

# Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

January 2000

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## Citizen Survey Begins Soon

For the past sixteen years, the City of Auburn has conducted an annual opinion survey of Auburn residents to understand how you feel about City services and major projects. The City Council has found the survey to be of great help in monitoring the quality of City services, in establishing budget priorities for future years, and in making policy decisions. The 2001 survey will begin in early February.

The telephone survey will be conducted by individuals hired specifically to do the survey. Planning Department staff, in conjunction with the Office of the City Manager, develops the survey, and provides the training and oversight of the interviewers. Randomly selected telephone numbers of citizens will be called over a three-week period ending by early March.

The survey should take only about fifteen minutes to complete. If the interviewer calls at an inconvenient time, he or she will be glad to try back later. However, if you are able to take the time to participate in the survey, your participation will be greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in finding out more information about the City's annual citizen survey, please call the Office of the City Manager at 887-4900 or visit the City's web site at [www.auburnalabama.org](http://www.auburnalabama.org).

Survey results will be covered in *Open Line*, available at City Hall, and posted on the City's web site.



The City's citizen surveyors will enter responses into the computer as they conduct the survey.

## Open Line

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City of Auburn



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## Free Trees Still Available



It is not too late to get involved an exciting program, sponsored by the Auburn Tree Commission, to make Auburn a little "greener." The largest tree planting program in the City's history, "2000 Trees in 2000" was designed to provide to Auburn citizens trees that can grow into large shade trees. The City Council approved the purchase of trees that will be planted throughout the community on the right-of-way or on approved locations on private property through the use of planting agreements. Available tree species include several types of oaks and maples.

If you are interested in having one of these trees planted on your property or would like to volunteer to assist with this effort, please call James Jennings at 887-4930. You may also visit the City's web site at [www.auburnalabama.org](http://www.auburnalabama.org) and click on the "2000 Trees in 2000" button to learn more about the program and print out the Planting Agreement.

## Kiesel Park's Newest Amenity



Kiesel Park is located on the west side of Auburn on Chadwick Lane between Wire Road and Highway 14. By deed, it is a passive park which offers walking trails, open fields, ponds, and a large airy pavilion. In recent years, a Greek Revival home of the 1850's, now known as the Nunn-Winston House, was moved from Gay Street to Kiesel Park and was prominently placed adjacent to the pavilion. The house has been renovated and furnished with antiques. The service building at the rear of the home contains a large meeting room, bathrooms, and a kitchen.

Jan Dempsey, mayor of Auburn from 1980-1998, envisioned this home as a focal point of park social activity featuring a period garden to be created in honor of Mary Fortenberry. The front yard of the remodeled house is now enclosed by an antique wrought iron fence interspersed with American boxwoods. Visitors to the front gates are greeted by a brass plaque which reads, "The Mary Fortenberry Garden." The fenced yard encloses formal plantings of hydrangeas, boxwoods, and tea olives and features weathered brick walkways and a central patio graced by a brass sundial that welcomes visitors to the columned front porch.

The Mary Fortenberry garden was donated by Jan Dempsey in recognition of Mary Fortenberry's many contributions to Auburn, including two decades (1978-1998) of service as an Auburn City Council member and representation of the City of Auburn on the Lee-Russell Council of Governments from 1986 to 1998. Additionally, she has been active on the Advisory Board for the Area Agency on Aging and on the Alabama Commission on Aging. Mrs. Fortenberry, who makes her home in Auburn, is a native of Cass County, Illinois. She graduated with honors from the University of Illinois, earning Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi keys. Prior to moving to Auburn with her late husband, Professor Nolan Fortenberry, Mrs. Fortenberry taught both French and English and held the post of University Editor at the University of Mississippi from 1957-1968.

The house is available for rental by contacting the Parks and Recreation Department at 887-4930.



## Auburn Citizens Are Involved



*Tree Commission members meet regularly to discuss their projects.*

The City of Auburn has a long history of citizen involvement as shown by the many opportunities to become involved in municipal government. One of the most significant citizen-involvement efforts in the last few years has been the creation of *Auburn 2020*. This important document sets forth the strategic plan that was developed after a year-long citizen participation effort in 1998 that involved over 200 citizens directly on committees and hundreds more through public hearings and surveys. It replaced *Auburn 2000* which was developed using a similar process in the early 1980s. From the *Auburn 2020* process, "22 Goals for 2020" were established, a list of specific initiatives that citizens expect the City government to accomplish over the next twenty years. *Auburn 2020*, along with the City's vision and mission statements, sets the foundation for the future of the City of Auburn.

The introduction of *Open Line* in March 2000 further encouraged an open dialogue between citizens and their government. Many citizens have said they enjoy the publication and feel that it is useful to them. Of course, the public is encouraged to attend the many different City meetings listed in *Open Line* each month. We hope you will consider the opportunities for involvement on the City's boards and commissions or on the numerous citizen task forces that are listed in *Open Line*. If you are interested in serving on one of the City's twenty-two Boards and Commissions, on one of the many citizen task forces, or in response to a call for volunteers, simply contact the City Manager's Office or a Council member.

The City's web site is still another way that citizens can keep in touch with their local government. A visit to [www.auburnalabama.org](http://www.auburnalabama.org) allows on-line access to press releases, budget information, the Growth Boundary plan, boards and commission listings, Citizen Survey information, *Open Line* issues, City Council Agendas, City Council meeting minutes, and much more.

## ASA Award



The Amateur Softball Association recently

awarded the City of Auburn the "Jim Farrell ASA Award of Excellence" for conducting two of the highest rated national softball tournaments in the country. The City of Auburn hosted the ASA Women's Major Industrial and ASA Women's Class A Slow Pitch national tournaments at the Auburn Softball Complex on August 11-13, 2000. Both of these tournaments brought softball players and fans from across the United States to Auburn. Robby Carter, Auburn Softball Complex Director, accepted the award on behalf of the City of Auburn at the ASA National Convention recently held in Spokane, Washington. The Auburn Softball Complex will be the site of the ASA Women's C Fast Pitch National Championship in 2002 and the ASA Women's Major Slow Pitch for 2001-2003.



### Holiday Closures and Waste/Recycling Collection Schedules

City Hall will be closed for New Year's Day on Monday, January 1. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling will be changed for that week. Monday's route will be picked up on Tuesday, January 2. Tuesday's route will be picked up on Wednesday, January 3. Wednesday's route will be picked up on Thursday, January 4. Thursday's route will be picked up on Friday, January 5.

City Hall will also be closed for Martin Luther King Day on Monday, January 15. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling will be changed for that week as well. Monday's route will be picked up on Tuesday, January 16. Tuesday's route will be picked up on Wednesday, January 17. Wednesday's route will be picked up on Thursday, January 18. Thursday's route will be picked up on Friday, January 19.

## up DATES

**Watershed Task Force:** Out of a concern for the protection of the City's drinking water in Lake Ogletree, the City Council appointed scientists and concerned citizens to the Watershed Task Force in September 1999. Since that time, the Task Force has been studying the watershed that feeds Lake Ogletree and developing recommendations to minimize or eliminate pollution in the watershed. Since the watershed is primarily outside the City limits, the Task Force faced the challenge of developing ideas to ensure quality development in an area outside the City's regulatory jurisdiction. The Task Force will make a presentation of its report at the City Council Committee of the Whole meeting on January 16 in the Library Conference Room.

**Salmon Property:** A number of community input meetings with the consultant, Robert and Company, have been held in preparation for recommendations for development of the Salmon property located in the area of South Gay Street/Wright's Mill Road. A presentation of the final plan is scheduled from 11:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. on January 16 at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.

**Greenspace Task Force:** The City Council appointed a distinguished group of citizens to the Greenspace Task Force and charged them with developing ideas to preserve and enhance the greenspace in the City of Auburn. The Greenspace Task Force formed three committees as follows: the greenways committee, the sidewalk and roadside green areas committee, and the land trust committee. The committees have been meeting regularly and have determined the recommendations they will make concerning their various interest areas to the City Council. The task force is scheduled to give its report to the City Council at the Committee of the Whole meeting on February 6.

**Moore's Mill Bridge Construction:** The construction on the Moore's Mill Road bridge between Ogletree Road and I-85 is progressing on schedule. Construction was planned to take sixty days. While this work is underway, traffic is detoured down Hamilton Road to Bent Creek Road to Glenn Avenue.

**Growth Boundary Plan:** The City Council is holding a series of meetings to discuss the principles of the Growth Boundary Plan at Committee of the Whole meetings prior to each Council meeting. Discussions have been held on November 7<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, and December 5<sup>th</sup>. January meetings will be held on January 2 and 16 in the Library Conference Room. To read the complete report, visit the City's web site at [www.auburnalabama.org](http://www.auburnalabama.org). Copies are also available to review at Auburn City Hall.

### Improvements at Hickory Dickory Park



Hickory Dickory Park, located on Shug Jordan Parkway between North Donahue Drive and North College Street, has had some recent improvements. The final brick pavers that were purchased by donors to raise money for the park have been installed. If you purchased a brick for the park, please check it for accuracy and call Parks and Recreation to report any problems. A bathroom facility is also nearing completion. The bathroom construction has been coordinated by Tom Hayley of Hayley-Redd Development Company.

Hickory Dickory Park was dedicated on April 1, 2000 and is the City's "Community Built Park." Since its completion, it has been one of the City's most popular park destinations with more than 12,000 square feet of play space. The design was created on November 3, 1998 after designer Dennis Willes of Leathers and Associates met with Auburn's third and fourth graders to seek their input for a playground of their dreams. The park structure was paid for by donations from the community and was built by volunteers. To learn more about this and other municipal parks, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 887-4930

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Do you have any story ideas that you would like to read about in upcoming issues of *Open Line*? If so, let us know! You may e-mail your ideas to us at [dwatson@auburnalabama.org](mailto:dwatson@auburnalabama.org) or mail them to us at City Manager's Office, 171 North Ross Street.

## Upcoming Events

The Young Adult Coffeehouse will meet from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. on January 11 in the Library Conference Room. The topic this month is "Urban Tales and Internet Hoaxes." Teens are invited to join in a lively discussion about their favorite false stories of disastrous dates, spooky experiences, and file-eating computer viruses! Refreshments provided.

The Dixie Chapter of the Embroider's Guild of America will display a selection of needlepoint works exhibiting a variety of stitches and techniques at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center from January 13 until February 10, 2001.



Ages 50 and over are invited to the Senior Winter Snow Ball to be held on Saturday, January 27th from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Frank Brown Recreation Center. Enjoy an evening of great music, dancing, refreshments, and door prizes. The cost is \$15.00 per couple and \$8 for singles. Reservations are required. Please call Donna Forbus at 887-4930 for more information or to make reservation.

The twelfth annual Daddy-Daughter Date Night is scheduled for Saturday, February 10 from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at the Colonial Mall social center. Dancing, refreshments, pictures and surprises make this special evening a very popular event. The cost is \$30 per couple and \$5 for each additional child. Call 887-4930 to make your reservation.

Auburn CityFest, a festival celebrating art and music, will be held at Kiesel Park on April 28, 2001. If you are interested in showcasing your unique artwork or special craft, volunteering, or becoming a sponsor for this exciting community festival, please contact Julie Buntin Wall at the Parks and Recreation Department at 887-4930.



## Meeting Schedule

City Council - Tuesday, January 2, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber.

Cemeteries Advisory Board - Monday, January 8, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center.

Water Works Board - Monday, January 8, 4:00 p.m., Engineering Conference Room.

Board of Education - Tuesday, January 9, 6:00 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room.

Board of Zoning Adjustment - Wednesday, January 10, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber.

Tree Commission - Thursday, January 11, 4:00 p.m., City Hall Conference Room.

Planning Commission - Thursday, January 11, 5:00 p.m., Council Chamber.

City Council - Tuesday, January 16, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber.

Historic Preservation - Tuesday, January 23, 3:00 p.m., City Hall Conference Room.

Tree Commission - Thursday, February 1, 4:00 p.m., City Hall Conference Room.

City Council - Tuesday, February 6, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber.

Board of Zoning Adjustment - Wednesday, February 7, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber.

Planning Commission - Thursday, February 8, 5:00 p.m., Council Chamber.

*-Meeting times and places are subject to change-*

## Smoke Alarms

The most important thing a person can do to ensure home fire safety is to install smoke alarms. Since smoke alarms are inexpensive and easy to install, it is better to have too many than too few. Smoke alarms should be installed throughout the house, especially in the bedroom areas. Specialized smoke alarms are also available for the hearing impaired that are connected to bright strobe lights that flash when the alarm is activated.



Remember, no smoke alarm works if the batteries are dead. It is a good idea to replace the batteries on the same day every year such as New Year's Day. When is the last time you replaced your smoke alarm batteries?