

City of AUBURN

A New Beginning

The coronavirus pandemic has slowed a lot of people and businesses down, but here at the City we have used the time to make much needed improvements and reinforce the positive impacts of our new administration and crewmembers. We learned a lot about how our operations were being impeded by outdated processes and equipment. Now that we are opening back up, you'll start to see many updates and upgrades that were long overdue, including new office hours. Office staff will be available **Monday - Thursday from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm**, while public works will still be operating Monday - Friday from 7:00 am - 3:30 pm.

The upgrades began with a facelift and remodel of the office spaces at City Hall just before we learned about the coronavirus pandemic. The long-awaited upgrades include new floors, trim and a fresh new paint color, plus a new layout that utilized the existing desks. It has the space looking brand new. You'll also notice the City Hall building has freshened up with a new paint color recently as well. In the fall, the upgrades will continue for the City Commission Meeting Room and hallways. Thanks to our public works crewmembers and office staff for completing most of this work in-house. We were able to help stretch this budget item out for the biggest impact.

The public works crewmembers have also been busy maintaining our aging vehicles and equipment. Most of our fleet of vehicles have been in use for 20 years or more! To help extend the life of some of our equipment, the City has installed fender flares on the main work truck and purchased 2 new UTV's for everyday use. The UTV's will help reduce the cost of fuel and allow crewmembers to be more efficient in their daily tasks. Also being added to our fleet will be an articulating bobcat, courtesy of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), that will be utilized on the continuing upgrades at the Auburn Park, the Range Multi-Use Park, and snow removal on some of the major sidewalks. The City will most

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BUSINESS HOURS		
MON	8:30	TO 4:30
TUE	8:30	TO 4:30
WED	8:30	TO 4:30
THU	8:30	TO 4:30
FRI	CLOSED	TO
SAT	CLOSED	TO
SUN	CLOSED	TO

City Hall Office: 989.662.6761 • Hours 8:30a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mon-Thurs

likely be looking into a new backhoe, salt truck and snowplow within the next five years as well. There are dedicated funds already set aside for these purchases and the public works director is also looking into additional grant funding in order to get the most benefits.

The City is also benefitting from an additional part-time, seasonal employee that is helping to complete many more projects around the city that have not always received the attention they need. We have already been able to complete maintenance on fire hydrants, paint the exterior of City Hall, lay new gravel for the parking lot at the dog park, install split rail fencing at the Auburn Park and install an overflow drain at the pond. Crack sealing the roads will continue throughout July as well.

Finally, we will be working throughout the year on the new multi-use park, The Range. The Range will feature a pro-level disc-golf course, walking path, community fire pit, sledding hill and so much more. The majority of the funding for this brand-new park was made available by the Healthy Living Fund that was granted to the City of Auburn through the Bay Area Community Foundation.

The administration, staff and crewmembers here in Auburn are excited about the improvements that have already been accomplished and look forward to continuing to enact positive changes for our community.

Dates to Remember...

July 20

City Commission

August 2

Rods & Classics Car Show

August 4

Primary Election

Polls open 7 am – 8 pm

August 17

City Commission

September 12

Ales & Ears Festival

September 17-19

Treasure Hunt Days

September 21

City Commission

June – October

Farmers Market

Tuesdays & Thursdays

3:00 – 6:30 pm

CITY NOTES

Lawn & Grass

Chapter 94 of the Auburn Code of Ordinances states grass shall not be permitted to grow to a height of 6” on average at any property, whether occupied or unoccupied. Grass should be maintained at least once in every three weeks between May and September.

Chapter 53 of the Auburn Code of Ordinances prohibits grass clippings, other solid or insoluble substances which may cause obstruction to the flow of the wastewater system to be blown, deposited or otherwise left in the streets.

Firepits

Chapter 92 of the Auburn Code of Ordinances allows for patio wood-burning units. They shall be at least 25 feet from any structure which is not on the same property. Only clean wood should be burned.

Travel Trailers

Chapter 152 of the Auburn Code of Ordinances prohibits parking a trailer on any street or public place overnight. A trailer is allowed to be parked on the owner’s property as long as it is beyond the setback line.

Park Rentals

Park Rentals for 2021 will begin on Tuesday, December 1st for residents and December 15th for non-residents. The rental agreement and fee are required at time of reservation. Currently, we accept cash or check for payment.

Are you interested in becoming more involved in your community? There are many boards in need of new members: City Commission, Board of Review and Farmers Market. Contact the City Clerk for more information.

Notes from the Mayor

It was the best of times; it was the worst of times. Dickens uses this phrase to point out a major conflict between family and love, hatred and oppression, good and evil, light and darkness, and wisdom and folly. If it wasn't written back in 1859, I would have thought it was about today.

The worst of times... well we all can figure that one out. Riots, a worldwide pandemic, being forced to stay home for some 3 months, a massive loss of jobs and businesses, not one but two dams breaking, and I'm sure you can add more things to the list.

The best of times, yes, the best of times. We have a lot to be thankful for. We do live in a great country. I've heard many stories of families that grew together like never before. Parents instilling their values into their children. Helping them with their online studies. Yes, we really got to know our family members even better than we ever thought. Playing games, doing real cooking together, doing chores, spending real time together. Most parents work today, they come home and have to rush around getting their kids to all sorts of activities but now they had to spend all day & night together and really learn about each other. In that way it was like we went back in time. Parents spending more time with their families than they have in years.

When the dams broke people came together to help from all over, not even thinking about the pandemic, they had to help their friends and neighbors. Businesses started to reopen, putting people back to work, letting us get out of the house and realize just how beautiful Michigan is in the spring.

In the mist of the riots one of my employees came to me and told me there just isn't enough love in the world today cause if there were these things just wouldn't be happening. He was right. Well the Beatles were close; All We Need is Love. Well we need a little more. We all know the golden rule so why don't we live by it. Love your neighbor as yourself. If we love our neighbor like we love ourselves then color, race, political ideas, where you come from, and so much more doesn't matter.

City wise, things are doing great. Yes, I'm partial, we really do have a great staff at city hall. Stop in and check out our remodeled city hall. During the shutdown our DPW working had the time to repaint and floor city hall and it didn't cost more because they did the labor, not contracted out. This past week they painted the outside of city hall. It looks great and saved us thousands of dollars. Check out the park between our DPW crew and Artisans' Landscaping it's looking great. We received a grant for \$127, 407 from the Bay Area Foundation to develop a multi-use year around facility at the old lagoons. The plan calls for a disc golf course, a sledding hill, cross-country biking & ski trails and other activities as well.

The office staff kept up to day on all the business functions of the city whether doing them at home or in the office. They didn't miss a beat while keeping safe.

Is the world ever going to be the way it was, I don't know. Perhaps we can tweak it and just make it better for all of us. Auburn, you're a great town. Let's keep strong and make it even better.

Thanks!



Utility Billing Dates to Remember:

June 30 - Bills delivered to the Post Office.

July 28 - Due date to avoid penalty. (Penalties apply on the 29th at 8:30 am)

Aug 3 - Reminder/Past Due Notices delivered to Post Office.

Aug 16 - Final due date to avoid service interruption. Water turn is turned off on the 18th

Payments need to be received on or before the due date. Payments accepted online at www.auburnmi.org and in the drop box located in the parking lot of City Hall.

JULY 1 - NEW WATER & SEWER RATES APPLY - see diagram below

Auburn Water Rates

The Auburn City Commission does an annual review of both the costs of water and sewer before each new budget year. The primary causes for an increase are a change in the cost of wholesale water cost from the City of Midland, capital improvements in the water fund and increases for capital improvements at the Bay County Sewer Plant in the Sewer Fund. Additionally, the city's water and sewer rates support the operations and maintenance of the city's water and sewer systems, including labor, replacement and improvements to the systems. For the budget year 2020-2021 the water and sewer rates will be increased to \$6.45 and \$7.24, respectively, per 1,000 gallons.

		Minimum Qtrly Charge	Usage Example	Usage Example	Usage Example
Water Rates	Rate/1,000 Gal	5,000 Gal	10,000 Gal	14,000 Gal	18,000 Gal
New Current Rate	\$6.45	\$32.25	\$64.50	\$90.30	\$108.00
Sewer Rates		10,000 Gal	10,000 Gal	14,000 Gal	18000 Gal
New Current Rate	\$7.24	\$72.40	\$72.40	\$101.36	\$121.18
Inc. in Qtrly Bill	\$0.96	\$7.33	\$9.58	\$13.41	\$17.24

Trash Rates 11/1/19 (Flat Fee)	Qtrly Charge	New Expected Trash Rate beginning 11/1/21
Trash	\$46.11	\$49.84 / Quarter
Trash Cart	\$3.36	\$3.49 / Cart
Total Trash w/ Cart	\$49.47	\$53.34 / Quarter

Seasonal Usage Reminder

As announced last year, the City of Auburn will no longer be making automatic adjustments to your water bill for seasonal usage behaviors such as watering the lawn or filling pools. In order to receive a discount on the sewage portion of your bill for these activities you will need to install a second meter. You will NOT be able to call the office for manual adjustments.

How to obtain a 2nd meter:

1. Complete an application for a water meter permit from City Hall. The current cost is \$400* and includes the meter, meter setter, plumbing inspection fee and final inspection.
2. Contact a certified plumber to install your portion of the water service line, valves and meter setter. (Must follow water system specifications). Cost will vary by plumber and amount of work.
3. Once installed call Township Code Authority at (989) 837-6521 to schedule a plumbing inspection.
4. After the plumbing inspection is completed, call DPW Director, Ashlie House, at (989) 450-6884 to schedule an appointment to install the meter.

* Prices subject to change at any time

City of Auburn 2020 Trash Calendar

January 2020							February 2020							March 2020							April 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4																		1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30		

May 2020							June 2020							July 2020							August 2020							
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
					1	2			1	2	3	4	5	6														
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
31																					30	31						

September 2020							October 2020							November 2020							December 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31		

Notes:
 Trash days are **bolded** and recycle days are marked with a **box**. Normal trash pickup is every Wednesday. **Highlighted** days are holidays observed by City Hall. The brush pickup provided by the City is marked with an **oval/circle**. Additional yard waste services are offered through Waste Management. Please observe their guidelines. Leaf pickup typically runs mid-October through November. Please check your newsletter for additional information and guidelines for services provided by the City as the seasons approach.

Trash will be collected one day late due to the following Holidays: New Year's Day - January 1, Memorial Day - May 25 and Labor Day - September 7. Other holidays that Waste Management are closed during will not affect the City of Auburn.

Please clearly mark all yard waste and Recycle containers (stickers are no longer provided by WMI) and keep at least 5 feet from trash containers.

For large item pickup please call Waste Management at **800-796-9696**.

2020 Waste Management yard waste collection starts April 1 and ends November 25. Christmas trees are collected the first two weeks of January.

SUMMER 2020

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Auburn, MI
PERMIT NO. 6

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



ECRWSEDDM

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Meeting agendas & minutes can be found on
the city website.

www.auburnmi.org

CITY DIRECTORY

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Jeff Rahl

Russ Williams

Ryan Gwizdala

Gary Warner

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