

# Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens  
February 2002

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## Citizen Survey Begins Soon



*Surveyors conducting the City's annual citizen survey enter responses into the computer as they conduct the survey.*

## Open Line

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City of Auburn



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For the past 17 years, the City of Auburn has conducted an annual opinion survey of Auburn residents to understand how citizens feel about City services and major projects. The City Council has found the survey to be of great help in monitoring the quality of City services, in establishing budget priorities for future years, and in making policy decisions. The 2002 citizen survey will begin this month.

The survey will be conducted by telephone by individuals hired specifically to do the survey. Planning Department staff members, in conjunction with the Office of the City Manager, develop the survey and provide the training and oversight of the interviewers. Randomly selected telephone numbers of citizens will be called over a three-week period ending in March.

The survey should take only about fifteen minutes to complete. If the interviewer calls at an inconvenient time, he or she will be glad to try back later. However, if you are able to take the time to participate in the survey, your participation will be greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in finding out more information about the City's annual citizen survey, please call the Office of the City Manager at 501-7260.

Survey results will be covered in a future issue of *Open Line*, available at City Hall, and posted on the City's web site, [www.auburnalabama.org](http://www.auburnalabama.org).

# Sewer System Expansion

Since the purchase of the wastewater system several months ago, the City has worked closely with a consulting engineering firm to develop the conceptual plans for the expansion to the sewer system. This expansion is the first phase in a several phase process to ensure that the investment made in the sewer system will serve the Auburn community for the next twenty years. The next phase will be the completion of the detailed engineering plans, followed by acquisition of needed easements, and then construction.

The City Council approved the engineering firm of Goodwyn, Mills, and Cawood to do the detailed plans for the following features of an expanded sewer system.

1. The Northside Treatment Plant will be closed and all sewage will be pumped to an expanded H.C. Morgan Southside Plant. Eliminating the Northside Plant will reduce the operating and maintenance annual fee by approximately \$176,000 because of the savings in electricity, chemicals, and personnel costs.

From an environmental perspective, we will be removing all effluent from the Saughatchee Creek, which is classified by ADEM as an endangered stream.

2. The H.C. Morgan Southside Plant will be enlarged from the present 5.4 MGD capacity to 9.0 MGD. Goodwyn, Mills, and Cawood project that this expansion will give the City adequate treatment capacity through 2020. This expansion, combined with closing the Northside Plant, will have long-term benefits for the City. All wastewater will be centrally treated, thereby making wastewater reuse more feasible.
3. The Northside Plant site will be converted to a pumping station where all the effluent from the North will be pumped to the H.C. Morgan Southside Plant. The pumping station will be built with safeguards, such as multiple pumps, reserve power, and deep holding wells.
4. The S5 major interceptor sewer line will be installed serving the western parts of the City. Its construction will result in the elimination of three

current pump stations at the Industrial Park, Bellwood Apartments, and Ridgewood Trailer Park.

In addition to these projects, the City Council approved other improvements to the system using the State's Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) as the source of funding. The current interest rate for loans from the State's RLF is 3.5 percent. Furthermore, it will put the sewer system in excellent condition by replacing eight trouble spots in the system that are scheduled for work over the next five years. These additional improvements are as follows:

1. EPA and ADEM will require more advanced solids handling in the next few years. The chief environmental advantage to the advanced solids handling equipment is the ability to meet future EPA requirements for certain processes. In addition, this improvement will allow the elimination of the need to add two new positions to handle the increased sludge from the larger single wastewater plant.

2. There are eight older segments of sewer line that will be replaced over the next five years. However, in order to put the system in excellent condition, eliminate the infiltration and inflow that these faulty pipes are producing, and take advantage of the RLF's low interest rates, the Council will include this work as part of this project.



*H.C. Morgan Wastewater Treatment Plant*

3. In order to avoid septic tanks in the Northside area, the installation of a pump station and force main is recommended to serve the new developments that are planned for the area west of Chadwick Lane and north of Highway 14.

The cost of implementing the full plan is approximately \$15 million. Bond proceeds will provide \$10 million and the other \$5 million will be borrowed from the State RLF. This conceptual plan once implemented will address the City's wastewater treatment needs for the next two decades, just as the major improvements in the early to mid-1980s have served Auburn over the past two decades.

# Boost America!



*Ford Motor Company*

## Free Child Booster Seat Program Kicks Off

In support of National Child Passenger Safety Week ending February 11-17, the City of Auburn, in cooperation with the Alabama Safe Kids Coalition, is participating in the Ford Motor Company's national safety program to encourage the use of booster seats. As a part of the program, the City will be issued over one hundred booster seats to give free of charge to qualified low- and moderate-income families residing in Auburn. Proof of income and residency is required.

A belt-positioning booster seat raises the child so that the seat belts fit properly across the shoulder and lap. Seat belts are not designed for young children. The shoulder belts often cross their faces or necks, and the lap belts ride too high across their stomachs. Booster seats position shoulder belts properly across their shoulders and keep the lap belts low on their hips.

Size of the child is more important than age in determining how long to use a booster seat. Booster seats are for children who weigh 40 to 80 pounds (most often ages four to eight) who are too big to fit in a standard child safety seat and are too small to properly use an adult safety belt. Since they do not fit automobile seatbelt systems designed for adults, children this size may complain that the shoulder portion of the belt rubs against their necks. Often they may insist on placing the shoulder belt behind them or, in many cases, removing the belt entirely. When a child does wear a belt, the lap portion of the belt often falls too high across the abdomen which can cause serious internal injuries in a crash.

The City of Auburn has been proactive in the area of child passenger safety by offering annual Car Seat Check-Ups since 2000, certifying several City personnel as National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians, providing car seat checks throughout the year, and hosting a four-day NHTSA child passenger safety training certification for the area.

To apply for a free booster seat through this program, contact Carol Ebert at 501-7280.



*No Booster*



*With Booster*

## MEETING SCHEDULE

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

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board** - February 4, 6:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center.

**City Council** - February 5, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber.

**Board of Zoning Adjustment** - February 6, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber.

**Tree Commission** - February 7, 4:00 p.m., City Hall Annex.

**Water Works Board** - February 11, 4:00 p.m., Water and Sewer Conference Room, 214 N. Donahue Drive.

**Greenspace Advisory Board** - February 12, 11:30 a.m., Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.

**Historic Preservation Commission** - February 12, 3:00 p.m., Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.

**Board of Education** - February 12, 6:00 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room.

**Planning Commission** - February 14, 5:00 p.m., Council Chamber.

**City Council** - February 19, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber.

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

## Water Revenue is Making Changes for your Convenience . . .

There is now a **drop box for water bill payments** in City Hall. For citizens who would like to pay their water bills at City Hall, water bill payments may be placed in the drop box located in the lobby near the Gay Street entrance during City Hall business hours (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday). Payments dropped at City Hall will be posted by the Water Revenue Office on the following business day. Cash payments and all payments on or after the 15th of the month should still be taken to the Water Revenue Office at 171 North Ross Street.

More conveniently, the Water Revenue Office offers a **bank draft payment option**. The bank draft option deducts the amount of the water bill from the customer's bank account each month. Bank draft customers continue to receive a bill each month, so they can review their billing information and deduct the payment from their check registers. This payment option helps ensure that a customer's water bill is paid before the 15th each month, thus avoiding late payment penalties, and is also very convenient for customers who are out of town frequently. If you would like more information about the bank draft payment option, please call 887- 4952.

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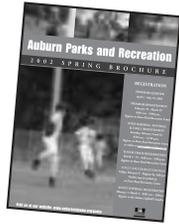
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## up COMING EVENTS



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

The **Parks and Recreation Spring brochure** will be available on February 4. Stop by Dean Road Recreation Center or City Hall to pick up your copy.

**Salmagundi**, offered to children in grades K-5th will have a Valentine's Stamp Party on February 6 from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. in the Youth Services area at the Auburn Public Library. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.

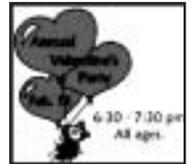
The **Young Adult Coffeehouse** will be held from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on February 7 in the Youth Services area at the Auburn Public Library. The theme this month is "patriotism." For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.



**AppleBell Productions** will present its winter theatrical production, *Man, Woman, Flower*, on February 8-10 and February 15-17 at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Weeknight performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday performances begin at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7 for students and seniors, and \$5 for children age 14 and under. For more information, call Brooks Appelbaum at 821-4475.

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.

The Auburn Public Library will host a **Valentine's Party** in the Library Meeting Room on February 14 from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. for children of all ages. Craft projects and stories will add to the fun. Free admission. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.



The **Winter Invitational 2002** exhibition of figurative works by five regional artists will be on display in the art gallery at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center during February 16 - March 22. Admission is free. For additional information, call the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 887-4938.

The Auburn Public Library will present a **Puppet Show** in the Youth Services area on February 20 from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. for children of all ages. Free admission. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.

The Auburn Community Orchestra will perform its **Chamber Music Concert** at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 3:00 p.m. on March 3. Admission is free.

**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 craftspeople. 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.



## Registration for Spring Sports

### Youth Soccer

Walk-in registration on February 9 from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Dean Road Recreation Center.



### Youth Baseball, T-ball, and Softball

Walk-in registration on February 9 and 16 at Dean Road Recreation Center from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. each day. Birth certificates are required for registration.



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