

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

February 2005

City Council

Bill Ham, Jr., Mayor
501-7260
bham@auburnalabama.org

Verlinda J. White, Ward 1
887-3112
VERRAC55@aol.com

Sheila H. Eckman, Ward 1
821-9666
ecko@mindspring.com

Roberta Jackel, Ward 2
887-6233
821-8221
robertajackel@bellsouth.net

Logan B. Gray, Ward 2
887-5126

K. Ted Wilson, Ward 3
887-9901
kted@wilsoninvestmentgroup.com

Dick Phelan, Ward 3
887-2071
dickphelan@yahoo.com

Carolyn G. Mathews, Ward 4
821-0161
carmat44@bellsouth.net

Gene Dulaney, Ward 4
887-7908
887-2721
gdulaney@auburnbank.com

Open Line
A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

Open Line is produced by
Office of the
City Manager
144 Tichenor Ave., Ste. 1
Auburn, AL 36830
phone: 334-501-7261
fax: 334-501-7299

web:
www.auburnalabama.org

email:
dwatkins@auburnalabama.org



City of Auburn

Printed on
Recycled Paper

Auburn's Vibrant Downtown

In the 1980s, the City allowed residential living on upper levels of downtown buildings which created a new residential district in the urban core. This action reflected the City's strong commitment to downtown as a viable residential/commercial/central business district.

Since that time, downtown residential living has become a strong stabilizing force in downtown Auburn. In the last several years, there have been new apartments built in the downtown representing new investment and a renewed dedication to downtown. The newest concept in downtown living is ownership of residential condominiums. A local builder/developer is embarking on a new up-scale development at 140 North College Street – the location that for decades was the home to Kaz Fitness Center. The new 60-foot tall building that will be constructed at this location will include one floor of retail space and four floors of condominiums. A 12-foot wide breezeway will connect the front to the back of the building and an elevator in the rear of the building will service the condominiums.

The City of Auburn has a long-standing track record of working with the private sector in support of downtown Auburn. The Auburn University Hotel & Conference Center, the renovations to Tiger Theatre, Magnolia Plaza, the municipal parking deck, the Wright Street parking lot, and assistance with façade renovations are examples of some of the ways the City has played an active role in the downtown. The

decision by City fathers to renovate the old Post Office and move City Hall to the urban core reflects the City government's commitment to preserving a piece of Auburn's unique history and to establishing a cornerstone in the downtown that serves as a public activity center.

The community has also taken ownership in making downtown Auburn unique. The Tiger Trail, the new banners introduced by the Chamber of Commerce, the Auburn Beautification Council's (ABC) planter baskets adorning the light poles, and the work of the downtown task force are just a few of the ways citizens have been active in directing the future of downtown.

Come join your friends and neighbors in experiencing the vibrancy and ambience of our unique downtown.



Citizen Survey 2005

The City of Auburn is preparing to conduct its 2005 Citizen Survey over the next few months. The Citizen Survey is an annual survey of a representative cross-section of the community. The survey asks questions on issues of governmental performance and community priorities. It is administered as part of the City's on-going effort to assess citizen satisfaction with the quality of City services. The City of Auburn has been administering an annual citizen survey for nearly 20 years.

This year the City Council voted to contract with the same firm that conducted the survey last year, ETC Institute of Olathe, Kansas. A written survey will be mailed to a random sample of more than 1000 Auburn households. Approximately seven days after the sur-

veys are mailed, residents who received the survey will be contacted by phone. Those who indicated that they had not yet returned the survey will be given the option of completing it by phone. If you are contacted, your participation will be greatly appreciated.

The Citizen Survey has been a valuable tool in monitoring the quality of City services, helping establish budget priorities, and making policy decisions. Survey results will be covered in a future issue of Open Line, available at City Hall, and posted on the City's website. The continued success of the services that the City of Auburn provides is directly related to meeting the needs of our citizens. Your voice is important. For more information about the Citizen Survey, please call the Office of the City Manager at 501-7260.

Citizen
Survey 

Auburn Selected for National Softball Championship

The City of Auburn was recently awarded the 2006 Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Girls 14 & Under B Fast Pitch National championship at the ASA Convention in Mobile. This prestigious tournament will be held in August 2006 at the Auburn Softball Complex.



ASA is the oldest and largest amateur softball organization in the United States and the national governing body of amateur softball. All international play in the United States goes through the ASA including our Women's Olympic Team and all of the world teams representing the USA. For additional information about the

2006 ASA Girls 14 & Under B Fast Pitch National championship, contact Ali Wilson at 501-2936.

Board Vacancies

In February, the City Council will announce a number of board vacancies that are scheduled to be filled in March.



- ◆ Four vacancies on the **Metropolitan Planning Organization (Citizens Advisory Committee)**. One incumbent is eligible for reappointment.
- ◆ Two vacancies on the **Commercial Development Authority**. Two incumbents are eligible for reappointment.
- ◆ Two vacancies on the **Mental Health-Mental Retardation Board**. Two 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.

Utility Mapping and Aerial Photography Projects

The City of Auburn currently has contracted with two private companies to conduct various projects on behalf of the City. Geographic Technologies Group will map the City's utility (water, sewer, storm water) infrastructure. For the next 18 months, employees of McKim & Creed (the engineering and surveying division of Geographic Technologies Group) will be in and around Auburn doing this work. During this time, it will not be unusual for Auburn citizens to encounter field crews with survey and Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment near their prop-

erty collecting data. The field workers will carry identification and all vehicles will be appropriately marked as belonging to either the City of Auburn or McKim & Creed. The fieldwork will be contained in square mile sections and a schedule will be posted on the City's web page identifying the active areas where the field crews will be working.

3001 Inc. will be performing aerial photography services for the City of Auburn through May. Citizens may encounter field crews from 3001 Inc. with survey or GPS equipment surveying and marking the streets or rights-of-way for this project. The field workers will be carrying cards identifying them as 3001 employees and all vehicles will be clearly marked as belonging to either the City of Auburn or 3001.

If you have any questions about either of these projects or the crews you see in the field, please contact the City's Information Technology Department at 501-7200.



Business License Renewal Deadline is February 28

Any business providing services or selling goods within the city limits of Auburn is required to have a City of Auburn business license. City business licenses expire each December 31 and are required by City ordinance to be renewed no later than February 28 to avoid a late fee. All businesses should have received business license renewal packets in the mail. Any business that did not receive its renewal packet should call the Revenue Office at 501-7239 to verify its mailing address and request another packet.

Any business that would like to have wallet-sized, laminated duplicates of their business license for employees who make deliveries or sales calls in Auburn or who provide services at their customers' sites may request them from the Revenue Office. The price for these is \$1 each.

The City Revenue Office is located in City Hall at 144 Tichenor Avenue. For more information about the City's business license requirements, call 501-7239.

The phone number to contact the City of Auburn police for all non-emergencies is 501-3100. This number has been established to keep the 911 lines open for true emergencies.



Meeting Schedule

Park & Recreation Advisory Board – February 1, 5:30 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

City Council – February 1, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Tree Commission – February 2, 4:30 PM, City of Auburn Meeting Room, 122 Tichenor Avenue.

Board of Zoning Adjustment – February 2, 4:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Cemetery Advisory Board – February 7, 4:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

Water Works Board – February 7, 4:00 PM, Water and Sewer Conference Room, 214 North Donahue Drive.

Greenspace Advisory Board – February 8, 11:30 AM, City Hall Conference Room.

Historic Preservation Commission – February 8, 4:00 PM, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.

Board of Education – February 8, 6:00 PM, AHS Multi-Media Room.

Planning Commission – February 10, 5:00 PM, Council Chamber.

City Council – February 15, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Park & Recreation Advisory Board – March 1, 5:30 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

City Council – March 1, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Tree Commission – March 2, 4:30 PM, City of Auburn Meeting Room, 122 Tichenor Avenue.

Board of Zoning Adjustment – March 2, 4:30 PM, Council Chamber.

Cemetery Advisory Board – March 7, 4:00 PM, Dean Road Recreation Center.

Water Works Board – March 7, 4:00 PM, Water and Sewer Conference Room, 214 North Donahue Drive.

Greenspace Advisory Board – March 8, 11:30 AM, City Hall Conference Room.

Historic Preservation Commission – March 8, 4:00 PM, Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center.

Board of Education – March 8, 6:00 PM, AHS Multi-Media Room.

Planning Commission – March 10, 5:00 PM, Council Chamber.

-Meeting times and places are subject to change-

Safety Tips

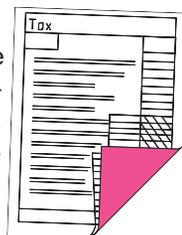


Overheated clothes dryers caused over 15,500 fires in 1998. A few ways to keep your dryer from overheating are:

- Clean the lint screen before each use.
- Clean the exhaust duct periodically.
- Clean behind your dryer where lint can build up.
- Replace plastic or foil accordion type duct with rigid or corrugated semi-rigid duct.
- Do not use the dryer on clothes soiled with volatile chemicals.

Need Income Tax Forms and Information?

A variety of income tax forms are now available at the Auburn Public Library. Federal tax forms, information, and frequently asked tax questions are also available on the Internal Revenue Service website at www.irs.gov.



City Management

David F. Watkins
501-7261
City Manager
dwatkins@auburnalabama.org

Wendy L. Hassett
501-7262
Assistant City Manager
whassett@auburnalabama.org

Andrea E. Jackson
501-7220
Director of Finance
ajackson@auburnalabama.org

Jeffery L. Ramsey
501-3000
Director of Public Works
jramsey@auburnalabama.org

Phillip Dunlap
501-7270
Director of Economic
Development
pdunlap@auburnalabama.org

Steven A. Reeves
501-7240
Director of Human
Resources
sreeves@auburnalabama.org

William H. James
501-3110
Director of Public Safety
bjames@auburnalabama.org

Robert J. Juster
501-3040
Director of Planning
bjuster@auburnalabama.org

Rebecca O. Richardson
501-2930
Director of Parks and
Recreation
brichardson@auburnalabama.org

Margie B. Huffman
501-3190
Director of City Library
mhuffman@auburnalabama.org

Timothy L. Woody
501-3080
Director of Environmental
Services
twoody@auburnalabama.org

James C. Buston, III
501-7200
Director of Information
Technology
jbuston@auburnalabama.org

Rex B. Griffin, Jr.
501-3060
Director of Water
and Sewer
rgriffin@auburnalabama.org

Joe S. Bailey
501-3180
Municipal Judge
jbailey@auburnalabama.org

• • • • •

Terry Jenkins
887-2100
Auburn City Schools
Superintendent
tjenkins@auburnschools.org

up COMING EVENTS

The **2005 Parks and Recreation Calendar** is now available. This free 12-month calendar, beginning with January 2005, lists all special events, program quarters, brochure release dates, Auburn City School holidays, facility closings, and athletic registration dates. They are available at City facilities including Dean Road Recreation Center, the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center, City Hall, Auburn Public Library, Frank Brown Recreation Center, and Boykin Recreation Center. For more information, call 501-2936.

The **Parks & Recreation Spring Quarterly Program Brochure** will be available at all City facilities Monday, February 7. The brochure will also be available online at www.auburnalabama.org/parks. For additional information regarding the spring brochure, please contact Ali Wilson at 501-2936.

Young Adult Coffeehouse, for students in grades 6-12, will meet February 3 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library. The theme is "What was Motown?" Refreshments will be provided and admission is free.

Song of the Gypsy author Niki Sepsas will be at the Auburn Public Library on February 8 at 6:30 p.m. to promote his romance novel. The novel placed number four on the Birmingham News' local bestsellers list. Sepsas will discuss Greek music and culture, as well as present slides of the Greek village on which the novel is based. For more information, contact Reference Librarian Leslie Johnston at 501-3190.

Auburn Works on Paper, a juried exhibition featuring drawings and prints by artists from throughout the United States, is open to the public at the Jan Dempsey Community Art Center through March 4. The exhibition is free and is open Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. For more information, call 501-2963.



Registration for all youth baseball, softball, and T-ball will be held on February 5 and 12 from 8:30 a.m. – noon at Dean Road Recreation Center. Birth certificates are required for registration. All arrangements for scholarships must be made with the United Way office prior to registration.

Auburn Public Library's annual **Valentine's Party** will be held on February 10 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.

The annual **Daddy-Daughter Date Night** will be February 11 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Best Western – University Convention Center Ballrooms. Registration is required. The cost is \$30 per couple and \$5 for each additional child. For more information, call Alison Hall at 501-2940.

As a part of the **X-Cell program**, students ages 12–15 can enjoy a day of winter fun at Alabama's only alpine ski resort on Saturday, February 12. Cloudmont Ski Resort, located in Mentone, Alabama has two different one thousand foot ski slope challenges. Participants should bring a brown bag lunch and will leave at 6:00 a.m. and return at 6:00 p.m. The cost of the trip is \$40 which includes admission, lift tickets, a beginner lesson, and all equipment. Participants must be registered by February 7. For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946.

A **puppet show** entitled, "For Laughing Out Loud," will be presented at the Auburn Public Library on February 16 from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, contact Eve Kneeland at 501-3190.



A **Public Hearing** on how to spend the City's allocation of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds will be held on February 24 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 141 North Ross Street. The City will receive the CDBG funds beginning June 1, 2005. A draft 2005-2009 Consolidated Plan and a draft 2005 Action Plan have been prepared and are available at City Hall for public review. For more information about the City's CDBG program, contact Sharon Tolbert at 501-7275.

The **Auburn Community Orchestra** will present, "The World of Opera" on March 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Telfair Peet Theatre. Admission is free. For additional information about the Auburn Community Orchestra's spring concert, call Ali Wilson at 501-2936.

Young Adult Coffeehouse, for students in grades 6-12, will meet March 3 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library to enjoy an evening of music and dance with the band Hot Chile. Refreshments will be provided and admission is free.

The **Auburn Area Community Theatre** (AACT) presents Kenneth Lonergan's "The Waverly Gallery" at the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center. This comic drama directed by Steve Bice, about a family's struggles with their mother's Alzheimer's disease. Discussions with the cast will follow the performances and will be moderated by a medical professional to answer any questions. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors. For additional information, contact the Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center at 501-2963.



Performance times are as follows:

- March 10, 11, and 12 at 7:30 p.m. and March 13 at 2:00 p.m.
- March 17, 18, and 19 at 7:30 p.m. and March 20 at 2:00 p.m.

The Parks & Recreation Department is offering a challenging **bike ride** on March 12 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. for 12-15 year olds on the historic Bartram Trail, located in the Tuskegee National Forest. Riders must provide their own mountain bike, helmet, and a bottle of water. This is a free event, but participants must be registered by March 8. For more information, call Melissa Weldon at 501-2946.

Mark your calendar for the **2005 Bike Bash** on March 19 from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. held at Cary Woods Elementary School. The event will include rides of varying distances, bicycle inspections, helmet fittings, door prizes, informational booths, and live music. Tickets are \$10 for ages 13 and older or \$12 day of the event. Tickets are \$7 for ages 12 and under or \$9 on the day of the event. T-shirts are guaranteed to those that pre-register. For more information or to become a sponsor of this community event, contact Dee Watson at 501-2962. Look for more information on this community event in next month's issue of Open Line.



CityFest 2005 applications and sponsorships are now available. Are you interested in participating in Auburn CityFest 2005 as a food or arts and crafts vendor? Do you want to sponsor the event or participate as a volunteer? If so, visit the official CityFest 2005 web site at www.auburnalabama.org/cityfest. CityFest will be held on Saturday, April 30 from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at Kiesel Park. For additional information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 501-2930.