

# Open Line

## A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

October 2008

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## The Auburn Fire Division

### Providing Quality Fire Protection for Auburn Citizens

The City of Auburn's 2008 Citizen Survey indicates that 86% of our citizens are satisfied with the quality of Auburn's fire protection. While citizens consistently report high satisfaction rankings with Auburn's fire protection, the City of Auburn is continuously seeking ways in which to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its fire services.

Recently, the City received a letter from Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO), indicating that an analysis of Auburn's fire insurance rating had been completed. This was the first rating report Auburn received in over 20 years. ISO ratings are just one measure of a community's ability to reduce fire losses. In 2007, ISO issued a report that gave the City an opportunity to address areas that could potentially have lowered Auburn's fire insurance rating from a Class 2/9 to a Class 4/9. ISO ratings are assigned a value of 1 to 10, with 1 being the best rating a city can receive. In the ensuing months, City officials continued the implementation of a long-term plan for improvements to fire safety that included additional facilities and equipment, as well as an overhaul to the City's fire response zones. As a result of these and other changes, ISO has issued the City of Auburn a Class 3/9 fire insurance rating, effective immediately.



What does this rating mean for citizens? Some insurance companies consider ISO scores as a factor in establishing fire insurance rates for property owners. In general, residential insurance rates are typically the same for cities with a Class 2 to Class 4 rating. Commercial insurance rates generally see minimal changes within the same range of class ratings. As a Class 3/9 city, Auburn ranks in the top 4.1% of fire divisions in the state and the top 4.4% in the nation.

While ISO looks at many factors when assigning a rating, including distribution of fire stations, manpower, water supply, and communications capabilities, additional equally important factors are not taken into consideration. These factors include actual fire losses, response times, and fire mitigation efforts. The City seeks to reduce fire losses in a number of ways, including strong code enforcement and fire inspections of existing buildings. Losses are also minimized through excellent response times. The Auburn Fire Division prides itself on an average response time of less than five minutes. Recently, staff from the Fire and Communications Divisions and the City's Information Technology Department collaborated on a project to overhaul the City's fire response zones. Using the City's extensive GIS system, staff divided the City into response zones and by using complex "fastest route" calculations, assigned corresponding fire stations to respond to calls within a particular response zone. The new response zones have had a positive impact on response times and have increased the efficiency and effectiveness of the Fire Division's response to calls for service.

Proper facilities and equipment are essential components of any fire division. The City Council has demonstrated its on-going commitment to providing quality fire protection for citizens by approving the addition of a fifth fire station in Auburn Technology Park South, the purchase of a 95' aerial platform fire truck, and the construction of a burn building training facility for fire personnel. In addition, City officials will begin acquiring land for Fire Station 6 during the next biennial budget.

City officials will continue to place a high priority on fire protection services. Currently, the Auburn Fire Division is working on a plan of action to specifically address the ISO report with the goals of maintaining and improving both the City's ISO rating and a proven track record of excellence in fire protection. Auburn's citizens expect and deserve nothing less.

For more information, please contact the City of Auburn's Public Safety Department at 501-3110.



### Change Your Clock - Change Your Batteries

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 2. Remember to move your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

The Auburn Fire Division encourages citizens to use the end of Daylight Saving Time as a reminder to change the batteries in smoke detectors throughout their homes. A working smoke detector should be placed on every level of a home and in every bedroom.

## Neighborhood & Downtown Trick or Treat



Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. has declared that children may trick or treat in Auburn on Thursday, October 30 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. only. During that time, the Auburn Police Division will provide extra patrol in the City for children and their parents/guardians. Neighborhood Trick or Treat is intended for young children only. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

The City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department will host its Annual Downtown Trick or Treat Celebration on Thursday, October 30 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. This

excellent alternative to traditional door to door trick or treating includes giveaways from downtown merchants such as candy, coupons, and small prizes. 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.

For more information, or if your downtown business or organization would like to participate, please contact the City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department at 501-2930.

### Downtown Street Closings

**Magnolia Avenue from Wright Street to Gay Street and College Street from Glenn Avenue to Thach Avenue will be closed from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 30 for Downtown Trick or Treat.**

## Game Day Information

Don't forget to log on to [www.auburnalabama.org/gameday](http://www.auburnalabama.org/gameday) for the latest Auburn High School and Auburn University game day updates, including traffic information.

## Board Vacancies

- Two vacancies on the **Industrial Development Board** were announced at the September 3 City Council meeting and will be filled at the October 7 meeting.
- Three vacancies on the **Tree Commission** will be announced at the October 7 City Council meeting and will be filled at the November 4 meeting.
- Two vacancies on the **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board** will be announced at the October 21 City Council meeting and will be filled at the November 18 meeting.
- One vacancy on the **Public Park & Recreation Board** will be announced at the November 18 City Council meeting and will be filled at the December 16 meeting.
- Two vacancies on the **Cemeteries Advisory Board** will be announced at the November 18 City Council meeting and will be filled at the December 16 meeting.



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

## Water Works Board Changes Monthly Meeting Schedule



The Water Works Board of the City of Auburn has implemented a change to its monthly meeting schedule. Beginning in October, the Board will convene on the first Thursday following the third Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m. Meetings are held in the Water Board Conference Room of the Bailey-Alexander Complex, located at 1501 West Samford Avenue. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, October 23.

For more information, please contact the City of Auburn Water Resource Management Department at 501-3060 or visit our website at [www.auburnalabama.org/water](http://www.auburnalabama.org/water).

## MEETING SCHEDULE OCTOBER

- 1 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- 3 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room
- 6 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center
- 7 Industrial Development Board**, 4 p.m., City Hall Conference Room
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**, 5:15 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center
- City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- 9 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber
- 14 Greenspace Advisory Board**, 11:30 a.m., City Meeting Room
- Historic Preservation Commission**, 4 p.m., Development Services Building
- Board of Education**, 6 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room
- 21 City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- 23 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room
- 28 Bicycle Committee**, 7 p.m., Development Services Building

## NOVEMBER

- 3 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center
- 4 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**, 5:15 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center
- City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- 5 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- 7 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room

**Meeting times and places are subject to change**

For a map of City meeting locations, please visit [www.auburnalabama.org/maps/MeetingLocations](http://www.auburnalabama.org/maps/MeetingLocations)

## Job Vacancy

The City of Auburn has full-time and part-time positions in a wide range of areas. One of the current regular, full-time job openings is:

- **Planning Technician**  
(\$2,828.03 - 3,376.82/month)

For updated job opportunities, please visit [www.auburnalabama.org/jobs](http://www.auburnalabama.org/jobs), contact the Alabama State Employment Office, or call the City's job line at 501-7250.



*The City of Auburn is an equal opportunity employer.*

## FEMA Floodplain Maps and Flood Insurance Study Update

Lee County is in the process of updating its Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Floodplain Maps and Flood Insurance Study. The City of Auburn's FEMA Floodplain Maps and Flood Insurance Study will also be updated as part of the countywide map modernization project.

State officials will host a Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) community coordination meeting for the City of Auburn at a date and time to be determined during the first half of 2009. The meeting will be open to the public. Additional information regarding the study and the public meeting will be available in an upcoming issue of *Open Line* and on the City's website at [www.auburnalabama.org/fema](http://www.auburnalabama.org/fema).

For more information, please contact the City of Auburn Public Works Department at 501-3000.

## Political Sign Regulations

Pursuant to section 23-1-6 of the Code of Alabama and Chapter 8 of the City Code, the City of Auburn has the following regulations in place governing the placement of political signs:

- Signs may not be placed earlier than thirty days prior to the election date. **Signs for the 2008 Presidential election may be placed beginning Sunday, October 5.**
- Signs may not be placed in the public right-of-way, on any structures in the right-of-way including power poles and traffic signs, in road medians, or on any property owned by the City of Auburn or Auburn City Schools.
- Signs are limited in size to thirty-two square feet.
- It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that the volunteers who distribute and install political signs are in compliance with these regulations.
- Signs must be removed within seven days following the election. **Signs must be removed by Tuesday, November 11.**



For more information regarding sign enforcement regulations, please contact Katie Ray in the City of Auburn Planning Department at 501-3038.

 clip out and save

## Because Every Drop Counts... Water Conservation Tip For October

How many times have you emptied a glass half full of ice into the sink? Don't let water go to waste. Instead of pouring water down the drain, use the leftover water and ice cubes to water your indoor plants or your garden.

For more water conservation tips, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/waterconservation](http://www.auburnalabama.org/waterconservation)

## Everyday Ways to Protect Our Watershed: Use Phosphorus-Free Detergents

Phosphorus can be found in everyday items such as lawn fertilizers, laundry detergents, and automatic dishwashing detergents. While it is an essential nutrient to plant growth, excessive amounts of phosphorus can have an adverse effect on water resources. Phosphorus can make its way into watersheds through everyday household chores such as running the dishwasher or doing laundry. High levels of phosphorus in streams can cause algal blooms and unwanted aquatic plant growth. These plants, and their subsequent decomposition, can harm fish and other aquatic organisms in watersheds. New regulatory discharge limits for phosphorus will potentially increase wastewater treatment plant costs. Fortunately, citizens can help do their part to reduce excess phosphorus from entering the watershed.



*Citizens can help Auburn's watershed by simply switching to phosphorus-free detergents.*

Many laundry and automatic dishwashing detergents contain as much as 4 - 8% phosphates. You can help by using phosphorus-free laundry and automatic dishwashing detergents. When purchasing these items, keep the following points in mind:

Look for products that contain the following keywords:

- zeolites (a phosphate alternative)
- alternative builders
- phosphorus or phosphate-free
- many products will feature "NP" for "Contains No Phosphorus"
- many brands of laundry detergent now offer a phosphorus-free option

Avoid products that contain words such as:

- STPP (sodium tri-polyphosphates)
- polyphosphates
- phosphate builders
- products may contain a "P" for "Contains Phosphorus"

For more information, please contact Matt Dunn, Watershed Division Manager, at 501-3077 or by email at [mdunn@auburnalabama.org](mailto:mdunn@auburnalabama.org).

# City Management

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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](mailto:openline@auburnalabama.org) or call 501-7255.

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



**Wednesdays in October...Preschool Story Time** - Preschoolers ages 3 - 5 years are invited to join the Auburn Public Library for Preschool Story Time every Wednesday this month at 10 a.m. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



**Thursdays in October...Toddler Time** - Toddlers ages 18 months - 3 years are invited to join the Auburn Public Library for Toddler Time every Thursday this month at 10 a.m. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



**October 1...Magic Tree House Club** - Youth in grades K - 5 are invited to join the Auburn Public Library for the Magic Tree House Club October 1 at 3:30 p.m. This month's featured book is *Midnight on the Moon*. Program space is limited. Contact Youth Services at 501-3196 to sign up.



**October 2...Young Adult Coffeehouse** - Young adults in grades 6 - 12 are invited to join the Auburn Public Library for Young Adult Coffeehouse October 2 at 6:30 p.m. This month's program will be presented by local cadets from the Alabama Wing Civil Air Patrol. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



**Beginning October 3...Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Exhibition** - Mark your calendar for the following Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Exhibition. The exhibit is free and open to the public Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information on the Gallery or future exhibitions, contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.

• **Fall Invitational**, October 3 - November 14. Works on paper by area artists.



**October 4...Pitch In for Pups Volunteer Work Day** - Hey dog lovers, join the City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department for a morning of volunteering and fun with the animals and staff of Rescue K911 October 4 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Participants will meet at the Dean Road Recreation Center and travel to Camp Hill, AL. Rescue K911 is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to the rescue of lost and homeless animals. All ages are welcome. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. For more information or to volunteer, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946.



**October 4 - 10...Space Week** - Youth of all ages are invited to join the Auburn Public Library for Space Week October 4 - 10. Join us for our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Space Week Celebration, including displays, guest speakers, and activities throughout the week. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



**October 12 - 17...Teen Read Week** - Youth in grades 6 - 12 are invited to join the Auburn Public Library for Teen Read Week October 12 - 17. Don't miss movies and special activities planned throughout the week, including:

- **October 14** - Meet young adult author Peter Huggins at 7 p.m.
- **October 16** - Wear your costume and join us for a Twilight Party at 7 p.m. Don't miss the costume contest!

For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



**October 14...Puppet Show** - Youth of all ages are invited to join the Auburn Public Library for a puppet show featuring *Mouse's Rocket Ship* October 14 at 3:30 p.m. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



**October 16...American Girls Club** - Youth in grades K - 5 are invited to join the American Girls Club at the Auburn Public Library October 16 at 3:30 p.m. This month's featured character is Josefina. Program space is limited. Contact Youth Services at 501-3196 to sign up.



**Register by October 17...High Ropes Challenge** - Youth ages 12 - 15 are invited to join the City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department for a high ropes challenge on the Auburn University High Ropes Course November 1. All high elements are 35 - 40 feet above the ground and include the Burma Bridge, Multi-Swing, Swing Shot, and the Zip Line. The cost is \$30. Participants must be registered by October 17. For more information or to register, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946.



**October 21...Auburn Public Library Book Group** - The Auburn Public Library Book Group will meet October 21 at 6:30 p.m. This month's topic is mysteries. For more information, contact the Reference Desk at 501-3195.



**Register by October 24...2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rally for the Cure Tennis Tournament** - Don't miss the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rally for the Cure Tennis Tournament November 1 beginning at 9 a.m. at the City of Auburn/Auburn University Yarbrough Tennis Center. The tournament will feature a round robin format for men's, women's, and senior's divisions. There is a minimum donation of \$25/division. Participants must be registered by October 24. All proceeds benefit breast health services provided by the East Alabama Medical Center Cancer Center. For more information, or to register, contact Mary Ellen Thomson at [methomson@auburnalabama.org](mailto:methomson@auburnalabama.org) or call 501-2920.



**October 28...Auburn Public Library Halloween Party** - Youth ages 3 - 11 are invited to the Auburn Public Library's Annual Halloween Party October 28 from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. Wear your costume and join us for crafts, spooky stories, and activities. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



**November 11...Annual Veterans Day Ceremony** - Join the City of Auburn and the Auburn Veterans Committee for the Annual Veterans Day Ceremony November 11 at 10 a.m. at the Auburn Veterans Memorial Monument, located at the corner of Ross Street and Glenn Avenue. The program includes music from the Auburn High School Choral Company and bagpiper Dan Drummond. For more information, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/veterans](http://www.auburnalabama.org/veterans) or contact the City of Auburn Economic Development Department at 501-7270.

**April 25, 2009...Auburn CityFest 2009** - Auburn CityFest 2009 is set for April 25 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Kiesel Park. Applications for fine arts, arts & crafts, food, and non-profit exhibitors are now available on the CityFest website at [www.auburncityfest.com](http://www.auburncityfest.com). A limited number of spaces are available for exhibitors, so be sure to apply today! Event sponsorships are also available. For more information, visit [www.auburncityfest.com](http://www.auburncityfest.com) or contact CityFest Headquarters at 501-2930.

