

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

October 2003

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Open Line

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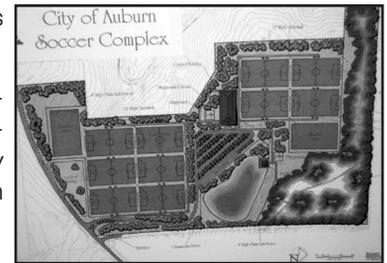


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Work Continues on Recreation Facilities

Work is nearing completion on several recreation facilities with a number of other projects due to start shortly.

The new **soccer complex** on Wire Road is nearing completion. This facility will include six lighted fields, an unlighted practice field, a concession/restroom building, and plenty of parking. The prescription sports turf fields will provide an excellent venue for local teams as well as tournaments.



Soccer Complex on Wire Road

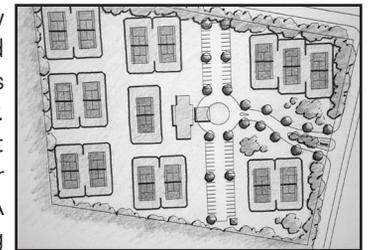
Renovation work is underway at **Felton Little Park**. The Community Development Block Grant project includes the construction of a new restroom building, new siding on the press box/concession building, new fencing, concrete work around the concession stand, improvements to the lighting, and new dirt infields to make the facility usable for girls' softball. New playground equipment is also being added. The park is currently closed while this work is underway but should be reopened shortly after January 1.



Town Creek
on Gay Street

City Council has approved a contract for the construction of **Town Creek Park**. The first phase of this project will include restrooms, parking, a large lake with a pier, a boardwalk, numerous walking trails, and a greenway along Town Creek. Construction should take approximately 10 months.

The construction plans for a new **Tennis Center** on Richland Road are nearing completion with bids scheduled to be opened shortly after the first of the year. This project will feature 16 clay courts, a control building that will include a pro shop, concessions, an area large enough for meetings and other events, and restrooms with showers. A covered outdoor seating area will enable comfortable viewing of all courts by spectators and players waiting for a court.



Tennis Center
on Richland Road

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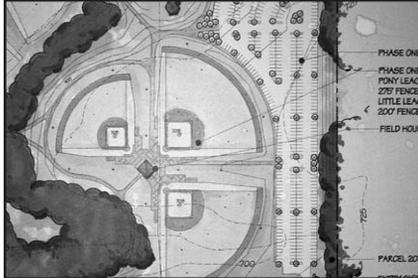
Don't Turn your Trash Pile into a Pumpkin Patch



The City of Auburn is asking residents to put their old pumpkins in their roll-out carts or garbage cans and not in the trash pile at the curb. Pumpkins are considered a food item and need to be disposed of in a sanitary landfill. Trash piles should only consist of discarded shrubbery clippings, grass clippings, weeds, fallen leaves, vines, branches, and limbs.

(Continued from page 1)

Plans are being reviewed for **Phase 2 of the Duck Samford Park** expansion. This three-field complex will house two Dixie Boys size fields as well as an additional field suitable for Dixie Youth and Girls Softball. A control building with concessions, restrooms, and meeting space will also be constructed. Additional parking will be situated along the entrance road off Airport Road. Construction on this project will be timed to allow the new facility to be used for the Dixie Youth World Series that will be hosted by the City in 2005.



Phase 2 of Duck Samford Park

A final project that will get underway at the conclusion of the high school football season is the replacement of the home side bleachers at **Duck Samford stadium**. This is the continuation of a project that previously included replacement of the roofs on the restrooms, homeside ticket booth, and concession building.

The Auburn Public Library's new hours of operation are as follows:



Monday through Thursday	9 a.m. until 9 p.m.
Friday and Saturday	9 a.m. until 5 p.m.
Sunday	2 p.m. until 6 p.m.

BOARD VACANCIES



One vacancy on the **Educational Building Authority** of the City of Auburn and one vacancy on the **Special Care Facilities Financing Authority** will be

announced at the October 7 City Council meeting and will be filled at the November 4 City Council meeting. The incumbents are not eligible for reappointment.

Two vacancies on the **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board** will be announced at the October 21 City Council meeting and will be filled at the November 18 City Council meeting. The incumbents are eligible for reappointment.

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

Meeting Schedule

Tree Commission - October 1, 4:00 PM, City Hall Annex.
Board of Zoning Adjustment - October 1, 4:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Cemetery Advisory Board - October 6, 4:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

Park & Recreation Advisory Board - October 6, 5:30 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center

City Council - October 7, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Planning Commission - October 9, 5:00 PM, Council Chamber.

Water Works Board - October 13, 4:00 PM, Water and Sewer Conference Room, 214 North Donahue Drive.

Greenspace Advisory Board - October 14, 11:00 AM, City Hall Annex.

Historic Preservation Commission - October 14, 3:00 PM, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.

Board of Education - October 14, 6:00 PM, AHS Multi-Media Room.

City Council - October 21, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Cemetery Advisory Board - November 3, 4:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

Park & Recreation Advisory Board - November 3, 5:30 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

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

Tree Commission - November 5, 4:00 PM, City Hall Annex.

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

- Meeting times and places are subject to change -



Fall Outdoor Concerts

A number of free outdoor concerts are scheduled in October as a part of the Fall Concert series. Bring a blanket, your lawn chairs, and a picnic dinner and meet your friends to enjoy an evening under the stars.

Mark your calendar for the following concerts:

October 2 – Auburn University Steel Drum Band

October 9 – Auburn University Jazz Band

October 16 – Highway 280 Bluegrass Band

October 23 – The Auburn Knights

All concerts will be performed at Kiesel Park and begin at 6:00 p.m. For more information, contact Alison Hall at 887-4930.

City Plans for FY 04

The City Council held Mid-Biennium Budget meetings on September 4 and 9 to review the first year and to preview the second year of Auburn's biennial budget. The City's biennial budgeting system offers the elected officials and administration a vehicle to look at the City's major projects and programs beyond one fiscal year. The challenge of a growing city is to plan for and implement the projects and programs that maintain and enhance the quality of life of its citizens. A few of the highlights for fiscal year 2004 include:

1. The City Council will boost School funding this next year to \$5.85 million because of the increase in the millage equivalence from 15 to 20 mills from the General Fund. This represents an increase of approximately \$1.74 million from FY 03 to FY 04.
2. Construction of Fire Station 5 located in front of the Auburn Technology Park South is included in the plans for FY 04. The addition of this station will provide faster response time to the western side of south Auburn and will help to maintain our excellent fire rating of Class 2.
3. Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) is currently purchasing the needed right of way for the improvements to Donahue Drive/MLK Drive and construction should take place in the next fiscal year. The plan is to divert the present MLK to connect with Bragg Avenue and to move the intersection away from the railroad tracks.
4. The City, ALDOT, the CSX railroad, and Auburn University have agreed to share funding to install crossing arms at the railroad crossings that remain without adequate protection- Donahue Drive, Stage Road, and Ross Street. All three should be completed in FY 04.



5. Construction of the Yarbrough Tennis Center is slated for next year at the site donated to the City by the late Dr. Cecil Yarbrough on Richland Road, which will be paved to the tennis center entrance.
6. Because the City has been designated as the site for the 2005 Dixie Youth World Series, the City must build three additional baseball fields at the Duck Samford youth baseball complex. Funds are included to accomplish this expansion this next year so that the facility will be ready for the World Series in 2005 and for our youth to use that same year.
7. The construction of the first phase of Town Creek Park and the new cemetery will begin in early FY 04 and should be completed by late next summer or early Fall.
8. An integrated library system will be installed in FY 04 to replace an obsolete system that we are now using. The integrated system consists of the circulation system, the cataloging unit, and the public access catalog (which long ago was called the card catalog). The new system will allow us to have our catalog available via the Internet. In the near future, the hardware and software we are now using will not be serviced by the company that provides it so the new system is necessary.
9. The intersection of Dean Road and Samford Avenue will be widened to improve turning movements near Auburn High School and Dean Road School.
10. Pedestrian crossings will be installed at Toomer's Corner to contribute to pedestrian safety and for aesthetic reasons. ALDOT will not allow brick to be used on College Street since it belongs to the State. Therefore, our plan is to use stamped concrete that will look like brick.

The entire budget message is available on the City's website at www.auburnalabama.org.

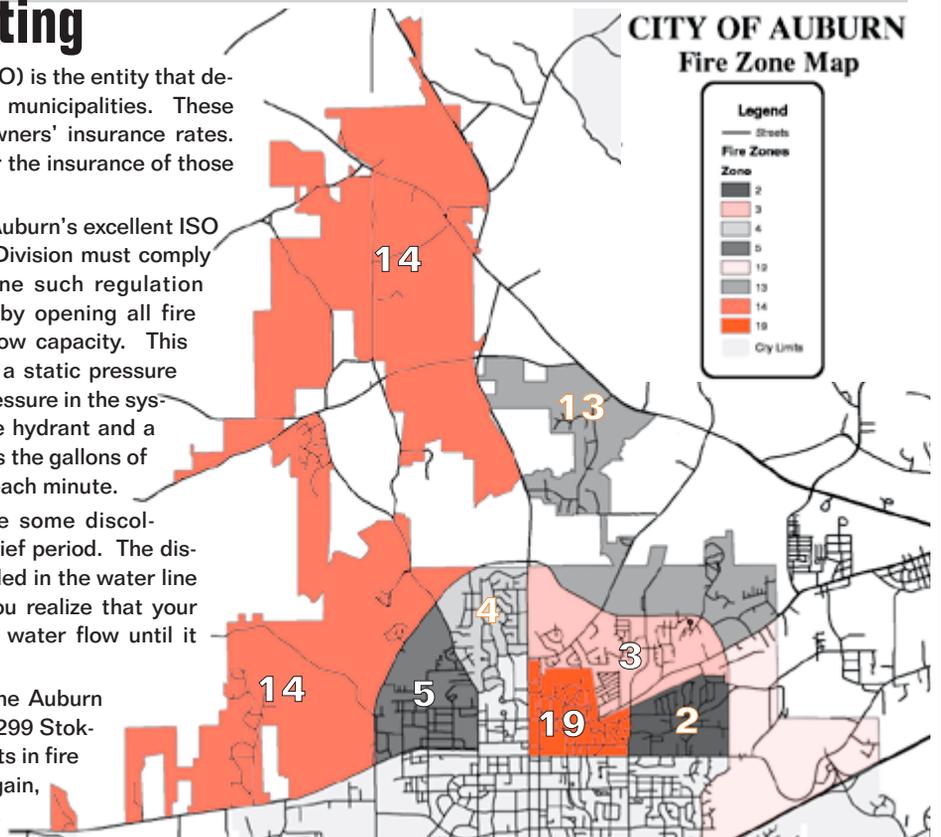
Fire Hydrant Testing

The Insurance Service Office (ISO) is the entity that determines fire insurance ratings for municipalities. These ratings, in turn, determine homeowners' insurance rates. The better the ISO rating, the lower the insurance of those living inside the city limits.

In order to maintain the City of Auburn's excellent ISO rating of Class 2, the Auburn Fire Division must comply with certain ISO regulations. One such regulation requires the Fire Division to test by opening all fire hydrants in the City to test the flow capacity. This flow testing allows the City to get a static pressure reading that measures the water pressure in the system before water flows through the hydrant and a flow pressure reading that measures the gallons of water flowing through the hydrant each minute.

The hydrant testing may cause some discoloration in the water system for a brief period. The discoloration is sediment that has settled in the water line and is not harmful. However, if you realize that your water is discolored, simply let the water flow until it clears up.

During the month of October, the Auburn Fire Division Station 4, located at 1299 Stoker Street, will be flowing fire hydrants in fire zones 2,3,4,5,12,13,14 and 19. Again, we apologize for any inconvenience.



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up COMING EVENTS

As a part of the **Fall Concert** series, a number of free outdoor concerts will be held at Kiesel Park. Mark your calendar for the following performances: October 2 – Auburn University Steel Drum Band; October 9 – Auburn University Jazz Band; October 16 – Highway 280 Bluegrass Band; October 23 – The Auburn Knights. All concerts will begin at 6:00 p.m. For more information, contact Alison Hall at 887-4930.



A Puppet Show will be held at the Auburn Public Library at 3:30 p.m. on October 15. Following the show, a puppet-making workshop will be offered to the children in conjunction with the Auburn University Art Department. For more information, please call 501-3196.

Research Mysteries @ Your Library for grades 5-8 will be held on October 11 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. This class is an introduction to reference materials and the Internet. Registration is required. Call 501-3196 for registration or to find out more information.

As a part of the Alabama Humanities Foundation Speaker in the House program, Dolores Hydock, professional storyteller and actress, presents **"Sir Gawain and the Green Knight"** on October 23, 2003, at 6:30 p.m. in the Hollifield Room of the Auburn Public Library. This updated telling reveals the comedy, passion, and relevance of the story to 21st century listeners and is a reminder of why this poetic, dark, and funny legend has been called "the jewel of English medieval literature." For more information, call the Auburn Public Library Reference Desk at 501-3190.

Downtown Trick-or-Treat will be held this year on Thursday, October 30 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Parents must accompany children to this fun trick-or-treat alternative in downtown Auburn. Merchants will provide treats for the children and live music will be provided. For more information, call Alison Hall at 887-4930.



Young at Heart CLUB

The Young at Heart Club introduces seniors, 50 years and older, to a variety of activities ranging from social activities, such as bingo, to informative speakers and adventurous trips. The Club encourages and promotes maximum health, independence, well-being, social interaction, and quality of life. While the Young at Heart activities are offered at a free or reduced cost, pre-registration is required.

If you have suggestions for future Young at Heart activities or want to become involved with the Club, please contact Alison Hall at 887-4930, ext. 30 or via e-mail at ahall@auburnalabama.org.

Upcoming Club events are as follows:

Oct. 11-Faulkner Dinner Theatre - Our Town
Oct. 23-Ansel Adams High Museum Exhibition