

City of Auburn Newsletter

Fall 2014

Mayor's Message

One of the things that make Auburn special is how we all work together. To see the whole community come together in support of the Vietnam Moving Wall was a great example of just who we are. We had people from all walks of life in Auburn come together and do what ever was needed to make everyone's visit to the wall one to remember. To that I say Thank You Auburn, you are a great place to be.

Auburn has been a busy place and that includes City Hall too. This summer we set up an online utility payment program so you can pay your water, sewer, and even your property taxes by using your credit card. Better yet, enroll in the automatic payment program allowing the city to debit your checking or saving account to pay your utilities; and there are no extra fees involved. Yes, the ACH program is FREE, just click on the city's home page and download the application or pick one up at City Hall and never worry about being late again on your utility bill again.

Have you been by the city park lately and wondered what's going on? They have broken ground and started building our new multi-use recreational facility. It will include 4 basketball courts and an ice skating/hockey rink complete with boards. It's going to be great! Thanks again to Tom & Mari Cimbalik and the Charles J. Strosacker Foundation for providing us with a grant of \$100,000 to make this possible for the people of Auburn. We are looking for ideas to decorate the hockey rink boards. If you have any great suggestions please let us know at City Hall. We will go over them and decide just what to do. This is all part of parks' master plan. Come spring we hope to start the pond dredging to improve fishing.

As I look out the window, fall is in its glory; vibrant colors of red, gold and yellow crown the trees everywhere I look. Winter will soon be upon us and so will the season of giving. Whatever the reason for your giving, it will be appreciated by all those that receive it. It's so nice to live in a city where people care about one another and neighbors that treat each other like family. Kindness and love will never be outdated. I especially appreciate the city employees that go above and beyond the call of duty and are called out after hours to help in all kinds of situations. Whether it's fixing water lines in the cold and dead of night or helping with issues at someone's home in an emergency. They are always happy to help, so thanks to all for making a difference in each of our lives.

On November 10, at 7 p.m. the City Commission is going to have a public hearing during it's monthly meeting to get your feelings regarding the cleaning of snow off of the sidewalks in the City of Auburn. Auburn does not have an ordinance stating that the sidewalks must be cleared of fallen snow. The City has had a policy of clearing the snow off of Garfield, Midland and Auburn roads in the city when possible for the safety and well being of the many school children, residents and those with wheelchairs to better get around. We have no ordinance written ready to go, we just want to better know what you, our residents want and expect from the city to do when the winter snows fall on our sidewalks. Everyone who comes will be given time to express their opinions. I hope many of you will come, I feel government's purpose is to help it's residents not always to tell them what to do.

We believe in the partnership we have with you our residents, businesses and the different organizations in Auburn, and value this wonderful community. We will always work hard to keep Auburn a great place to live, work, educate and play.

Thank you!



Department of Public Works

Fall Leaf Collection & Brush Pickup

The City of Auburn's Fall Leaf Collection Program has begun and will end on November 28; Brush Pickup will end November 1. 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**. 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 26, 2014. 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

Please do not park on the 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.

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 your 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.

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 through Friday or visit auburnmi.org.

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. The ordinances can now be accessed on the City's website.

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.

Daylight Savings Time

Daylight savings time starts on Sunday, November 2 at 2:00 a.m. The good news is that you will be turning your clocks back an hour. Of course, you don't have to stay up to change the time on your clocks—most smartphones, computers and tablets adjust DST automatically. Just don't forget to change the clock on your car or on your microwave and stove after you've enjoyed a little extra sleep; it's likely those clocks have manual settings.

Halloween

Trick or Treating will be held on Friday, October 31, 2014, between the hours of 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



TAXES/WATER BILLS ONLINE

The City of Auburn now offers multiple ways to view your account and pay your utility bills or tax bills.

- You can mail your payment to: City of Auburn, 113 E. Elm, Auburn, MI 48611.
- You may pay in person at City Hall via Check or Cash.
- Utilize our “DROP BOX” located at the end of the island located in the parking lots in between City Hall and the Auburn Police Department.
- You may set up an ACH (Automatic Payment) upon completion of an enrollment form. Your payments will be deducted on or near the 19th day of the month automatically. You will still receive a bill via mail for your records. This is a free service.
- You may also make both Utility Bill and Tax payments online via credit or debit card utilizing your Visa or Master card:
 - To make an online payment go to our website: auburnmi.org.
 - Select the Online Bill Pay Icon located on the home page. You need to retrieve your account information via address, last name or account number. (Last Name is the preferred method.)
 - Under Online Services select either Taxes or Utility Payments.
 - At this point the program will bring up your account.
 - A Pay Now button will appear which will take you to another secure page for your credit or debit card information. It's that simple!
 - You may register your account however this is not required. You may also view your accounts as frequently as you choose at no charge. Convenience fees are applicable for all online payments.
- Please contact City Hall at 989-662-6761 with any questions that you may have.



If you need assistance with your utility bills there is a list of resources on the city's website under *Community Help* that can provide assistance to families in need to help them get back on their feet.

Warning Siren

The Outdoor Public Warning System is activated by Bay County and Midland County 9-1-1 Central Dispatch. The Outdoor Public Warning System is intended to notify individuals who patronize outdoor areas of severe weather and other potential threats. (e.g. Tornado Warning or Chemical Release). A steady siren wail signals that a warning has been issued. After hearing the siren, seek shelter and tune into local television or radio for additional information. Please DO NOT CALL 911 as this will tie up emergency lines that are reserved for emergencies only.



Bay County system is tested the first Wednesday of every month at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Midland County system is tested the first Saturday of the month at 12:45 p.m.

Emergency Information: 1-888-TELL-MORE

(1-888-835-5667)

To Receive Emergency Texts Or Emails

Go To: www.baycounty-mi.gov/bayaalerts.aspx

Or Tune To: WMPX AM1490 WMRX FM 97.7

Auburn Downtown Development Authority Update

This summer you may have noticed the new way finding signs telling visitors to Auburn the direction the schools, City Hall, Auburn City Park and other locations. The new welcome sign at the east city limits was place to welcome visitors to Auburn.



Work remaining is the completion of a Welcome Sign on Auburn Road near the Auburn City Park with a block structure. A community sign on Auburn Road at the north edge of the AIM property (corn fest grounds) is remaining to be built and installed.

The first of three phases for completion is in progress on the street light along Midland Road. We have ordered 25 new light poles and fixtures with LED lights.



Steven VanTol, DDA Director

DDA Board Members

Jane Berry
Gary DeShano
Bob Feinauer
Chad Fournier
Lee Kilbourn
Jim Klida
Laura Owczarzak
Diane McNally
Mary Williams

The DDA Board membership is volunteer and the meets on the fourth Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. of every month.



Election News from the Clerk

GENERAL ELECTION—TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2014

Auburn Residents will head to the polls on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 for Federal, State, County and School District elections.

Election Inspectors

We are always looking for additional poll workers and if this would interest you, please contact the city clerk at 989-662-6761.

Absentee Ballots

The polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on election days. If you are unable to vote at the polls you may qualify for an absent voter ballot if: (1) you are unable to attend the polls without assistance; (2) you are 60 years of age or older; (3) you expect to be absent from the city for the entire time the polls are open on election day; (4) you are in jail, awaiting arraignment or trial; (5) you are unable to attend the polls because of religious beliefs. If you would like a ballot mailed to you, your application must be received in the Clerk's Office by 2:00 p.m. the Saturday before the election; or you may pick up the ballot in person anytime up to 4:00 p.m. the day before the election.

Public Hearing Regarding A Sidewalk Snow Clearing Ordinance

The City Commission would like to get your input regarding establishing an ordinance requiring sidewalk snow removal. Currently there is not on ordinance requiring residents and business owners to remove snow from their sidewalk. The meeting is scheduled for November 10 at 7:00 p.m. If you cannot attend the meeting feel free to write the City Commission a note or email your comments to auburncityhall@auburnmi.org.

Veterans Day



Veterans Day is observed on November 11 and is a celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Pictured is Jerry Stein, our own DPW Laborer who was recently hired. Jerry served in the Army Reserve from 1985-1988 and the Navy from 1988-1992. The City of Auburn salutes you!

23rd Annual Christmas Decorating Contest and Santa Fest!

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 on Tuesday December 2, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

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 10. 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.

Last year's winners were:

COMMERCIAL:

1st Place Harbour Lights Photography—589 W. Midland
2nd Place Homestead Center Ace Hardware—990 W. Midland Rd.

RESIDENTIAL:

1st Place 421 Virginia—Lonnie & Leslie Webb
2nd Place 307 Ruth—David and Susan Reed
3rd Place 226 Sycamore—Clifford & Lucille Lemuel
4th Place 406 Grant—Sandra Ellery
5th Place 705 Braun—Eleanor Kulka
6th Place 316 Price—Don & Amy Ahler
7th Place 408 Ireland—Brian & Melody Raab
8th Place 245 Sycamore—Brian & Debra Ora
9th Place 314 Midland—Bryan & Barbara Queen
10th Place 102 Moll—George & Judith Wallace

Fall 2014

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Fax: 989-662-0240

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Auburn Shooting Range Dates

October 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

November 1, and 8 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 Charbonneau
Jan Dzurka
Matt Hardy
Jeff Rahl
Russell Williams

Meeting Calendar

City Commission meetings held
monthly on the Second Monday
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

Holiday Schedule

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

Veterans Day
November 11
Thanksgiving
November 27 and 28
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.
