

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

March 2008

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City of Auburn



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Protecting Auburn's Water Quality

The City of Auburn's Illicit Discharge Ordinance

The City of Auburn operates and manages a municipal storm sewer system under permit from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. One requirement of this permit is that the City must implement a program to detect and eliminate illicit discharges from the storm sewer system into other bodies of water. An illicit discharge is defined as the discharge of anything other than pure stormwater into a body of water.



In 2004, the Auburn City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2192, the Illicit Discharge Ordinance, to protect Auburn's water resources. The City conducts weekly water quality monitoring and visual inspections at various locations where the stormwater system discharges into Auburn's lakes and streams. The City also investigates all reports of illicit discharge and enforces the penalties outlined in the Illicit Discharge Ordinance when violations are found.

You can help protect Auburn's water resources by reporting suspected illicit discharges. Citizens may access the Illicit Discharge Report form online at www.auburnalabama.org/wrm and click on the "Illicit Discharges" link on the left. Follow the instructions to submit or print a report.

By working together, we can help keep Auburn's water quality in excellent condition and keep storm drains and streams clear of debris. For more information, please visit www.auburnalabama.org/wrm or contact the Water Resource Management Department at 501-3060.

Cable Television in Auburn



Many citizens ask why there is no cable television competition in Auburn. Some mistakenly believe that the City has an arrangement with Charter granting them a monopoly for cable television services. It does not.

The City of Auburn has a non-exclusive franchise agreement with Charter Communications. This agreement does not stop, or hinder, any other cable company from entering the Auburn market. City officials have spoken to several other cable companies about serving Auburn. As of this writing, no other cable provider has chosen to enter this market. The common reason given is that this market is not large enough to support the tens of millions of dollars in

infrastructure costs they would incur in providing service to the whole of Auburn.

Competition is provided for cable television via satellite television services, but many citizens do not choose satellite since "local" broadcast networks such as ABC, CBS, NBC, and FOX are not available on satellite in this area. Regulatory power to require satellite television to provide local channels rests with the Federal Communications Commission.

The federal government also regulates much of what the City's franchise agreement can require of any cable company. For example, local government has no authority over the rates a cable company may charge, or the channel line-up offered. The current franchise agreement with Charter does require them to maintain a physical location in the City to provide for subscriber inquiries, bill payments, and equipment transfers.

Research conducted by City staff shows that true competition for cable television services is somewhat rare in communities Auburn's size. Even in some larger communities that boast more than one cable franchise, the cable company's service areas do not overlap, meaning that no competition is provided.

As Auburn grows, and as technology progresses, the prospects for more sources of television competition will also grow. Digital television will continue to open up new possibilities for the delivery of television and other services to the home. City officials are continuing to talk to cable television providers in hopes of securing additional franchise agreements.

For more information, please contact Auburn City Hall at 501-7260.

Shop Auburn!

supporting our community makes cents.

ShopAuburn! this Spring Meter Free Parking March 17-21

Spring is here and Auburn residents are encouraged to shake off the winter blues and *ShopAuburn!* this spring. Join the Auburn Chamber of Commerce for a special *ShopAuburn!* campaign the week of March 17-21. The Auburn Municipal Code establishes meter-free parking during spring break, so be sure to shop and dine at Auburn establishments without worrying about feeding the parking meters.

Auburn residents are reminded that when they *ShopAuburn!* they are keeping sales tax dollars local. Revenue from Auburn's sales tax goes to provide funding for Auburn's award-winning public school system, our police and fire protection, street paving and maintenance, parks and greenspace facilities, as well as other public services.

Don't forget to *ShopAuburn!* the week of March 17-21 and enjoy the meter-free parking. For more information, please contact the Auburn Chamber of Commerce at 887-7011.

27th Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Join the Parks and Recreation Department for the 27th Annual Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by Wachovia Bank, on Saturday, March 22 at 11 a.m. at Auburn's beautiful Kiesel Park. This free, annual community event is one of the largest egg hunts in Lee County with more than 20,000 eggs hidden over 4 acres of the park. Be sure to bring your camera for a chance to have your picture taken with the Easter Bunny. Musical entertainment will be provided, along with free soft drinks for everyone and balloons for the children. The Greater Kiwanis Club of Auburn will be selling hamburgers and hotdogs with proceeds going to needy families throughout our community.



The Annual Easter Egg Hunt is a free community event. Participants in the egg hunt must be 12 years and younger and are required to bring their own basket. In the event of rain, the egg hunt will be rescheduled for Sunday, March 23 at 2 p.m. For more information, please contact the City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department at 501-2930.



Change Your Clock - Change Your Battery

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 9 at 2 a.m. Citizens are reminded to move clocks AHEAD one hour Saturday night before bed and change the batteries in your home's smoke detectors.

Auburn Studio Project

The *Auburn Studio Project*, a new community-based art education program involving 8th grade students from Auburn Junior High School, will be held March 10 & 11. Please note that the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center will be closed to the public on those dates due to the workshops being held for the *Auburn Studio Project*. For more information, contact Sara Hand, Art Education Specialist, at 501-2944.

Board Vacancies

- One vacancy on the **Library Board** will be announced at the March 4 City Council meeting and will be filled at the April 1 meeting.
- One vacancy on the **Cemeteries Advisory Board** will be announced at the March 4 City Council meeting and will be filled at the April 1 meeting.
- Three vacancies on the **Historic Preservation Commission** will be announced at the March 18 City Council meeting and will be filled at the April 15 meeting.
- One vacancy on the **Board of Education** will be announced at the April 1 City Council meeting and will be filled at the May 6 meeting.



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

Meeting Schedule

- # MARCH
- 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
 - 10 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Resource Management Conference Room
 - 11 Greenspace Advisory Board**, 11:30 a.m., City of Auburn Meeting Room
 - Historic Preservation Commission**, 4 p.m., Development Services Building
 - Board of Education**, 6 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room
 - 13 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber
 - 18 City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
 - 25 Bicycle Committee**, 7 p.m., Development Services Building
 - 27 Library Board**, 10 a.m., Library Board Room

- # APRIL
- 1 Industrial Development Board**, 4 p.m., City Hall-City Manager's Conference Room
 - City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
 - 2 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber
 - 4 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room

Meeting times and places are subject to change

Job Vacancy

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

- **Police Officer**
(\$2,971.21 - 3,547.77/month)
- **Network Engineer-Web Developer**
(\$3,803.39 - 4,541.44/month)

For updated job opportunities, visit the City's website at 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.

Auburn's Sign Regulations

The Auburn Municipal Code and the City of Auburn Zoning Ordinance set forth regulations regarding all signage within the Auburn City limits. Residents should familiarize themselves with these regulations. By working together, we can help ensure the legal, safe, and attractive placement of signs throughout the City and help keep Auburn beautiful.

Signs on Utility Poles and Traffic Signs

Signs and posters are prohibited from being posted on utility poles or traffic signs anywhere in the City of Auburn.



Signs in the Public Right-of-Way

Signs are prohibited from being posted in the public right-of-way throughout the City of Auburn. For Sale signs and Now Hiring signs are permitted only within the boundaries of a business or individual's property. No signs may be placed outside the boundaries of a business or individual's property line.

Real Estate Signs

All real estate signs must be located only on the property that is for sale, lease, or rent. Off-premise real estate signs, such as directional signs to the property, are prohibited. One real estate sign is permitted to face each street adjacent to the property that is for sale, lease, or rent. These regulations also pertain to For Sale by Owner signs.



Political Signs

The City of Auburn has the following regulations in place governing the placement of all political signs:

- Signs may not be placed earlier than thirty days prior to the election date.
- 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 a maximum of thirty-two square feet.
- It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that the volunteers who distribute and erect political signs are doing so in compliance with these regulations.
- Signs must be removed within seven days after the election date.

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

 clip out and save

Because Every Drop Counts... Water Conservation Tips For March

Spring is just around the corner and many citizens will be heading outdoors to tend to their yards and plantings. The following water conservation tips will not only help you maintain a healthy lawn, but a healthy water supply for Auburn citizens.

A 3/4 inch rain can eliminate the need to water your lawn for 4 days

One of the largest consumptions of water is over-watering lawns. As a general rule of thumb, lawns only need watering every 5 to 7 days during the spring and summer.

Pavement does not need water

To get the most for your money, position sprinklers so that all water lands on your lawn or plants. Do not water sidewalks, driveways, or other paved areas.

Mulching plants can reduce water usage

Mulching results in better soil moisture retention and weed control. Effectively mulching your plants, trees, and shrubs reduces the amount of water needed to maintain plantings.

Register for the 9th Annual Bike Bash



The City of Auburn and the Auburn Bicycle Committee will host the 9th Annual Bike Bash on Saturday, April 12 at the Auburn Soccer Complex on Wire Road. Bike Bash is an annual community event designed to inform citizens about bicycle safety and promote biking as a fun and healthy leisure activity. In addition, Bike Bash serves to emphasize local bike-friendly facilities in and around Auburn. Bicycle rides of varying distances will be offered for beginners, as well as advanced riders. Please see the chart below for registration

information. Registration forms are available online at www.auburnalabama.org/cycle or at the Dean Road Recreation Center.

For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org/cycle, or contact Alison Hall at 501-2940 or Dee Watson at 501-2962.

Registration Information

	Pre-Registration (now through April 11)	Day of Registration
Youth 12 & under	\$8	\$10
Adults 13 & older	\$10	\$12
Family Rate*	\$25	\$30

*The family rate is for two or more persons living in a household. Limit, 4 t-shirts per family.

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Auburn City Schools
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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 or call 501-7255.

Spring Reading Program

In keeping with the theme of the on-going construction at the Auburn Public Library, the Youth Services Division invites you to register for the Spring Reading Program, "Build with Books." Beginning March 1, students in Pre-K through 5th grade may register for the program at the Youth Services desk. The program concludes on May 25. Participants who reach their reading goal will receive a prize. For more information, please contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



Now Available...2008 Parks and Recreation Calendar - The 2008 Parks and Recreation Calendar is now available at various City facilities and online at www.auburnalabama.org/parks. This free calendar lists Parks and Recreation special events, program quarters, brochure release dates, Auburn City School holidays, facility closings, athletic registration dates, City holidays and events, and much more. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



Now Available...Parks and Recreation Spring Brochure - The Parks and Recreation Spring 2008 Brochure is now available at all City facilities and online at www.auburnalabama.org/parks. Be sure to pick up your copy to learn about all of the classes, programs, and special events going on in the City of Auburn this spring. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays in March...Auburn Stride Walkers Club - Citizens of all ages are invited to join the Auburn Stride Walkers Club. This club meets at various City walking trails on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 a.m. Schedules are posted on the City's website at www.auburnalabama.org. For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946 or Dee Watson at 501-2948.

Beginning March 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.



• **Two-D/Three-D**, March 3 - 31. An invitational exhibition featuring artists working in both two and three dimensional media.

March 9...Auburn Dog Club Fun Walk - Calling all dogs and dog owners! Join the Parks and Recreation Department for a fun walk on March 9 at 2 p.m. at Kiesel Park. Participants will meet at the Kiesel Park Pavilion. All ages are welcome; however, children 12 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Each walk will begin with a brief educational seminar conducted by a representative from the Auburn University Small Animal Teaching Hospital. Walks will be at your own pace. Donations of dog food and toys will be collected for the Lee County Humane Society. For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946.



Register by March 21...Beginning Dog Obedience Training - Beginning Dog Obedience Training will be held at the Kiesel Park Pavilion on Mondays from 7 p.m.-8 p.m. beginning March 31 - May 19. Trainers must be 16 years or older to participate and dogs must be at least 8 months old. The cost is \$80 for an 8-week session. Participants must be registered by March 21. For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946.

Beginning March 31...KIDS Fore Golf - Join the Parks and Recreation Department and former PGA Tour player Jimmy Green beginning March 31 - April 19 for the KIDS Fore Golf Program, an 8-week program introducing junior players to the game of golf. The program is open to youth ages 6 - 16 years and includes fundamental instruction, course etiquette, and swing analysis. All classes will be professionally staffed. For more information, contact Steve Dickerson at 501-2945.



Register by April 4...X-Cell High Ropes Challenge - Youth ages 12 - 15 years are invited to join the Parks and Recreation Department for a day of fun at the Auburn University High Ropes Course on April 19 from 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The course features high elements 35 - 40 feet above the ground, including the Burma Bridge, Multi-Swing, Swing Shot, and the Zip Line. The cost is \$30 and participants must be registered by April 4. For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946.



April 19...6th Annual Household Hazardous Waste Day - The City of Auburn Environmental Services Department will host the 6th Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on April 19 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Environmental Services Complex, located at 365-A North Donahue Drive. This annual event offers Auburn residents the opportunity to safely dispose of hazardous household chemicals. Participation is limited to Auburn residential solid waste service customers. Look for details in next month's issue of *Open Line*. For more information, contact the City of Auburn Environmental Services Department at 501-3080.

Countdown to Auburn CityFest 2008

Presented by the *Opelika-Auburn News*

Auburn CityFest 2008 is right around the corner! Be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. to attend Auburn's largest, FREE outdoor arts & crafts festival at Kiesel Park. CityFest is a rain or shine event. This year will be bigger and better than ever with new and exciting attractions for all ages. Be sure to check out next month's issue of *Open Line* for more details. Applications for fine arts and arts & crafts exhibitors are still available on the CityFest website at www.auburncityfest.com. A limited number of exhibitor spaces remain. For more information, or to download an exhibitor application, visit www.auburncityfest.com or contact CityFest Headquarters at 501-2930.

