

# Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

August 2009

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## Auburn in the National Spotlight

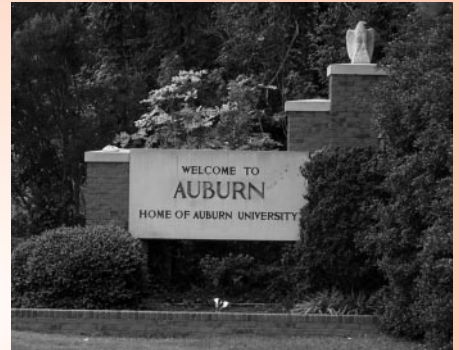
### City of Auburn Named One of the Top 10 Best Places to Live by *US News & World Report*

The City of Auburn was recently named one of the top 10 best places to live for 2009 by *US News & World Report*. This year's list focused on affordable communities of all sizes with strong economies and recreational opportunities for citizens. Among Auburn's many strengths, the article cited the presence of Auburn University, outdoor recreational opportunities, and proximity to top-rated golf courses as just a few of the reasons readers should consider Auburn.

In recent years, the national media has increasingly recognized Auburn and the outstanding quality of life and business climate it has to offer. Over the last 18 months, Auburn has been featured in various media outlets as part of the sixth fastest growing metropolitan statistical area (MSA) in the US, a top five best city for doing business, number one for projected job growth for small metro areas in the US, the number 10 best place for business and careers in the US, the best city for starting up a business in Alabama, and was named a great place to live by NBC's *Today Show*.

While these rankings are certainly welcome news, the most important rankings the City receives each year are from its citizens. The most recent Citizen Survey showed that 92% of citizens are satisfied with the quality of life in Auburn and 94% are satisfied with Auburn as a place to live, while satisfaction with the value received for tax dollars exceeds the national average by 33%. The City Council continues to place the utmost importance on Citizen Survey rankings and the priorities laid out for the Council and City management by citizens. The 2009 Citizen Survey showed that Auburn citizens want to see better management of traffic flow and congestion and maintenance of City streets and facilities. To that end, the City of Auburn is investing over \$35 million in road construction and resurfacing, infrastructure improvements, sewer improvements, and facility upgrades this year. Not only will these projects upgrade the City's existing infrastructure, but they will help provide a solid foundation for the City as it moves forward. Auburn citizens expect the best and deserve nothing less.

For more information, please visit the City of Auburn online at [www.auburnalabama.org](http://www.auburnalabama.org) or contact Auburn City Hall at 501-7260.



## New Water Rate Increases Now in Effect

At a June 11 special called meeting, the Auburn Water Works Board (AWWB) approved an increase in rates for water services effective July 1, 2009.

The changes were recommended in the results of a rate study conducted by Public Resources Management Group, Inc. (PRMG) and presented to the AWWB at the special called meeting. The study was conducted to assess whether the existing fee structure would support bond coverage requirements, cover expenses imposed by regulatory requirements, and provide an adequate operating income for system maintenance and capacity needs over the next few years.

The increased rate will be reflected in bills sent to customers beginning in



(continued on page 2)

# New Water Rate Increases Now in Effect

(continued from page 1)

August. For most residential customers (3/4" meters), the change is as follows:

	Current Rate Per 1,000 Gallons	Rate Effective July 1, 2009 Per 1,000 Gallons
First 3,000 gallons	\$2.96	\$3.70
Next 17,000 gallons	\$2.36	\$2.93
Over 20,000 gallons	\$2.28	\$2.93

The average residential water usage is 5,000 gallons per month; the charge for water on the average bill will increase from \$13.60 to \$16.96, an increase of \$3.36. Even after the increase, water rates for the City of Auburn continue to be the lowest in Lee County.

For more information, please visit [www.auburnalabama.org/wro](http://www.auburnalabama.org/wro) and click on the **Fee Schedule** button or contact the City of Auburn Water Revenue Office at 501-3050.

## FEMA Floodplain Maps and Flood Insurance Study Update

*Property Owners in Floodplain Encouraged to Contact Insurance Agent About Flood Insurance*

Lee County and the City of Auburn are in the process of updating their Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Floodplain Maps and Flood Insurance Study. Property owners affected by the new proposed floodplain have been notified by mail and are encouraged to contact their insurance agent about purchasing flood insurance. Once the proposed maps are in effect, property owners wishing to purchase flood insurance will likely face higher premiums. The proposed maps are tentatively scheduled to go into effect in early 2010.

For an interactive map of the current and proposed FEMA floodplains and to determine if your property is in the floodplain, visit the City's FEMA map at [www.auburnalabama.org/fema/maps.asp](http://www.auburnalabama.org/fema/maps.asp).

For more information, please visit the City's FEMA webpage at [www.auburnalabama.org/fema](http://www.auburnalabama.org/fema), or contact the City of Auburn Public Works Department at 501-3000 or [webpw@auburnalabama.org](mailto:webpw@auburnalabama.org).

## Board Vacancies

- One vacancy on the **Water Works Board** will be filled at the August 4 City Council meeting.
- One vacancy on the **Greenspace Advisory Board** will be filled at the August 4 City Council meeting.
- One vacancy on the **Lee County Youth Development Center Board** will be filled at the September 15 City Council meeting.



Citizens interested in serving are encouraged to contact their City Council member or notify the City Manager's Office at [webocm@auburnalabama.org](mailto:webocm@auburnalabama.org) or call 501-7260.

## Metered Parking Spaces Available in Downtown

The Auburn Municipal Parking Deck, located behind City Hall between Gay Street and College Street, features over 60 metered parking spaces for citizens frequenting downtown. The parking deck is located within easy walking distance of more than 80 businesses, restaurants, stores, apartments, churches, and offices. Still not sure where to park? Visit [www.auburnalabama.org/maps/gallery](http://www.auburnalabama.org/maps/gallery) and click on the downtown parking map to view all available metered spaces in the downtown area.



If you haven't been in a while, now is the perfect time to visit downtown and *ShopAuburn!*



Enjoy **FREE** parking in metered spaces during Auburn University's semester break, August 10 - 14!

## MEETING SCHEDULE AUGUST

- 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
- 11 Greenspace Advisory Board**, 11:30 a.m., City 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
- 20 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room
- 25 Bicycle Committee**, 7 p.m., Development Services Building

**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).

## Back to School Safety



Auburn City Schools resume classes on Monday, August 10 and that means Auburn's streets and sidewalks will once again be filled with students walking, biking, and riding the bus to school. Motorists are reminded to exercise caution and obey posted speed limits when

traveling through school zones. Motorists should be especially cautious while driving in school zones between the hours of 7 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. and 2 p.m. - 3:50 p.m. Pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists can all work together to help keep Auburn's streets safe by following a few simple safety tips:

### Pedestrians

- Use sidewalks and crosswalks when they are available.
- Make sure you are visible to motorists. Reflective clothing must be worn between the hours of 30 minutes before sunset until 30 minutes before sunrise.
- Obey traffic laws and signals.

### Cyclists

- Wear a helmet.
- Ride with traffic.
- Obey traffic laws and signals.
- Follow proper bicycling techniques.
- Signal your intentions.



### Motorists

- Stop for school buses. Alabama law requires vehicles to come to a complete stop for any school bus that is stopped to receive or discharge passengers. This law also applies to opposing traffic, even when separated by a median or safety zone.
- Stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.
- Share the road with cyclists.

## Get Connected to Your Auburn City Government— Sign Up for the e-Notifier

Want to be notified of the latest City of Auburn news and announcements? Visit the City's website and sign up for the City's email subscription service, the e-Notifier, at [www.auburnalabama.org/e-Notifier](http://www.auburnalabama.org/e-Notifier). The e-Notifier is a free subscription service designed to keep citizens and the media up-to-



date on City of Auburn news, information, events, and services. Originally launched in 2006, the e-Notifier provides an additional line of communication between the City and citizens. Currently, citizens may subscribe to e-Packet announcements for City Council,

Planning Commission, Bike Committee, and Board of Zoning Adjustment meetings. City of Auburn press releases, job vacancies, trash & recycling announcements, and monthly *Open Line* announcements are also available through the e-Notifier, in addition to announcements from Bicycle Auburn, the Auburn Public Library, the Parks and Recreation Department, and Special Olympics.

Visit us online at [www.auburnalabama.org/e-Notifier](http://www.auburnalabama.org/e-Notifier) and get connected to your Auburn City government.

# ShopAuburn!

supporting our community makes cents.

## Sales Tax Holiday Weekend

The Auburn City Council has approved an ordinance authorizing Auburn's Sales Tax Holiday Weekend for Friday, August 7 - Sunday, August 9. For a complete list of items exempt from sales tax during the weekend, please visit [www.auburnalabama.org/taxholiday](http://www.auburnalabama.org/taxholiday). Remember to *ShopAuburn!* during the tax holiday weekend and support Auburn businesses who support us year-round.

For more information, please contact the City of Auburn Revenue Office at 501-7239.

## Town Hall Meeting with Congressman Mike Rogers

The City of Auburn will host a town hall meeting with Congressman Mike Rogers, sponsored by AARP, on Tuesday, August 25 from 4 - 5 p.m. in the Auburn City Council Chamber, located at 141 North Ross Street. The public is invited to attend.

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

## Adventures in Art 2009: "Narratives in Alabama"



The 10th Annual Adventures in Art program, "Narratives in Alabama," will be held at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center August 31 - September 4. Adventures in Art (AIA) is a field trip component of a community-based, art education program for all fourth and fifth

grade students in Auburn City Schools. The program is sponsored by the City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center, and the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

This year's program will focus on the social, cultural, and historical expressions of Alabama crafts. The program will begin at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center with a performance by the Alabama Gravy Soppers, an Alabama string band. Students will then split into groups to participate in a visual arts project, a workshop with Alabama storyteller Wanda Johnson, a gallery talk involving art criticism strategies utilizing an exhibition of Ellen Wayles Carpenter's paintings, and a performance workshop with the Alabama Gravy Soppers. All workshops and interactive talks will focus on this year's central theme, "Narratives in Alabama."

The Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center will be closed to the public the week of August 31 - September 4. For more information, please visit [www.auburnalabama.org/arts](http://www.auburnalabama.org/arts) or contact Sara Hand, Cultural Arts Director for the City of Auburn, at 501-2947.



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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@auburnlabama.org](mailto:openline@auburnlabama.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.*



**Now Showing...Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Exhibition** - 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, contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.

- **Summer Invitational 2009**, July 6 - August 14. Monochromatic works in a variety of media by local and regional artists.
- **Adventures in Art "Narratives in Alabama,"** August 24 - September 4. Paintings by Ellen Wayles Carpenter.

**Available this Month...Parks and Recreation Fall Brochure** - Be sure to pick up your FREE copy of the Parks and Recreation fall brochure, available in August at City facilities and online at [www.auburnlabama.org/parks/brochure.asp](http://www.auburnlabama.org/parks/brochure.asp). The fall brochure is your guide to fall sports and special events, including Downtown Trick-or-Treat and the Fall Concert Series at Kiesel Park. Registration for fall programs will be held August 3 - 28. For more information, contact the Dean Road Recreation Center at 501-2930.

**Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in August...Auburn Stride Walkers** - Citizens of all ages are invited to join the Auburn Stride Walkers Club. The club meets at various City walking trails on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9 a.m. Schedules are posted on the City's website at [www.auburnlabama.org/parks/stridewalkers.asp](http://www.auburnlabama.org/parks/stridewalkers.asp). Participation is free. For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946 or Dee Watson at 501-2948.



**Tuesdays in August...Brown Bag Lunch Series at the Auburn Public Library** - Join the Auburn Public Library for their Brown Bag Lunch Series on select Tuesdays in August from Noon - 1 p.m. Bring your lunch and enjoy speakers on a variety of topics. For more information, including a list of dates and topics, visit [www.auburnlabama.org/library](http://www.auburnlabama.org/library) or contact the Reference Desk at 501-3195.



**Wednesdays in August...Preschool Story Time** - Preschoolers ages 3 - 5 years are invited to join the Auburn Public Library for Preschool Story Time on Wednesdays this month at 10 a.m. For more information, visit [www.auburnlabama.org/library](http://www.auburnlabama.org/library) or contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



**Thursdays in August...Toddler Time** - Toddlers ages 18 months - 3 years are invited to join the Auburn Public Library for Toddler Time on Thursdays this month at 10 a.m. For more information, visit [www.auburnlabama.org/library](http://www.auburnlabama.org/library) or contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



**Now through August 5...Online Fall Soccer Registration** - Online registration for fall soccer will be held through August 5. Log on to [www.auburnlabama.org/soccer](http://www.auburnlabama.org/soccer) to register. For more information, contact the Dean Road Recreation Center at 501-2930.



**August 5...Walk-in Fall Soccer Registration** - Walk-in registration for fall soccer will be held August 5 from 6 - 7 p.m. at the Auburn Soccer Complex on Wire Road. For more information, visit [www.auburnlabama.org/soccer](http://www.auburnlabama.org/soccer) or contact the Dean Road Recreation Center at 501-2930.



**Through August 14...Fall Youth League Baseball Registration** - Registration for Fall Youth League Baseball will be held weekdays beginning July 20 - August 14 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Dean Road Recreation Center. This league is for children ages 6 - 11 years and offers participants time to work on baseball fundamentals with no scoreboard or tryouts. Registration is limited to the first 66 players in each age group. For more information, contact Steve Dickerson at 501-2930.



**August 18... Auburn Public Library Book Club** - The Auburn Public Library Book Club will meet August 18 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, including this month's topic, visit [www.auburnlabama.org/library](http://www.auburnlabama.org/library) or contact the Reference Desk at 501-3195.



**August 22...Woofstock 2009** - Join Parks and Recreation and the Lee County Humane Society for Woofstock 2009 on August 22 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Kiesel Park. Woofstock is the Lee County Humane Society's annual dog day in the park celebration for citizens and their canine companions. This year's event features a canine agility course, children's fun area, wash-n-wag, t-shirt tie dying, and music from local artists. Admission is free. For more information, visit [www.leecountyhumane.org](http://www.leecountyhumane.org) or contact the Dean Road Recreation Center at 501-2930.



**Now through September 7...Auburn City Pools** - Beat the heat this summer at the Auburn City Pools! Visit the newly-renovated Samford Pool, located at 328 Samford Avenue behind Auburn Junior High School, or Drake Pool, located at 653 Spencer Avenue behind Drake Middle School. Admission is \$2/person and children 1 & under are free. Individual season passes are available for \$50. Family passes are \$100. Season passes are on sale now at the Dean Road Recreation Center. Auburn City Pools close for the season on September 7. For more information, visit [www.auburnlabama.org/parks/pools.asp](http://www.auburnlabama.org/parks/pools.asp) or contact the Dean Road Recreation Center at 501-2930.

