



The City News Express

Fall

Connecting Austell Government With Its Citizens

2012

From the Mayor and Council

Coming soon....Online Payments and Paperless Ebills!

City residents will be able to view and pay their next Utility fees and property taxes online. The new online payment and e-bill service will offer residents more flexibility in paying their bills. The system is easy to use and allows residents to pay bills with either a bank account or credit/debit card. No registration will be required to view an online replica of their paper bill or pay their bills. Payment receipts will be sent via email or can be printed directly from the computer screen. Court Services will also offer the opportunity to pay fines on line. For more information, please check www.austellga.gov. We anticipate this system being up and running by October 1st.



Joe Jerkins, Mayor

Things are happening in Austell...some projects are nearing completion, some are still in progress and some are complete.

The Living Center Initiative (LCI) Downtown Streetscape, Phase 2 is 98% complete. The work on Broad, Mulberry and Sweetwater Streets includes new sidewalks, planters, intersection improvements, landscaping, benches and trash receptacles. The city's share of the total \$509,275 is \$101,992 and the federal share is \$407,970. The Transportation Enhance (TE) project is still in progress and includes the installation of new street lights and mast arms. The total of this project is \$750,000 with the federal share being \$600,000 and Austell's share is \$150,000. The 2012 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) was an addition of the playground equipment for Collar Park. The grant for this was approximately \$46,000, and the City also added a new playground pavilion.

As you know, the old clock on the City Hall tower has not worked for years. We tried on numerous occasions to have it repaired, but it could not be done. We removed the clock and installed a new messaging sign. This is certainly a welcome addition to our downtown area, and keeps our citizens informed about upcoming activities.

We purchased the Threadmill Complex in 2001. During this time, many enhancements have made the building one of the finest municipal complexes in Cobb County. The original goal was to provide space for government and private business to work side by side. This is a creative concept that has worked. The city has done just that, and the Threadmill Complex is at approximately 98% occupancy.

Update from the Austell Fire Department



New Pierce Velocity Fire Pumper

The City of Austell Fire Department's annual boot drives for Muscular Dystrophy and the Firefighters Burn Foundation were very successful this year. Our community donated a total of \$6,524.15 to the two organizations. Thank you to our firefighters for doing a great job in sweltering heat!

Please remember that a statewide outdoor burning ban remains in effect until October 1, 2012. When the ban is lifted, we ask our citizens to abide by our City Ordinance which allows attended burning of leaves and small yard debris Monday - Saturday between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. No burning is allowed on Sunday.

Our new Pumper, housed at Fire Station 2 on Austell Powder Springs Rd., was placed into service on September 11th. The total cost for the Pierce Pumper was \$450,000, including equipment. Funding came from the SPLOST Tax program.

Council Members

Ward 1 - Kirsten Anderson
Ward 2 - Scott Thomas

Ward 3 - Martin Standard
Ward 4 - Virginia Reagan

At Large Post 1 - Trudie A. Causey
At Large Post 2 - Suzanne Thomason



You earn RecycleBank Points based on the amount you recycle.

You redeem the Points in your account for rewards.

You use your rewards at hundreds of local and national retailers.

RecycleBank Program and Recycling Rate Increase

An innovative new recycling program was approved by the Mayor and Council at their regular meeting in July. RecycleBank is an incentive-based program that is a win-win for our community.

The benefits of RecycleBank include:

- Greener Hometown
- Informed Residents
- Thriving Local Economy
- Valuable Rewards

RecycleBank's incentives boost recycling participation, decrease waste disposal costs and help preserve natural resources. Our residents will benefit from increased education and communication about living green in our economy. Drive foot traffic to local and regional businesses will increase customer loyalty and residents will enjoy discounts on groceries, a night out or hundreds of other perks. Look for more information about the RecycleBank Program.

Congratulations!
to the following
employees
who were recently
recognized for their
years of service
to the City of Austell

- Curtis McLendon,**
Water - 35 years
- Michael Hays,**
Water - 30 years
- Kirby McSwain,**
Fire - 30 years
- Duane Demeritt,**
CFM - 15 years
- Gary Dobbs,**
Fire - 10 years
- Sandy Farmer**
Gen. Adm. - 10 years
- Antonio Ferguson**
Comm. Affairs - 10 years
- Jerry Sharp,**
Water - 10

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Update

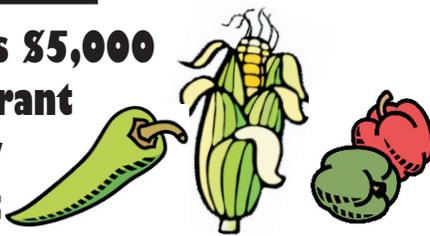
Even though the devastating flood that hit Austell in September 2009 was a full three years ago, the effects are lingering. Some of the homes that were damaged severely have been purchased as part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, but a few are still waiting resolution.

In order to be eligible for the FEMA Grant Program, the home must have sustained substantial damage, defined as having received more than 50% damage and must have been within the designated 100-year Special Flood Hazard Area. Two hundred and fifty-three acquisition applications were received. Each of these applications were reviewed and surveys were performed by registered land surveyor to determine whether or not the structures were in the Special Flood Hazard Area.

To date, twenty-two homes have been purchased and demolished at a cost of \$1,199,924.69. Of these funds, FEMA provided 75% (\$899,943.51); GEMA provided 10% (\$139,407.00) and the City of Austell provided 15% (\$209,110.50). We received \$105,820.00 from the National Flood Insurance Program, Increase Cost of Compliance and \$36,085.75 from seller participation. The actual cost to the City of Austell was \$38,082.99.

The City will be conducting one-on-one meetings with an additional seven homeowners in the next few weeks.

Austell Accepts \$5,000 Non-Matching Grant for Community Garden Project



Austell will create a community garden and outdoor classroom using a grant from the Cobb County Soil and Water Conservation District.

2836 Windy Lane was purchased and the structure demolished which returned the land to greenspace. The adjoining property was donated by the homeowner, and that property will be used exclusively for a community garden, outdoor classroom. There will be additional trees in addition to gravel walking trails.

Fall Clean Up

Remember, October is Clean-Up Month! In April and October each year, the city picks up items that are not usually collected. You may visit our website, www.austellga.gov for a complete list of items that may be collected during our clean-up months.

Austell Public Works will pick up appliances, washers, dryers and hot water heaters throughout the year, but these items as well as the not usually collected items **MUST** be placed on the curb.

This service is for residents of the City of Austell only. You must live within the city limits and pay city taxes to be eligible for this service.

