

# City of Auburn Newsletter

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**Fall 2012**

## Mayor's Message

What a busy year this has been! It's just flying by and so much has been going on. The City Commission has done many things this year to make a better Auburn.

We purchased a new street sweeper to keep our streets cleaner. We repaved Elm Street while renewing the older water line to the newer 12" water line. We also replaced the water line on Roberts Street so we have less chance of water line breaks. Auburn Road was resurfaced from the railroad tracks north to the City limit and soon there will be new railroad signage for your safety. The Commission has authorized the replacement of the water line and resurfacing of Kent Street in the spring of 2013. We have also cleaned and video inspected many of the storm drains and sanitary sewer lines, making sure that they are in working order. We plan to continue doing sections of lines each year to keep them clear and draining.

The Charter Commission is working on the final draft of the new City Charter. They received the draft back from the Michigan Attorney General's office with minor improvements. They have worked many hours on this. A few have suggested that we do not need a new Charter, but we really do. It's been over 40 years since it was revised. Changes are needed to keep it current with the many changes in State and Federal laws that have occurred in the past 40 years. I hope you all will read it and understand that the changes will keep Auburn current with today's laws.

Speaking of keeping current with today's laws, the City Commission voted to update and codify all of our City ordinances. Once this is completed, all of our ordinances will be online for our residents to read.

With a unanimous vote by the City Commission, we formed a new partnership with Williams Township in police protection. We have increased police coverage by nearly 50%, now providing protection seven days a week. We thank you for all the positive comments we have had on this.

Concerts in the Park went well this summer, giving our residents some great music. It is great seeing residents doing some foot tapping and hand clapping, with lots of smiles on their faces. We even got to enjoy free movies downtown too with rave reviews.

The City Commission will soon be developing a City Park improvement plan in order to apply for a grant. We have many different ideas on what to do and are open to any suggestions from our city residents to help us make our park better. Please let us know your ideas.

It is my goal with the City Commission, to help create a positive image for Auburn that will increase community pride while helping to improve our business community for the betterment of you, our residents. We invite all of you to our City Commission meetings, normally held on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of each month at 7p.m. in City Hall.

Auburn, it's a great place to live, shop & play with your family. It is just a great place to be!

Thank you,

Lee Kilbourn  
Mayor

# Notes From City Hall

## ***Did You Know?***

Chemical Bank located at 232 W. Midland Road accepts payment for current City water/sewer bills. If you receive a red notice or a shut-off billing on your water/sewer account, payment must be made at City Hall to avoid service disconnection. Tax bills are also accepted at Chemical Bank.

## ***Drive-Up Drop Box***

A drive-up drop box has been installed at the end of the landscape island in the city hall parking lot. The secure drop box is convenient way to drop off your ballot or pay your bill and save a stamp.



## ***Dog and Cat Licenses***

Dog and cat licenses are now sold year round at City Hall. Proof of rabies vaccination is required as is proof of neutering and the Bay County renewal form.

## ***City Park Building***

The park building is now available for rent all year long. It is a great place to have the family Thanksgiving dinner or Christmas party. The rental charge is \$75.00 for City and Williams Township residents. There are several dates available in the fall and winter months. For available dates please go to the City's website—[www.auburnmi.org](http://www.auburnmi.org) and click on the calendar and day for availability or call City Hall with any questions. Park rental for City and Williams Township starts on February 1, 2013.

## ***Animals at the Park***

Citizens have complained about animal owners bringing their animals to the park and not cleaning up after them. Animals are welcome at the park; but they have to be on a leash, and the custodian is responsible to clean up any solid waste from the animals. The City has installed two Doggie-Walk bag stations. They are located by the walking path near the middle of the north side of the pond and next to the first ball diamond.

## ***Board and Commission Applications Needed to Fill Vacancies***

The Auburn City Commission is seeking residents who may be interested in serving on various boards. Further information regarding appointments to city board and commissions may be obtain from Karen Bellor, City Clerk, at 989-662-6761 or by emailing [kbellor@auburnmi.org](mailto:kbellor@auburnmi.org). A huge "thank you" goes out to each board/commission member for volunteering their time to serve their community. Their dedication plays a big role in the functions of the city.

## ***Halloween***

Trick or Treating will be held on Wednesday, October 31, 2012, between the hours of 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

***Have a fun and safe Halloween!!!!***



# Department of Public Works

## ***Fall Leaf Collection & Brush Pickup***

The City of Auburn's Fall Leaf Collection Program has begun and will end on December 1; Brush Pickup will end October 30. Crews will complete a city-wide collection of leaves before starting another round. With the new leaf machine the DPW is requesting the **leaves be raked into the street**. Crews will out on Mondays and Fridays to collect leaves.

Please be attentive to the following:

- ◆ Do not block catch basins, which may cause flooding during a rainstorm, or park on top of piles of leaves, which could cause fire.
- ◆ Keep brush—such as sticks—and refuse out of leaf piles as these can damage equipment, cause injury to work crews and slow collection.
- ◆ Please do not park in the street when leaf collection is in your area.

Your cooperation will insure a clean and efficient finale to our fall clean-up program.

Waste Management will suspend its yard waste collection program on Wednesday, November 28, 2012. As always, until that time, yard waste will be picked up if it is placed in either recyclable bags or containers clearly marked "Yard Waste."

## ***Christmas Tree Recycling***

Christmas trees are collected and recycled the first two weeks of the year. Place your tree out for collection on refuse day. Be sure to remove any plastic bags, decorations and the tree stand. If there is a question regarding pick up or service— PLEASE call Waste Management directly at 800-796-9696 for specific service information.

## ***Snowplowing***

The City of Auburn Department of Public Works is dedicated to keeping your streets well maintained. Remember not to shovel or blow snow into the street or sidewalk. Please keep hydrants clear of snow. The DPW does not clear driveways and cannot avoid throwing snow back into your driveway when they are clearing streets. Thank you for your patience during our long, hard winters.

## ***Winter Parking Rules***

The city has an ordinance against parking on any public street from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. in order to facilitate snow removal during the winter months. This gives DPW workers adequate time to clear the streets for morning traffic after a night of snowfall. If your vehicle is left on a City street during the times above it may be ticketed.

## ***Mailboxes***

Please check your mailbox posts to insure that they are solid and sturdy in the ground. Once winter is upon us and the ground is frozen, it is almost impossible to make the needed repairs to sturdy your mailbox. This will ensure when heavy snow is plowed off the road, your mailbox will not be pushed over.

## ***Water Service Breaks***

The water service line carries water from the water main located in the right-of-way to the inside of you home. It is usually located in the front yard and should be about 6 feet underground. Water line leaks are not always evident. Some signs that a leak may exist include the presence of water in the yard or very low pressure. If you think you have a water service leak call the DPW. They will check your water service line.

## ***We'll Leave the Light On For You***

If you have a street light in your neighborhood that is not working please note the address where the streetlight is located and call City Hall. We will turn all requests in to Consumers Energy for repair.

# Auburn Downtown Development Authority Update

At the September 2012 meeting the DDA approved to retrofit 122 downtown high pressure sodium lights in the decorative light poles in Auburn's Downtown Development District to more energy efficient LEDs. The retrofitted LED street light represents a \$7,137 yearly cost savings to the City in energy and maintenance costs, plus the program provides dramatic evidence of Auburn DDA's clear commitment to new energy initiatives. A Consumer's Energy grant for \$9,360 will offset the cost of purchasing and installing the new LED bulbs.

## DDA Board Members

Gary DeShano  
Bob Feinauer  
Lee Kilbourn  
Bernie Kissane  
Archie Machelski  
Charlie Robinson  
Mike Snyder  
Steve VanTol  
Mary Williams



## Election News from the Clerk

GENERAL ELECTION—TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2012

The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. City of Auburn residents vote at the City Hall, 113 E. Elm Street.

**ABSENTEE VOTING**—Voters may apply for a absentee ballot for one of the following reasons:

- I expect to be absent from the community in which I am registered for the entire time the polls are open on election day.
- I am physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another.
- I cannot attend the polls because of tenets of my religion.
- I have been appointed as an election inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where I reside.
- I am 60 years of age or older.
- I cannot attend the polls because I am confined to jail awaiting arrangement or trial.

Voters requesting absentee ballots are required to complete an application before a ballot can be issued.

If you are a City of Auburn resident and want to vote absentee, call the Clerk's office for an absent voter application @ 989-662-6761 or download it from the following web site at:

[www.michigan.gov/documents/AbsentVoterBallot\\_105377\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/AbsentVoterBallot_105377_7.pdf)

and mail it to City of Auburn, 113 E. Elm Street, Auburn, MI 48611, or you may leave it in the secure drop box located in the parking lot of City Hall. You may also view a sample ballot by visiting [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos) - click elections in Michigan and then Michigan voter information center (MVIC) enter your name, dob and zip code. This will bring up your voter registration information as well and a box to click and view a sample ballot for your jurisdiction.

The City Clerk's office will be open on Saturday, November 3, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. to handle absentee voter requests and any other clerk/treasurer business.

Come prepared on election day: A little upfront preparation on the voter's part will make voting easier. This includes becoming familiar with your ballot, and understanding Michigan's voter ID requirement. Simply bring your Michigan's drivers license or state issued ID card, or another acceptable photo document. Registered voters who do not possess acceptable ID or forgot to bring it with them still may vote after signing a brief affidavit stating they are not in possession of an ID. If your schedule permits, avoid going to vote during peak times, which are usually immediately before and after work. Voting in mid-morning or afternoon may speed your trip.

**WHERE TO REGISTER TO VOTE**—You may register to vote at any Secretary of State Branch Office, County Clerk's Office or at any City Clerk's Office.

# Charter Commission

## Updated Charter Draft Returned to State for Review

**Gary Black, Chairman**

One of the mandatory steps for an updated city charter is a stamp of approval by the attorney general before it is submitted for approval by the governor. This October the proposed Auburn charter was returned to the state for the second time. According to legal advice, this is a routine step because there are “always” changes to the first drafts submitted to the state.

This means the state again has a three month window to review the Auburn proposal. The Charter Commission is very confident now that all the language will meet state standards, and that we will be able to bring the document to city voters in 2013.

While our request to move to even-year elections was rejected, the city will be able to find a cost savings in not using primary elections. Because our city election is non-partisan, the top vote getters will simply fill the open seats.

A communications campaign will be launched next year, and the charter commission will always welcome your questions. Check the city web site.

### Charter Commission Members

Gary Black, Chairman  
Kay Bridenbaugh  
Matt Charbonneau, Vice Chairman  
Jan Dzurka  
Dale R. Gripentrog  
Diane Heffron  
Kathy Kilbourn  
Betty Owen, Secretary  
Amy Reder

## Vacation Home Check

When you do leave your home be sure to sign up for Auburn’s Home Watch Program. A deputy will check your home regularly while you are away. An exterior check of your home will be conducted to make sure there have been no unlawful entries and that no other obvious problems have occurred outside of your home. To sign up for this free service, contact City Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday or visit [auburnmi.org](http://auburnmi.org)

## Veterans Memorial Fundraiser Stand-Up Amateur Open-Mic Comedy Show Sunday, October 21

Have you ever wanted to showcase your talent of comedy to make others laugh?  
If so, sign up at the Auburn Hotel to be a comedian!

You could win money and have fun just by making others laugh!

Stand-Up Amateur Comedy Show will take place Sunday, October 21 at 2:00 p.m. All money raised will go towards improvements for the Veterans Memorial at Auburn Park

Don't wait another minute! Stand up and be laughed at! Sign-up or call the Auburn Hotel at 989-662-2281



Questions? Please call Dale Gripentrog at 989-266-3158

Pictured are sisters Theresa Glowicki and Gina Glowicki McCullough. Theresa enlisted in the Army and Gina enlisted in the Marines both served in Afghanistan at the same time. The City of Auburn salutes you!

## *Things to Know About Auburn.....*

Property values continue to be a major concern in every community. Please do your part this fall to keep your community looking good. As fall comes to an end, weed the flower beds, rake the leaves, clean out gutters and remove unused items from the yard. Property maintenance is the key to sustaining the value of your home and neighborhood.

### **Codes and Ordinances**

The following pertains to some of the most common issues involving city codes and ordinances that city residents and property owners must follow.

### **Abandoned and Dismantled Vehicles**

Abandoned vehicles are vehicles left unattended on public or private property and which do not have a valid license. Dismantled vehicles are vehicles which have been partly dismantled and are missing parts. Neither abandoned nor dismantled vehicles or related parts may remain on residential property, nor may they be stored or placed in the front yard of any property at any time. Vehicles may be stored in wholly enclosed garage.

### **Signs**

The city code prohibits the placement of signs in the public right-of-way, which includes the sidewalk and the outlawn area between the sidewalk and the curb. Signs may not be attached to trees or power poles. Signs in violation of the ordinance will be removed.

### **Trash, Litter, and Debris**

Property owners must keep their property free from litter at all times. Trash, litter, debris, and garbage that is stored outside must be kept in solid, covered containers. Indoor furniture and other items not meant for outdoor use should not be stored outdoors. Also, building materials that are not part of an active project must be stored indoors.

### **Refuse Containers**

Refuse containers shall not be set out for collection prior to twelve o'clock noon preceding the day of collections, and after such receptacles are emptied, they shall be removed from the street by twelve o'clock the next day.

## **22nd Annual Christmas Decorating Contest and Santa Fest!**

**Tuesday, December 4, 2012**

Be sure to mark your calendars for our annual Christmas decorating contest and Santa Fest sponsored by the Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce and Auburn-Williams Lions Club. Enjoy photos with Santa, hot chocolate, cookies, games and crafts for all ages at the Williams Township Hall.

Once again, the City will be sponsoring a citywide decorating contest. Judging will take place between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on December 6. Prizes will be given out in both residential and commercial categories based on creativity and overall appearance.

Prizes for the contest will be: Commercial—1st (\$100), 2nd (\$50)

Residential—1st (\$100), 2nd (\$50) 3rd–6th (\$25)

This is another one of our great traditions and marks the beginning of the Christmas Season.

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**Fall 2012**

City of Auburn  
113 E. Elm Street  
Auburn, MI 48611

Phone: 989-662-6761  
Fax: 989-662-0240

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### Auburn Shooting Range Dates

October 13, 20 and 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

November 3:00 and 10:00 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Public times include rifle range, pistol range and archery range.

#### Auburn City Commission

Mayor

Lee Kilbourn

Commissioners:

Ken Charbonneau

Matt Hardy

Ann Machelski

John McNally

Amy Rezmer

Russell Williams

#### Meeting Calendar

City Commission meetings held twice monthly on the First and Third Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

Downtown Development Authority  
Fourth Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

Planning Commission  
Third Tuesday of the months of Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov at 7:00 p.m.

Please Check the Website for the City calendar of all meetings and events.

[WWW.AUBURNMI.ORG](http://WWW.AUBURNMI.ORG)

#### Holiday Schedule

City Hall and DPW offices will be closed for the observance of the following holidays.

#### Thanksgiving

November 22 and 23

**Christmas Eve and Day**

December 24 and 25

**New Year's Eve and Day**

Dec 31 and Jan 1

Residents who need assistance with a Public Works emergency on these days should call 911 who will contact a Public Works employee or supervisor.