

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens
June 2001

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Open Line

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City of Auburn



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Northside Wastewater Plant To Be Expanded

One of the City's goals for this year is to arrange financing for the construction of the expansion of the Northside Wastewater Treatment Plant and for the installation of a major sewer line on the southwest part of Auburn. As part of the plan to arrange how to pay for these improvements, the City Council asked that it be done without raising sewer rates. On May 15, the Council approved a plan to raise the \$10 million needed for the improvements without raising sewer rates.



H.C. Morgan Wastewater Treatment Plant

BACKGROUND – In the 1970s and early 1980s, the inadequacy of the City's two wastewater treatment plants was a major community concern. Dr. H. C. Morgan documented serious water quality concerns as a result of the regular failure of the many pump stations that were needed to pump wastewater to the two plants. In 1983, the City Council formed a task force to study the feasibility of building two new plants and 27 miles of major sewer lines. After study, the task force, chaired by Dr. Morgan, recommended private financing, construction, and operation of the two plants and the major sewer lines.

In 1983-84, the cost of constructing the needed improvements was in excess of \$25 million. The interest rate on similar bond issues on January 1, 1985 was 10.24 percent. It would have been difficult for the City to pay the debt service on a bond issue of this size. Furthermore, Congress had made privatization a very favorable option by offering the corporations involved accelerated depreciation, interest deductions, and tax-free bonds. At the time, Arthur Young & Company projected that the privatization option would save the City approximately \$1 million per year over the thirty-year life of the project. Now, sixteen years later, the actual savings compared to a revenue bond issue at the going interest rate of 10.24 percent have been \$16,048,054 or \$1,003,032 per year.

Another advantage to the City over the years is that the City's credit was not pledged, leaving the City's borrowing capacity free for roads, parks, other infrastructure, and amenities. If the City had used its own credit, not only would we have had very high sewer rates, but also it would have delayed municipal capital improvements for a long time because of the exhaustion of the City's borrowing and budget capacity.

THE CURRENT PLAN – On May 15, the City Council approved a plan to purchase the two treatment plants and 27 miles of major sewer lines from US Filter.

1. The City will buy the treatment plants from US Filter for the remaining debt on the bonds - \$14.124 million and establish a sinking fund to pay US Filter for the value of the

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plants in 2012 and its tax losses for an early sale.

2. The City will issue \$10 million in bonded debt more than is needed to pay off the current indebtedness and use the proceeds to double the capacity of the Northside plant and install the major sewer line S-5.

3. US Filter will be allowed to do the engineering for these two major projects, assuming a competitive professional services fee reviewed by a third party engi-

neer, selected by the City. US Filter's contract for operations and maintenance will be extended for eight years until January 1, 2020.

In summary, we have benefited from the privatization option that we selected in the mid-1980s but we now have an opportunity to own the plants for a fraction of their replacement cost, expand capacity of the Northside plant, and install the S-5 line without raising sewer rates.

Comparison of Present Sewer Operations to Proposed Sewer Operations

	Before Council Action	After Council Action
Owner of property on which the plants are sited	City of Auburn	City of Auburn
Sewer Plants owned by	US Filter	City of Auburn
Northside plant's capacity	1.6 million gals/day	3.2 million gals/day
Northside plant's operating status	85% of capacity	47% of capacity
Northside plant will reach capacity in	2003	2026
H.C. Morgan (Southside) plant capacity	5.4 million gals/day	5.4 million gals/day
H.C. Morgan (Southside) plant operating status	70% of capacity	70% of capacity
H.C. Morgan (Southside) plant will reach capacity in	2026	2026
Estimated replacement cost (both plants)	\$35-\$40 million	

New Public Library Receives Overwhelming Response

On Monday, April 23, the new Auburn Public Library opened its doors for the first time. On opening day, patrons came in great numbers to see the new library and to take advantage of the expanded library services. During the first week at the new facility, close to one hundred citizens registered for new library cards.

To operate this new and larger facility, the Auburn Public Library has employed several new staff members to meet the needs of the community. The Reference Division has been expanded, and the new Electronic Services Division will soon be offering computer classes.

The Youth Services Division also has some exciting changes. The new library has a much larger storytelling room which will allow for much larger groups of children for Toddler Time, Story Time, and other youth programs. Young adults will also enjoy the expanded space for the Young Adult Coffeehouse, a monthly program designed for students in grades six through twelve. There are now four new full-service computers located in the Youth Services area as well as a collection of fiction and non-fiction videos for children to check out.

With a new facility, a larger staff, and exciting new programs, the Auburn Public Library offers more reasons than ever to visit. For information on these programs and when they will be offered, call 887-4997. If you haven't yet been able to visit the new Library, we hope you will soon be able to stop by the new Public Library at the corner of Dean Road and Thach Avenue.



A young boy picks out a book from the Library.

Join Us at the Library

The Auburn Public Library offers Story Time 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 Story Time and Toddler Time:

Week of June 4-8:	Wild about Sports
Week of June 11-15:	Wild about Animals
Week of June 18-22:	Wild about the Environment
Week of June 25-29:	Wild about the Forest

Auburn Public Library Hours

Monday through Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Sunday: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Blast Into Summer with Auburn Parks & Recreation!

Auburn Parks and Recreation is offering a wide variety of summer activities for all ages.

Swimming classes are offered throughout the summer at Samford Pool for beginners and advanced swimmers. Other aquatic activities such as scuba, water polo, snorkeling, diving, lifeguard training, and water



Two of Auburn's youth enjoying Summer Day Camp.

aerobics are being offered at both Samford and Drake Pools.

Camping programs offered this summer include Small Fry Camp, Summer Day Camp, and Youth Adventures programs. Small Fry Camp, for ages 3 - 5, will be at Frank Brown Recreation Center and offers hands-on activities, songs, and dance.

Summer Day Camp will be at Samford Middle School and will offer children ages 6-12 activities such as arts and crafts, music, dancing, swimming, and field trips. The Youth Adventures Program is a new program and will offer Auburn's youth ages 12-14 the opportunity to

take an in-depth look at the many unique aspects of our community. Each session will focus on a different theme such as sports, industry, outdoor adventures, and music.

Summer is a great time to explore individual creativity by participating in arts and crafts classes. Afternoon Art for Young Children is a series of art activities especially designed for younger children. The Children's Visual Art Workshops will be held at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center and will include classes conducted by area artists and art educators. Clay sculpting, ceramics, and decorating classes are also available.



Local children participating in arts and crafts.

For additional information on these programs or to find out about other programs available this summer, visit www.auburnlabama.org/parks, pick-up a Parks and Recreation Summer Brochure, or call 887-4930.

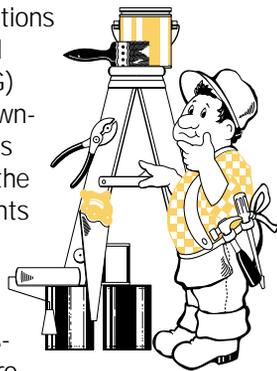
Housing Rehabilitation Begins

The City of Auburn is currently accepting applications for its Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program funded with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to benefit low- and moderate-income homeowners. Both low-interest rate loans and deferred loans are available. Deferred loans are only available to the elderly, age 62 and above, and handicapped residents of Auburn.

Loan applications may be picked up at the Economic Development Department located inside City Hall. For more information regarding the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program, or other CDBG programs offered, please contact 887-4968.

In addition, CDBG funds have been allocated to Presbyterian Community Ministry (PCM) to offer Emergency Housing Rehabilitation to residents of Auburn. Residents must live within the City of Auburn and must meet the low- and moderate-income requirements issued by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Emergency rehabilitation is designed for smaller household repairs and will be issued in the form of a grant to those meeting the program requirements.

Applications for this program can be picked up at the PCM office located at 143 East Thach Avenue on Monday and Tuesday between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and on Thursday between noon and 4:00 p.m.



Young Adult Coffeehouse

The Auburn Public Library offers Young Adult Coffeehouse, a monthly program designed for students in grades six through twelve, the first Thursday of every month from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

The themes for Young Adult Coffeehouse in June:

- June 7** - Extreme Sports
- June 14** - Survival in the Wild
- June 21** - Saving the Earth
- June 28** - Fantasy

Board Vacancies

Two vacancies on the **Auburn Downtown Redevelopment Authority** will be announced at the June 5th City Council meeting and will be filled at the July 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 prior to the meeting.

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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

Registration continues for the **Auburn Public Library's "Go Wild...READ!" Summer Reading Program**. The Kick-off Party will be on Monday, June 4 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. The party will offer games and crafts to participants. A schedule of events will be available at the time of registration or call Youth Services at the Auburn Public Library at 887-4997 for more information.



The **Summer Invitational Art Exhibition** displaying works by five area artists and craftspersons will be open to the public at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Gallery during June 1-29. Admission is free.

A **Ballroom Dance** sponsored by the Starlite Dance Club will be held at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center from 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 9. Dance partners are needed and admission is \$10 per couple. Reservations are required. To reserve your place

or to get more information, please contact Tom Padgett at 821-0977.

A **Contra Dance**, an old fashioned folk dance similar to square dancing and sponsored by the Sundilla Acoustic Concert Series, will be held at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 16. This event will offer a live band and caller. Experience is not needed and beginners are welcome. Partners are not necessary. Admission is \$6 per person. For more information, please contact Katie Smith at 826-0102.

Summer Day Camps will be held June 4 – August 3. Registration is available throughout the summer at the Dean Road Recreation Center from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 887-4930.

The **Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration**, co-sponsored by Briggs & Stratton, will be held at Duck Samford Stadium on Wednesday, July 4. There will be live music from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. followed by the fireworks display at 9:00 p.m. Join us in celebrating Independence Day with the most spectacular fireworks display in Lee County!



Meeting Schedule

Cemeteries Advisory Board - Monday, June 4, 4:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

Park & Recreation Advisory Board - Monday, June 4, 6:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

City Council - Tuesday, June 5, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Board of Zoning Adjustment - Wednesday, June 6, 4:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Tree Commission - Thursday, June 7, 4:00 PM, City Hall Conference Room.

Water Works Board - Monday, June 11, 4:00 PM, Engineering Conference Room.

Board of Education - Tuesday, June 12, 6:00 PM, AHS Multi-Media Room.

Planning Commission - Thursday, June 14, 5:00 PM, Council Chamber.

City Council - Tuesday, June 19, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Historic Preservation Commission - Tuesday, June 26, 3:00 PM, City Hall Conference Room.

Bicycle Committee - Tuesday, June 26, 7:00 PM, Engineering Conference Room.

-Meeting times and places are subject to change-

Summer Swim Schedule

Recreational Morning Swimming - Samford Pool only

Dates:

May 28 – June 8

June 25 – July 6

July 23 – July 27

Time:

9:00 a.m. – Noon

Monday – Friday

Recreational Afternoon Swimming - Samford Pool and Drake Pool

Dates:

Open all season

Time:

1:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Monday – Friday

1:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday