

# Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens  
January 2002

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## Open Line

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City of Auburn



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## New City Facilities Open

Several new or newly-renovated City buildings have recently been opened for public use. These openings are a part of the City's overall plan to meet the existing and future space needs of its departments and allow the City to better serve the community.

### Development Services Building

The Planning Department, Water Board Revenue Office, and Engineering Division of the Public Works Department occupy the building located at 171 North Ross Street. The Codes Enforcement Division of the Public Safety Department will move into the Development Services Building in March. Parts of this building were vacated when City Hall moved to its Tichenor Avenue location. This building, now serving as the Development Services Building, houses the development-related service functions of the City. The hours of operation for these services is 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The Water Board Revenue office drive-through remains open until 5:00 p.m.



*Development Services Building*

### City Hall Annex

Last year, the City Council approved the purchase of the building located at 128-130 Tichenor Avenue to serve as the City Hall Annex. One of the needs identified in the City's assessment of building space was for meeting and conference rooms. This 4700 +/- square foot building has been renovated with meeting space available to the City boards, commissions, task forces, and departments. Deputy City Clerk Earline Cobb will coordinate and reserve the rooms for meetings.



*City Hall Annex*

### Boykin Community Center Addition

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds have been utilized to expand the Boykin Community Center. The 7500 square foot addition includes seven classrooms that will greatly enhance the services this facility provides to Auburn citizens. Primarily, the addition was designed to expand programming and enable the groups in the Center to better utilize their space. Auburn Day Care and Joyland Day Care are expanding their childcare programs by moving into six of the classrooms. In addition, the project has funded the installation of a fiber-optic cable network that will allow the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Lee County to use one of the rooms as a computer lab. Children will have the opportunity to learn computer skills and gain access to the Internet. This facility continues to be enhanced to meet the needs of citizens by providing important educational and quality of life services to many Auburn residents.



*Boykin Community Center Addition*

# Applications Now Accepted for Utility Assistance and Housing Rehabilitation

The City of Auburn is now accepting applications from low-and-moderate income Auburn residents for utility assistance and housing rehabilitation. Funding is provided by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, and needy citizens are encouraged to apply for both programs.

Utility assistance will be granted in emergency situations and includes payment for water/sewer, power, and gas bills. Applicants must provide proof of income, number of household residents, and proof of emergency. Examples of accepted emergencies include hospitalization, layoffs, and other instances occurring within the last 4 - 6 weeks that prove the household does not have the funds to pay its utility bills. Applicants may receive up to three months of assistance, based upon the documentation that is provided.

The City has developed the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program to promote neighborhood stability by as-



## Time to Renew Dog Licenses

The City of Auburn requires the owners of all dogs age three months or older to have a City dog license for their pets. With a dog license, a missing dog can be identified quickly and returned to its owner instead of being detained in the Lee County Humane Shelter. Any owner whose dog is caught not wearing a City dog license could be subject to more than \$100 in fines and court costs. To make purchasing dog licenses more convenient, the City has recently implemented a way for dog owners to purchase dog licenses by mail.

Download the City dog license form from the City's website at [www.auburnalabama.org/finance/pdfs/doglicense.pdf](http://www.auburnalabama.org/finance/pdfs/doglicense.pdf) or call the Finance Department at 501-7226 and request that a form be mailed to you. The completed form, along with a copy of the dog's rabies certificate, should be sent with a check for \$10.00 per dog payable to the City of Auburn plus \$1.50 for postage and handling fees in an envelope addressed to Dog License, Revenue Office, City of Auburn, 144 Tichenor Avenue, Suite 6, Auburn, AL 36830.

Dog license renewals have been changed to a calendar year license. Dog license renewals for 2002 will begin this month. To avoid a late penalty, renewals should be completed before January 31. For additional information on purchasing dog licenses by mail, contact the Finance Department at 501-7226.

**Report street lights that are out to Alabama Power Company at 502-2342.**

sisting in the rehabilitation of single-family housing units occupied by low-to-moderate income homeowners. The Housing Rehab program will provide homeowners with repairs such as roofing, interior and exterior home repair, painting, and other repairs that may be needed to provide the basic minimum housing standards required by the City of Auburn Standard Building Code. Funds for up to \$15,000 are available to repair each house in the program. Generally, rehabilitation is completed in groups of 5 - 10 houses two to three times per year.

Both low-interest loans and deferred loans are available to assist with home repairs. Low-interest loans range from 3 - 4.5% interest, based on household income. Elderly (over age 62) and handicapped individuals will be eligible for a deferred loan, in which no payments or interest are made in a 20 year period. Payments will begin on deferred loan accounts upon the sale or transfer of the mortgage.

### HOW TO APPLY:

Applications are available in the Economic Development Department at Auburn City Hall, 144 Tichenor Avenue.

**UTILITY ASSISTANCE:** Pick up an application, complete the information requested on the application, and call the Economic Development Department to set up an appointment to review the application.

**HOUSING REHABILITATION:** Pick up an application, complete the information requested on the application, and return it to the Economic Development Department at Auburn City Hall.

To find out more about these programs or to submit an application, please call Donna Milam at 501-7280.

## Join us at the Library...

The Auburn Public Library offers Storytime for children ages 3 - 5 years on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. and on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. Toddler time is offered on Tuesdays for ages 18 months - 3 years and on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Themes in January:

January 7 - 11	Snow
January 14 - 18	Winter Animals
January 21 - 25	Birds
January 28 - February 1	Fairy Tales

## January City Council Meeting Dates Change

Since the first Tuesday in January is New Year's Day, the City Council meetings have been changed for January. The first City Council meeting will be held at **7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 8**. The second City Council meeting of the month will be held at **6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 22**.



# Auburn Public Library Hosts Meeting for Investment Clubs

The Auburn Public Library recently hosted its first meeting for local investment clubs in recognition of the continued support of local investment clubs in sponsoring investment-related library resources.

Dr. Dan Page, Head of the Finance Department at Auburn University, was the guest speaker. Dr. Page discussed financial statements and what investors should look for when making investment decisions. Local investment clubs that were recognized were TICA, The Golden Eagles Investment Club, and Gamblers Choice Investment Club.

TICA is an investment club that has contributed financially to the Library since April 1995. This investment club has given the Library \$3,900 to purchase investment resources such as *Value Line* and *Value Line Expanded Edition* which are stock report and ranking publications.

The Golden Eagles Investment Club and Gamblers Choice Investment Club have offered the Library invaluable collection development advice for the Library's "Investor's Corner," a reference collection developed to meet the information needs of investors. In response to requests from these two organizations, the Library now subscribes to two additional publications including *Investor's Business Daily* and *Dow Theory Forecast*.



*Dr. Dan Page discussed financial information with local investment clubs.*

# Auburn Initiates a Fire Training Consortium in East Alabama

In January 2000, the Fire Division of the Public Safety Department initiated a regional training concept that has improved the fire fighting skills of fire service personnel in East Alabama.

The Regional Training Consortium was launched by eight career fire fighting organizations in the East Central Alabama region including Opelika, Alexander City, Phenix City, Lanett, LaFayette, Eufaula, Valley, and Auburn. These fire departments agreed to be members of the consortium by sponsoring an instructional program each month on a rotating basis. The host department is responsible for providing instructors, facilities, and training materials for students as well as coordinating with the Alabama Fire College and the Personnel Standards Commission to administer certification exams.

As a result, the fire departments in the region are constantly improving their overall competence through continued professional development at little or no cost to the participating departments or divisions. In fact, to send a student to the Regional Training Consortium costs only \$50 compared to the \$650 it cost departments to send a student to the Alabama Fire College in Tuscaloosa. Over the past year, Auburn's fire division has saved more than \$15,000 on training costs.

The Regional Training Consortium is an on-going program and significant savings have been realized. This regional program has helped Auburn and other member cities defray the cost of fire training and development.



*The regional training approach allows improved fire training in East Alabama.*

## MEETING SCHEDULE

**Water Works Board** - January 7, 4:00 p.m.,  
Engineering Conference Room.

**Cemeteries Advisory Board** - January 7, 4:00  
p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center.

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board** - January 7,  
6:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center.

**Board of Education** - January 8, 6:00 p.m., AHS  
Multi-Media Room.

**City Council** - January 8, 7:30 p.m., Council  
Chamber.

**Tree Commission** - January 9, 4:00 p.m., City Hall  
Conference Room.

**Board of Zoning Adjustment** - January 9, 4:30  
p.m., Council Chamber.

**Planning Commission** - January 10, 5:00 p.m.,  
Council Chamber.

**Historic Preservation Commission** - January 15,  
3:00 p.m., Jan Dempsey Community Art Center.

**Greenspace Advisory Board** - January 22, 11:30  
a.m., Jan Dempsey Community Art Center.

**City Council** - January 22, 6:30 p.m., Council  
Chamber.

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

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## up COMING EVENTS

**Salmagundi**, offered to children in grades K-5, will meet January 9 from 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Youth Services area at the Auburn Public Library. The program will feature snow stories and making snowflakes. Note: Salmagundi will be the second Wednesday of the month

due to the New Year holiday. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190. The **Young Adult Coffeehouse** will be held from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. on January 10 in the Youth Services area at the Auburn Public Library. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.

A **Print and Works on Paper Exhibition** will be held from January 10 until February 14 in the art gallery at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. The exhibition will feature prints and drawings selected from local collections. Admission to view the exhibit is free. For additional information, call the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 887-4938.



The **PTA Reflections Awards Program** will be held from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 13 at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. The display will feature artwork, photography, musical compositions and literary works by Auburn City school children. For additional information, contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 887-4938.

A **How to Plan a Wedding on a Budget Seminar** will be held on January 17 from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. The seminar will offer instruction on organizing wedding details, creating wedding favors, and other cost-effective alternatives. The seminar will also showcase the latest trends in wedding design. Preregistration at Dean Road Recreation Center is required for this seminar. The cost of the seminar is \$30. For additional information, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 887-4930.

A **Fun & Fashionable Painted Chairs** program will be offered on January 22 and January 29 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Participants will decorate chairs using patterns, textures and motifs. Pre-registration is required for this program, so register now at Dean Road Recreation Center. Cost of the program is \$50. For additional information, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 887-4930.

The Thirteenth Annual **Daddy-Daughter Date Night** will be held on Saturday, February 9 from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Colonial Mall Social Center. The event will feature dancing, refreshments, and pictures. Registrations are now being accepted at Dean Road Recreation Center. Cost is \$30 per couple and \$5 for each additional child. For additional information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 887-4930.



Subscribe to the **Parks and Recreation email newsletter** for free e-mail reminders about upcoming events and registrations. The newsletter will be delivered monthly. Just send an email to [jwall@auburnalabama.org](mailto:jwall@auburnalabama.org). In the subject line, type "subscribe" and in the e-mail window, type your e-mail address.



**Auburn CityFest 2002**, an all-day festival bringing music, arts & crafts, great food and exciting children's activities to Kiesel Park, will be held April 27. 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](http://www.auburnalabama.org/cityfest) or contact Julie Wall at 887-4930.

## Holiday Closures and Waste/ Recycling Collection Schedules

City Hall will 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 Hall will also be closed for Martin Luther King Day on Monday, January 21. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling will be changed for that week. Monday's route will be picked up on Tuesday, January 22. Tuesday's route will be picked up on Wednesday, January 23. Wednesday's route will be picked up on Thursday, January 24. Thursday's route will be picked up on Friday, January 25.



## Water Revenue Office Hours Change

Effective Wednesday, January 2nd, the Water Revenue office will be open to receive water payments between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The drive-through window will continue to be open until 5:00 p.m.