

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

February 2003

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Open Line

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City of Auburn



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New Soccer Complex Under Construction

At its December 3, 2002 meeting, the City Council approved the \$2.9 million bid from Cleveland Brothers for the construction of a new soccer complex on Wire Road. The soccer complex will be funded by the Five Mill Tax Fund, a special fund that can only be spent on capital projects approved by Auburn voters in referenda. In October 2001, Auburn voters approved several projects utilizing the Five Mill Tax Fund, including the soccer complex and Town Creek Park, a combination cemetery, passive park, and greenway on South Gay Street.

A ground breaking ceremony for the soccer complex was held in late January, with opening projected for Fall 2003. The new soccer complex will feature six lighted fields and one practice field. There will be a control building equipped with an office, restrooms, changing areas, and concession area. Parking will be conveniently located next to the fields in a landscaped lot. Future phases will include walking trails, a gazebo near the lake located on the property, four additional lighted fields, and an indoor soccer facility.

In 2002, an average of 550 children participated in each of the Fall and Spring youth soccer seasons, while over 175 adults participated in Spring soccer. The City offers soccer camps during the summer that attract between 50 to 200 children. Participation in youth soccer has more than doubled during the past ten years, reflecting the growing popularity of soccer. The new complex will address the growing needs of Auburn's thriving soccer program for years to come.

Registration for youth soccer will be held February 1 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and February 6 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Dean Road Recreation Center. For more information, please call 887-4930.



Soccer is very popular in Auburn.





Helping Hands Gives Two Local Houses a Face Lift

Two groups of Auburn University MBA students provided an exterior "face-lift" as they painted two houses in the Auburn community. Through the City of Auburn's Helping Hands program, two homeowners, 101-year old Mrs. Willie Berry and Mr. John Howard, were selected to have the exterior of their houses re-painted.

"More people should get involved with Helping Hands," volunteer Abby Hochella said. "Most people don't realize that they can have a significant impact on the life of someone else with only a few hours of hard work."

Helping Hands is a volunteer division of the Auburn Housing Assistance Network that the City initiated in Fall 2001 and gives community groups and individuals a chance to use their skills to help low-to-moderate income families as well as disabled and elderly homeowners with minor household repairs and landscaping.

The City of Auburn currently has about 15 homeowners who are in need of housing assistance with repairs such as interior and exterior painting, leaky roofs, landscaping, and window repair. The City is actively recruiting volunteers from community organizations or local businesses.

To become a "Helping Hands" volunteer simply:

- Decide what type of services you or your group would be interested in providing, such as exterior or interior painting, roof repair, landscaping, and/or building a handicapped ramp.
- Decide when your organization is available to volunteer.
- Determine the tools and equipment that your group has on hand to use for projects.
- Provide the estimated number of people in your group that is expected to participate.
- Call Wanda Martin at 501-7280 and your organization will be matched with the appropriate project(s).



Helping Hands volunteers give a local homeowner's house an exterior "face-lift."

Reading Programs for Children



Preschool Storytime for children ages 3 – 5 meets on Tuesdays from 1:30 – 2:00 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. at the Auburn Public Library. The themes for February are: 2/4 & 5- Space Adventures, 2/11 & 12- Love, 2/18 & 19- Africa, 2/25 & 26- Dinosaurs.



Toddler Time for children ages 18 months to 3 years is held every

Thursday morning from 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. at the Auburn Public Library. February's themes are: 2/6- Stars, 2/13- Love, 2/20- African Animals, 2/27- Dinosaurs.

Leisure Link

Leisure Link, the official e-mail newsletter of Auburn Parks & Recreation, has not been sent out the past two months due to an inadvertent deletion of the mail list. If you would like to sign back up for the monthly e-mail, or start receiving it for the first time, please come by the Dean Road Recreation Center and fill out a short form. Or, you can send an e-mail with "subscribe" typed in the subject to alloydwallace@auburnalabama.org or sestes@auburnalabama.org. For more information about Leisure Link, please call the Dean Road Recreation Center at 887-4930.

Looking for a Job?

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



- **Heavy Equipment and Automotive Mechanic II (Regular/Full-time, \$3,032.25-3,515.21/Month)**

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

REMEMBER... Call 911 only in the case of an emergency. Keep the lines open for true emergencies!
For police non-emergency calls, dial 501-3100.

New Traffic Calming Policy

The City Council recently adopted a Neighborhood Traffic Calming Policy. This policy is intended to aid Auburn citizens in reducing speeding in residential areas by the addition of traffic calming devices. There are several different devices used to reduce traffic speeds. Speed tables consist of a raised section of roadway that requires the motorist to slow down in order to pass safely. Surface roughing involves the installation of rumble strips and/or stamped asphalt on concrete in the roadway. The noise created when driving over the rough surface prompts motorists to check their speed. Street narrowing consists of a median or traffic circle that narrows the roadway, causing the motorist to reduce their speed.



Traffic calming circle on Windway Road.

Auburn's traffic calming policy is citizen-driven. A concerned citizen may contact the Public Works Department at 501-3000 to obtain a traffic calming request form. The Traffic Engineer will evaluate the street listed on the completed form and determine if a traffic calming device is warranted. Each application will be analyzed according to guidelines and benchmarks outlined in the policy. Submission of an application does not guarantee a traffic calming device will be installed. Some roadways are not suitable for traffic calming devices, including those with a grade exceeding 8%, primary emergency routes, and major arterials and collectors.

If a traffic calming device is warranted, a neighborhood petition from the affected area is required. The petition must receive a positive response of at least 80% of the residents in the affected area in order for the City to proceed with the traffic calming device design and implementation. It is the responsibility of the concerned citizen to circulate the petition to his or her neighbors. The petition process is intended to ensure a large portion of the neighborhood desires the construction of a physical device in the roadway.

If the petition receives an 80% positive response rate, the item will be placed on the City Council agenda. The City Council must give final approval for the installation of a traffic calming device.

Auburn's first traffic calming circle was installed on Windway Road. Reaction to the circle has been generally positive, and there have been noticeable reductions in speed. If you believe your neighborhood would benefit from a traffic calming device, please contact the Public Works Department at 501-3000 to learn more about this new policy.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Park & Recreation Advisory Board and Greenspace Advisory Board (joint meeting) – February 3, 6:00 PM, City Hall Annex.

City Council – February 4, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Tree Commission – February 5, 4:00 PM, City Hall Annex.

Board of Zoning Adjustment – February 5, 4:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Water Works Board – February 10, 4:00 PM, Water and Sewer Conference Room, 214 N. Donahue Drive.

Historic Preservation Committee – February 11, 3:00 PM, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.

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

Planning Commission – February 13, 5:00 PM, Council Chamber.

City Council – February 18, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Cemetery Advisory Board – March 3, 4:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

Park & Recreation Advisory Board – March 3, 6:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

City Council – March 4, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Board of Zoning Adjustment – March 5, 4:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Tree Commission – March 6, 4:00 PM, City Hall Annex.

– Meeting times and places are subject to change –



Safety Tip: If you have a gas appliance in a room, take caution not to place any paper, wood, cloth, or other combustible materials around the appliance. Do not store gas, paint, or other flammable solvents in the same room as a gas appliance.

Board Vacancy

One vacancy on the **Mental Health-Mental Retardation Board** will be announced at the February 18 City Council meeting and will be filled at the March 18 City Council meeting. The incumbent is eligible for reappointment.

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

Copies of the Spring Auburn Parks and Recreation Brochure will be available at all recreational facilities, City Hall, Auburn Public Library, and the Auburn Chamber of Commerce beginning February 3.

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up COMING EVENTS

Youth Soccer registration will be held on February 1 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and February 6 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Dean Road Recreation Center.



Salmagundi, offered to children in grades K – 5, will meet on February 5 from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. in the Youth Services area at the Auburn Public Library. February's theme is "Valentine's Fun."



Young Adult Coffeehouse will have a Valentine's party on February 6 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library.

First Friday for Homeschoolers will be held February 7 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. at the Auburn Public Library. February's theme is "Presidents."



Registration for all **Youth Baseball, Softball, and T-ball** will be held on February 8 & 15 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Dean Road Recreation Center. Birth certificates are required for registration. For more information, call the Parks & Recreation Department at 887-4930.

The Fourteenth Annual **Daddy-Daughter Date Night** will be held on February 8 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Auburn University Hotel and Dixon Conference Center. Space is limited, so make reservations as early as possible at Dean Road Recreation Center. Cost is \$30.00 per couple and \$5.00 for each additional child. For additional information, call 887-4930.



The **Annual Student Art Exhibition**, works by advanced students at Auburn High School, will be held February 11 - 22 at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Admission is free. For more information, call the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 887-4938.

The **RPG Book Club** will meet February 11 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library. February's topic is "Wheel of Time," the fantasy series by Robert Jordan.



The Auburn Public Library will host a **Valentine's Party** on February 13 at 6:30 p.m. for children of all ages.

A **Public Meeting on the Village Centers Plan** will be held on February 15* from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in Ballroom A at the Auburn University Hotel and Dixon Conference Center. Representatives from KPS Consulting will be available to present their recommendations and answer questions. For more information, contact the Planning Department at 501-3040. **Please note this date has been changed.*

Winter Invitational 2003, featuring works by regional artists, will be held February 26 – March 28 in the gallery of the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Admission is free. For more information, call the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 887-4938.

AppleBell Productions will present *The Good Doctor*, Neil Simon's comedic take on short stories by Anton Chekhov March 7 & 8 at 7:30 p.m., March 9 at 2:00 p.m., March 14 & 15 at 7:30 p.m., and March 16 at 2:00 p.m. All performances will be held at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors or students, and \$5 for children. For more information, call 821-4475 or appelbc@mindspring.com.



The **Auburn Community Orchestra** will perform March 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Telfair Peet Theatre on the Auburn University campus. For more information, contact Howard Goldstein at 844-3167.

The **USTA Auburn Spring Tennis Classic** tournament will host men's and women's singles and doubles events March 14-16 at the Samford Avenue Tennis Center. Entry deadline is March 12. For official entry information, call the Samford Avenue Tennis Center at 887-4935.

Auburn CityFest 2003, an all-day festival bringing music, arts & crafts, food, and exciting children's activities to Kiesel Park, will be held April 26. Applications are now being considered 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 Ali Lloyd-Wallace or Sandy Estes at 887-4930.

