

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

December 2011

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City of Auburn



Printed on
Recycled Paper

Sharing the Road with Cyclists

The City of Auburn has an active community of bicycling enthusiasts in addition to the heavy pedestrian traffic associated with a major University campus. Perhaps it's fitting, then, that Auburn is the only Alabama community to be named a "Bicycle Friendly Community" by the League of American Bicyclists.

Since safety is a key element to bicycle friendly roads, the distinction includes recognition of local educational efforts. In Auburn, bicycle safety education starts early with a program for fourth graders throughout Auburn City Schools. Education efforts have grown to include the annual Travel with Care campaign, a partnership between local government, local law enforcement, and local education at all levels.

Recently, bicycling enthusiasts, through the Auburn Bicycle Committee, came to the Auburn City Council to request a new law to improve bicycle safety and awareness of road safety issues. On October 4, 2011, the Auburn City Council passed an ordinance establishing 3 feet of clearance required for an automobile passing a bicyclist. The ordinance, referred to by the Auburn Bicycle Committee as the "Give Me 3," Law is similar to existing laws in eighteen states.

The "Give Me 3" Law may be Auburn's newest bicycle safety law, but motorists and cyclists alike should be aware of all relevant traffic laws:

- Bicyclists have the same rights, and must obey the same rules of the road, as other vehicles.
 - Traffic lights, signs and traffic rules apply to cyclists as well as cars.
 - Cyclists fare best when they are predictable and act and are treated as vehicles.
- It is illegal to ride on the sidewalk in downtown Auburn, in the area bounded by Glenn Avenue, Wright Street, Magnolia Avenue and Gay Street.
 - Studies have shown that it is safer for a bicycle to ride on the road, rather than on a sidewalk.
- If a bicycle lane is present, then cyclists are legally required to ride in the bicycle lane, and not in the road.
- Cyclists should keep to the right side of the roadway where there are no bike facilities.
- Cyclists should not ride more than two abreast on roadways.
- Cyclists must have an operating headlight on the front of their bicycles and reflectors on the front and rear spokes of the wheels and pedals when riding between ½ hour before sunset and ½ hour before sunrise.

Other guidelines range from recommended best practices to common sense:

- When riding your bicycle, sit on the seat only.
- Always ride slowly and carefully in traffic.
- Cyclists should equip bicycles with:
 - A headlight bright enough to be seen at a distance of at least 500 feet
 - A horn, bell, or other warning signal. Sirens and whistles are not permitted.
 - Rearview mirror
 - Spoke reflectors
 - Brakes that work well
- Bicycles may carry only the number of people for which they are designed. Children can be carried safely in special seats attached to the bicycle.
- Ride your bike predictably. Use hand signals to communicate your intentions.
- Always wear a helmet.
- Bicycles ride with traffic, Pedestrians walk against traffic.

An accident can change, or end, your life or the life of someone you love. Whether you're driving a car or riding your bicycle be sure you know and follow the rules of the road to stay safe, and to help others do the same.

For more information on the law requiring a 3-foot passing clearance, please go to <http://www.auburnalabama.org/agenda>, and read Ordinance 2726 in the Related Information column for the October 4, 2011 City Council meeting, or call 501-7260.



Going Green for the Holidays

Sustainable Holiday Turkey

Recycle your grease through the City's Cooking Oil/Grease Recycling Program

If your holiday plans include frying a turkey, don't pour the leftover grease down the drain, recycle it through the City of Auburn's Cooking Oil/Grease Recycling Program. To participate, simply pour any used cooking oil (after it has cooled) into its original, leak-proof container and drop it off at the RecycleAuburn Drop-Off Center, located at 365-A North Donahue Drive. While you're there pick up a new, empty container for future use, courtesy of the City of Auburn. This newest addition to the City's recycling program has been a great success as approximately 1,275 gallons of used cooking oil have been returned to the Recycling Center since the beginning of the program in March 2009.

On August 1, 2011 the City of Auburn's Water Resource Management Department launched a Curbside Grease Recycling pickup in concert with the City's Cooking Oil/Grease Recycling Program. This new service provides Auburn citizens with another way to participate in the program by having their used cooking oil/grease picked up at their residence. If you would like to utilize this curbside service, or would like to find out more information about this program, please call the Water Resource Management Department at 334-501-3069 to schedule a free curbside collection. Additional details regarding the Curbside Grease Recycling Program can be found in the August 2011 Open Line, available online at www.auburnalabama.org/openline.



Please help us keep our sewers clean by disposing of household cooking oil and grease in the proper manner. Visit www.auburnalabama.org/wrm or contact Matt Dunn or Mikel Thompson in the City of Auburn Water Resource Management Department at 501-3060 for more information.

Auburn Public Library Receives Grant

The Auburn Public Library recently received a \$20,000 grant that will enable the Youth Services section to provide children and young adults with foreign language materials and culturally diverse programming. The Youth Services Foreign Languages core collection will make materials and services more accessible to younger patrons in languages most popular in Auburn's international community. This enhanced offering will complement the foreign language curriculum in the Auburn City Schools. Once the collection is established all Youth Services patrons will have access to high-quality reading materials in Korean, Chinese, Arabic, German, Russian, Hindi, French, Spanish, Vietnamese and Japanese.

Eve Engle Kneeland, Youth Services Librarian, wrote the grant application and is responsible for selection and maintenance of the collection. The Youth Services Foreign Languages Collection will help the Library achieve the goals of its five-year plan, as well as enhancing the library's pursuit of its mission to provide excellent library service to all residents of Auburn.

Christmas Tree Recycling

When you take your Christmas tree to the curb after the holidays, you're not throwing it away. You're recycling it. The City of Auburn Environmental Services Department will collect Christmas trees placed out with customers' weekly curbside collections, and recycle them as part of the City's routine bulky waste (trash) collection program. Trees should be placed at the curb for recycling on your regularly scheduled collection day.

Recycle Your Holiday Boxes

And as long as you're recycling your tree, don't forget to recycle the boxes from your gifts this holiday season. Cardboard boxes and gift boxes are picked up as part of the City's Curbside Recycling Program and may also be recycled at the RecycleAuburn Drop-Off Center, located at 365-A North Donahue Drive. Customers wishing to place their cardboard at the curb for recycling should break down all boxes and leave them at the curb for pick-up on their regularly scheduled collection day.

Dog Tag Renewal

All dogs over 3 months old kept within the City of Auburn are required to have a City license. The annual fee for all spayed or neutered dogs is \$5.00. The license fee for all other dogs is \$15.00. Dog licenses are renewed each calendar year and are due January 3, 2012. Late penalties will be applied after January 31, 2012. For additional information on purchasing a dog license, contact the City's Revenue Office at 501-7239.

MEETING SCHEDULE DECEMBER

- 2 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 East Glenn Avenue
- 5 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- 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
- 13 Greenspace Advisory Board**, 12:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 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
- 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

Meeting times and places are subject to change.

For more information, including a map of City meeting locations, please visit www.auburnalabama.org/boards.



ShopAuburn for the Holidays

The holidays are here and citizens are reminded to ShopAuburn and keep sales tax dollars local. Revenue dollars from Auburn's sales tax fund Auburn City Schools; fund the paving and maintenance of our roads; fund public services such as police and fire protection; and provide funding for community events. Free metered parking will be available downtown December 12 through January 8.

Christmas and New Year's Holiday Schedules

City Hall will be closed on Monday, December 26 for the Christmas holiday. Public Safety services, including Police, Fire, and Communications will remain on their regular schedules. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling for the week of December 26-30 will change as follows:

Normal Collection Day	Holiday Pick-Up Schedule
Monday, December 26	No Collection
Tuesday, December 27	Monday's route
Wednesday, December 28	Tuesday's route
Thursday, December 29	Wednesday's route
Friday, December 30	Thursday's route

City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 2 for the New Year's holiday. Public Safety services, including Police, Fire, and Communications, will remain on their regular schedules. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling for the week of January 2-6 will change as follows:

Normal Collection Day	Holiday Pick-Up Schedule
Monday, January 2	No Collection
Tuesday, January 3	Monday's route
Wednesday, January 4	Tuesday's route
Thursday, January 5	Wednesday's route
Friday, January 6	Thursday's route

Carts and recycled materials must be placed at the curb for collection by 6 a.m. on your scheduled collection day. All carts and recycling bins must be removed from the curb by 6 a.m. the following day. The holiday collection schedule is available online at www.auburnalabama.org/es/holiday.asp. For more information on garbage, trash, and recycling pick-up, please contact the City of Auburn Environmental Services Department at 501-3080.

Board Vacancies

- Two vacancies on the **Board of Zoning Adjustment** will be announced at the December 20, 2011 City Council meeting and will be filled at the January 17, 2012 City Council meeting.
- Two vacancies on the **Auburn Cemeteries Advisory Board** will be announced at the December 20, 2011 City Council meeting and will be filled at the January 17, 2012 City Council meeting.



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

23rd Annual Daddy-Daughter Date Night Tickets on Sale Dec. 12

This is a night for memories! Come dance the night away at the 23rd Annual Daddy-Daughter Date Night Feb. 9 - 11 at the Lexington Hotel and University Convention Center at 1557 South College Street. Daughters, 12 and under, are invited to enjoy an evening of dancing, refreshments and pictures with their Dad. Put your best foot forward in our dance contest and don't miss your chance to take home one of several door prizes! Last year this event SOLD OUT, so be sure to purchase tickets early. Join us for one of three nights of music, memories, and fun! Tickets are \$30/couple and \$5/additional child. **Tickets go on sale Monday, Dec. 12 at 8 a.m. at the Dean Road Recreation Center.** For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org/parks or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



2012 Daddy-Daughter Date Night

Thursday, Feb. 9 5:30 – 8 p.m.
 Friday, Feb. 10 6:30 – 9 p.m.
 Saturday, Feb. 11 6:30 – 9 p.m.

No Soliciting Law for Residential Neighborhoods

The common sales practice of door-to-door solicitation is a nuisance to some, but appreciated by others. Regardless of your personal opinion of this common solicitation practice, you should be aware of whether the solicitors who visit your house are legitimate and in compliance with local solicitation laws.

All solicitors are required to have a Solicitor's Certificate. If you receive a visit at your residence from a solicitor, ask to see a current City of Auburn Solicitor's Certificate issued by the City's Revenue Office. A Solicitor's Certificate is also required for a solicitor to leave fliers at a residence. The certificate is wallet sized and features a photo of the individual on it. A business must hold a current City of Auburn business license in order for its employees to be issued a Solicitor's Certificate.

This year, 45 of 52 certified solicitors represent security system vendors. If a vendor is soliciting security systems, he or she must also possess an Alabama Electronic Security Board of Licensure Sales License. This license is wallet-sized with the solicitor's photo attached. Each individual who comes to your home, regardless of whether he or she is making the presentation, must have their own Solicitor's Certificate.

There are a few other simple rules for residents to keep in mind:

- If you don't wish to be visited by solicitors, you can post a "no soliciting" sign near the main entrance of your residence. Alternately, homeowner associations can post such a notice at the main entrance to the neighborhood.
- The following are exempted from registration but must follow all other regulations: Persons making solicitations for church, religious organizations or charitable organizations if they are tax exempt under IRS code; students soliciting to finance extracurricular programs if approved by the principal; persons canvassing for political purposes; and persons making solicitations for nationally recognized youth organizations such as scouting.
- Soliciting may only take place between the hours of 8:00am – to 8:00 pm.

If you suspect a solicitor is in violation of these rules, you may contact the Public Safety non-emergency line at 501-3100. Violations are punishable by up to a \$500.00 fine and up to 6 months in prison. For more information on the solicitation laws and licenses, please contact the City's Revenue Office at 501-7239.

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Auburn City Schools
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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

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

There are no programs the week of 11/21 – 11/26 (Thanksgiving Holiday Week)



Baby Time – Tuesdays, December 6 & 13 at 10:00 a.m. for babies ages 6 – 18 months and their caregivers.

Toddler Time – Wednesdays, December 7 & 14 at 10:00 a.m. for toddlers ages 18 months – 3 years and their caregivers.



Preschool Time – Thursdays, December 1, 8, & 15 at 10:00 a.m. for preschoolers ages 3 – 5 years and their caregivers.



Teen Café – Thursday, December 1 at 6:30 p.m. for grades 8-12.

Tween Read – Friday, December 2 at 3:30 p.m. for students in grades 4 – 7.



Lego Play All Day – Saturday, December 3 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:30pm for students ages 4 - 12.

Puppet Show – Tuesday, December 6 at 3:30 p.m. for ages 3-11.

Magic Tree House – Wednesday, December 7 at 3:30 p.m. for students in grades K-5th.

Homeschool Book Club – Friday, December 17 at 1:30 p.m. for grades 6 – 12.

Wii Play All Day – Saturday, December 17 all day for students in grades 6 – 8.



American Girls Club – Thursday, December 15 at 3:30 p.m. for students in grades K-5.



Special Programs:

• **Annual Holiday Party** – Thursday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m. for ages 3-11.

• **Boys & Girls Club Art Exhibit** – Monday, December 12 at 5:00 p.m. Reception and opening of exhibit.

Parks and Recreation

For more information, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

Now Showing...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, visit www.auburnalabama.org/arts or contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.

• **Photo XIII**, through Dec. 12. Annual photography competition featuring works by regional artists and photographers.



Register by Dec. 2...High School Basketball – Auburn Parks and Recreation is currently holding high school basketball registration for participants in grades 8 - 12 through Dec. 2. Players must register to play as a team. Registration is \$45/player. School team players are not eligible to participate. All games will be played at the Frank Brown Recreation Center from January - March. Sign up at the Dean Road Recreation Center Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org/parks or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

Dec. 2...First Friday Night Tennis Mixer – Join the Auburn Community Tennis Association (ACTA) for the First Friday Night Tennis Mixer on Dec. 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 or contact the Yarbrough Tennis Center at 501-2920.

Dec. 10...5th Annual Holiday Art Sale – The Auburn Arts Association and Auburn Parks & Recreation will host the 5th Annual Holiday Art Sale on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Local artists will be selling paintings, pottery, stained glass, photography, cards, jewelry, hats, scarves and much more! Cross lots of shopping off your holiday to-do list! Interested in participating as a vendor? Vendor applications are available online at www.auburnalabama.org/ceramics and at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. **Vendors must be registered by Monday, Nov. 28.** For more information, contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 501-2963 or visit www.auburnalabama.org/arts.

Register by Dec. 22...Holiday Field Trip to the Montgomery Zoo – Hey kids, beat those winter blues! Grab your friends and join Auburn Parks and Recreation for a holiday field trip to the Montgomery Zoo on Dec. 28 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bring a brown bag lunch and we'll picnic with the giraffes. This trip is open to youth in grades 3 – 6. The cost is \$15, payable in cash on the day of the trip. **Don't delay – you must be registered by Dec. 22.** For more information, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

April 28, 2012...Auburn CityFest 2012 – 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 are now available online at www.auburncityfest.com. 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!

