

AUBURN'S
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DIRECT
FROM
CITY HALL
TO YOU

FastNews May 17, 2013

F^N We Won! (For Now)

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.

As we reported to you in the March 15 edition of FastNews, the City's position on medical marijuana dispensaries was at risk pending a decision of the California Supreme Court. On May 6, the Court decided the case of the City of Riverside v. Inland Empire Patients Health & Wellness Center, ruling that cities and counties may bar medical marijuana dispensaries using their zoning authority. Although California voters adopted Proposition 215 in 1996 to allow the ill to use marijuana, that measure simply protects those who use medical marijuana and their caregivers from criminal prosecution. The Medical Marijuana Policy Act adopted by the Legislature as Senate Bill 420 in 2003 provides some additional regulation of medical marijuana, but it did not limit local government's zoning power except to require that dispensaries not be located within 600 feet of schools. This means that the Auburn City Council's decision to not allow medical marijuana dispensaries in the City's commercial areas is legal and will remain on the books. The Legislature continues to consider legislation regarding medical marijuana. In addition, an initiative to legalize marijuana for recreational use (like recent successful ballot measures in Colorado and Washington) is also being discussed, so we are likely to see more change in the law. Stay tuned!

Upcoming Dates

The City Council is holding a special session on Monday, May 20th to review the budget before it is finalized in June.

The public is welcome as always!
See you at 6pm.

City Hall is closed May 27th for
Memorial Day



F^N Auburn by the Numbers

Every year around this time, the California State Department of Finance releases population estimates for cities and counties that becomes the number for many different official purposes over the following twelve months as well as being used for research and planning purposes by federal, state and local agencies, the academic community and the private sector. Cities anxiously await "The Number" as if we were weighing in on The Biggest Loser, sometimes holding our collective breath because it just may be significant if we had gained or lost. For our 125-year old city of Auburn, it's pretty much just a number, although it does make one ponder. Our current population officially weighed in at 13,446 or 27 fewer folks than last year. Do YOU have any idea who left without bringing in replacements?!

Here are a few tidbits about how our new Number stacks up in comparison to our neighbors:

- We rank 336 out of 482 cities in total population
- We're down .20 percent from last year, a change that puts us ranked 457 out of the state's 482 cities
- Two other cities in Placer County also lost some folks—Loomis and Colfax
- Placer County's population went up about 2,000 people or .60 percent
- The State's total population only went up .80 percent or about 300,000 people

Click [here](#) for all the charts, graphs and lots of ways to "slice and dice" the numbers.

AUBURN'S *Fast*NEWS

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F_N “Keeping a Small Town Thriving”

In the dynamic climate of municipal fiscal challenges, this intriguing article title came across our City Hall “virtual desks” from CitySpeaks.org, the official blog of the National League of Cities. It’s a story about Shepherdstown, West Virginia, population under 2,000 (speaking of The Number!) It seems that this charming pre-Revolutionary War town less than 100 miles from Washington, D.C. really has a lot in common with Auburn. “It has thrived because of the commitments by average citizens, the constant effort to offer events and activities that showcase local resources.” In our own community, we also know that “ultimately, it is the people one encounters that makes a beautiful place truly inviting. Even a casual brush with the locals... makes for an experience in hospitality and enjoyment... a place people want to visit and a place to which they want to return.” Sound familiar? To look for more parallels and maybe even ideas on how to keep us thriving, read the whole story [here](#).

F_N Marketplace Fairness

With passage last week by the U. S. Senate, the federal government is moving forward on national legislation called the Marketplace Fairness Act of 2013. If approved by the House of Representatives and signed into law, online and catalog retailers will be required to collect sales tax at the time of the transaction no matter where they are located—just as local retailers are already required to do. One caveat is that states are only granted this authority after they have simplified their sales tax laws. We’ll keep you posted about our local impact as this issue progresses.

F_N Don’t Miss “Arts in the Park”—Visual & Performing Arts Festival

We told you in our last edition, but this is so much fun, it deserves a final reminder. Brought to you by the Auburn Arts Commission to foster and promote our community’s vibrant visual and performing arts, local artists will be selling their works, and the day will be filled with musical and dance performances, strolling musicians, actors portraying famous artists, art demonstrations, art-related activities for children, and wine, beer & food booths.

WHEN: Saturday, May 18 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm.
WHERE: Auburn School Park Preserve at 55 College Way
between High Street and Lincoln Way