

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

August 2003

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Open Line

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City of Auburn



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Your City Government in Cyberspace

The City of Auburn takes pride in offering its citizens many opportunities to interact with local government. Citizens take part in city council meetings, serve on boards, commissions and committees, and have the opportunity for input in the annual Citizen Survey. Another opportunity for interaction between citizens and their government is provided by the City of Auburn's web site. Whereas many city sites only provide basic information, the City of Auburn's web site provides citizens with a wealth of important information about the City, the City government, and how tax dollars are spent.

The City web site is dynamic, current, and constantly evolving. The City Council agenda for upcoming council meetings and approved minutes for these meetings are published on the Friday prior to each council meeting. The web site contains the agendas and minutes for every council meeting from January 2000 to the present. Press releases are published regularly. Current job vacancies and job descriptions are posted. Those interested in applying for employment with the City can download an employment application from the web. Citizens are kept up-to-date on current City issues through such links as "Smart Growth" and the "Daily Bulletin" headlines on the front page.

Every City department has a web presence that explains that department's mission, current goals, and budget details. The City of Auburn's entire budget document is posted on the web. A number of forms are available from applications for dog and business licenses to tax forms that you can simply print out and mail in, without ever making a trip to City Hall. Tax information, the City's bond rating, information on bids, and many other finance related topics are also available for review. The Public Works portion of the web page provides weekly updates on construction projects around the City as well as detailed information on the City's engineering standards. Whether you are looking for information on the City library, Citizen Survey results, Parks and Recreation programs, job opportunities, or anything else concerning the City government, you can find it on the City's web site.

A useful government web site must always be a work in progress, especially in a dynamic community like Auburn. Recent additions to the City of Auburn web site include a comprehensive section on local demographics, a section on awards and recognitions that the City has received, and the most current City of Auburn street map. Plans are underway to add interactive maps and improved navigation buttons to make it easier to find everything that the site has to offer. Please keep an eye on www.auburnalabama.org as it evolves.

If you have any suggestions for what you would like to see on the City of Auburn web site, please email them to webit@auburnalabama.org or call the City Manager's office at 501-7260.



Mall Boulevard Closing

Beginning August 1st, Mall Boulevard will be closed at a point 300 feet north of Mall Parkway, creating a dead end on Mall Boulevard. Access to Mall Boulevard will be via Commerce Drive. If weather permits, the road will reopen in early October. This closure is necessary to relocate underground utilities associated with the relocation of Mall Parkway for expansion of the Colonial Mall. For more information on this construction, please contact Jeff Ramsey at 501-3000.



Crime Rates Decrease in Auburn

The City of Auburn is pleased to report that the crime rate for the seven major crime categories has decreased by 21 percent over the first five months of 2003 compared to the first five months of 2002. Mayor Bill Ham said, "We are very pleased that crime is down in Auburn. One of our highest priorities is to make Auburn as safe a place as possible so this is good news for us."

Major Crime Report 01/01/02 - 05/31/02 01/01/03 - 05/31/03

	2002	2003
Murder	0	0
Rape	9	8
Robbery	17	21
Assault	55	38
Burglary	212	190
Larceny	856	656
Auto Theft	40	27
Total	1189	940

Percent Reduction in Crime 2003 to Date: 21%

Bike Trail Receives Enhancement



Parks and Recreation crews recently installed three benches, two trash receptacles, and two bike racks at the Charlotte and Curtis Ward Bike Trail. The amenities were donated in memory of Chris Hinds. Parks and Recreation coordinated the purchase of the items and installed them according to directions of the Chewacla State Park staff.

BOARD VACANCIES

One vacancy on the **Lee County Youth Development Center Board** will be announced at the August 19 City Council meeting and will be filled at the September 16 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 at 501-7260.

Meeting Schedule

- Cemetery Advisory Board** - August 4, 4:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.
 - Parks & Recreation Advisory Board** - August 4, 5:30 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.
 - City Council** - August 5, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.
 - Tree Commission** - August 6, 4:00 PM, City Hall Annex.
 - Board of Zoning Adjustment** - August 6, 4:30 PM, Council Chamber.
 - Water Works Board** - August 11, 4:00 PM, Water and Sewer Conference Room, 214 N. Donahue Drive.
 - Greenspace Advisory Board** - August 12, 11:00 AM, City Hall Annex.
 - Historic Preservation Commission** - August 12, 3:00 PM, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.
 - Board of Education** - August 12, 6:00 PM, AHS Multi-Media Room.
 - Planning Commission** - August 14, 5:00 PM, Council Chamber.
 - City Council** - August 19, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.
 - Tree Commission** - September 3, 4:00 PM, City Hall Annex.
 - Board of Zoning Adjustment** - September 3, 4:30 PM, Council Chamber.
 - Mid-Biennium Budget Meeting** - September 4, 6:00 PM, City Manager's Conference Room- Auburn City Hall.
 - Cemetery Advisory Board** - September 8, 4:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.
 - Parks & Recreation Advisory Board** - September 8, 5:30 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center
 - Mid-Biennium Budget Meeting** - September 9, 5:00 PM, City Manager's Conference Room- Auburn City Hall.
- Meeting times and places are subject to change -*

Street Safety

Summer is here and the usage of golf carts, ATV's, and go-carts continues to rise. To insure safety for everyone, it is important for citizens to understand the operating rules on public roads, including Auburn City streets.



Under Alabama law, a motor vehicle is described as "every vehicle, which is self-propelled." Every person, except those specifically exempted by statutory enactment, must possess a driver's license before driving a motor vehicle upon the highways and streets within this State.

Citizens should be aware that it is against the law for anyone under the age of 16, except with a learner's permit, to operate a motor vehicle on a road. Moreover, section 32-5-65 of the Code of Alabama makes it illegal for any owner or person in charge of a motor vehicle to permit a child under 16 to drive. This is a misdemeanor and punishable by imprisonment for not over 10 days and a fine of not more than \$100.00. Any subsequent convictions carry more harsh penalties.



Also, Alabama law states that any vehicle, which has a maximum speed of 25 mph, must be identified with a reflective device. Motor vehicles must have proper headlights, brake lights, and reflective devices.

City Wins Budget Award

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) recently announced that the City of Auburn has received the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its biennial budget.

The award represents a significant achievement. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meet the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the City had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device.

The Government Finance Officers Association is a nonprofit professional association serving 14,000 government finance professionals throughout North America. The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.



Fall Sports Registration

Sign up for Fall sports programs at Parks & Recreation! Registration will be held at Dean Road Recreation Center. Please refer to the following for registration dates and times:

Tackle Football: August 6 & 16 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Soccer: August 9 from 1-3 p.m. & August 13 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Cheerleading: July 28 - August 15 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Adult Softball: August 1 - September 3 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

"White Goods" Tags Are Now Sold at Water Revenue Office

The Water Revenue Office at the Development Services Building is now selling "white goods" tags for citizens to place on discarded appliances for pickup. The City recycles discarded refrigerators, stoves, water heaters, washers and dryers, and other large appliances, called "white goods." White goods tags are still available from the Revenue Office in City Hall as well. For more information, please contact the Water Revenue Office at 501-3050.



Holiday Closure

City Hall will be closed on Monday, September 1 in recognition of Labor Day. The collection of garbage, trash, and recycling will be changed for that week. Monday's route will be collected on Tuesday, Tuesday's route will be collected on Wednesday, Wednesday's route will be collected on Thursday, and Thursday's route will be collected on Friday.



Safety Tips

Electrical outlets near kitchen sinks, bar sinks, and bathrooms sinks should have ground fault plugs. These plugs should be tested monthly to make sure they are working properly. The button at the center of the plug should be pushed to test the plug. If after pushing the button the plug does not work, then the plug is working properly.

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up COMING EVENTS



A **Saturday Studio Workshop** presented by the Auburn Arts Association will be held on August 9. Participants will work on two projects such as gourd painting, stained glass, and mosaic stepping stones. Pre-registration required. The cost is \$40 per session. For more information, call Faith Nance at 826-8346 or the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 887-4938.



The **2003 Independent Softball Association (ISA) Women's World Championship** will be held at the Auburn Softball Complex during August 15-17. Make plans now to attend this exciting tournament.

The **Jan Dempsey Community Art Center** and the Auburn Arts Association's New Works IV Exhibit will be on display in the gallery August 25 – September 30. Come see ceramic sculptures by Kristen Evans and mixed-media works by Terry Rodriguez. Admission is free to the public and open Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information, please contact 887-4930.



Celebrate Labor Day with Briggs & Stratton and Parks and Recreation. This event, rescheduled due to rain on July 4, will be held on Monday, September 1 at Duck Samford Stadium. The sponsors will light up the sky at 8:30 p.m. with a spectacular fireworks show! Bring the family and join us for a fabulous night of entertainment. For more information, contact Alison Hall, Community Programs Director, at 887-4930.

Felton Little Park Temporarily Closed

Felton Little Park, located at the corner of East Glenn Avenue and Ross Street, will be temporarily closed for renovations between August 1 and October 31. During this time, construction crews will work on a new restroom building, new fencing, lighting, and new concrete areas around the press box. For more information about Felton Little Park closing, call 887-4930.



Looking for a Job?

The City of Auburn has vacant positions in a wide range of areas. Here are several:

- **GIS Coordinator-Information Technology (Regular/Full-time, \$3,335.48-\$3,866.74/Month)**
- **Deputy Finance Director/Treasurer -Finance (Regular/Full-time, minimum starting salary, \$55,000/annually)**
- **Customer Service Representative II-Water Revenue (Regular/Full-time, \$1,711.63-1,984.25/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.