

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens
October 2001

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City of Auburn



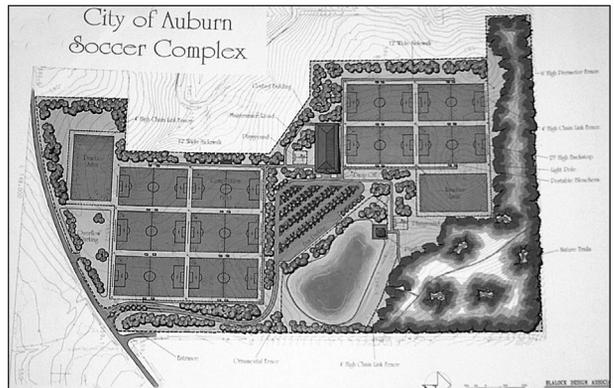
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October 23 Referendum

There will be a referendum on Tuesday, October 23 to determine if Auburn voters are agreeable to building a new cemetery, a passive park that includes a greenway, and a soccer complex. In addition, voters will be asked to extend the school taxes that have been in place since the Auburn City School system was founded in the early 1960s. Neither referendum question involves the addition of new taxes.

Of the property taxes collected each year, the City places five mills of the property taxes in the Five Mill Tax Fund. This money can only be used to pay for projects that have been approved by voters in referenda. Many of the major projects the City has built over the past two decades have been built using the Five Mill Tax Fund. For example, the City's new Library, South College Street improvements, many of the new sidewalks, and the Duck Samford youth baseball facility are some of the recent projects built using the Five Mill Tax Fund following approval of the voters.

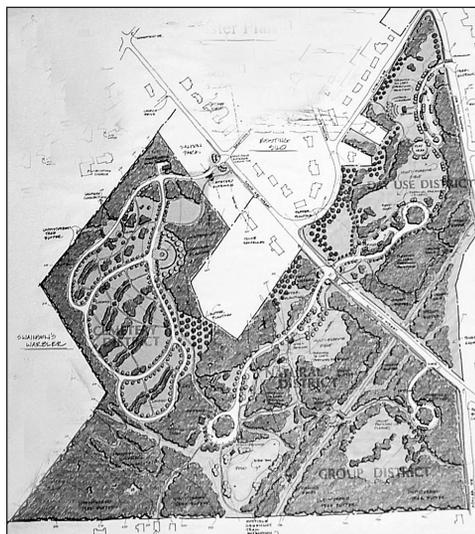
The three projects that will be voted upon on October 23 include a new cemetery on South Gay Street near Salmon Park, a passive park including the City's first greenway on the former Salmon property, and a new soccer complex on Wire Road. On all of these projects, citizen groups have been heavily involved in identifying the need for them and participating in their design.



Soccer Complex Master Plan

If Auburn voters approve these three projects in the referendum, engineering and landscape design work will take place over the next year. The projects will be bid in late 2002 or early 2003 and will be in place in late 2003 or early 2004.

Auburn City Schools is requesting approval of the voters to extend the 16 mills of property taxes. Currently, these taxes expire in 2016 but the ballot calls for them to be in place until there is action to repeal them. The Schools have a long list of major needs over the next decade but cannot issue bonds to build them with an expiration date only 15 years from now. The School Board also is planning to re-structure some of its bonded indebtedness to take advantage of interest rates that are as low as they have been in the past 30 years.



Cemetery Master Plan

Sewer System Grease and Our Environment

Sewer system grease is the number one sewer system problem in Auburn. Grease gets into the sewer system through household drains, garbage disposals, and poorly maintained grease traps at restaurants and other businesses. Sewer overflow and backups caused by grease can cause health hazards, damage to home interiors, unpleasant odors, and an increase in operation and maintenance costs for the Sewer Division and property owner. Unfortunately, if the sewage from an overflow reaches streams, it can deplete the supply of oxygen and may adversely impact aquatic life.

According to the Water Environment Federation, the easiest way for communities to address this problem and prevent raw sewage overflows caused by excess grease is to keep this material out of the sewer system. By scraping grease and food scraps from plates, pots, pans, utensils, and grills into the trash for disposal,

grease will not enter the system through sink drains or garbage disposals.



To report sewage problems or for additional information on sewer system grease, please call Don Wilder at 887-4980 or at 887-4911 ext 229. You can also pick up pamphlets on sewer system grease at the Water Works Board located at 171 North Ross Street.



Sanitary sewer cleanout overflowing from excess grease.

Looking for a Job?

The City of Auburn currently has full-time and part-time positions in a wide range of areas. Some of the current full-time job openings include:

-Administrative Secretary - Finance

(\$1,774.71 - \$2,057.38/month)

-Traffic Signal Technician (\$2,147.40 - \$2,489.43/month)

-Mapping Assistant (\$1,774.71 - \$2,507.38/month)

-Crew Leader - Streets (\$1,774.71 - \$2,057.38/month)

For updated job opportunities, visit the City's website at www.auburnalabama.org, call the Alabama State Employment Office, or the City's job line at 501-7250. The City of Auburn is an equal opportunity employer. Come join a winning team of employees at the City of Auburn!

Board Vacancies

The following vacancies will be announced at the October 2nd City Council meeting and appointments will be made at the November 6th City Council meeting:

- **Tree Commission** – three vacancies
- **Educational Building Authority** – one vacancy
- **Special Care Facilities Financing Authority** – one vacancy

Two vacancies on the **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board** will be announced at the October 16th City Council and appointments will be made at the November 20th City Council meeting.

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

Have You Recycled Lately?

The City of Auburn offers both a curbside and a drop-off recycling program. Curbside recycling pick-up service is available on your regular garbage collection day. Residents are encouraged to recycle the following items by separating them and placing them at the curb:



- aluminum cans
- steel cans
- corrugated cardboard
- clear glass bottles and jars without lids
- brown glass bottles and jars without lids
- newspaper
- plastics

The City also offers citizens a 24-hour Recycling



Drop-off Center and Compost Demonstration site located at 365-A North Donahue Drive, between Drake Avenue and Martin Luther King Drive. In addition to the items collected at the

curb, the Drop-off Center accepts the following items for recycling:

- green glass
- magazines
- general office paper

The Drop-off Center is open seven days a week for your convenience.

The First Off-Road Bike Path Opens in Auburn

The grand opening of the first off-road bike path was held near the Chewacla State Park entrance on Shell Toomer Parkway on September 15. The bikeway was dedicated in honor of Dr. Charlotte Ward and her late husband, Dr. Curtis Ward, and is located parallel to Shell Toomer Parkway.

The Auburn Bicycle Committee recommended to the Auburn City Council that this bikeway be named in honor of the Wards because, for decades, their name has been synonymous with bicycling. Charlotte and Curtis Ward could be seen in all types of weather pedaling to and from their jobs on the Auburn University campus. The Wards have been staunch supporters of bicycling and have promoted the use of bicycles by their example. Interestingly, they never owned an automobile.

In an effort to say thank you to these two remarkable citizens and legendary bicyclists, the Auburn City Council passed a resolution on August 21, 2001, naming this bikeway "The Charlotte and Curtis Ward Bikeway."

The two-mile bikeway is now open for walking, biking, and other non-motorized vehicles.



Dr. Charlotte Ward



The Public Works Department has a new weapon in the war against potholes on City streets. The recently purchased Akzo Nobel's fully equipped TP-4 Pothole Patcher is a self-contained unit equipped with tools and features needed to properly prepare potholes for the hot-mix or cold-mix patching material and to compact the patching material for longer-lasting repairs. To report potholes in City streets, please call 887-4910.

Visit the Library's "Slow Stroller"

The Auburn Public Library recently has placed on display a new piece of artwork in its Youth Services area entitled "Slow Stroller." Created by the nationally recognized Alabama artist Frank Fleming, "Slow Stroller" is a whimsical cast bronze turtle. Funds were made available for the purchase of the sculpture through a generous monetary gift to the Auburn Public Library by the estate of the late Mrs. Eloise McKinley Nixon, a former Auburn resident and dedicated Library patron. The gift was given in memory of Mrs. Nixon's son, William McKinley Nixon.



"Slow Stroller"

Appliance Disposal

The Environmental Services Department collects washers, dryers, dishwashers, microwaves, and stoves. These items are commonly called "white goods" and curb-side collection requires the purchase of a red collection sticker. The cost of a red sticker is \$5.00 per item.



Disposal tickets are required to dispose of appliances.

White goods that use freon, including freezers, refrigerators, and air conditioners require a blue collection sticker. The costs of disposal of these items have increased because of environmental regulations that require the removal of freon before disposal. The cost of a blue sticker is \$28.00 per item. Stickers may be purchased at the Revenue Office in City Hall at 144 Tichenor Avenue.

Citizens may also request a white goods sticker by mailing a check to the Finance Department at 144 Tichenor Avenue, Suite 6. The cost to receive a white goods sticker by mail is \$5.00 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling for a red sticker and \$28.00 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling for a blue sticker. Please write "white goods sticker" on your check.

Meeting Schedule

- Cemeteries Advisory Board** - October 1, 4:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.
- Park & Recreation Advisory Board** - October 1, 6:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.
- City Council** - October 2, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.
- Board of Zoning Adjustment** - October 3, 4:30 PM, Council Chamber.
- Tree Commission** - October 4, 4:00 PM, Finance Conference Room (City Hall).
- Water Works Board** - October 8, 4:00 PM, Engineering Conference Room.
- Board of Education** - October 9, 6:00 PM, AHS Multi-Media Room.
- Planning Commission** - October 11, 5:00 PM, Council Chamber.
- City Council** - October 16, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.
- Historic Preservation** - October 23, 3:00 PM, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.
- Bicycle Committee** - October 23, 7:00 PM, Engineering Conference Room.

-Meeting times and places are subject to change-

Please make
note of our
new contact
numbers at
City Hall...

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up COMING EVENTS

Photo II Annual Juried Photography Exhibition will be held from October 1- November 2 at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Call the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 887-4938 for additional information.

Salmagundi, offered to children in grades K-5th on the first Wednesday of every month, will meet from 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Youth Services area at the Auburn Public Library on October 3. The program theme will be “making masks.” For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 887-4997.

The **Young Adult Coffeehouse** will be held from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. on October 4 in the Youth Services area at the Auburn Public Library. Children in grades 6th – 12th are invited to learn about “theatrical makeup.” For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 887-4996.



Three free outdoor concerts will be held in October.

Concerts at Kiesel will be held on October 11, 18, and 25 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Kiesel Park. These concerts are free to the public. Bring a picnic supper and enjoy live music under the stars.

- October 11: Auburn University Steel Drum Band
- October 18: Auburn University Jazz Band
- October 25: Auburn Knights

A **Creative Memories Workshop** will be held on Sunday, October 14 from 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.

This workshop offers tips and ideas for creating photo albums and scrapbooks. For additional information, call the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 887-4938.

Teen Read Week will be held at the Auburn Public Library from October 14 – 19 and the theme of the week will be “Make Reading a Hobbit.” On Thursday, October 18 from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. the Library will have a “Hobbit Costume Contest.” For additional information, call Eve Kneeland at 887-4996.

Christmas Card Camp will be held on October 23 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Art Center. The camp cost \$20.00 and is open to ages 18 years and older. Get ready for the holidays by making your own Christmas cards. For additional information contact Christine Welbaum at 821-7055.

The Auburn Public Library will be having its annual **Halloween Party** on October 25 from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. All ages are welcome. Participants will make Halloween crafts and watch the movie, “Casper the Ghost.” Everyone is encouraged to dress in costumes. For additional information, contact Eve Kneeland at 887-4996.

AppleBell Productions will hold its fall production, The Boys Next Door, on October 26-28 at 7:30 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Admission is free. Call the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 887-4938 for more information

As an alternative to Trick or Treating, the Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting **“Downtown Monster Merchants,”** where several downtown businesses will be giving out treats, coupons, and other small gifts to local community children. Dress-up and join the fun in downtown Auburn from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on October 31. This event is free and parents must accompany all children. For additional information, contact Donna Forbus at 887-4930.

TRICK OR TREAT

Mayor Bill Ham has declared that children may “Trick or Treat” in Auburn on Wednesday, October 31 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. only. He said this is the time when the Police Division of the Public Safety Department will provide extra patrol in the City for children and their parents. It is hoped that only small children, accompanied by at least one adult, will participate in this activity.