

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens
December 2001

City Council

Bill Ham, Jr., Mayor
501-7260
bham@auburnalabama.org

Arthur L. Dowdell, Sr., Ward 1
887-2309

Logan B. Gray, Ward 1
887-5126

John G. Heilman, Ward 2
887-8069
Heilmjg@mail.auburn.edu

Cheryl C. Gladden, Ward 2
826-6029
cherylgladen@hotmail.com

K. Ted Wilson, Ward 3
887-9901
ted@wilsoninvestmentgroup.com

Rod Popwell, Ward 3
821-6418
rpopwell@home.com

Carolyn G. Mathews, Ward 4
821-0161
carmat@prodigy.net

David Cicci, Ward 4
887-6675
dacicci@hotmail.com

Open Line

Open Line is produced by
Office of the
City Manager
144 Tichenor Ave., Ste. 1
Auburn, AL 36830
phone: 334-501-7260
fax: 334-501-7299

web:
www.auburnalabama.org

email:
dwatson@auburnalabama.org



City of Auburn



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ALDOT Gives City Schedule for US 29 Bridge Widening



In addition to the City's recent completion of many of the planned improvements to South College Street by widening, installing medians, traffic lights, sidewalks, and landscaping, the City has urged the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) to widen the state's bridge over I-85. The State has promised the widening of the bridge for a number of years.

The Governor announced early last year that the work on the bridge widening would begin by November 2000. In August, Mayor Bill Ham led a delegation of Auburn City officials along with Senator Ted Little and Representative Mike Hubbard to Governor Don Siegelman's office to inquire about the delay in the progress of this project. At the meeting, the Governor pledged his support for the project and also agreed to pay for the full cost of a new traffic light at the intersection of South College Street and Veterans Boulevard.

The City requested the State to provide a detailed schedule for this project. In a subsequent letter to the City of Auburn, ALDOT Director Paul Bowlin established the following schedule:

- Preliminary engineering and environmental work has already begun and will continue through early summer 2002.
- Right-of-way acquisition will begin in summer 2002.
- Construction will begin in the first quarter of 2003.

Last summer, the City of Auburn received permission from ALDOT to install a left turn signal at its expense on the bridge to alleviate some of the traffic delays. "The bridge is the responsibility of the State, but we felt that the new light would help the serious traffic situation at this location, so we installed it," said Mayor Ham.

"We have been very disturbed by the delays by the State in widening the bridge because of the traffic congestion it causes daily on South College Street," Mayor Ham said. "Although the improvements are a fair distance in the future, we are pleased to finally have a definite schedule from the State in writing," he added.

Fall Reading Program

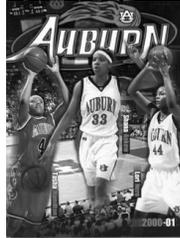


The Auburn Public Library and the Auburn University Women's Lady Tigers Basketball Team joined forces this Fall to promote and conduct a new reading program. "Read with the Tigers" was designed to encourage students in grades K-5

to read throughout the semester.

Students earned points for every book they read from October 8 to December 7 that qualified them to win prizes like T-shirts and free Lady Tigers basketball game tickets. Top readers will receive a pizza party and autograph session with the Lady Tigers on December 16.

For additional information on this program, contact Eve Kneeland at the Auburn Public Library at 501-3190.



City Manager Doug Watson presents a plaque to Information Technology Director Jim Buston, this year's winner of the annual Management Innovation Award, for his innovative work in integrating Auburn's voice and data systems. Jim, along with the Information Technology staff, worked countless hours installing a state-of-the-art telephone and call center solution in the new Library and in the new City Hall. This award was established in 1996 to encourage and recognize innovations in municipal programs and management practices that significantly improve public relations, create cost savings, or otherwise enhance organizational efficiency and effectiveness.



The City of Auburn, along with local businesses, was a participant in this year's "Vehicle Day" for 1st and 2nd graders at Oglethorpe Elementary School held in October. This program gives students a chance to learn how different vehicles operate. Over the two days, students learned about sixteen different vehicles. Some of the featured vehicles included a Police car and Police bicycle, the City's Recycling truck and animal control van, a Harley Davidson Motorcycle, and a Ford Model T.

The Birmingham Pledge
Sign It - Live It

I believe that every person has worth as an individual.
I believe that every person is entitled to dignity and respect, regardless of race or color.
I believe that every thought and every act of racial prejudice is harmful; if it is my thought or act, then it is harmful to me as well as to others.

Therefore, from this day forward I will strive daily to eliminate racial prejudice from my thoughts and actions.
I will discourage racial prejudice by others at every opportunity.
I will treat all people with dignity and respect, and I will strive daily to honor this pledge, knowing that the world will be a better place because of my effort.

The City Council of the City of Auburn, Alabama

Arthur L. Donaldson *Bill Boyd* *Cheryl Gladden*
Laura P. Gray *Ed Wilson* *Alvin Alvin*
Carolee Matthews *Juanita* *A. P.*

At the November 6 City Council meeting, the Auburn City Council signed the Birmingham Pledge and encouraged the community to do the same. Citizens interested in signing the pledge can do so at Auburn City Hall.

What Goes in the Blue Bag?

As part of the "RecycleAuburn" program, the City collects plastic items for recycling. These plastic items are collected in 33-gallon blue plastic bags provided free of charge by the Environmental Services Department. When the bag is at least half full, it should be placed near the curb with other recycling containers. These special blue bags should not be used for garbage or trash. When the recycling crews collect your blue bag, they will leave a new bag for you to use. Additional bags may be requested by calling the Environmental Services Department at 887-4941.

Plastics such as milk jugs, food and beverage containers, ketchup bottles, plastic wrap, plastic grocery bags, and household detergent containers simply need to be rinsed and placed in the blue bag. It is not necessary for the containers to have the recycle symbol stamped on them to be collected and recycled. For environmental and safety reasons, plastic containers that contained insecticides, herbicides, or hazardous wastes will not be collected.

For additional information on the plastic recycling program, call the Environmental Services Department at 887-4941 or visit the Environmental Services Department's website at www.auburnalabama.org/recycle/.



Board Vacancies

One vacancy on the **Board of Zoning Adjustment** and one vacancy on the **Water Works Board** will be announced at the December 4th City Council meeting. Appointments will be made at the January 8th 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.

The City of Auburn Completes Another AUALL Course

The City staff recently completed presenting a nine-week course to the members of the Auburn University Academy for Lifelong Learners (AUALL). The City of Auburn has been conducting city government classes for AUALL members since 1994.

City Manager Doug Watson began the course on September 18 by presenting an overview of the structure and management of the City. All subsequent City government classes were taught by different City department heads who discussed their departments' missions and goals.

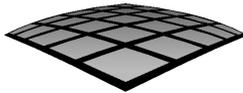
The City was pleased to provide Auburn and Opelika seniors an opportunity to learn more about Auburn local government.



City Manager Doug Watson presented an overview of the City to AUALL.

Aerial Photography Project is Underway

ATLANTIC
Technologies



The City of Auburn has contracted with Atlantic Technologies Limited of Huntsville to provide aerial photography services to the City. Work on this project began in October and will continue throughout the winter months.

In order for the company to conduct its work, survey personnel employed by Atlantic Technologies will place aerial markers throughout the City and roughly three to five miles outside the City limits. If it is necessary for survey personnel to enter on private property, they are required to obtain authorization from property owners prior to entry on the property. Survey personnel will carry a copy of the company's City business license and Atlantic Technologies business cards to identify them.

For more information about this project, please contact GIS Coordinator Bryan Willis at 887-4910.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Cemeteries Advisory Board - December 3, 4:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

Park & Recreation Advisory Board - December 3, 6:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

City Council - December 4, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Board of Zoning Adjustment - December 5, 4:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Tree Commission - December 6, 4:00 PM, Finance Conference Room (City Hall).

Water Works Board - December 10, 4:00 PM, Engineering Conference Room.

Greenspace Advisory Board - December 11, 11:30 AM, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.

Historic Preservation Commission - December 11, 3:00 PM, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.

Board of Education - December 11, 6:00 PM, AHS Multi-Media Room.

Planning Commission - December 13, 5:00 PM, Council Chamber.

City Council - December 18, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Holiday Closures

City Hall will be closed on **Christmas Eve**, Monday, December 24 and **Christmas Day**, Tuesday, December 25.

The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling will not be changed for those on Monday's route. However, Tuesday's route will be collected on Wednesday, December 26. Wednesday's route will be collected on Thursday, December 27. Thursday's route will be collected on Friday, December 28.

City Hall will also be closed on **New Year's Day**, Tuesday, January 1.

The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling will not be changed for those on Monday's route. However, Tuesday's route will be collected on Wednesday, January 2. Wednesday's route will be collected on Thursday, January 3. Thursday's route will be collected on Friday, January 4.



City Management

Douglas J. Watson
501-7261
City Manager
dwatson@auburnalabama.org

Wendy Hassett
501-7262
Assistant City Manager
whassett@auburnalabama.org

Andrea E. Jackson
501-7220
Director of Finance
ajackson@auburnalabama.org

Jeffery L. Ramsey
887-4942
Director of Public Works
jramsey@auburnalabama.org

Phillip Dunlap
501-7270
Director of Economic
Development
pdunlap@auburnalabama.org

Steven A. Reeves
501-7240
Director of Human
Resources
sreeves@auburnalabama.org

O. Clyde Prather
887-4908
Director of Public Safety
cprather@auburnalabama.org

Kelly E. Templin
887-4970
Director of Planning
ktemplin@auburnalabama.org

Rebecca O. Richardson
887-4930
Director of Parks and
Recreation
brichardson@auburnalabama.org

Margie B. Huffman
501-3190
Director of City Library
mhuffman@auburnalabama.org

Alfred J. Davis
887-4941
Director of Environmental
Services
adavis@auburnalabama.org

James C. Buston, III
501-7200
Director of Information
Technology
jbuston@auburnalabama.org

Rex B. Griffin, Jr.
887-4910
Director of Water
and Sewer
rgriffin@auburnalabama.org

Joe S. Bailey
887-4906
Municipal Judge
jbailey@auburnalabama.org

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Terry Jenkins
887-2100
Auburn City Schools
Superintendent
tjenkins@auburnschools.org

up COMING EVENTS

Adult Basketball Registration for ages 18 years and older, excluding high school students, will be held through December 7 at Dean Road Recreation Center from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. For additional information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 887-4930.

High School Basketball Registration for grades 9-12 will be held through December 7 at Dean Road Recreation Center from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. For additional information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 887-4930.

New Works I, an invitational art exhibition, will be on display through December 19 at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Art Gallery. The exhibition can be viewed Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Admission is free. For additional information, contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 887-4938.

Salmagundi, offered to children in grades K-5, will meet December 5 from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. in the Youth Services area at the Auburn Public Library. The program theme will be "Making Christmas Tree Ornaments." For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.

The Auburn Public Library's **Annual Christmas Party** will be held on December 6 from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. All ages are welcome. Participants will enjoy making Christmas crafts and singing Christmas carols. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.

Auburn Parks and Recreation Program Registration will be held from December 10 - 28 at Dean Road Recreation Center from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. For additional information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 887-4930.

The **Young Adult Coffeehouse**, offered to students in grades 6th -12th, will be held on December 13 from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Services area at the Auburn Public Library. The Auburn High School Varsity Choir will perform. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.

AppleBell Productions will hold auditions for its upcoming winter theatrical production, *Man, Woman, Flower*, on December 13 and 14 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center's performance room. If you are interested in auditioning or would like to work behind the scenes, stop by the Arts Center during this time or call Brooks Appelbaum at 821-4475. Auditions are open to the public.



Auburn CityFest 2002, an all-day festival bringing music, arts and crafts, great food, and exciting children's activities to Kiesel Park, will be held April 27, 2002. Applications are now being accepted for volunteers, corporate sponsors, vendors, artists, and craftspersons. To access the appropriate applications or to find out more about the festival, visit www.auburnalabama.org/cityfest or contact Julie Wall at 887-4930.

A **Holiday Field Trip** to the Hollywood Connection in Columbus, GA will be held on Thursday, December 27 for 3rd - 6th graders from 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. All participants should meet at the Dean Road Recreation Center at 10:00 a.m. to enjoy a day of roller skating, miniature golf, and bumper cars. The cost is \$10.00 per child. All children should bring a sack lunch. Children must be registered for the trip by December 14. For additional information call the Parks and Recreation Department at 887-4930.

GreenFACTS

Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop

The City of Auburn hosted an Erosion and Sediment Control workshop on Wednesday, November 28 at Kiesel Park to assist contractors in complying with local regulations. Several exhibits were set up to demonstrate erosion control measures and offer "hands-on" installation experience.

Erosion and sediment control certified professional Earl Norton discussed different erosion control measures, the impact erosion can have on housing construction, and the importance of having good erosion control measures installed before the rainy season.

In addition, Chief Building Codes Enforcement Officer Bill James and Environmental Engineer Tim Logiotatos discussed issues related to enforcement of the City's erosion control ordinance, problems with maintaining erosion control measures once they have been set up, and the penalties for non-compliance.

Happy Holidays