

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

October 2014

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City of Auburn



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Development Services Building Re-Opens

The Development Services Building (DSB) in the Douglas J. Watson Municipal Complex is once again open for business. Last year, several departments relocated to allow for the renovation of the structure, which served as Auburn City Hall from the late seventies until 2001. Completed renovations allow for a more energy efficient building with an updated work environment, improved customer service areas and improved accessibility in accordance with ADA standards.

The Planning Department, Public Works Department and Public Safety Department - Codes Enforcement Division have all been serving customers from alternate locations during the renovation. In early September, the DSB re-opened for business with these development related offices once again housed together for more convenient "one stop shopping" for the public.

14th Annual Downtown Trick or Treat Friday, Oct. 31

Calling all superheroes, princesses, rock stars, and monsters! Auburn Parks and Recreation and the Auburn Downtown Merchants will host the 14th Annual Downtown Trick or Treat on Friday, Oct. 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 be in the crowd throughout the evening selecting 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 will be closed 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 Dana Stewart, Special Programs Coordinator, at 501-2939.

Special thanks to the Auburn Downtown Merchants for making Downtown Trick or Treat possible!

Help Prevent Stormwater Pollution

The City of Auburn operates a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) under a Phase II National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM). Under this permit, the City implements a monitoring program to find and eliminate what are known as "illicit discharges." An illicit discharge is any discharge into a storm sewer system or its receiving waterbodies (i.e. streams, lakes, etc...) that is composed of anything other than stormwater. Examples include but are not limited to washing machine "greywater," motor oil, grease, antifreeze, paint thinner, sanitary sewage, industrial wastewater, and sediment runoff from land disturbance. To comply with Phase II requirements the City conducts weekly water quality monitoring and visual inspections at various locations on all of its receiving waterbodies. Additionally, the City investigates all claims of violations of the Illicit Discharge Ordinance and takes appropriate enforcement action as required. Exemptions to this ordinance are: landscape irrigation, springs, water from crawl space pumps, residential car washing, swimming pools, street wash water, and firefighting activities. For further information regarding the City of Auburn Illicit Discharge ordinance, please see Article IV of Chapter 7 of the City's Code of Ordinances, which can be found on the City's website at <http://www.auburnalabama.org/code>. If you have knowledge of a suspected illicit discharge, please contact the City's Watershed Division at (334) 501-7367 or use the official City of Auburn Illicit Discharge Report Form found online at <http://www.auburnalabama.org/WRMDir/WaterShed/Illicit%20Discharge%20Notification>.

City of Auburn Flood Protection & Preparation Information

In May 2014, the City of Auburn was accepted into the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). Even though everyone does not own or live on property in a floodplain, the program benefits the community by protecting the environment, making people safer, and saving everyone money. The City received a Class 7 score for our CRS application, which allows citizens of Auburn a 15% discount on their flood insurance for those in the Special Flood Hazard Area and a 5% discount for those in the Non-Special Flood Hazard Area. Below is some information you might find helpful regarding floodplains in the City of Auburn.

Local Flood Hazard

The City of Auburn has an annual precipitation of 52.6 inches, with a history of major storm events. Over the last ten years our biggest rain events occurred in May 2003, March 2005, June 2005, November 2006, December 2009, July 2011, and November 2011. During major storm events flash flooding can occur.

Roadways Prone to Flooding Include:

- **N Donahue Dr Bridge**
- **Water Crest Dr Bridge**
- **East University Dr Bridge @ Summertrees Dr**
- **Moore's Mill Rd Bridge @ Forestdale Dr**
- **Windway Rd Bridge**
- **Ogletree Rd Bridge north of Oak Knoll Cir**

Flood Warning

The City of Auburn, in conjunction with the Lee County Emergency Management Agency, work together to give citizens ample warning in case of a flooding event. Emergency messages are broadcast through local radio stations: 95.9 FM WTGZ, 96.9 FM WQSI, 97.7 FM WKKR, 98.7 FM WANI, 94.3 FM WGZZ, as well as on local television stations: WRBL, WXTX, WTVM, WSFA, and The Weather Channel. In the event of heavy rains, it is essential to monitor television and/or radio weather broadcasts for up-to-date forecasts. Please call 911 for any emergencies and 334-501-3100 for any non-emergencies.

Flood Safety

The following safety tips can keep you and your family from harm:

- **Do not walk through flowing waters.**
- **Do not drive through a flooded area.**
- **Stay away from power and electrical lines.**
- **Shut off all gas and water valves.**
- **Have a departure plan in case of emergency.**

Additional emergency preparedness tips can be found on page 12 of the 2013-2014 Real Yellow Pages Telephone book.

Property Protection Measures

During the past 100 years, flooding has been the number one cause of property damage in North America. There are some permanent retrofitting techniques that can help to eliminate or reduce flood damage:

- **Elevating your house 1 ft. above the base flood elevation.**
- **Flood proofing your house to make the walls and flooring watertight so that water cannot enter.**
- **If you know you are in a flood prone area, flood vent the crawl space under your home so that water can flow through.**

Employees from the Public Works Department are available for site visits to review flooding, drainage and sewage

issues and to provide one-on-one advice to the property owner on appropriate flood protection measures. We are also available to assist in reviewing and critiquing retrofit plans for flood-prone residences and buildings.

Are You Insured?

The City of Auburn is an active participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and plays a leading role in keeping citizens informed regarding the local floodplain and how it can affect their property. Even if your property is not located in a high risk flood area it is a good idea to buy flood insurance, as 25% of all flood insurance claims come from areas with minimal flood risk. Two important facts that citizens should know are:

- **Homeowner's insurance policies DO NOT cover flood damages or losses.**
- **Insurance policies have a 30-day waiting period BEFORE coverage goes into effect.**

There are two types of Flood Insurance Coverage offered: 1. Building Property, up to \$250,000, and 2. Personal Property (Contents), up to \$100,000. The NFIP encourages people to purchase both types of coverage. Your mortgage company can also require that you purchase a certain amount of flood insurance.

Floodplain Development Permit Requirements

To ensure the highest degree of safety, the Public Safety Codes Enforcement Division enforces all adopted building, fire and related codes in the City of Auburn. Please be advised that a permit is required for ALL construction in

Board Vacancies

Two vacancies on the **Industrial Development Board** were announced at the September 9, 2014 meeting and will be filled at the October 7, 2014 City Council Meeting.



Two vacancies on the **Building Board of Adjustments** were announced at the September 23, 2014 meeting and will be filled at the October 21, 2014 City Council Meeting.

Three vacancies on the **Tree Commission** will be announced at the October 7, 2014 meeting and will be filled at the November 4, 2014 City Council Meeting.

One vacancy on the **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board** will be announced at the October 21, 2014 meeting and will be filled at the November 18, 2014 City Council Meeting.

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

the City of Auburn. Any development without a permit is non-compliant and may result in fines. If you know of any development taking place without the required permits or would like to verify a contractor's license, please contact the City of Auburn Codes Enforcement Division, located at 171 North Ross Street (Suite 100), at 334-501-3170.

Substantial Improvement Requirements

In order to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), The City of Auburn has adopted regulations and codes that apply to new developments in floodplains. Local floodplain management regulations and codes contain minimum NFIP requirements that apply not only to new structures, but also to existing structures which are "substantially improved (SI)" or "substantially damaged (SD)."

"Substantially Damaged" means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its pre-damaged condition would equal or exceed 50% of the market value of the structure before damage occurred.

"Substantially Improved" means any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvements of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50% of the market value of the structure before the "start of construction" of the improvement. This term includes structures which have incurred "substantial damage," regardless of the actual repair work performed.

The City of Auburn requires an elevation of 1 ft. above the base flood elevation for new construction and for existing structures before they are repaired.

Do You Live In Or Around a Special Flood Hazard Area?

The City of Auburn Public Works Department is available to assist in providing more information on whether a property is in a Special Flood Hazard Area. Upon request, the following Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) information will be provided: The community number, the map panel number and suffix, the date of the FIRM's Index, the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) shown on the FIRM, the elevation datum used on the FIRM, and the availability of Elevation Certificates (EC's) for review. For more general information, you can view your property in relation to the local floodplains online using the City's interactive mapping system at <http://www.auburnalabama.org/maps>.

Drainage System Maintenance

The City of Auburn's Public Works Department maintains the storm drainage system, helping to keep the creeks and streams in the City of Auburn clean and free of debris and pollutants. Debris, including leaves and grass clippings, can obstruct the flow of water and cause overflow onto streets and yards. In order for the drainage system to operate efficiently, ditches, streams, and channels must be kept clean. Residents and business and property owners can help keep the storm system clean by maintaining ditches and streams on their property and by notifying the City when maintenance is needed in the right of way. The City Code prohibits taking any action that can impede the flow of water in ditches and waterways. If you know of any illegal dumping of debris

or any action that could affect the drainage system, please contact the Public Works Department at 334-501-3000.

Natural and Beneficial Functions of The Local Floodplain

Floodplain areas and wetlands provide a wide range of benefits to both human and natural systems. The City of Auburn is home to several identified, undeveloped floodplain areas. Wetlands in and around the City of Auburn are a valuable asset.

Flood control is one of the most important aspects of wetlands. Wetlands absorb water during heavy rainfall or flooding and slowly release the waters downstream reducing flood damage.

Water quality is another key aspect of wetlands. Wetlands and wetland plants help to absorb and filter potentially harmful chemicals and pollutants from our waterways.

Our Wetlands are VITAL for several endangered or threatened species unique to this area. Recreation, education, and research of wetlands are critical to our local economy.

MEETING SCHEDULE OCTOBER

- 1 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 3 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 E. Glenn Avenue
- 6 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4 p.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- 7 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**, 5:15 p.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- Committee of the Whole**, 6:55 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 9 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 14 Greenspace Advisory Board**, Noon, Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- Historic Preservation Commission**, 4 p.m., DSB Conference Room, 171 North Ross Street
- Board of Education**, 6 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room, 405 South Dean Road
- 21 Committee of the Whole**, 6:55 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 23 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.

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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 501-7266.

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.

Safety Fair, Saturday, October 11, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Join us at the Auburn Public Library to learn all about safety! For more information, please email cldebetter@auburnalabama.org.

Halloween Family Festival, October 23, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Bring the whole family to visit the haunted library! This event is for children in sixth grade or younger and their families. For more information, please email kcarpenter@auburnalabama.org.

Vampire Ball, October 16, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For teens, ages 13-18. For more information, please email vtemple@auburnalabama.org.

WEEKLY STORYTIME PROGRAMS

Baby Time - Tuesdays at 10 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. for ages birth - 18 months and their caregivers.

Toddler Time - Wednesdays at 10 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. for ages 18 months - 3 years and their caregivers.

Preschool Time - Thursdays at 10 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. for preschoolers ages 3 - 5 years and their caregivers.

YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAMS

Puppet Show - Wednesday, October 1, at 3:30 p.m. for ages 3 - 7. Featuring "Piggie Pie."

Gamers Club - Thursday, October 2 at 4:30 p.m. for ages 9 - 12 and Thursday, October 9 at 4:30 p.m. for ages 13 - 18.

LitWits Book Club - Tuesday, October 7 and Tuesday, October 21 at 4:30 p.m. for ages 13 and up.

October 7 - Ghosts and Spooky Stories

October 21 - Myths and Legends

Fractured Fairytales - Wednesday, October 8 at 3:30 p.m. for ages 4 - 7. Featuring Cinderella retold and illustrated by K.Y. Craft and Cinderella Skeleton by Robert D. San Souci.

Writer's Tool Kit Workshop - Thursday, October 9 at 4:00 p.m.

Poetry for Kids - Wednesday, October 15 at 4:00 p.m. for grades 3 - 5, featuring the Auburn University Live Poets Society.

Legomania - Join us every Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for "free play" with Legos®.

GENEALOGY 101

Classes will be held in the library's board room on the following Thursday afternoons beginning at 2:00 p.m.

October 9 - Your Family's History: Getting Started in Genealogy

October 16 - Using Ancestry.com and Other Online Resources

October 23 - Tips on Researching African-American Ancestors

October 30 - Making the Most of Census Records

Class sizes are limited, so please call 334-501-3194 to register.

Parks and Recreation

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 or contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.

Fall Invitational: Diptychs, Sept. 8 - Oct. 10. Selected works by area artists and craftpersons.

Photo XVI Juried Exhibition, Oct. 15 - Nov. 21. Annual photography competition featuring works by regional artists and photographers.

Sept. 29 - Oct. 24...Youth Basketball Registration - Register for youth basketball Sept. 29 - Oct. 24. Registration will be held online at www.auburnalabama.org/basketball. Walk-in registration will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 21 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. Players must be registered to attend skills tests. The season begins in December and continues through February.

Fall Outdoor Movies in Downtown

Join Auburn Parks and Recreation for a brand new Fall Outdoor Movie Series in the Gay Street Parking Lot in downtown Auburn. Join us on select Thursdays in October at 7 p.m. for FREE outdoor movies for all ages and interests. Bring a blanket and chairs and purchase food from a downtown restaurant to enjoy a picnic with friends and family. Join us for the following movies:

Oct. 2 - "Saving Mr. Banks"

Oct. 9 - "Planes"

Oct. 16 - "Captain Phillips"

Oct. 23 - TBA

Outdoor movies will be shown weather permitting. Follow the City of Auburn on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CityofAuburnAL and online at www.auburnalabama.org/parks for the latest updates and announcements.

