

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

August 2016

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City of Auburn



2016 Travel With Care Transportation Safety Campaign

Do you know when to go? Travel With Care, established by the City of Auburn and Auburn University to address transportation safety concerns in the Auburn city limits, has launched its 2016 campaign—Know When to Go. This year's campaign focuses on failure to yield and right-of-way in all transportation situations—driving, cycling, walking and riding a transit.

Failing to yield right-of-way is a common issue that can have serious consequences. In fact, in 2013 in the state of Alabama, Failure to Yield Right-of-Way and Failure to Heed Signs & Signals was the number one cause of all reported traffic incidents. That's more than 24,000 crashes!

Know When to Go aims to educate Auburn residents on common yielding situations and how to handle them in a legal, cautious and courteous manner. When you fail to yield right-of-way, you take a risk that puts you and other travelers in potential danger. Whether you're driving, bicycling, walking or riding a transit, it's essential to your well being to know when it's both legal and safe to go.

To learn more about Travel With Care and this year's campaign, visit www.travelwithcareauburn.com.



Bike Month 2016

Bike Month 2016 has come and gone, but brought with it a variety of new local amenities to help Auburn cyclists to Travel with Care:

Bike Racks: Twenty-five bike racks have been installed downtown, replacing the bike racks that were downtown prior to the Corner Construction last year. The new bike racks not only help cyclists securely park their bike for shopping and dining downtown, but they also serve as a way to return War Eagle Bike share bikes. You can learn more about the app-based War Eagle Bike Share program online at gotchabike.com/auburn-university/. The City is currently working with Auburn University on more War Eagle Bike Share partnerships to serve Auburn.

Bike Share: The City also added a 10th bicycle to its free bike share program. The new bicycle is unique in that it has a battery powered electric motor to assist riders on challenging climbs or long rides. Very few communities have pedal assist bicycles available in their bike share programs. For more information on the City's program, visit auburnalabama.org/cycle.

Bike Repair: Cyclists also now have a new public repair stand available, located downtown near Five Guys. The repair stand has an air pump, tools to help cyclists perform needed repairs while cycling downtown, and is free to any who would use it.

Bike Paths: Finally, Auburn's first bike "sharrow" lanes are striped and open for business. Sharrows refer to arrow-like markings on the roadway that mark shared lanes as a bicycle route. The lane markings are intended to inform cyclists and motorists that a travel lane is shared by both modes of traffic. The goal of sharrows is to create a safer shared travel lane for both motor vehicles and bicycles where dedicated bike lanes are not available. Auburn's first sharrows can be found connecting East University Drive to South College Street via South Donahue Drive and East Longleaf Drive. Additional sharrows are planned for the future to further connect Auburn's comprehensive bicycle network, in keeping with the Bicycle Network Plan.



Mr. Warren Goes to Washington

Auburn Public Library Director Chris Warren was nominated in March as one of four Librarians to represent Alabama at National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D. C. Warren traveled to Washington in May, at no cost to the City of Auburn, to meet with elected officials to describe the importance of public libraries and their critical role in communities. He was able to use the trip to help highlight the positive impact of public libraries to congressional leaders.



Sales Tax Holiday

Auburn's Sales Tax Holiday Weekend will offer savings for parents sending their children back to school this fall. The tax holiday weekend begins Friday, August 5 and ends on Sunday, August 7 at midnight.

Items exempt from state and city sales tax fall into three major categories as listed below. For a full list, please visit revenue.alabama.gov/salestax/SalesTaxHol.cfm.

Clothing – All apparel suitable for a person's 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 item \$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.

Board Vacancies

One vacancy for the **Lee County Youth Development Center** will be announced at the August 16, 2016 meeting and will be filled at the September 20, 2016 City Council Meeting.

Three vacancies for the **Industrial Development Board** will be announced at the August 16, 2016 meeting and will be filled at the September 20, 2016 City Council Meeting.

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



2016 Household Hazardous Waste Day a Success

Nine tons of cleaners, paint and other potentially hazardous chemicals were safely and responsibly disposed of, thanks to the 2016 Household Hazardous Waste Day. Three hundred and six participants provided the largest response to HHW Day since 2011. Residents began to arrive for the event an hour before it began and a steady stream of cars continued throughout the day.

Household Hazardous Waste Day is a partnership with Clean Harbors Environmental. Since it was first offered in 2003, residents have properly disposed of 125 tons of materials. By taking advantage of HHW Day, residents help protect our health and environment by keeping these chemicals out of household garbage, landfills and illegal dumps.

HHW Day is one of several annual events the Environmental Services Department hosts to help residents responsibly and affordably meet their disposal and recycling needs. Other events include Trash Amnesty Week in the Spring, and Electronics Recycling and Document Shredding Day in the Fall.



Free Downtown Parking Begins August 5

The end of Auburn University's summer semester brings free parking to downtown Auburn from Friday, August 5th through Monday, August 15th. Take advantage of free downtown parking to shop, dine, and enjoy all that downtown Auburn has to offer.

HR Director Co-Authors Article on City Ethics Training Program

Human Resources Director Steve Reeves recently co-authored an article with William Sauser in the book "Transforming Government Organizations: Fresh Ideas and Examples from the Field." The article, entitled "Maintaining an Ethical Culture in Municipal Government Through the Use of a Professional Ethics Workshop for all City Employees," examines issues of organizational culture and ethics in a municipal workplace, and the efficacy of providing ethics training as a planned and proactive organizational initiative. The City of Auburn has provided such training since 2003, with over 650 employees at all levels receiving the training to date. The City of Auburn's training is conducted by Reeve's co-author, Dr. William Sauser.

This training represents one of the ways the City of Auburn strives to maintain an excellent, dedicated and ethical workforce that Auburn residents can trust.

City of Auburn Mosquito Management Program

The City of Auburn's mosquito management program is designed to combat mosquitoes and the associated risk of viruses such as Zika. However, the first step in mitigating mosquito issues begins with you. Residents are advised to follow recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) such as using repellent to ward off mosquitoes, wearing protective clothing and removing standing water from around homes as the most effective ways to ward off mosquitoes.

Homes and Detention Ponds

The City's approach to assisting you in mitigating mosquito issues is to use a combination of spraying to eradicate mature mosquitoes (adulticiding) as well as taking measures to eradicate mosquito larvae (larviciding). To accomplish these goals around Auburn's homes and ponds, the following approaches are taken:

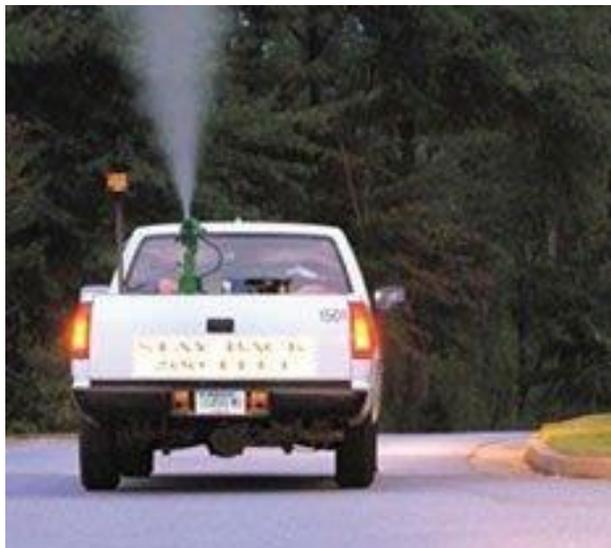
By request, we will set up a time to visit resident properties with a backpack sprayer. Staff will also evaluate the area and recommend ways for homeowners to reduce the mosquito population by removing old tires, buckets and other items that could hold standing water attractive to breeding mosquitos.

On a rotating schedule, City staff will deposit larvicide briquettes into City detention ponds to eradicate mosquito larvae/pupae.

Residents and businesses should also contact local pest control companies for services around their homes to address mosquito problems and concerns.

Citywide Spraying/Fogging

The City also places mosquito traps at various locations to capture a sample of mosquitoes for testing. Experts at Auburn University test these specimens to determine if they are carriers of West Nile, Equine Encephalitis or Zika. If mosquito pools indicate the presence of viruses in the mosquitoes, a truck-mounted sprayer/fogger will be used to spray throughout the City. During the last several years, no viruses have been detected in the local mosquito population, and the fogger truck has not been needed.



Personal Responsibility

AL.com recently published an article on the Zika virus using information from Auburn University's Derrick Mathias, who researches mosquitoes and the Zika Virus. Dr. Mathias also advises the City of Auburn Environmental Services department on our mosquito control efforts. In the article, Dr. Mathias emphasizes that the most effective way to combat the type of mosquitos that may carry the Zika virus "... is simply for property owners to eliminate standing water, scrubbing the sides of containers to remove mosquito eggs." Due to the activity patterns of these mosquitos and the fact that they tend to breed in very small amounts of water, our fogger trucks and other large scale methods are less effective. The article also states that there are no known U.S. cases of mosquito transmission of Zika.

MEETING SCHEDULE

AUGUST

- 1 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4 p.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
- 2 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**, 11:45 a.m., Harris Center, 425 Perry Street
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
- 3 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 5 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 E. Glenn Avenue
- 9 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
- 11 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber, 141 North Ross Street
- 16 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
- 18 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue
- 23 Library Board**, 4 p.m., Library Conference Room, 749 East Thach 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.

upCOMING EVENTS

Due to space considerations, we are unable to publicize events that are not directly affiliated with a City department.

Auburn Public Library

For information on library programs, please call 501-3198.

One Book One Village Kickoff - Monday, August 22- All Day- Stop by the library on Monday, August 22 to check out this year's One Book One Village title- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson. During the eight weeks following, we will read the book as a community leading up to a finale presentation by Jacqueline Woodson Monday, October 17 at 6 p.m. at the Auburn High School Auditorium.

STORYTIMES

Baby Time- Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Toddler Time- Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Preschool Storytime- Thursdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Fractured Fairytales- Tuesday, August 2 at 3:30 p.m.

Adult Coloring Club- Join us Thursdays at 12 noon for a relaxing hour of adult coloring in the conference room.

BOOK CLUBS

Show and Tell- Monday, August 22 at 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library

Forever Young Adult- Tuesday, August 16 at 7 p.m. at Panera Bread on Opelika Road featuring *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* by Becki Albertalli

Read & Reflect- Tuesday, August 30 at 10 a.m. at the Harris Senior Center, featuring *Stumbling on Happiness* by Daniel Gilbert

Parks and Recreation

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

Fall Quarter Registration – Usher in the Fall season with some of Auburn Parks and Recreation amazing fall programs! Fall quarter registration will be open from Monday, August 1st until Wednesday, August 31st at the Harris Center on weekdays from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Check out what's happening in our Fall Brochure available at www.auburnalabama.org/parks or pick up a copy at any of our Parks and Recreation facilities.

Fall Sports Registration

Sport	Online Registration Date	Website	Walk-In Registration Date	Location	Time
Youth Soccer	July 11-August 6	auburnalabama.org/soccer	August 3	Soccer Complex	6- 6:30 p.m.
Flag Football	July 11- August 4	auburnalabama.org/football	August 4	Dean Rd. Rec Center	6-7 p.m.
Youth Baseball	July 11-August 6	auburnalabama.org/baseball	August 4	Dean Rd. Rec Center	6-7 p.m.
Baseball 12-13	July 11-August 6	auburnalabama.org/baseball	August 4	Dean Rd. Rec Center	6-7 p.m.
Girls Softball	July 11-August 6	auburnalabama.org/baseball	August 4	Dean Rd. Rec Center	6-7 p.m.
Youth Tackle Football	July 11-August 6	auburnalabama.org/football	August 6	Dean Rd. Rec Center	11 a.m.-noon
Cheerleading	July 11- August 6	auburnalabama.org/athletics	August 4	Dean Rd. Rec Center	6-7 p.m.
Youth Lacrosse	July 18-August 19	auburnyouthlax.com	August 16	Harris Center	6-7 p.m.

For more information about our online registration or any of our sports leagues, please pick up a brochure at any of our parks and recreation facilities or visit us online at www.auburnalabama.org/parks or call the Harris Center at 334.501.2930.

End of Summer Luau and Float-N-Movie: Lilo and Stitch – Bid farewell to summer while you cool off and get in-tune with your inner tropical islander with this Hawaiian-themed End of Summer Luau. To make it even more of a party, we will be showing the movie, *Lilo and Stitch*. "Do the Limbo" and Hula Hoop contests, and listen to the sounds of the ukulele, steel drum music, and some reggae tunes. Be sure to wear your grass skirt for the hula dance around the pool. The Big Kahuna Award will be given out to the individual who arrives with the most colorful Hawaiian shirt. Leis will be given out, along with other party favors, and some yummy Hawaiian treats will be served. Don't forget to bring your favorite inflatables as none will be provided for the movie. This event is FREE with a splash pass or \$2/person payable to COA. Be sure to check the City of Auburn Facebook page for any changes and weather updates.

Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center – Mark your calendar for the Summer Invitational on display at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center from July 8-August 19. This is an exhibition of two and three-dimensional mixed-media works. The exhibit is FREE and open to the public on weekdays from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Mark your calendars for another unique theatrical experience! On August 18-20 at 7 p.m., and August 21 at 2 p.m. short plays and monologues selected by our cadre of directors will showcase local actors in a variety of genres, from comedic, to the dramatic, to absurdist. "An Evening of Summer Shorts" will be presented with picnic-style seating. The audience is invited to bring a picnic dinner (homemade or some tasty take-out from a favorite restaurant) to enjoy before or during the performances. Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided, and wine and beer will also be available. Doors will open for picnicking an hour before curtain time. Admission will be \$10 for adults and \$8 students and seniors. Tickets can be purchased and reservations made at www.auburnact.org

The AACT Young Performers Fall Show, the musical Tut, Tut, inspired by the life of "King Tut" will begin auditions on Monday, August 15 and Tuesday, August 16 from 3-6 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center for performers ages 5-12. For more information, please contact Melanie Brown 334.332.6834 or supersugarmel@gmail.com

AACT will also begin auditions for the November production of "PROOF," A Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning drama on Tuesday, August 23 and Wednesday, August 24 from 6-8 p.m. Actors needed to play are: Catherine (20's – 30's), Claire (20's – 30's), Robert (40's – 70's), Hal (20's – 30's). For more information, please contact info@auburnACT.org