



The City News Express

2009

Connecting Austell Government With Its Citizens

Fall

From The Mayor and Council

Dear Residents,

Leaves are slowly beginning to change from summer's green into the vibrant colors of fall. As we see the beauty of this season, we know that Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner.

This year, we also know that our great nation is facing hard times. We join with others across the country in believing that our American spirit will remain strong as we ride out this new storm. Many of you have been forced to look at the family budget and make adjustments. So, I want to assure you that in this recession, your Mayor and Council have made every effort to use your tax dollars wisely.

Again this year, our Council approved a balanced budget with no tax increase. We are committed to a high quality of life for our community while being as cost effective as possible. Our dedicated employees continue working with us to maintain the level of services that we offer.

We are pleased that construction continues on three of our ongoing projects, Louise Suggs Park, the Pine Street Park and the Mayor's Memorial Park. We anticipate two of the parks being completed later this fall. Funding for these projects comes from federal, state and local grants that have been awarded to the City.

Make plans to join us at Legion Park for the Halloween Festival on October 31st and at Collar Park for the lighting of the Great Tree on December 4th. Come out and enjoy Austell.



Your Public Servant,

Joe Jerkins



Council Members

Ward 1 - Kirsten Anderson Ward 3 - Beverly James Boyd
Ward 2 - Scott Thomas Ward 4 - Virginia Reagan
At Large Post 1 - David O. "Bo" Traylor
At Large Post 2 - Randy Green

Fire Department

Scott Thomas, Chairman



Austell Firefighters Take Donations for MDA Boot Drive

Each year the Austell firefighters support two great causes: Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation and the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The total donations for both drives in 2009 was \$8,249.00. Thank you, Austell for your generosity and thank you to the firefighters who support these great organizations.

Firefighter/Paramedic Greg Etheridge has completed fifteen years of service with our Fire Department. In August, the City Council presented him with a plaque and service pin in appreciation for his years of dedicated service. Congratulations, Greg!

The statewide burning ban is in effect until October 1, 2009. After the ban is lifted, it is important for everyone to abide by our City Ordinance which allows attended burning of leaves and small yard debris between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday.

We continue to offer free blood pressure checks at each of our stations. You may contact the Fire Department any time at ausfire@austell.org.



Spotlight on Health



Quality healthcare is important to every family in Austell. Although we have access to hospitals and doctors in the South Cobb area and beyond, it brings a true sense of security to have a doctor of our own, located in our city.

For a while, this has not been the case. So, we are pleased that Piedmont Physicians with Dr. Philicia Andrews has opened an office on Love Street in downtown Austell.

City Election: November 3rd
Polls open 7 AM - 7 PM
Voting Location: City Hall



Community Affairs Department

Virginia A Reagan, Chairman

A transformation is taking place on the site of the old Kennesaw Finance Company at the corner of Love and VMH. In 2007 the city used funds granted by the AACIC (Austell Area Community Improvement Commission) to purchase the land to be used for a beautification project in downtown Austell.

After months of planning and preparation, the dedication of Mayors Memorial Park will take place later this fall.

Park Provides Green Space in Austell



Work in progress for Mayor's Memorial Park in the heart of downtown Austell.

Mayor's Memorial Park will honor all of the Mayors who have served Austell. This project was conceived and designed by Council Member Beverly James Boyd, and she has been integrally involved in each phase of the park's development.

Park benches, a gazebo and lush landscaping will create a relaxing atmosphere to sit and enjoy a pleasant afternoon. The Austell Gas Company donated the old fashioned gas lights which add to the charm.



Parks Department

Randy Green, Chairman

Pine Street Park has received a facelift! For the past few months, our Parks Department employees have been working to create a family-friendly facility for everyone to enjoy.

A new full court basketball court is a welcome addition for all the sports enthusiasts - young and old alike! And, for the younger set there are swings, a sliding board and a merry-go-round on the new playground.



And, everyone will enjoy having a family reunion or a week-end cookout in the new pavilion. Picnic tables are provided for your convenience.



Old House is New Home to Community Group



The old house located at 5948 Spring St. has a new lease on life. Through the generosity of Ray Barnes, now the house is home to the Babyland Improvement Group (B.I.G.). When Mr. Barnes donated the house to the City of Austell, we voted to allow B.I.G. to use the house for a Community Center serving the residents of Babyland.

Reverend Frank Johnson had approached the Council earlier in 2008 for assistance to bring the community together after the tragic death of one of the young men in Babyland.

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(Old House continued)

From now on, this lovely old home will provide many young people a place to come and learn in a safe environment. Both youth development activities and adult education classes will be supervised by volunteer staff from B.I.G.

Free Admission for All!

HALLOWEEN
At Legion Park
Free kiddie rides
Free Candy Games

October 31, 2009
6 PM - 9:30 PM

Costume Contest

Shuttle Buses provided at Threadmill Complex and Garrett Middle School

Public Works Department

David O. "Bo" Traylor, Chairman



Fall Clean-Up

Remember, the *entire* month of October is clean-up time in Austell. During October we collect items that are not normally picked up during the remainder of the year. We comply with federal and state environmental regulations, and there are some specific items we cannot accept such as paint cans, tires, refrigerators and air conditioning units. For a complete list of these items, please stop by City Hall or visit our web site www.austellga.gov.

New Sidewalks Give Better Access

Pedestrians will have better access to downtown Austell. Construction has started on the new sidewalks beginning at Jefferson Street. The sidewalk will stop at Line Street on the west side and the east side will extend to Thornton Road/C.H. James Parkway.

Sanitary Sewer Pump Stations Eliminated

When Mayor Jerkins took office in January of 1990, one of his main goals was to eliminate sewer pump stations that are costly to maintain. Eliminating and connecting them to gravity feed helps reduce the chances for backups and overflows.

In 1990, there were 13 pump stations, and with the two latest stations that were abolished, only two remain.