

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

March 2001

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Expansion at Boykin

During the summer of 1983, the Auburn City Schools vacated Boykin School. The City Manager proposed leasing the facility from the Auburn City Schools in order to house a number of non-profit and community-based groups that could serve residents of the area. Several groups expressed an interest in occupying available space in the building. In September of that year, the Auburn City Schools signed a lease on the building with the City. On November 28, 1984 the City held an Open House to introduce the citizens to the "Boykin Community Center" and its new tenants.



Boykin Community Center Gymnasium



Community children have access to computers.

In October 1993, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new Boykin Community Center Gymnasium. The addition of the gymnasium was a joint effort by the City of Auburn and the Auburn Housing Authority and provides space for indoor recreational activities and meeting room space.

Today, the Boykin Community Center serves as a multifaceted public facility. It is an excellent example of how a surplus school can be recycled into an effective recreation and community asset that houses a variety of agencies offering important programs to low- and moderate-income families (LMI). More than 400 children ages 6 weeks to 12 years old are enrolled in non-profit service organizations housed in the Center. These organ-

izations provide a comprehensive range of services and age-appropriate activities for children and families designed to improve quality of life and to promote the development of children. Current tenants include:

Bargain Box: sells used clothing and other items at affordable prices.

Joyland Child Development Center: provides quality care for approximately 110 children between the ages of 30 months and 12 years for LMI families.

ACHR Child Development Program: offers a Head Start pre-school program for children ages 3-5 for low-income families.

ACHR/USDA Commodity Food Program: provides food pantry services as part of the ACHR program.

Auburn Adult Day Care Center: provides an adult care program sponsored by the East Alabama Services for the Elderly.

Auburn Day Care Centers: provides services for low-and moderate-income children from 6 weeks to 12 years old.



Seniors enjoy special programs and activities.

Open Line

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City of Auburn



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Recycled Paper

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Expansion at Boykin

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ACHR/Community Service Block Grant Program: provides low-income residents of Lee County with utility assistance and home weatherization.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Lee Co: offers programs to promote the development of low- and moderate-income children.

The Rainbow Room: offers fellowship, games, crafts, programs, and meals to seniors.

This Spring the City will expand Boykin Community Center to enhance the services this facility provides to Auburn citizens. In January, the City Council awarded the bid for a 7500 square foot addition at Boykin Community Center to J.A. Lett Construction Company. This expansion will provide additional classrooms allowing current programs that operate from the Center to expand programming, reduce overcrowding, and better utilize their space. Throughout the years, this facility has been transformed into an important part of the Auburn community by serving as a home to programs that have touched thousands of lives.

Council Supports Schools

In early February, the Governor announced a 6.2% proration of the State budget. This action resulted in the loss of \$992,000 to the Auburn City Schools this fiscal year and, more than likely, next fiscal year as well. The City Council on February 6 voted to increase the City's appropriation to the Schools this year by \$500,000. This money, coupled with reserves in the 16 mill tax funds, will allow the City Schools to weather proration this fiscal year.

"School funding is an extremely important matter to the City Council," said Mayor Bill Ham. "I am glad that we are in a position to appropriate additional money to the Schools this year. Cities, like families, have to make choices on where to spend their limited dollars. By the City's strong support of the Auburn City Schools, the library, and recreation programming, Auburn residents should know that children are most important to us," he said.

The funding approved by the Council will be paid in monthly installments over the next eight months. The City currently gives the Schools approximately \$4 million per year, which is one of the highest levels of per pupil support by a local government in the State.

Recycle Bike Program



In January, four students graduated from the City's first Recycle Bike Program. As graduates of the program, Natasha Gupta, Tyshunn McCray, Tico Tolbert, and Brian Cook were able to keep the bikes they worked on and for which they received certificates of merit.

The Recycle Bike Program, an on-going program for children ages 8 - 14 coordinated by Phil Dunlap, Special Programs Director, was created to help increase an interest in bicycling. Citizens in the community donated bicycles for the project and participants learned many important bicycle safety tips and bicycle maintenance.

Brian Henry, a longtime bike enthusiast and employee of The Bike Shop, volunteered to instruct the students on bicycle maintenance. Dee Watson, Director of Frank Brown Recreation Center, taught the basics of bicycle safety.

The next Recycle Bike Program will begin in April. For additional information or to sign up to work as a volunteer with this program, contact Phil Dunlap at 887-4930.

Planting Begins on 2000 Trees



The Auburn Tree Commission is gearing up to begin planting 2000 heritage trees in the City of Auburn. "2000 Trees in 2000," a program created by the Auburn Tree Commission to help renew Auburn's urban forest, is the largest tree-planting program in the City's history. The City will soon be planting various types of oak and maple trees on private and public property. Citizens have been signing up for these trees since last summer.

The program is free to Auburn citizens. The homeowner's only obligation is to agree to assume ownership and to water the tree on a regular basis for the first three years after the tree has been planted.

Due to the volume of calls, the City has not been confirming receipt of planting agreements; however, citizens who signed agreements will be contacted prior to the trees being planted on their lots. The Tree Commission and the City are grateful to members of the Auburn University ROTC who have already volunteered their time to assist in evaluation of planting sites.

The City is now recruiting volunteers for the planting phase. If you or your group are interested in helping, or if you would like to plant your own tree, call James Jennings or Lance Kelley at Dean Road Recreation Center, 887-4930.

A limited number of trees are still available. If you would like to have a heritage tree planted on your property, free of charge, please stop by Dean Road Recreation Center, City Hall, or visit the City's web site at www.auburnalabama.org to download the planting agreement.

Library Closure



The Auburn Public Library will close Wednesday, March 28 and is tentatively scheduled to reopen at its new location on Wednesday, April 18.

During this time, Library patrons are asked to return all books to the book drop at the back entrance of the current library through April 12. After that date, please place them in the book drop at the new library.

Be sure to watch for next month's issue of *Open Line* for details on the opening of the new Library in April.

Children's Library Activities - March



The Auburn Public Library offers *Storytime* for children ages 3-5 on Tuesdays from 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Toddler Time is offered on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. for children ages 18 months - 3 years.

The themes of *Storytime and Toddler Time*:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| March 1 st : | Wild Animals for <i>Toddler Time</i> |
| Week of March 5: | Weather |
| Week of March 12: | St. Patrick's Day for <i>Storytime</i>
Green Things for <i>Toddler Time</i> |
| Week of March 19: | Transportation |
| Week of March 26: | Brothers and Sisters for <i>Storytime</i>
No <i>Toddler Time</i> this week |

Looking for a Job?

The City of Auburn has full-time and part-time job openings in a wide range of areas. City job vacancies are posted on the City's web site at www.auburnalabama.org and are also listed at the Alabama State Employment Office. The City of Auburn is an equal opportunity employer.

A few of the current full-time openings include the following:

- Administrative Secretary** (Public Works) - \$1,774.71/month
- Environmental Services Assistant** - \$1,952.18/month
- Reference Librarian** - \$2,598.35/month

Join a winning team of employees at the City of Auburn!



Notice to Roll-out Cart Garbage Customers:

Please have your cart at the curb no later than 6:00 a.m.

Public Hearing on Water Rate Increase



Because of on-going concerns with increasing production costs in producing the necessary amount and quality of finished water for its customers, the Water Works Board of the City of Auburn is considering a 5% water rate increase.

A public hearing is scheduled on Thursday, March 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 141 N. Ross Street. If approved, this increase will become effective with bills received on or about October 1, 2001. The last water rate increase (5%) was in 1997.

If you have any questions, please contact Water and Sewer Director Rex Griffin at 887-4911, ext. 224.

Meeting Schedule

- Cemeteries Advisory Board** - Monday, March 5, 4:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board** - Monday, March 5, 6:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.
- City Council** - Tuesday, March 6, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.
- Board of Zoning Adjustment** - Wednesday, March 7, 4:30 PM, Council Chamber.
- Tree Commission** - Thursday, March 8, 4:00 PM, City Hall Conference Room.
- Planning Commission** - Thursday, March 8, 5:00 PM, Council Chamber.
- Water Works Board** - Monday, March 12, 4:00 PM, Engineering Conference Room.
- Board of Education** - Tuesday, March 13, 6:00 PM, AHS Multi-Media Room.
- City Council** - Tuesday, March 20, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.
- Library Board** - Thursday, March 22, 1:30 PM, Library Conference Room.
- Historic Preservation Commission** - Tuesday, March 27, 3:00 PM, City Hall Conference Room .
-Meeting times and places are subject to change-

Board Vacancies

Two vacancies on the **Historic Preservation Commission** and one vacancy on the **Library Board** will be announced at the March 6th City Council meeting. Appointments will be made at the April 3rd City Council meeting.

Citizens interested in serving are encouraged to contact one of their City Council members or notify the City Manager's Office.

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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 or mail them to us at City Manager's Office, 171 North Ross Street.

up COMING EVENTS

The **Young Adult Coffeehouse** will meet from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. on March 1 in the Library Conference Room. The topic this month is the new Auburn Public Library. Teens will be able to have a hands-on look at the building plans, discuss the new Young Adult area, and make

posters for their schools announcing the move to the new Library facility. Teens are invited to share their own stories about moving to a new house or town. Refreshments provided.

The Spring 2001 Softball season will be kicked off during March 2 – 4 with the **Auburn Softball Complex** hosting Men's Divisions B, C and D, Women, and Coed league tournaments. Free admission.



The **USTA Auburn Spring Tennis Classic** tournament will host men's and women's singles and doubles events during March 2 – 4 at the Samford Avenue Tennis Center. Free Admission.

Chamber music groups from the **Auburn Community Orchestra** will perform at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center on March 11 from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. The performance will include three or four music sessions with breaks for the audience to enjoy cake and coffee, ask questions of the orchestra members, and stroll through the Community Arts Center.

The strings of the orchestra will then join Auburn University Faculty Member William Schaeffer for a performance of Gordon Jacobs' Horn Concerto. Free Admission.



The **Third Annual Juried Art Exhibition** will be held at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center during March 23 - April 27. This annual competitive exhibition is open to artists and craftspersons who reside or are employed in Lee County. The show provides area residents an opportunity to view recent creative work by local artists. Entries are due March 16, and entry forms will be available at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.

The **Worth 3DX Softball Classic** - ISA Men's A/AA, B and C divisions will play at the Auburn Softball Complex from Friday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m. through Sunday, March 18 at 5:00 p.m.

Auditions for J. M. Barrie's magical comedy *Dear Brutus* will be held at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center on Friday, March 16 through Sunday, March 18. The play will be directed by Brooks Applebaum and co-produced by Dennis Bell. Rehearsals begin Monday, March 19 and performances are April 26 - April 29 and May 3 - May 6. For more information about auditions, rehearsals, or ticket information, please contact Brooks Applebaum at 821-4475.



The City of Auburn's annual **Easter Egg Hunt** at Kiesel Park will be held at 11:00 a.m. on April 14. Mark your calendars for this fun community event for the entire family sponsored by SouthTrust Bank.

Auburn CityFest, a festival celebrating art and music, will be held at Kiesel Park from 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. on April 28. This all-day festival kicks off with the March of Dimes walk followed by unique activities for children, arts and crafts, live music concerts, health screenings, and a celebrity cook-off. For more information, please visit our web site at www.auburnalabama.org/cityfest. Make plans now to enjoy this community event.

This year's **Bike Bash** will be held on May 12 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Join Auburn bicyclists in participating in one of several organized bike routes of various distances, demonstrations, information booths, live music and more. T-shirts will be given to registered participants. Pre-registration fee is \$7.00 per bike participant. Group rates are available. For more information or to volunteer, call Dee Watson at 887-4930.

The **Mayor's Memorial Day Breakfast** will be held on Monday, May 28 at 7:00 a.m. in the Auburn University Hotel and Dixon Conference Center. Tickets are now available at City Hall for \$20 each. All proceeds will go to the Veteran's Memorial Fund.