

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

October 2012

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City of Auburn



Downtown Parking and Pedestrian Improvement Project

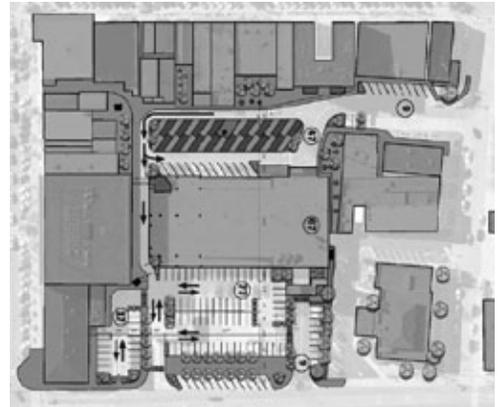
Downtown Auburn is a popular destination for both residents and visitors alike. The assortment of quality restaurants, signature shops and prime office space makes competing for a parking space inevitable. In August, city staff presented a number of possible public parking improvement scenarios to the City Council that will ultimately increase public parking downtown, as well as improve pedestrian and vehicular circulation, improve the aesthetic look and feeling of safety for downtown pedestrians, and address the need for downtown event space.

The downtown parking improvements project will ultimately increase public parking by up to 93 spaces, which would be a 17% increase in available parking. Two major phases of construction will be required to complete the project as recommended, with the first phase dedicated to increasing the number of parking spaces downtown. This fall, the old AuburnBank Drive-Thru and the small yellow building on Gay Street will be demolished and turned into a temporary parking lot, providing approximately 67 new downtown parking spaces. These spaces will be free to the public until a permanent parking lot is constructed. In the Summer of 2013, current plans call for a permanent, metered parking lot to be constructed using the combined space from the old Colonial Bank and Auburn Bank drive-thru tellers. The new parking area will include new landscaping, and could add on-street parking to Gay Street downtown.

The final phase of the current recommendation is scheduled for the summer of 2014. During this time, downtown alleys will be renovated to improve the look and feel for pedestrians, and downtown parking west of the parking deck will be reconfigured to provide new event space for downtown and to promote a better atmosphere for downtown restaurants with outdoor dining.

Auburn voters approved spending for downtown parking improvements in January. The project options and recommendations to Council were made with public input after meetings between the City and downtown stakeholders. The project will continue to evolve as we work with citizens & stakeholders to optimize public parking and the downtown atmosphere for everyone.

For more information on the past, present and future of downtown parking in Auburn, please visit us on the web at www.auburnalabama.org/parking.



Wildlife Awareness Seminar

The City of Auburn Environmental Services Department has partnered with the USDA – Wildlife Division and the State of Alabama Department of Conservation to conduct Animal Control's Wildlife Awareness Seminar to be held on October 20 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Town Creek Park located at 1150 South Gay Street. The purpose of the seminar is to make residents aware of the presence of coyotes in Auburn and address any fears in response to their presence. The seminar will focus on coyote and fox habitat management and control and will provide residents with information on: identification and biology; space use and food habits; habitat management; pet management; agency functions relating to coyotes and foxes; and recommended ways of response to aggression. During the outdoor lecture, literature will be provided to educate residents on methods of management and control. For additional information, please contact the Environmental Services Animal Control Division at 501-3090.

12th Annual Downtown Trick or Treat

Join Auburn Parks and Recreation and the Auburn Downtown Merchants for the 12th Annual Downtown Trick or Treat on Wednesday, October 31 from 6 – 8 p.m. in downtown Auburn. This FREE, family-friendly event features giveaways from downtown "Monster Merchants" and live music. Special mystery judges will select participants for the Best Costume Contest. Bring your favorite four-legged friend and enter for a chance to win the Best Pet Costume Contest!

Downtown Trick or Treat is for children ages 12 years and under. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Downtown streets are subject to closing during the event. Please visit our website at www.auburnalabama.org/parks for the latest information on the event and street closings. For more information, or if your business or organization would like to participate, please contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

Neighborhood Trick or Treat: The City of Auburn will hold trick-or-treating in neighborhoods on Halloween night, Wednesday October 31 from 6-8 p.m. During this time, the Auburn Police Division will provide extra patrols throughout the City for children and their parents/guardians.



City of Auburn Receives Prestigious IT Award

GMIS International, the largest association of government IT leaders in the United States, has named the City of Auburn the 2012 winner of the prestigious GMIS G2 Award. As the selected winner, the City of Auburn is recognized for its innovative program of "Using GIS to Enhance Public Engagement." GMIS says the City's world-class program is a shining example of how to bring government closer to its citizens. The City's award was officially presented during an awards ceremony at the Annual GMIS International Conference in Chicago, Illinois on August 19-22, 2012.

CNNMoney.com has named Auburn one of the top 100 "Best Places to Live" for 2012. Auburn is the only Alabama community to make the list that focuses on "America's Best Small Cities." Auburn is also ranked 14th for the shortest commute in a breakdown of quality of life elements. The article calls Auburn a "serious college town," with a downtown area that exudes "a surprising amount of variety and vibrancy."

Auburn Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. said "We're proud of this recognition of Auburn as a great place to live. We're passionate about our home here in Auburn, and we'll continue to work hard to make sure that Auburn continues to be one of the best places to live in the U.S."

Previous national recognitions for Auburn have included U.S. News & World Report's 2009 list of the "Top 10 Best Places to Live in the U.S." Earlier this year, Forbes.com ranked Auburn as 17th on its list of "Best Small Places for Cities and Careers," and newgeography.com ranked Auburn as 64th on its list of "Best Cities for Job Growth."

CNNMoney.com is the world's largest business website and is the home of Fortune and Money magazines. The full article is available at www.CNNMoney.com and is linked at www.auburnalabama.org.

Final Renew Opelika Road Public Meeting Set for October

Auburn citizens are invited to attend the third and final meeting in a series of public meetings concerning the revitalization of the Opelika Road Corridor. Public Meeting #3, to be held in October, will include opportunities for the public to offer input on possible transportation enhancements as well as land use strategies for the Opelika Road Corridor that were developed using input gathered at previous public meetings.

The final outcome of Renew Opelika Road will be a plan to guide the future development of Opelika Road and help ensure the area's future commercial viability. The plan will help steer decisions concerning how the community and City can support Auburn's existing businesses and attract new destinations for residents. It will also reflect the most effective means of improving traffic flow, pedestrian accessibility and the overall look and feel that citizens envision for the Opelika Road Corridor.

The City of Auburn wants to hear what you think. For more information, contact Justin Steinmann with the City of Auburn Planning Department at 501-3045 or jsteinmann@auburnalabama.org.



Standard & Poor's and Moody's Affirms City's Excellent Bond Ratings

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services and Moody's Investors Service have affirmed the City's bond ratings of AA+ and Aa2, respectively. The City requested a rating review in anticipation of the issuance of \$60 million of general obligation bonds and warrants. All except \$6 million will be used to refinance outstanding debt, utilizing current favorable market conditions and saving the citizens of Auburn more than \$2 million in interest over the life of the debt. The remaining \$6 million will fund regulatory upgrades and improvements to the H.C. Morgan Water Pollution Control Facility.

Both rating agencies cited Auburn's sizable tax base, stable economic environment anchored by Auburn University, and historically strong reserve levels as the basis for the affirmation of the ratings. Standard & Poor's reports that Auburn's "financial position has been historically very strong. With roughly 50% of its budget dedicated to wages, and a stable municipal workforce, the City has significant expenditure flexibility. Strong revenue growth and expenditure controls have allowed the City to maintain strong reserves."

All Auburn taxpayers benefit from this good news in the form of less interest paid on the City's outstanding debt. For more information, please contact the Finance Department at (334) 501-7220.

CNNMoney.com
A Service of CNN, Fortune & Money

Campaign 2012: 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 2012 Presidential election may be placed starting Sunday, October 7.
- 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, by Tuesday, November 13.

For more information regarding sign enforcement regulations, please contact the City of Auburn Planning Department at 501-3040.

Fall Sundown Concert Series at Kiesel Park

The Fall Sundown Concert Series at Kiesel Park continues on Thursdays at 6 p.m. in October. Enjoy live performances by local and regional musicians under the shade trees at one of Auburn's favorite parks. Bring the family, a picnic, lawn chairs, or a blanket and join us for an evening of entertainment. Don't forget – dogs are always welcome! Catch the remaining performances in the series:

Oct. 4	Crossroads
Oct. 11	Dave Potts
Oct. 18	Summer Breeze
Oct. 25	Uncle Roy

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 or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



Board Vacancies

Two vacancies on the Industrial Development Board will be filled at the October 2, 2012 City Council meeting.



Three vacancies on the Tree Commission will be filled at the October 16, 2012 City Council meeting.

Two vacancies on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will be announced at the October 16, 2012 meeting and will be filled at the November 20, 2012 City Council meeting.

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

MEETING SCHEDULE OCTOBER

- 1 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- 2 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
- 3 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber 141 North Ross Street
- 5 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 East Glenn Avenue
- 9 Greenspace Advisory Board**, Noon, 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
- 11 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 16 City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 18 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue
- 29 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.

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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.

The Friends of Auburn Public Library will host a used book sale on Saturday, September 29 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on the library grounds.

Baby Lapsit - Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. for ages birth - 12 months and their caregivers.

Baby First Steps Storytime - Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. for ages 12 - 24 months and their caregivers.

Toddler Time - Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. for 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.

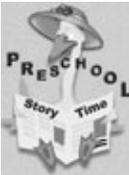
Diary of a Library Kid - Wednesday, October 3 at 3:30 p.m. for students in grades K-5.

Puppet Show - Tuesday, October 9 at 3:30 p.m. for children ages 3-11.

American Girl's Club - Thursday, October 18 at 3:30 p.m. for students in grades K-5.

Writing for College Workshop - Thursday, October 3 at 6:00 p.m. for high school seniors learning to write a college application essay.

Janet's Planet - Thursday, October 4 at 4:00pm for children ages 6-10. Special guest Janet Ivey of the children's television show, Janet's Planet, will share some of the wonders of the galaxy at the Auburn Public Library. Janet's Planet, viewable on 144 public television stations nationwide, fuels the learning potential of elementary school-age kids in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.



Space Week - October 4 - 10 - "Space for Human Safety and Security," after school activities for elementary students exploring space, satellites, and NASA.

Teen Read Week - October 14 - 20 - "It Came From the Library," after school and evening activities including writing horror stories, movies, book discussion and the Annual Hex Hall Ball.

Annual Children's Halloween Party - Thursday, October 25 @ 6:00p.m. for ages 3 - 11. Wear your costume and join us for fun and activities.

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 XIV Juried Exhibition**, Oct. 8 - Nov. 17. Annual photography competition featuring works by regional artists and photographers.

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in October...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.

October 1 - 26...Youth Winter Basketball Registration - Register for youth winter basketball Oct. 1 - 26. Registration will be held online at www.auburnalabama.org/basketball. Walk-in registration will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 23 from 6 - 7 p.m. at the Dean Road Recreation Center. Youth basketball is for participants ages 6 - 13 years. Players on school teams are not eligible to play. Tryouts will be held the week following registration. Players must be registered to attend tryouts. The season begins in December and continues through February. For more information, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



Oct. 5...First Friday Night Tennis Mixer - Join the Auburn Community Tennis Association (ACTA) for the First Friday Night Tennis Mixer on Friday, Oct. 5 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.

Register by Oct. 11...Teen Scene Trip to Alabama Nature Center - Teens ages 12 - 15 are invited to join Auburn Parks and Recreation for a trip to the Alabama Nature Center in Millbrook on Saturday, Oct. 20 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Join the fun at the 2012 Good 'Ole Days Festival. Activities include music, historic tours, hayrides, herding dog demonstrations, wood carving, bee keeping, and more. The cost is \$5, payable in cash on the day of the trip. Participants must pre-register by Oct. 11. For more information, or to register, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

April 27, 2013...Auburn CityFest 2013 - Save the date! Auburn CityFest 2013 is set for Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Kiesel Park. Applications for fine arts, arts & crafts, food, and non-profit exhibitors are 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 2013!