

# Open Line

## A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

September 2011

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### Drought Conditions Improve

Drought conditions in the Auburn area improved by one level from extreme to severe as of July 2011 according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Drought conditions across the State of Alabama also showed significant improvement during the month of July, with no areas of exceptional drought, the most intense drought category, left in the state. The water level in Lake Ogletree was at 483.4 feet as of July 18, which is roughly equivalent to water levels at this time last year. With Lee County still classified as in severe drought, voluntary water restrictions enacted by the Water Works Board in June remain in effect. 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.

For more information, please contact the Water Resource Management Department at 334-501-3060.



### Routes To Change for Trash, Recycling and Debris Pickup

Beginning August 1, 2011, approximately 8,500 Auburn households were affected by the trash pickup routing change implemented by the City of Auburn Environmental Services Department.

The new routes, developed jointly by collaborative efforts between the City's IT Department – GIS Division and the Environmental Services Department, allows 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 effectively as possible.

Affected customers should have received a notice delivered by City employees. To find out if your collection day was affected by the garbage routing change, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/maps](http://www.auburnalabama.org/maps) and view the Public Services Interactive Map. The Public Services Map allows users to locate any City 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.

For more information, please contact the Environmental Services Department at 501-3080 or visit the City's website at [www.auburnalabama.org](http://www.auburnalabama.org).



### Auburn Police Offer Security Checks for Homes and Businesses

The Auburn Police Division's crime prevention unit is offering security checks for homes and businesses. The crime prevention unit recently completed checks for all convenience stores in Auburn who requested the service. The unit is now concentrating on providing security checks for local fast food restaurants. Citizens residing in Auburn can also request a security check for their home. Upon completion of the security check a checklist will be given to the resident or business owner. The checklist will reflect any security deficiencies found and the crime prevention officer will offer tips to make the home or business more secure. For more information, or to schedule a security check, contact Capt. Tommy Carswell at (334) 501-3122.

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City of Auburn



## 2011 Citizens Planning Academy

The City of Auburn's Planning Department will begin its third offering of the Citizens Planning Academy on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The academy was originally offered in 2008 and 2009 and is being offered to all Auburn residents again in 2011. It will be held in the Development Services Building Conference Room located at 171 North Ross Street. The class will consist of six (6) sessions held on Thursday evenings from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm from September 15 - October 27 (excluding Thursday, October 6).

Over the training period, participants will learn the basics of planning and how different departments, developers and individuals interact in the planning process. Participants will also learn about the City of Auburn's Comprehensive Plan and other ongoing projects. 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
- Online Resources

Citizens interested in participating in the academy are encouraged to apply early due to limited seating. The program is free to all participants. For more information, including registration, please contact James Weaver at 501-3040 or [jweaver@auburnalabama.org](mailto:jweaver@auburnalabama.org).

## Labor Day Garbage Schedule

There will be no trash collection on Monday, September 5 in observance of Labor Day. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling will be delayed by one day during the week of September 5-9, as listed below.

Monday	September 5	Holiday
Tuesday	September 6	Monday's Route
Wednesday	September 7	Tuesday's Route
Thursday	September 8	Wednesday's Route
Friday	September 9	Thursday's Route

## Board Vacancies

- One vacancy on the **Lee County Youth Development Center, Inc.** will be filled at the September 20, 2011 City Council meeting.
- Three vacancies (Architect, Places 1 and 2, and Engineer, Place 2) on the **Building Board of Adjustments** will be announced at the September 20, 2011 meeting and will be filled at the October 18, 2011 City Council meeting.
- Three vacancies on the **Tree Commission** will be announced at the October 4, 2011 meeting and will be filled at the November 1, 2011 City Council meeting.
- Two vacancies on the **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board** will be announced at the October 18, 2011 meeting and will be filled at the November 15, 2011 City Council meeting.



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

## City Council Passes Urban Chicken Ordinance

Auburn residents are able to keep and maintain chickens under a new urban chicken ordinance established by the Auburn City Council. The move comes in response to citizen requests. The City of Auburn Planning Department will issue permits to Auburn citizens wishing to keep backyard chickens.



In September 2010, the Auburn Planning Department was asked to research residential urban chicken keeping in the City of Auburn. Through this research, it was found that residential urban chicken keeping was a national trend in many cities as a result of rising food costs and easy access to fresh organic eggs. Many communities around the country have added regulations regarding chicken keeping to their codes and ordinances. At the June 9, 2011 Planning Commission meeting, the commission unanimously recommended approval of a zoning ordinance text amendment designed to allow the keeping of chickens on residential lots in the City of Auburn. Due to the prohibition of fowl being kept and maintained inside the stock district in Section 4-2 of the City Code, the City Council amended the code to allow urban chicken keeping in the stock district. All regulatory provisions for keeping chickens will be outlined in the zoning ordinance.

The urban chicken-keeping ordinance allows Auburn residents to keep backyard chickens upon applying for and receiving a permit from the Planning Department. In order to be issued a permit, a resident must meet the following conditions:

- The minimum lot size of the property is 10,000 square feet
- The principal use of the property is a single family dwelling
- The number of chickens does not exceed:
  - Four (4) on lots 10,000 square feet to 19,999 square feet
  - Six (6) on lots 20,000 square feet or greater
- The chickens are kept in an enclosure or fenced area such as a henhouse, chicken coop, chicken tractor, etc. at all times
- The chicken enclosure or fenced area is a minimum of six (6) square feet per chicken
- The chickens are not kept in any location on the property other than in the backyard (the rear yard of the principal structure)
- The covered enclosure or fenced area is a minimum of 10 feet to any property line of an adjacent property and 30 feet from neighboring dwellings, church, school, or place of business
- The enclosures are kept in a clean, dry, odor-free, neat, and sanitary condition at all times
- The chicken owner takes necessary action to reduce the attraction of predators and rodents and the potential infestation of insects and parasites

Roosters and the slaughtering of chickens are strictly prohibited inside of the stock district and outside of the stock district unless a lot is zoned Rural (R) and is larger than 3 acres.

Applicants must pay a \$40 permit fee and will need to bring a drawing of their parcel showing the relative location of the residence and chicken enclosure, the size in square feet of the enclosure, et cetera. Residents can find maps showing parcel boundaries and building locations online at <http://gis.auburnalabama.org/website/AuburnIMS>.

For more information, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/pl](http://www.auburnalabama.org/pl) or contact the City of Auburn Planning Department at 501-3045.

## Sundown Concert Series at Kiesel Park

Auburn Parks and Recreation has the perfect solution for FREE, fall entertainment! Join us for the Sundown Concert Series at Kiesel Park on Thursdays at 6 p.m. in September and October, beginning Thursday, September 15 with a performance by Satin Soul! Enjoy performances by acts such as John and the Connors, Dave Potts, the Auburn Knights Orchestra, and Muse. Bring the family, a picnic, lawn chairs, or a blanket. Sit under the shade trees at one of Auburn's favorite parks and join us for an evening of entertainment. Don't forget – dogs are always welcome!

The Sundown Concert Series at Kiesel Park is a free, family-friendly event. No alcohol, please. For more information, please visit [www.auburnalabama.org/parks](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parks) or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



## Woofstock 2011

Join the Lee County Humane Society (LCHS) for Woofstock 2011 on Saturday, August 27 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Kiesel Park. Woofstock is a celebration for Lee County residents and their pets and includes live entertainment, a children's fun area, and activities for you and your four-legged friend to enjoy.

Owners will also have an opportunity to register their dogs and purchase their City of Auburn dog tag, as required by City Ordinance.

Admission to this event is FREE. There is a small fee for some activities in the park. All proceeds benefit adoption programs for the animals at the LCHS. All dogs are welcome as long as they remain on a leash. For more information, visit [www.leecountyhumane.org](http://www.leecountyhumane.org).

## Final Stages of FEMA Map Modernization Project

The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map Modernization Project is in its final stages. The City of Auburn has received final determination status from FEMA and has until November 2, 2011 to update its flood ordinance and adopt maps through resolution of the City Council. The City Council is scheduled to consider the resolution sometime in late summer. Upon its approval, federally backed mortgage holders will use the latest and most improved mapping to determine insurance rates for affected properties. The mapping is currently being utilized by the City for all construction and development permitting.

### What is good about the nationwide map modernization for Auburn?

A City of Auburn partnership with the Alabama Office of Water Resources and FEMA was established to acquire higher quality data through more detailed studies outside the scope of federal grant requirements for the nationwide project. Initial 1981 flood mapping only provided base flood elevations (BFE) for our main creeks with no elevation data on the City's numerous tributaries. As a result of this 6-year project, Auburn now has BFEs on all creeks and tributaries in its growth area.

New mapping utilizes the latest in Auburn's aerial imagery and digital topography to determine changes in the natural environment since the initial 1981 community flood mapping. Annexation of county lands, development and increased runoff are factored into the revised flood mapping for the City and its growth area to provide improved mapping for floodplain management and future planning.

The revised maps more accurately identify flood risk areas for both existing and potential home buyers. Reviewing the revised flood maps before they become effective on November 2, 2011 is crucial for both the property owner and the buyer as they may receive reduced insurance rates if their insurance policy goes into effect before the November deadline. Potential home owners need to be aware of added expenses associated with federal-backed mortgage requirements of flood insurance.

### What is new with the modern floodplain maps?

- New Terminology: 100 year and 500 year floods are referred to as meeting or exceeding 1% and 0.2% chance of flood in any given year, respectively.
- The 2011 flood maps no longer refer to the flood hazard area as 100 year (A zone), 500 year (B zone), or minimal flooding (C zone). Areas without base flood elevations (BFEs) are still known as A zones while areas with BFEs are known as AE zones. The new maps also identify areas with .2% chance of flooding as X zones.

### Where to seek more information:

City of Auburn website: <http://www.auburnalabama.org>

Interactive GIS map: <http://www.auburnalabama.org/maps> to view the flood hazard areas.

FEMA Map Service Center: <http://msc.fema.gov>

## MEETING SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER

- 2 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 East Glenn Avenue
- 6 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
- 7 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 8 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 12 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- 13 Greenspace Advisory Board**, 11:30 a.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- 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
- 20 City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 22 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue
- 27 Library Board**, 2 p.m., Auburn Public Library Board Room, 749 East Thach Avenue
- 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](http://www.auburnalabama.org/boards).

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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](mailto: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

For more information, contact Auburn Public Library's Youth Services at 501-3196.



**Baby Time** - Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. for babies ages 6 – 18 months and their caregivers.



**Toddler Time** - Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. for toddlers ages 18 months – 3 years and their caregivers.

**Preschool Time** - Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. for preschoolers ages 3 – 5 years and their caregivers.



**Magic Tree House** - Wednesday, September 7 for students in grades K-5<sup>th</sup>. This program features reading and a craft activity.

**Puppet Show** - Tuesday, September 13 for ages 3-11.

**American Girls Club** - Thursday, September 22 for students in grades K-5<sup>th</sup>. Participants learn about girls who grew up in various times throughout history.

**Fall Reading Program** - "Carry Out a Good Book!" Register for the Fall 2011 Reading Program "Carry Out a Good Book" beginning September 1. Read five titles and get a prize.

## Parks and Recreation

For more information, 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, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/arts](http://www.auburnalabama.org/arts) or contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.

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

**Fall Invitational**, August 29 - October 7. A variety of works by regional craftpersons.

**Now Available...Parks and Recreation Fall Brochure** – Be sure to pick up your FREE copy of the Parks and Recreation Fall Brochure, available now at City facilities and online at [www.auburnalabama.org/parksbrochure](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parksbrochure). The brochure is your guide to fall sports and special events, including Downtown Trick-or-Treat and the Fall Concert Series at Kiesel Park. For more information, visit [www.auburnalabama.org/parksbrochure](http://www.auburnalabama.org/parksbrochure) or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

**Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in September...Auburn Stride Walkers** – Get moving with the Auburn Stride Walkers Club! Citizens of all ages are invited to join the club for walks at various City walking trails every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9 a.m. Participation is free. For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946 or Dee Watson at 501-2948.



**September 1...Auburn CityFest 2012 Applications Available** – Save the date! Auburn CityFest 2012, presented by the Opelika-Auburn News, is set for Saturday, April 28 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Kiesel Park. Applications for fine arts, arts & crafts, food, and non-profit exhibitors will be available online at [www.auburncityfest.com](http://www.auburncityfest.com) beginning September 1. Log on today to get your application in early. Spaces fill quickly! Interested in becoming a sponsor? Contact the Auburn CityFest Headquarters at 501-2930 for more information. Mark your calendars...we'll see you at Auburn CityFest 2012 on Saturday, April 28!

**September 2...First Friday Night Tennis Mixer** – Join the Auburn Community Tennis Association (ACTA) for the First Friday Night Tennis Mixer on September 2 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](http://www.auburnalabama.org/tennis) or contact the Yarbrough Tennis Center at 501-2920.

**September 5...Auburn City Pools Close for the Season** – Auburn City Pools are still open, but dive in while you can. Pools close for the season at the end of the day on September 5. Pool hours are available online at [www.auburnalabama.org/pools](http://www.auburnalabama.org/pools). For more information, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

**Register by September 13...Weekend Warriors Motorcycle Ride** – Hey grown-ups, it's time to have some fun! Join Auburn Parks and Recreation's Weekend Warriors for a Motorcycle Ride to Mount Cheaha on September 18. Participants will meet at the Dean Road Recreation Center and set out for Cheaha State Park. Bring your motorcycle and helmet and join us for a leisurely ride with friends. The trip is free; however, participants must pre-register by September 13. For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946.

**September 25...Auburn Community Orchestra Concert** - Join the Auburn Community Orchestra for a free concert at Kiesel Park on September 25 at 4 p.m. For more information, contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 501-2963.

**Sundown Concert Series at Kiesel Park...** Enjoy free performances each Thursday at 6:00 pm from Sept. 15 - Oct. 27.

