

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

August 2012

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Governor Grants Funding for Moores Mill Road Resurfacing

The City of Auburn will resurface Moores Mill Road between Dean Road and Samford Avenue thanks to a state grant through the Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program (ATRIP).

The Alabama Department of Transportation will provide funding of approximately \$1 million for the project, reducing the expenditures by the City of Auburn to approximately \$250,000. As part of the resurfacing project, two additional turn lanes will be added to Moores Mill Road at the intersection of Dean Road to improve traffic flow. An existing culvert will be replaced to help reduce flooding and guardrails will be upgraded to current standards to improve safety.

The resurfacing project was previously scheduled for 2015 due to its high expense. With resources available to resurface the road sooner, the City can better respond to current roadway conditions and prevent the need for a major rebuild of the roadway in the future.

The Moore's Mill project is one of 105 projects throughout the State funded through ATRIP. Governor Bentley first unveiled ATRIP, the state's largest road and bridge improvement program to date, in February. The grants awarded were part of the first phase of ATRIP grants with at least two more phases anticipated.

The City of Auburn thanks Governor Robert Bentley and Speaker of the House Mike Hubbard for their support of this significant road improvement project. The project is slated to begin in December of 2012. For more information on this and other public works projects, visit www.auburnalabama.org/pw and click on the "construction status" tab.



Safe Routes to School

With school starting back up in just weeks, many students will soon be rushing out the door each morning with their backpack slung across their shoulder and their lunch box in hand. This fall, even more students in the Auburn community will be able to walk or bike to school. The City of Auburn is adding approximately 3,000 linear feet of sidewalk to the existing sidewalk that connects to Cary Woods Elementary School. The additional sidewalks will be constructed to connect to Cary Woods Elementary School along Sanders Street, North Cary Drive, Petrie Road and Lunsford Drive.

The recent sidewalk addition in the Cary Woods neighborhood was made possible by a grant provided by the Alabama Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program which enables more children in Grades K-8 to safely walk and bike to school. The Alabama Department of Transportation apportioned the City of Auburn \$150,000 as part of the Alabama Safe Routes to School program.

This is the second year the City of Auburn has received grant funding through the SRTS program since it was initiated in 2008. Last year, the City of Auburn was provided grants to construct sidewalks in areas surrounding Auburn Early Education Center, Cary Woods Elementary School, Richland Road Elementary School, Dean Road Elementary School, Ogletree Road Elementary School and on a stretch of South College Street.

In all, the City's ongoing sidewalk projects will encourage child pedestrian safety, exercise and relieve traffic congestion in schools zones.



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City of Auburn



Sales Tax Holiday

As students head back to school this fall, Auburn's parents will enjoy savings on many back to school necessities. The Auburn City Council approved an ordinance authorizing Auburn's Sales Tax Holiday Weekend at the May 15, 2012 City Council meeting. The Sales Tax Holiday will begin Friday, August 3 at 12:01 a.m. and end on Sunday, August 5 at midnight.

Items exempt from state and city sales tax fall into 3 major categories:

Clothing – All human-wearing apparel suitable for general use is exempt unless it otherwise appears on the taxable list; clothing items must cost \$100 or less per article of clothing to be exempt.

Computers, Computer Software, and School Computer Supplies – A single purchase with a sales price of \$750 or less will be exempt. Exempt items include computers, computer software and any item commonly used by a student in a course of study in which a computer is used.

School supplies – Any items of \$50 or less per item commonly used by a student in a course of study will be exempt. Supplies may include art supplies, reference maps and globes, textbooks on an official school book list with a sales price of more than \$30 but less than \$50, and books with a sales price of \$30 or less per book. An all-inclusive list of exempt school supplies may be found on the City's web site at www.auburnalabama.org.

Items not exempt during the Sales Tax Holiday Weekend include:

- Clothing accessories such as handbags, jewelry, sunglasses, umbrellas.
- Protective equipment such as breathing masks, hard hats, helmets, and safety belts.
- Sports or recreational equipment such as athletic gloves, goggles, shin guards, ballet or tap shoes.
- Any systems, devices, software, or peripherals designed or intended primarily for recreational use, video games.
- Magazines, newspapers, periodicals, or any other document printed or offered for sale in a non-bound form.
- Furniture

For more information, please contact the City of Auburn's Revenue Office at 501-7224 or go online to www.auburnalabama.org to find an all-inclusive list of taxable and tax exempt items.

Free Metered Parking Available Downtown

In conjunction with the Sales Tax Holiday Weekend and Auburn University's semester break, the Auburn City Council has suspended parking meter operations in downtown from August 3-15. Citizens may enjoy free parking in metered spaces during these dates as they shop for their children's back to school items. A map of all metered spaces in the downtown area is available on the City's website at www.auburnalabama.org/maps. Click on the downtown parking map to view all available metered spaces.



ShopAuburn

Get those pencils sharpened! It's time to dot your i's and cross your t's in preparing your family for back-to-school. Auburn businesses provide convenience and selection for all of your back-to-school needs. Citizens are encouraged to *ShopAuburn* during the Sales Tax Holiday Weekend, August 3-5. By supporting Auburn businesses, you help strengthen our local economy.

Board Vacancies

- One vacancy on the **Lee County Youth Development Center Board** will be announced at the August 21, 2012 meeting and will be filled at the September 18, 2012 City Council meeting.
- Two vacancies on the **Industrial Development Board** will be announced at the September 4, 2012 meeting and will be filled at the October 2, 2012 City Council meeting.
- Three vacancies on the **Tree Commission** will be announced at the September 18, 2012 meeting and will be filled at the October 16, 2012 City Council meeting.

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



MEETING SCHEDULE AUGUST

- 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 East Glenn Avenue
- 6 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road
- 7 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
- 9 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 14 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
- 21 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
- 28 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.

How Many Roommates Can I Have?

A Reminder of the City of Auburn's Residential Occupancy Regulations

Each fall, Auburn welcomes thousands of new and returning students. In the annual citizen survey, 82% of residents feel that students have either a positive or neutral impact on their neighborhood. In an effort to maintain the character of single-family neighborhoods, the City of Auburn sets forth limitations regarding residential occupancy in the City limits. Traditional residential neighborhoods are typically zoned to allow for no more than two unrelated persons residing at an address. Apartment complexes, mobile home parks, and other multi-family housing units are properly zoned to allow for more than two unrelated tenants.

Not sure if you or your neighbor are in compliance with the Zoning Ordinance? Visit the City's website at www.auburnalabama.org/students. The site contains links to the occupancy limitations map, the City's Geographic Information System (GIS) site, a brochure highlighting specific information on the City's occupancy limitations, and information on how to report suspected residences in violation of occupancy regulations. Residential occupancy brochures are also available at the City of Auburn Planning Department, located at 171 North Ross Street, Suite 100.

Property owners found to be in violation of occupancy regulations are subject to fines and possible jail time as set forth in the City of Auburn Zoning Ordinance. Residents in violation of residential occupancy regulations may be subject to eviction by property owners.

For more information, please visit www.auburnalabama.org/pl or contact the City of Auburn Planning Department at 501-3040.

Send Summer Out in Style at the Farewell Summer Block Party

Join Auburn Parks and Recreation as we send summer out in style at the Farewell Summer Block Party, sponsored by Chick-fil-A Magnolia Avenue, on Thursday, August 2 at 6 p.m. at Town Creek Park. Enjoy a FREE concert, door prizes, children's activities, and more. The first 300 families in attendance will receive a bag filled with coupons and specials from local merchants for the sales tax holiday weekend. Limit one bag per family.

Are you an Auburn business owner with back to school specials or promotions for the sales tax holiday weekend? If so, we want to hear from you! Bring your back to school, sales tax holiday weekend coupons or specials to the Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 S. Dean Road, by 5 p.m. on Friday, July 20 and we will make sure that they are distributed at the event. You must supply a minimum of 300 coupons, specials, or flyers that have been copied, cut, and are ready to be stuffed in goody bags. Business owners participating in this program must have a current City of Auburn business license.

For more information, please visit www.auburnalabama.org/parks or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



National Night Out

The Auburn Police Division knows well that protecting the public involves more than routine enforcement - it involves reaching out to citizens to keep Auburn safe. This year marks the third year our City's police division will take part in an event that helps unify the community by creating a safe place to live. "National Night Out: America's Night Out Against Crime" will be held on Wednesday, August 1. The Auburn Police Division's involvement in National Night Out is representative of the division's community-oriented policing strategy. The nation-wide event, held annually since 1984, is organized to increase awareness of police programs such as Neighborhood Watch and other anti-crime efforts. This year's event is expected to bring together millions of citizens in more than 15,000 communities across the nation.

Auburn police officers and staff will be present in the following neighborhoods on August 1:

Ridgecrest Housing Community	5:00-7:00 p.m.
Grove Hill Subdivision	5:00-7:00 p.m.

Residents of these neighborhoods are encouraged to come out and support the event. Police officers will be on hand to greet residents and hand out crime prevention information. For more information on National Night Out or events planned for the evening of August 1, please contact The Auburn Police Division at 501-3110.

Briggs and Stratton Sponsors Fourth of July Celebration

Briggs and Stratton has generously provided \$10,000 each year for the City of Auburn's Annual Fourth of July Celebration for the past 12 years. Auburn Parks and Recreation would like to express its appreciation to Briggs and Stratton for their sponsorship of this annual event, enabling the City to secure an outstanding fireworks display for our citizens to enjoy.

Photo: Briggs and Stratton Corporation Human Resource Manager Cisco King (pictured left) presented Auburn Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. (pictured right) with a \$10,000 check for the Annual Fourth of July Celebration at the Tuesday, June 19 City Council meeting.



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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.

Summer Reading ends August 4. Children who meet their goal may pick up their prizes any time during the month of August.

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.



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, contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.



Summer Invitational 2012, July 9 - Aug. 31. Ceramics by Robin Duke Rodgers and photographs by David Hiley.

New Hours Effective August 6...Auburn City Pools - Drake Pool will be closed for the season Friday, August 3. Effective Monday, August 6, Auburn City Pools will have new hours for the remainder of the summer. Log on to www.auburnalabama.org/pools for the latest schedules and sign up for email updates to receive notices of schedule changes and closings. For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org/pools or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



August 3...First Friday Night Tennis Mixer - Join the Auburn Community Tennis Association (ACTA) for the First Friday Night Tennis Mixer on August 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the City of Auburn/Auburn University Yarborough 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. Yarborough Tennis Center non-member court fees apply. For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org/tennis or contact the Yarborough Tennis Center at 501-2920.

August 6 - 31...Fall Quarter Registration - Sign up for fall quarter classes beginning Monday, Aug. 6 - Friday, Aug. 31 at the Dean Road Recreation Center. Registration will be held Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. The fall quarter offers programming for all ages, from arts & crafts to Zumba®, we have something for everyone! Be sure to pick up a copy of the fall quarter brochure for a complete class listing and details on the fall quarter's special events - including the Fall Concert Series and Downtown Trick or Treat! For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org/parks or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.



August 18...Float-N-Movie - Do you dare!?! Citizens 19 & up are invited to join Auburn Parks and Recreation for the Float-N-Movie featuring *Jaws* on Saturday, Aug. 18 at 8:30 p.m. at Samford Pool. Admission is \$2/person or FREE with your 2012 Splash Pass. For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org/pools or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

August 20 - September 2...Samford Pool Open on Weekends - Samford Pool will be open weekends only, effective Aug. 20 - Sept. 2. Join us Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sundays from 1 - 5 p.m. for recreation swim.

August 31...Friday Night Splash - Come celebrate the final days of summer with Auburn Parks and Recreation at Friday Night Splash on August 31 from 6 - 8 p.m. at Samford Pool. Join us for music, trivia, swimming, games, free popsicles for kids - courtesy of Earth Fare, and a cookout! Admission is free with your 2012 Splash Pass, or \$2/person. For more information, visit www.auburnalabama.org/pools or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

September 3...Samford Pool End of Season All Day Swim - Samford Pool will close for the season at the end of the day on Monday, Sept. 3. Join us for all day swimming from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. as we say our final farewell until next season!

Fall Sports Registration

Registration for fall sports and programs is going on now. Auburn Parks and Recreation offers a variety of fall sports, including baseball, cheerleading, football (tackle and flag), soccer, and softball. For more information, including registration details, visit www.auburnalabama.org/parks or contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

July 16 - 27: Register for fall baseball instructional league at the Dean Road Recreation Center.

July 16 - Aug. 10: Register for fall baseball and softball online at www.auburnalabama.org/baseball. Register for flag football online at www.auburnalabama.org/football. Register for cheerleading at the Dean Road Recreation Center.

July 16 - Aug. 4: Register online for tackle football at www.auburnalabama.org/football.

July 23 - Aug. 8: Register online for fall soccer at www.auburnalabama.org/soccer.

Aug. 4: Walk-in registration for tackle football from 10 a.m. - noon at the Dean Road Recreation Center.

Aug. 8: Walk-in registration for fall soccer from 6 - 7 p.m. at the Auburn Soccer Complex.

Aug. 9: Walk-in registration for fall baseball, softball, and flag football from 6 - 7 p.m. at the Dean Road Recreation Center.