothes lines present dangers.
- Children should go only to homes where the residents are known and have outside lights on as a sign of welcome.

Citizens are reminded that City Ordinance No. 1272 requires the use of reflective clothing between the waist and shoulders on the front and back of a pedestrian or bicyclist from one-half hour before sunset until one-half hour before sunrise (dusk until dawn) to help drivers identify the presence of a pedestrian or bicyclist. For more Halloween safety tips, visit www.auburnalabama.org/holidaysafety or contact the Auburn Police Division-Dare Office at 501-3125.

Turn It Down In Town!

A Reminder of Auburn's Vehicle Noise Citations

Did you know that blasting your car stereo in Auburn could cost you \$325? Per the authority of the disorderly conduct section of the Alabama Criminal Code, as adopted by City Ordinance, officers from the Auburn Police Division can issue non-traffic citations for vehicle noise and vibrations deemed unreasonable. An example of such an offense includes a car stereo whose noise can be heard and/or felt from a distance of 25 feet or more. Citations carry a fine of \$200, in addition to \$125 assessed in court costs.

Save your hearing and save some money, turn down your car stereo. For more information on vehicle noise citations, please contact the Public Safety Department-Administration Division at 501-3110.

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up COMING EVENTS



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.



Now Available...CityFest 2008 Applications – The Auburn CityFest Committee is now accepting applications for fine arts, arts & crafts, food, and non-profit exhibitors for CityFest 2008, presented by the Opelika-Auburn News. Applications are available online at www.auburncityfest.com. A limited number of spaces are available for exhibitors, so be sure to apply early. Festival sponsorships are also available. CityFest 2008 will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2008 from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Kiesel Park. For more information, visit www.auburncityfest.com or contact the CityFest Headquarters 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 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. For more information, contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.



• **Photo IX**, through October 13, annual juried photography exhibition open to regional artists and photographers.

• **Dia de Los Muertos**, October 14-November 15, a juried exhibition open to artists and printmakers. Works will be displayed at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center and the Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.



Wednesdays in October...Preschool Story Time – Join the Auburn Public Library for Preschool Story Time every Wednesday this month at 10:00 a.m. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

Thursdays in October...Toddler Time – Join the Auburn Public Library for Toddler Time every Thursday this month at 10:00 a.m. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



Saturdays in October and November...Football Saturday Tennis Tailgates – Parks and Recreation will host Football Saturday Tennis Tailgates this fall from 9:00 a.m.-noon at the City of Auburn/Auburn University Yarbrough Tennis Center. Tailgates will only be held on home football Saturdays when kickoff is 6:00 p.m. or later. Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy three hours of tennis, door prizes, and refreshments. Adults 19 years and older are invited to play. Courts will be divided by NTRP level. The cost is \$20/person. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



October 4...Young Adult Coffeehouse – Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to Young Adult Coffeehouse at the Auburn Public Library on October 4 at 6:30 p.m. This month's meeting will feature a guest appearance by author Gretchen Stull. Stull will discuss her book, *MuggleNet.com's Guide to Harry Potter 7*. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



October 10...Magic Tree House Club – Students in grades K-3 are invited to the Magic Tree House Club at the Auburn Public Library on October 10 at 3:30 p.m. This month's featured book is *Haunted Castle on Halloween's Eve*. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



October 28...Auburn Dog Club Fun Walk – Calling all dog lovers. Bring your dog and join Parks and Recreation for a fun walk on October 28 at 2:00 p.m. at the Kiesel Park Pavilion. Each walk will begin with a brief educational program conducted by a representative from the Auburn University Small Animal Teaching Hospital. All walks will be at your own pace. Donations of dog food and toys will be collected for the Lee County Humane Society. For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946.



October 30...Halloween Story Time – Youth ages 3-11 are invited to Halloween Story Time at the Auburn Public Library on October 30 from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Come share spooky stories, creepy crafts, and show off your costume. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



November 29...Christmas Parade and AU Holiday Celebration – Mark your calendar for the Auburn Christmas Parade and AU Holiday Celebration on November 29 in downtown Auburn. Look for details in next month's *Open Line*. For more information on the Christmas Parade, contact the Auburn Chamber of Commerce at 887-7011. For more information on the AU Holiday Celebration, contact the Auburn University Student Government Association at 844-4240.



Available December 3...2008 Parks and Recreation Calendar – The 2008 Parks and Recreation Calendar will be available beginning December 3 at various City facilities and online at www.auburnalabama.org/parks. This free calendar lists Parks and Recreation special events, program quarters, brochure release dates, Auburn City School holidays, facility closings, athletic registration dates, City holidays and events, and much more. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



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