

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

September 2009

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City of Auburn



How Many Roommates Can I Have? A Reminder of the City of Auburn's Residential Occupancy Regulations

As we welcome back students from the summer break, residents are reminded that the City of Auburn Zoning Ordinance 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 to reside 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 are in compliance with the Zoning Ordinance? Visit the City's website at www.auburnalabama.org/occupancy. 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.

Urban Wildlife

Have you ever spotted a fox, coyote, or raccoon in your neighborhood? Nationwide, incidents involving wildlife in commercial and residential areas, often referred to as urban wildlife, are on the rise. Many times, human activity can cause wildlife displacement, leading to increased sightings of animals in urban areas. The presence of greenspace as part of the urban landscape, including public parks, floodplains, and golf courses, can also provide an attractive habitat.

Urban wildlife can pose risks to humans, including disease. The City of Auburn Environmental Services Department's Animal Control Division works to keep citizens safe from wildlife in residential areas. Most urban wildlife moves during the early morning and late evening hours; however, daytime sightings are not uncommon. Movement patterns depend on varying factors such as displacement, the availability of food, and caring for young.

There are several steps you can take to ensure the safety of your family and property. Eliminating food and shelter sources for wild animals is the best line of defense against urban wildlife. The City of Auburn Animal Control Division also suggests the following steps to help discourage wildlife from coming onto your property:

- Leave pet food and water dishes indoors, especially at night.
- Secure all garbage containers.
- Clean and cover grills and smokers after each use.
- Keep garage doors closed.
- Never feed squirrels, raccoons, or other species.

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Urban Wildlife

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Urban wildlife tends to be attracted to cool, dry, and dark places. Take a look around your property and make sure locations such as openings under your house, porch, or shed are not accessible to animals. Any potential nesting areas should be checked for wildlife before being properly sealed. Wildlife migrates to overgrown wooded areas. Lots should be kept clean and orderly to help deter wildlife that may seek shelter on your property.

Citizens are asked to be especially alert for wildlife exhibiting signs of distress, such as stumbling, movement in circles, or discharge from the eyes or nose. Never attempt to interact with or remove wildlife from any area. If you are experiencing problems with urban wildlife, please contact the City of Auburn Animal Control Division at 501-3090. For after-hours requests, please contact the City of Auburn non-emergency number at 501-3100. In the event of an emergency, please dial 9-1-1.

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.

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

Board Vacancy

- 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 or call 501-7260.

Labor Day Holiday Schedule

City Hall will be closed on Monday, September 7 in observance of Labor Day. Public Safety services, including Police, Fire, and Communications, will remain on their regular schedules. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling for the week of September 7-11 will change as follows:

Normal Collection Day

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday

Holiday Pick-Up Schedule

Tuesday, September 8
Wednesday, September 9
Thursday, September 10
Friday, September 11

Collection carts and recycled materials must be placed at the curb by 6 a.m. on your holiday pick-up collection day. Please avoid placing items on or near mailboxes, utility boxes, utility poles, or other fixed objects. All items should be properly contained or bundled so they do not fall into the street or down storm drains. All carts and collection bins must be removed from the curb by 6 a.m. the following day.

For more information, please contact the City of Auburn Environmental Services Department at 501-3080.

MEETING SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER

- 1 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**, 5:15 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center
- City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- 2 Board of Zoning Adjustment**, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber
- 3 Tree Commission**, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room
- 8 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
- 10 Planning Commission**, 5 p.m., Council Chamber
- 14 Cemeteries Advisory Board**, 4 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center
- 15 City Council**, 7 p.m., Council Chamber
- 17 Water Works Board**, 4 p.m., Water Board Conference Room
- 22 Library Board**, 2 p.m., Library Board Room
- 29 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.

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

Don't forget to sign up for the City of Auburn's free email subscription service, the e-Notifier. Sign up for City news and announcements, meeting packets and announcements, job vacancies, trash and recycling announcements, and news from City departments. Visit www.auburnalabama.org/e-Notifier and sign up today to get connected to your Auburn City government.

Job Vacancy

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

- **GIS Programmer/Analyst**
(\$3,378.04 - 4,033.55/month)

For updated job opportunities, please visit us online at www.auburnalabama.org/jobs, contact the Alabama Career Center, call the City's job line at 501-7250, or sign up for job vacancy email updates at www.auburnalabama.org/e-Notifier.

The City of Auburn is an equal opportunity employer.



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A Guide to Auburn's Sign Regulations

The City of Auburn Code and Zoning Ordinance set forth regulations regarding all signage within the 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.

Yard/Garage/Estate Sale Signs

Yard/Garage/Estate Sale signs are allowed on the property on which the sale is taking place. A sign may be placed in the yard of the sale on the day of the event and must be removed at its completion. Signs are prohibited outside the boundaries of an individual's property, including utility poles, street signs, and in the right-of-way.

Home-Based Businesses

Signs advertising a home-based business are prohibited throughout the City of Auburn.

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, not exceeding six (6) square feet, is permitted to face each street adjacent to the property for sale, lease, or rent. These regulations also pertain to For Sale by Owner signs.

Model Homes/Open House signs cannot exceed six (6) square feet in area and shall not be displayed at any time when the property is not available for public viewing.

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. Real Estate 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.

Hazard/Prohibition/Warning Signs

"No Trespassing", "No Parking", "Beware of Dog" signs, and the like, are permitted inside the boundaries of a business or individual's property line. These signs shall not be located in the public right-of-way, on utility poles, or attached to trees, rocks, or other natural features.

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 utility poles and traffic signs; in road medians; or 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 (7) days after the election.

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

Sundown Concert Series at Kiesel Park

Auburn's Solution to FREE Fall Entertainment

Are you looking for an evening of affordable family fun? What about a great place to take a date? Maybe you need a place to unwind and enjoy some fresh air? The City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department has the perfect solution for all of the above and more! Join us as we present the 2009 Sundown Concert Series at Kiesel Park on Thursday evenings this fall. Enjoy FREE, live performances from your favorite local and regional musicians. From folk and jazz performances, to country and swing music, this series has it all. Concerts begin at 6 p.m. Bring your family, a picnic, lawn chairs or a blanket, and the family dog and enjoy an evening of entertainment under the stars. This year's line-up features the following artists:

September 10	County Road 12
September 17	Auburn Knights Orchestra
September 24	The Syncopation Corporation
September 27	Auburn Community Orchestra (Sunday performance at 4 p.m.)
October 1	Satin Soul
October 8	Old Soul
October 15	Auburn Road
October 22	Spoonful James

The Sundown Concert Series at Kiesel Park is a free, family-friendly event. No alcohol, please. For more information, please visit www.auburnalabama.org/parks and click on the special events button or contact the City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department at 501-2930.



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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 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.



Coming Soon...Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Exhibitions - 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.

- **Adventures in Art "Narratives in Alabama,"** August 24 - September 4. Artwork by Ellen Wayles Carpenter.
- **Special Works,** September 10 - October 6. An exhibition featuring artwork on loan from area residents.

Now Available...Parks and Recreation Fall Brochure - Be sure to pick up your FREE copy of the Parks and Recreation fall brochure, available at City facilities and online at 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 is going on now. For more information, contact the Dean Road Recreation Center at 501-2930.



Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in September...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. Participation is free. For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946 or Dee Watson at 501-2948.

Tuesdays in September...Baby Time - Babies ages 6 - 18 months and their caregivers are invited to join the Auburn Public Library for Baby Time, a brand new story time on Tuesdays in September at 10 a.m. For more information, visit www.auburnlabama.org/library or contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



Wednesdays in September...Preschool Story Time - Preschoolers ages 3 - 5 years are invited to join the Auburn Public Library for Preschool Story Time on Wednesdays in September at 10 a.m. For more information, visit www.auburnlabama.org/library or contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

Thursdays in September...Toddler Time - Toddlers ages 18 months - 3 years are invited to join the Auburn Public Library for Toddler Time on Thursdays in September at 10 a.m. For more information, visit www.auburnlabama.org/library or contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



September 1...Fall Reading Program at the Auburn Public Library - Youth ages 3 - 11 are invited to join the Auburn Public Library's fall reading program, "Pass, Punt, and Read." The program kicks off September 1 and continues until the final play is called on November 30. For more information, visit www.auburnlabama.org/library or contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

September 2...Magic Tree House Club - Youth in grades K - 5 are invited to join the Auburn Public Library for the Magic Tree House Club on September 2 at 3:30 p.m. This month's featured book title is *Pirates Past Noon*. For more information, visit www.auburnlabama.org/library or contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



September 4...First Friday Night Tennis Mixer - Join the Auburn Community Tennis Association (ACTA) for the First Friday Night Tennis Mixer on September 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the City of Auburn/Auburn University Yarbrough Tennis Center. Citizens 19 and up are encouraged to come play. All levels of play are welcome. No partner necessary. The event will be held rain or shine. Yarbrough Tennis Center non-member court fees apply. For more information, contact the Yarbrough Tennis Center at 501-2920.

Closing September 7...Auburn City Pools - Auburn City Pools are still open, but dive in while you can. Pools close for the season at the end of the day on September 7. Daily hours are available online at www.auburnlabama.org/parks/pools.asp. For more information, contact the Dean Road Recreation Center at 501-2930.

September 8...Puppet Show - Youth of all ages are invited to join the Auburn Public Library for a puppet show entitled *For Laughing Out Loud* on September 8 at 3:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.auburnlabama.org/library or contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



September 9...Author Visit at the Auburn Public Library - Youth of all ages are invited to meet Alabama author and poet Charles Ghigna, affectionately known as "Father Goose," at the Auburn Public Library on September 9 at 3:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.auburnlabama.org/library or contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

September 15... Auburn Public Library Book Club - The Auburn Public Library Book Club will meet September 15 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, including September's topic, visit www.auburnlabama.org/library or contact the Reference Desk at 501-3195.

September 17...American Girls Club - Youth in grades K - 5 are invited to join the American Girls Club at the Auburn Public Library on September 17 at 3:30 p.m. This month's featured characters are Felicity and Elizabeth. For more information, visit www.auburnlabama.org/library or contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



September 24...Actor/Author Visit at the Auburn Public Library - The Auburn Public Library will welcome actor and author Thom Gossom on September 24 at 7 p.m. Gossom will discuss his book *Walk-On: My Reluctant Journey to Integration at Auburn University*. For more information, please visit www.auburnlabama.org/library or contact the Reference Desk at 501-3190.



April 24, 2010...Auburn CityFest 2010 - Auburn CityFest 2010 applications for fine arts, arts & crafts, food, and non-profit exhibitors are now available on the CityFest website. A limited number of spaces are available for exhibitors. Those interested in participating in the 10th Anniversary of Auburn CityFest are encouraged to apply now. Sponsorships are also available. Auburn's largest, free outdoor arts and crafts festival will be held on April 24, 2010 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information, or to download an application, please visit www.auburncityfest.com or contact the Auburn CityFest Headquarters at 501-2930.