

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

August 2013

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Auburn Police Chief Retires; Successor Selected

In June, Auburn City Manager Charles M. Duggan, Jr. announced the appointment of Paul Register as Auburn's Police Chief following Chief Tommy Dawson's retirement. Police Chief Paul Register has been Acting Police Chief since Chief Dawson began a medical leave in March. "We're fortunate to have someone with Chief Register's experience and ability to lead our Police Division," said City Manager Duggan.

In his 25 years with APD, Chief Register has served in leadership positions in the patrol, detectives and vice and narcotics sections before being promoted to Assistant Chief of Police in 2010. Register holds a Bachelor of Science in Justice and Public Safety from Auburn University at Montgomery, is a 2012 graduate of the FBI National Academy at Quantico, Virginia and is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Homeland Security/Emergency Management.

Retiring Police Chief Dawson joined the Auburn Police Division almost 26 years ago. He holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Faulkner University and is a 2006 graduate of the FBI National Academy. He is the son of Reverend Henry and Patsy Dawson, and has one daughter with his wife of 25 years. Dawson publicly announced his struggle with Parkinson's Disease when he received the Auburn Chamber of Commerce Chairman's award earlier this year.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Chief Dawson as he works to stay as healthy as possible," said Auburn Mayor Bill Ham, Jr. "Tommy has been an outstanding police chief whose leadership in the community and on campus will be sorely missed. We wish him the best in his well-earned retirement."



Master Plan to Address Future of Downtown

The retail and historic heart of Auburn will be the focus of a series of public forums scheduled for late summer. The goal of the public input is the development of a Downtown Master Plan that will enhance Downtown Auburn's attractiveness and viability.

Initial considerations for the plan include expanding the current urban core southward and westward, developing a unified vision of downtown and downtown branding, and reconfiguring the Toomer's Corner intersection to complement planned changes to the University corner of the intersection. The resulting plan will include a renewed vision for downtown growth potential, land use, urban design, parking, and transportation.

The Downtown Master Plan is being developed by Urban Collage, an Atlanta-based design consultant. Known for excellence in engaging civic participation, Urban Collage will conduct innovative public forums that will involve Auburn's citizens throughout the planning process. Workshops, community meetings, interviews, design charettes, and surveys will allow a variety of stakeholders the chance to comment on design elements and help direct the development of the plan.

The development of the Downtown Master Plan will be overseen by a project steering committee comprised of City Council members, Planning Commission members, city staff, and community representatives. Public meetings for the project are scheduled to begin in late summer. For more information about the Downtown Master Plan and public meeting dates, visit www.auburnalabama.org or contact the City of Auburn Planning Department at 334-501-3040 or webplanning@auburnalabama.org.

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City of Auburn



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How Many Roommates May I Have?

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

Each fall, Auburn welcomes thousands of new and returning students. In an effort to maintain the character of single-family neighborhoods, the City of Auburn sets limits on 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 zoned to allow for more than two unrelated tenants.

If you're unsure about the zoning for your neighborhood, visit the City's website at www.auburnalabama.org/students and click "Occupancy."

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.

City Monitors Mosquito Density

Protect yourself and your neighbors by reporting mosquito problems to the City of Auburn Environmental Services Department. Since May 2012, Environmental Services employees have responded to 159 mosquito nuisance complaints. When mosquito populations are reported, the location is tracked using GIS mapping which helps identify larger populations of mosquitoes. Mosquito gravid traps are occasionally set to trap egg-carrying mosquitoes, and spray efforts are targeted at "hot spots" instead of using a blanket spray applied to the entire city.

The microbial larvicide used in the City's mosquito control program is *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti), a naturally occurring soil bacterium registered for control of mosquito larvae. Extensive testing by the EPA shows that Bti is non-toxic to humans and poses no risk for wildlife, non-target species or the environment.

City of Auburn Storm Drain Marking Project

As a part of its ongoing education and outreach initiatives, the City of Auburn's Water Resource Management Department (WRM) encourages citizens to participate in its Storm Drain Marking Project. This project involves placing watershed-specific markers on stormwater inlets throughout the City. The marker placement educates residents about the connection existing between our storm sewer system and the surrounding water bodies and emphasizes the importance of stormwater management. Citizens may participate in one of two ways: 1) organize installation of markers with assistance from WRM staff or 2) request Storm Drain Marker Kits and install them at your convenience. This is a rewarding activity for citizens of all ages and helps educate the public about our local environment. Please call the City of Auburn Water Resource Management Department at (334) 501-3060 or email webwtrswr@auburnalabama.org for more information. (Note: This project may meet various Merit Badge criteria for boy scouts and girl scouts.)

Board Vacancies

One vacancy on the **Lee County Youth Development Center** will be announced at the August 20, 2013 meeting and will be filled at the September 17, 2013 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

- 2 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 E. Glenn Avenue
- 5 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4:00 p.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- 6 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**, 5:15 p.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 7 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 8 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 13 Historic Preservation Commission**, 4 p.m., Library Board Room, 749 East Thach Avenue
- Board of Education**, 6 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room, 405 South Dean Road
- 20 City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 22 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue
- 27 Bicycle Committee**, 7 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center, 307 South Dean Road

Meeting times and places are subject to change.

For more information, including a map of City meeting locations, please visit www.auburnalabama.org/boards.

The City of Auburn would like to thank

BRIGGS & STRATTON

for their generous sponsorship of the
Annual 4th of July Celebration



Auburn Mayor Pro Tem Dick Phelen accepts a \$10,000 donation from Cisco King, HR Manager for the Auburn Briggs and Stratton plant, in support of Auburn's Annual Fourth of July Celebration on Thursday, July 4, 2013. Thanks to Briggs and Stratton for making Auburn's Fourth of July Celebration possible for the past 14 years.

4th Annual Farewell Summer Block Party and Outdoor Movie at Town Creek Park Sponsored by Chick-fil-A Magnolia Avenue

Send summer out in style at the 4th Annual Farewell Summer Block Party and Outdoor Movie at Town Creek Park on Friday, August 2. This FREE community event, sponsored by Chick-fil-A Magnolia Avenue, has become an end of summer tradition and will now feature a FREE outdoor movie! Come for the free music and stay for a showing of the 1998 remake of *The Parent Trap*! Purchase food on-site from Chick-fil-A Magnolia Avenue and be one of the first 200 individuals or families in attendance to receive a FREE goody bag full of coupons and specials to be used during the sales tax holiday weekend.

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

Sales Tax Holiday

As students head back to school this fall, Auburn's parents will enjoy savings on many back to school necessities. At the April 14, 2013 City Council meeting the Auburn City Council approved an ordinance authorizing Auburn's Sales Tax Holiday Weekend. The Sales Tax Holiday will begin Friday, August 2 at 12:01 a.m. and end on Sunday, August 4 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 – All 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. Furniture, 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.

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.

ShopAuburn

August is the month to prepare for back-to-school and there's not a better place to get your kids ready for the classroom than right here in Auburn. Local 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 2-4. By supporting Auburn businesses, you help strengthen our local economy.

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 3-20. Citizens can 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!
Supporting our community's success

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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 Summer Reading Program ends August 10. Participants are encouraged to turn in reading logs for final prizes!

Baby Time - Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. for ages birth – 18 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.

Salmagundi – Wednesdays from 2:00–3:00 p.m. for rising K-5th grades students.

Legomania – Join us every Friday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. for “free play” with Legos®.



Special Program

ACT Overview and Library Resources – Friday, June 2 from 9:30- noon. High School students, who are planning to take the ACT exam, are welcome to join us for basic tips on what to expect. Contact the Youth Services Division at 501-3196 to register.

Parks and Recreation

For more information on any of the events listed, or to pre-register for a program, contact Auburn Parks and Recreation at 501-2930 or visit www.auburnalabama.org/parks.

Summer hours at the Auburn City Pools will change after Friday, Aug. 2. Visit us online at www.auburnalabama.org/pools for the latest schedule updates.

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 2013, through July 26. New works by Natalyn Havenick Rose and Po Weise.

Aug. 9...Outdoor Movie Series Featuring Back to the Future - Let's go to the movies! Join Auburn Parks and Recreation for a FREE outdoor movie on Field 1 at Duck Samford Park on Friday, Aug. 9 at 8:30 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring a blanket and chairs.

Aug. 16...Outdoor Movie Series Featuring Honey I Shrunk the Kids - Let's go to the movies! Join Auburn Parks and Recreation for a FREE outdoor movie on Field 1 at Duck Samford Park on Friday, Aug. 16 at 8:30 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring a blanket and chairs.

Aug. 23...Float-N-Movie Featuring Jaws - Grab your floats and join us at Samford Pool for a poolside movie on Friday, Aug. 23 at 8:30 p.m. Admission is FREE with a 2013 Splash Pass or \$2/person. Chairs are welcome on the pool deck.

Aug. 24...End of Summer Luau - Cool off from the summer heat, celebrate the last lazy days of summer, and close your eyes and imagine the tropical fun of the Hawaiian Islands. Join the staff from the Auburn City Pools for the End of Summer Luau at Samford Pool on Saturday, Aug. 24 from 1 – 6 p.m. Admission is FREE with a 2013 Splash Pass or \$2/person

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 15 - 31:

Register for fall baseball instructional league at the Harris Center

July 15 – Aug. 9:

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 online at www.auburnalabama.org/athletics.

July 22 - Aug. 7:

Register online for fall soccer at www.auburnalabama.org/soccer.

July 22 - Aug. 23:

Register online for fall lacrosse at www.auburnyouthlax.com.

July 29 – Aug. 10:

Register online for tackle football at www.auburnalabama.org/football.

Aug. 7:

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

Aug. 8:

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

Aug. 10:

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