

Open Line

A Monthly Newsletter for City of Auburn Citizens

February 2007

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City of Auburn



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City Receives Excellent Bond Rating News

The City of Auburn and its citizens recently received outstanding news relating to the City's bond ratings. The City requested a rating review in anticipation of the issuance of \$5.2 million of bonds for construction of the Special Five Mill Tax projects approved by Auburn voters in April 2006. Residents overwhelmingly approved the use of the Special Five Mill Tax fund for a 12,000 square foot expansion at the Auburn Public Library, slated to break ground in mid-spring, and the Auburn Tennis Complex, scheduled for completion in early April of this year. Upon undergoing a credit rating review, the City's bond underwriter sent notification that Standard & Poor's Ratings Services will be upgrading the City's bond rating from AA- to a straight AA. The City also received notification that Moody's Investors Service will be reaffirming the City's current Aa3 rating. These ratings are extremely noteworthy accomplishments and are a direct result of the City's financial plan meticulously outlined in the current Biennial Budget, passed by the City Council in July 2006. The ratings reflect the City's sound financial management, a strong and diversified revenue base, and solid financial reserves. It is rare for a city of Auburn's size to achieve a double-A rating from Standard & Poor's. Smaller cities typically do not have the financial strengths required to obtain a double-A rating. Cities with an AA rating must exemplify excellence both in financial standing and reporting. Only five other cities in the State of Alabama have an Aa3 rating as affirmed by Moody's. Auburn residents can take confidence in knowing that the City's finances remain strong, as evidenced by its most recent bond ratings. City Management continues to make budgeting and financial disclosure and documentation a foremost priority. Citizens benefit from the City's excellent bond ratings in the form of lower interest rates when the city borrows money. Public funds saved on lower interest rates may then be budgeted for other worthwhile City projects.

To view the bond rating agencies' reports, please visit the City's web site at www.auburnalabama.org.

City to Begin Issuing Vehicle Noise Citations February 10

The Auburn Police Division will begin issuing non-traffic citations for vehicle noise and vibrations beginning Saturday, February 10, per the authority of the disorderly conduct section of the Alabama Criminal Code as adopted by City Ordinance. Officers will issue citations for any vehicle whose noise is deemed unreasonable; for example, a car stereo whose noise can be heard and/or felt from a distance of 25 feet or more. Citations will carry a fine of \$200, in addition to \$125 assessed in court costs.

The new vehicle noise citations are a result of requests from Auburn residents to address the specific issue of vehicle noise. Noise in residential neighborhoods, including parties, bands, and other disturbances, is handled through the disorderly conduct section of the Alabama Criminal Code. Noise from barking dogs is addressed through the City's Dog Ordinance. Complaints regarding noise in residential areas may be reported to the City of Auburn's 24-hour non-emergency Public Safety number at 501-3100. This number has been established to keep the City's 9-1-1 lines open for true emergencies. For noise complaints, please contact the Public Safety Department-Communications Division at 501-3100.

For more information on vehicle noise citations, please contact Public Safety Administration at 501-3110.

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Additional Information on Towing in the City of Auburn

Please note that the information included in the January issue of *Open Line* highlighting towing regulations, as established by City Ordinance, applies to towing from private property, apartment complexes, and businesses. Regulations do not apply to any tows made from the scene of an accident or tows requested due to a disabled vehicle. Copies of the City's towing ordinance may be picked up at City Hall at 144 Tichenor Avenue or the Public Safety Administration Office at 161 North Ross Street. For more information on towing, please see Chapter 12 of the City Code online at www.auburnalabama.org/code or contact the Public Safety Department-Communications Division at 501-3100.



The Auburn Police Division will begin issuing vehicle noise citations for any vehicle whose noise is deemed unreasonable, beginning Saturday, February 10.

CDBG Funds Available for Parks and Recreation Registration Fees

The City of Auburn has allocated Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to cover the cost of registration fees for youth, up to age 18, to participate in sports programs available through the City of Auburn's Parks and Recreation Department. CDBG funds may be used to pay for registration fees up to \$50. In order to qualify for assistance, a household must meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) income requirements. Funds are available for a limited time. For more information, please contact the Community Development Division at 501-7280.



Community Resource Information Available Online

The Auburn Public Library and the United Way of Lee County have worked to compile a database of community resources available online at www.auburnalabama.org/library. This listing includes community agencies available to assist with clothing needs, housing counseling, legal advice, special needs, and many other resources. Citizens in need of assistance may visit the site for information on agencies in our area that are able to provide aid. The Auburn Public Library has computers with Internet access available to the public free of charge. For more information on the community resources list, please contact Jennifer Brenton at the Auburn Public Library at 501-3190.



Business License Renewals Due This Month

City business license renewals are due by Wednesday, February 28 in order to avoid a late penalty. For more information, please contact the City's Revenue Office at 501-7239.

Board Vacancies

One vacancy on the **Historic Preservation Commission** was announced at the January 9 City Council meeting and will be filled at the February 6 meeting. The incumbent has resigned.



Three vacancies on the **Commercial Development Authority** will be announced at the February 6 City Council meeting and will be filled at the March 6 meeting. The incumbents have served one term each.

Two vacancies on the **Library Board** will be announced at the March 6 City Council meeting and will be filled at the April 3 meeting. One incumbent has served one term and one incumbent has served two terms.

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

February 2, 11:30 a.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 East Glenn Avenue

Cemeteries Advisory Board

February 5, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

February 6, 5:30 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center

City Council

February 6, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber

Planning Commission

February 8, 5:00 p.m., Council Chamber

Water Works Board

February 12, 4:00 p.m., Water Resource Management Conference Room, 1501 West Samford Avenue

Greenspace Advisory Board

February 13, 11:30 a.m., City of Auburn Meeting Room, 122 Tichenor Avenue

Historic Preservation Commission

February 13, 4:00 p.m., Development Services Building

Board of Education

February 13, 6:00 p.m., AHS Multi-Media Room

City Council

February 20, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber

Bicycle Committee

February 27, 7:00 p.m., Development Services Building, 171 N. Ross Street

Tree Commission

March 2, 11:30 p.m., Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 714 East Glenn Avenue

Cemeteries Advisory Board

March 5, 4:00 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

March 6, 5:30 p.m., Dean Road Recreation Center

City Council

March 6, 7:30 p.m., Council Chamber

Board of Zoning Adjustment

March 7, 4:30 p.m., Council Chamber

Planning Commission

March 8, 5:00 p.m., Council Chamber

-Meeting times and places are subject to change-

Citizen Participation in Auburn's Government

The City of Auburn takes great pride in facilitating a high level of citizen involvement in making decisions which affect our community. With over 120 citizens serving on 25 advisory boards and commissions, the effect of public participation on the City's daily operations is very strong. In addition, Auburn is committed to offering the access and resources necessary to fully inform our citizens about every facet of the City's business. City Council meetings are heavily attended, as are board and commission meetings. The City web site makes available all City Council materials, including presentations and links to various resources dedicated to informing the community, as well as access to the Finance Department's award-winning financial and budget reports. These resources are also available at City Hall and the Auburn Public Library. Citizens may sign up to receive e-mail notifications of City news, events, and City Council and Planning Commission packets via the e-Notifier, the City of Auburn's e-mail subscription service. Additionally, *Open Line* provides important monthly updates and information to all Auburn residents. For more information on the City of Auburn's commitment to citizen participation and open and transparent government, please visit our web site at www.auburnalabama.org, or visit City Hall, located at 144 Tichenor Avenue.

Before You Sign Your Lease...

Before you sign your lease for the 2007-2008 school year, the City of Auburn would like to remind student residents of the City's Zoning Ordinance regarding residential occupancy in the City limits. Generally speaking, in traditional residential neighborhoods, no more than two unrelated persons may reside at an address. These guidelines were established in an effort to protect traditional family neighborhoods and provide suitable living environments for students. A brochure highlighting specific information on the City's occupancy limitations may be accessed at www.auburnalabama.org and click on Residential Occupancy Information under Hot Topics. Brochures are also available in the City's Planning Department, located at 171 North Ross Street, Suite 100. For questions concerning where your particular property lies within the zoning regulations, visit the City's web site at www.auburnalabama.org and click on Map of Occupancy Limitations under Hot Topics. Zoning information may also be found on the City's Geographic Information System (GIS) site at gis.auburnalabama.org.

Residents in violation of the City's residential occupancy regulations are subject to eviction. Property owners found to be in violation of occupancy regulations are subject to fines and possible jail time, as set forth in the City of Auburn Zoning Ordinance. Before you sign your lease, make sure you are in compliance with the City's residential occupancy requirements. For more information on residential occupancy, please contact the City's Planning Department at 501-3040.



Get Into the Swing of Reading at the Auburn Public Library

Students in grades K-5 are invited to join the Auburn Public Library's Winter Reading Program celebration on Sunday, February 25 from 2:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. in the Hollifield Room at the Auburn Public Library. Sports Academy Coach Mark Fuller will be reading from one of his favorite sports books as well as offering a brief, interactive baseball clinic demonstrating proper pitching techniques.

Be sure to join the Sports Academy coaches again on Wednesday, February 28 for a special interactive Preschool Story Time. Coaches will be offering a selection of interactive sports-related games used in their "Born 4 Sports" motor-skills development program for preschoolers.



Countdown to CityFest 2007

Mark your calendar for the 7th Annual Auburn CityFest on Saturday, April 28 from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Kiesel Park. More than 35,000 people visit this free festival each year to participate in the day's events. CityFest 2007, presented by the *Opelika-Auburn News*, promises to be a day filled with art, music, food, and fun. Patrons of the event will have an opportunity to visit hundreds of exhibitors with fine art and homemade arts and crafts, in addition to a Non-Profit Showcase, Children's Art Exhibition, and a variety of other attractions.



Along with exhibitor booths, CityFest will feature a variety of activities for all ages, including the return of the Silver Wings skydivers from Fort Benning, arriving at 10:30 a.m. on the day of the festival. CityFest will also feature more inflatable games than ever before and a host of children's activities for youth of all ages.

The 3rd Annual Juried Art Show will be on display in the historical Nunn-Winston House, located on the park grounds. Exhibitors participating in CityFest have the opportunity to enter one piece into the juried show at no charge.

For the music lovers, this year's theme will feature a bluegrass tribute, including performances by various local and regional performers, such as the Village Squares.

If you are interested in participating in CityFest 2007 as an exhibitor, applications are available online at www.auburncityfest.com. The site also includes important information and deadlines for prospective exhibitors. Applications may be mailed in or dropped off at the Dean Road Recreation Center no later than Monday, April 9. Space is limited, so be sure to apply today!

CityFest would not be possible without the help of volunteers and sponsors from across the community. Volunteer opportunities are available now. To apply, visit the CityFest web site at www.auburncityfest.com.

Special thanks to our official CityFest sponsors including, Alabama Power, Ariccia Italian Trattoria and Bar, the Auburn Arts Association, AuburnBank, the Auburn-Opelika Tourism Bureau, Commerce Networks, FlipFlopFoto, McNutt & Company, McQuick Printing, The Rental Center, ShirtWorks, and WRBL News 3.

We would also like to thank our CityFest patron sponsors, including, Airgas, Auburn Reprographics, Compass Bank, East Alabama Medical Center, Fun Carts of Opelika, and Wachovia Bank. Finally, the CityFest Committee would like to thank our Presenting Sponsor, the *Opelika-Auburn News*. Without their support this event would not be possible.

Be sure to join us on Saturday, April 28 from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Kiesel Park for the 7th Annual Auburn CityFest. CityFest is a rain or shine event. For additional information, please visit the official CityFest web site at www.auburncityfest.com.



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up COMING EVENTS

Auburn Public Library's Annual Valentine's Party

Youth ages 3-11 are invited to the Auburn Public Library's Annual Valentine's Party on Thursday, February 8 at 6:30 p.m. Children will enjoy arts and crafts and a special story time. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



Now Showing...Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Exhibition - Mark your calendar for the following Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center Exhibitions. The exhibits are free and open to the public Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. For more information, contact the Arts Center at 501-2963.

- **Renaissance Artists' Society**, through February 24, featuring a selection of works by the Renaissance Artists' Society.
- **Winter Invitational 2007**, February 26-March 31, featuring works by Linda Harshbarger and C. Keen Duke Zero.



Wednesdays in February...Preschool Story Time - Join the Auburn Public Library for Preschool Story Time every Wednesday this month at 10:00 a.m. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

Thursdays in February...Toddler Time - Join the Auburn Public Library for Toddler Time every Thursday this month at 10:00 a.m. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



February 1...Young Adult Coffeehouse - Students in grades 6-12 are invited to Young Adult Coffeehouse at the Auburn Public Library on February 1 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

February 7...Salmagundi © - Youth in grades K-5 are invited to Salmagundi © on February 7 at 3:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library. This month's theme is Seussamania! For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



February 9...American Girls Club - The American Girls Club, for youth in grades K-5, will meet on February 9 at 3:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library. This month's character is Addy. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

February 9&10...Annual Daddy-Daughter Date Night - This year, DDDN will be held on two separate nights, Friday, February 9 and Saturday, February 10, at the Best Western Convention Center. Doors open both nights at 6:30 p.m. for pictures and the dance will be held from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Tickets are SOLD OUT. Attendees will only be admitted the night for which they signed-up for tickets. For more information, contact the Dean Road Recreation Center at 501-2930.



Available February 12...Parks and Recreation Spring 2007 Brochure - The Parks and Recreation Spring 2007 Brochure will be available beginning Monday, February 12 at all City facilities and online at www.auburnalabama.org/parks. Be sure to pick up your copy to learn about all of the classes, programs, and special events, including CityFest 2007, going on in the City of Auburn this spring. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

February 14...Magic Tree House Club - Students in grades K-3 are invited to the Magic Tree House Club at the Auburn Public Library on February 14 at 3:30 p.m. This month's featured book is *Day of the Dragon King*. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.



February 17...Snow Skiing Field Trip - Snow skiing in Alabama? You bet! Come enjoy a day of winter fun on February 17 with the X-Cell Program at Alabama's only alpine ski resort, Cloudmont Ski Resort, located in Mentone, AL. The resort features two different 1,000 ft ski slope challenges. This event is open to youth ages 12-15 years old. Participants will depart from the Dean Road Recreation Center at 6:00 a.m. and return at 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$40.00, payable in cash on the day of the trip, and includes admission, lift tickets, a beginner lesson, and all equipment. Please bring a brown bag lunch. **Participants must be registered by February 9.** For more information, contact Melissa Weldon at 501-2946.

February 20...Auburn Public Library Book Group - The Auburn Public Library Book Group will meet on February 20 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Jennifer Brenton at 501-3190.



February 21...Auburn Public Library Puppet Show - Join the Auburn Public Library for a puppet show on *The Wizard of Oz* February 21 at 3:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library. All ages are invited to attend. For more information, contact Youth Services at 501-3196.

February 22...Guitarist John Danley - Montgomery native fingerstyle guitarist John Danley will perform at the Auburn Public Library on February 22 at 6:30 p.m. Danley, a regular contributor to NPR's *All Things Considered*, is a performing arts entertainer and composer of music for film and television. For more information, contact Jennifer Brenton at 501-3190.

Beginning February 26...Bike Bash Registration - The City of Auburn and the Auburn Bicycle Committee will host the 8th Annual Bike Bash on April 14. Bike Bash is an annual event encouraging bike activities, promoting bike safety, emphasizing the health benefits of biking, and highlighting local bike-friendly trails and areas. Registration information will be available online at www.auburnalabama.org/cycle beginning February 26. Look for more information in next month's issue of *Open Line* or contact Dee Watson at 501-2962 or Allison Hall at 501-2940.



April 28...Auburn CityFest 2007, presented by the Opelika-Auburn News - Mark your calendar for CityFest 2007 on Saturday, April 28. Applications for Fine Arts, Arts & Crafts, and Non-Profit Exhibitors are currently available on the CityFest web site at www.auburncityfest.com. The deadline for submissions is quickly approaching, so register now! Auburn CityFest 2006, Auburn's largest FREE festival, attracted more than 35,000 people to Kiesel Park. For more information or to download an application, visit www.auburncityfest.com or contact the CityFest Headquarters at 501-2930.

Spring 2007 Parks and Recreation Registration

Youth Baseball • Youth Softball • Youth T-Ball

Online Registration will continue through February 10. To register, visit www.auburnalabama.org/baseball.

Walk-in Registration will be held on Saturday, February 3 and Saturday, February 10 from 9:00 a.m. - noon at the Dean Road Recreation Center.

Youth Soccer

Registration Forms are available now online and at the Dean Road Recreation Center.

Online Registration will continue through February 8. To register, visit www.auburnalabama.org/soccer.

Mail-in Registration is due by Friday, February 2. Registration forms may be mailed to:

Auburn Soccer Association, PO Box 1533, Auburn, AL 36831

Walk-in Registration will be held on Wednesday, February 7 from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at the Auburn Soccer Complex on Wire Road.

Birth certificates are required for all registrations. Arrangements for scholarships must be made with the United Way office prior to registration. For more information on youth baseball, soccer, softball, or t-ball registration, contact Parks and Recreation at 501-2930.

Open Line Feedback

Do you have any suggestions, feedback, or story ideas that you would like to share? If so, please contact us at openline@auburnalabama.org or if you prefer, please drop us a line at:

City Manager's Office, Attn: *Open Line* Story Ideas, 144 Tichenor Avenue, Suite 1, Auburn, AL 36830

