

AUBURN'S
FastNEWS
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DIRECT
FROM
CITY HALL
TO YOU

FastNews March 1, 2013

Welcome to your online recap of City actions and vital stories for folks who care about Auburn. Found twice monthly at the corner of City Hall and your smartphone, tablet or computer.

Upcoming Dates:

Chamber Forum Meeting
5th @ 7am

Historic Design Review &
Planning Commission
5th @ 6pm

Economic Development
Commission
6th @ 5pm

City Council Meeting
11th @ 6pm

Chamber Forum Meeting
12th @ 7am

Arts Commission
12th @ 8:15am

Technology Commission
14th @ 4:30pm

F_N **What is the general economic health of Auburn?**

Real estate activity is strong with far more demand than available inventory. In short, *people want to live in Auburn and most homes aren't staying on the market more than a week.*

- Since the beginning of 2011, Auburn has had an average sales tax growth of 20% per quarter
- Few retail spaces are available in town
- Building permits are up 33% over estimates
- Hotel tax revenues are coming in over estimates
- 30 new businesses moved into the airport industrial park area last year.
- Auburn Airport hangar space is almost completely filled

F_N **What is the City doing to make our economic health *even better*?**

The Economic Development Commission helps guide and implement the City's economic strategies. Over the next few issues, we'll update you on some of the significant projects that are engaging their energies with the goal of boosting Auburn's competitive edge. To start, developing a strong downtown core is a key component of our economic plans. That means that you'll soon see on the horizon:

- Efforts to co-locate the California Welcome Center and Auburn Chamber of Commerce, along with public restroom amenities and new community meeting spaces across from Central Square at our "Old City Hall"
- Development of ongoing summer entertainment in Central Square as it becomes a comfortable place for community gathering
- Renovations of East Placer Park for enhanced safety and ambience

F_N **Fire Brings in the Funds**

This past year, the Auburn Fire Department brought in just under \$1 million in grant funding to support operations, including five additional firefighters and funds to continue with the Shaded Fuel Break project along the Canyon Rim. They are currently applying for another \$1,015,000 for a new fire truck and more Fuel Break funding. Great job!

AUBURN'S *Fast*NEWS

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alind@auburn.ca.gov

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F_N We Know How to Talk About Money

Administrative Services Director Andy Heath recently presented the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) to the City Council, as required by all cities. For the past six years, the City received the statewide CAFR award for excellence in financial reporting and transparency, and we're planning to continue the winning streak.

F_N Blue Skies and a Bright Future for the Auburn Airport

With a strong bottom-line, the Auburn Airport is readying for major enhancements in the coming three to four years but the planning process is already starting. Airport business leaders and users are collaborating with City officials to identify the services, amenities, and businesses that would make the Auburn Airport stand out from all Northern California municipal airports in the future. We're taxiing with this exciting project now so check back for updates.

F_N News You Can Use

- Funds are available for the First Time Home Buyer program for properties located within the Auburn city limits- zero-interest loans with no monthly payments for those with qualifying incomes. Contact Reg Murray at (530) 823-4211 ext. 140 or rmurray@auburn.ca.gov.
- Funds are also available for the Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Home program for properties located within the city limits-- zero-interest loans with no monthly payments for those with qualifying incomes, including home improvements to correct problems such as roofing, electrical, plumbing, weatherization, and structural defects. Contact Lisa Hoffrogge at (530) 823-4211 ext. 122 or lhoffrogge@auburn.ca.gov.

F_N Our Volunteers are Awesome!

Last month, Auburn Police Department Reserve Officer Billy Murphy made 73 safety door checks in one evening to ensure the security of our business community. The all-volunteer Technology Commission is in the final stages of installing an entire new communications/phone system for the City... saving more than \$10,000 in taxpayers' money! These are just two examples, but it's clear that we surely owe a debt of gratitude to our tireless and talented volunteers.

F_N Celebrity Chefs Cooking for Community Service

Like to eat? Come on over to the 27th Annual Celebrity Chefs event in the Placer Building at the Gold Country Fairgrounds on Thursday, March 7 at 5:30 p.m. In one place, you can support Leadership Auburn's Class Project, talk with friends and neighbors including *your entire City Council*, and sip and sample some of our finest creations. There's a rumor that you may finally get a chance to try an award-winning competition chili well known in City Hall. Besides, it's just plain fun!