



*FastNews* March 15, 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 19th at 7am

Planning Commission 19th at  
6pm

City Council 25th at 6pm

Chamber Forum 26th at 7am

Economic Development  
Commission 27<sup>th</sup> at 5pm

***F<sub>N</sub>* Local Economy Makes City's Mid-Year Budget Look Healthy**

In order to provide updated financial information to the City Council and the public, the City of Auburn prepares periodic reports comparing citywide budgeted and actual financial performance. These reports and the resulting recommendations were presented during this week's City Council meeting as a mid-year budget update. The City Council approved increased adjustments of \$963,629 in General Fund revenue as a result of an uptrend in Auburn's economic picture and receipt of public safety grants. The Council also approved upward adjustment of \$771,534 in additional General Fund expenditures, comprised primarily of grant-related Fire Department staffing, one-time project costs and new equipment for added investment into the community - all this while projecting to place an extra \$315,000 into City reserves. The City Council's fiscal strategies have allowed for continued investment into Auburn while not overextending the City coffers with new, ongoing expenditures until they can be matched with solid continued funding.

***F<sub>N</sub>* It's That (Budget) Time of the Year, Again**

Speaking of estimates and actual numbers, City staff is gearing up for the annual budget process again, and here are some of the issues we consider and analyze when forecasting revenues and expenses:

- Is the current growth in our economy sustainable?
- How might we be impacted by the State's budget issues?
- How will we be affected by rising retirement and health care costs?
- Are there potential impacts of Federal Sequestration that will hit us next year?
- What strategies can we devise so that we can continue to add to City reserves?

***F<sub>N</sub>* What is the City doing to make our economic health even better? (Part 2)**

As promised, we're keeping you posted on the Economic Development Commission's signage and outreach projects that help develop a strong downtown core. With the loss of redevelopment funding, the EDC is looking for other creative ways to continue the streetscape project that has so nicely linked Old Town and Downtown for visitors and residents alike. In the meantime, we're still boosting businesses and interesting stops along the way, so you will soon see:

- Attractive new wayfinding signage for visitors around Old Town & Downtown, designed by last year's Leadership Auburn Class
- Auburn's Tourism Brochure updated.

Next time: Promotional Opportunities!

# AUBURN'S *Fast*NEWS

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## **F<sub>N</sub>** Fire *Fast*Facts—Did You Know...

- The best offense for firefighters during a wildfire situation is the defensible space you make around your home before a wildfire starts?
- You will most likely see and hear fire engines on Fridays, because it's the busiest day of the week for the Fire Department?
- Auburn's firefighters spend 12% of their time training for fires that occur only 6% of the time, making them doubly prepared?
- You can drop into the fire station on Sacramento Street anytime and meet your firefighters—come see where we live, check out the equipment, and jump in the front seat of the fire engine?
- Before sirens were used on fire engines, we used bells? (Take the kids down to the Old Town firehouse to see the 1918 Buick fire engine with the shiny bell!)
- On average, Auburn firefighters give about 150 talks a year on fire safety? (To schedule one for your group, call 823-4211 x1.)

## **F<sub>N</sub>** Encouraging News on Medical Marijuana Dispensary...Court Backs City Action (For Now)!

Auburn's historic character in Old Town and Downtown and our overall quality of life was vulnerable the past two years, pending a recent Court of Appeal ruling on a medical marijuana dispensary that opened in Downtown Auburn in 2011. Sierra Patients and Caregivers Exchange, Inc. (SPACE) had originally stated on its business license that it would operate as a "variety store" or "florist shop" but an APD investigation confirmed they were selling medical marijuana, a violation of the City's zoning ban on dispensaries. The City moved swiftly and halted operations with a preliminary injunction, and SPACE appealed the trial court order to the Court of Appeal. The appellate court's February 7, 2013 decision upheld the injunction based on SPACE's misrepresentation in the business license. However, the broader issue of statewide significance is whether or not a city can ban medical marijuana dispensaries. A ruling by the California Supreme Court on that question is expected in early May. The City Attorney is closely monitoring this important issue, so stay glued to *Fast*News for updates!

## **F<sub>N</sub>** There's Money Available... But Hurry Up!

We already shared these opportunities with you, but they are so great and going away in a few months that it seemed worthwhile to mention them again. Program funding ends on July 31, 2013, so please help get the word out:

- 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](mailto: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](mailto:lhoffrogge@auburn.ca.gov)